



Spirit of Life Unitarian Fellowship
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Schedule of Services

Services are held every Sunday at 10:30 at Kirribilli Neighbourhood Centre

1 November, Jan Tendys, “**Are Pagans Acceptable?**” A look at our “earth centred” friends, the Pagans—light-hearted but with a serious aspect too.

8 November, Candace Parks, “**Forgiveness.**”

15 November, Laurence Gormley, “**Lulu and the interdependent web of existence.**” There is more to our world than the relationships we forge with other human beings. We are connected to everything beyond the *Homo sapiens* reality. Our Unitarian faith says this interdependent web is a kind of living scripture being written in us and around us. Life’s lessons can be found in many places including in the care and love of a little grey miniature schnauzer

22 November, Janet Horton, “**Worshipping Together vs. Worshipping Alone.**” There are many ways to experience spirituality. What is it about our human spirituality that drives some people to worship in groups and what does it mean when people say they prefer to worship alone?

29 November, Dr Elizabeth Watson, “**With Fire in the Belly**”. Liz is a past President of Amnesty International Australia and has had a long time interest in social justice issues

6 December, Candace Parks, “**Church Shopping: A Consumer's Guide**” Church shopping ought to be encouraged. It's a reasonable response to the marketplace of meaning that exists in the modern world. While it has some commercial overtones, it is also an honest form of exploration and religious inquiry. But church shoppers need to be just as critical as any other consumer. They need to know how to recognize quality and not be misled by false claims or a fancy sales pitch. There should be a Consumer's Guide.

13 December, Geoff Matthews, “**Should drugs be legalised globally?**”

20 December, *This will be our annual Christmas service where everyone is invited to participate. The service will be followed by our Christmas lunch. This will be our last service of the year.*

Responses to the survey—please get them in soon!

Do we Agree?

Humour is the only test of gravity, and gravity of humour;
for a subject which will not bear raillery is suspicious,
and a jest which will not bear serious examination is false wit.
-- Aristotle

Personally I'm always ready to learn,
although I do not always like being taught.
-- Sir Winston Churchill

Presenting : the (mostly) Humour Issue!

The Lone Ranger and Tonto went camping in the desert. After they got their tent all set up, both men fell sound asleep.

Some hours later, Tonto wakes the Lone Ranger and says, 'Kemo Sabe, look towards sky, what you see?'

'The Lone Ranger replies, 'I see millions of stars.'

'What that tell you?' asked Tonto.

The Lone Ranger ponders for a minute then says, 'Astronomically speaking, it tells me there are millions of galaxies and potentially billions of planets. Astrologically, it tells me that Saturn is in Leo. Time wise, it appears to be approximately a quarter past three in the morning. Theologically, the Lord is all - powerful and we are small and insignificant. Meteorologically, it seems we will have a beautiful day tomorrow.

What's it tell you, Tonto?'

'You dumber than buffalo patty.. It means someone stole the tent..

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## Pecans

On the outskirts of a small town, there was a big, old pecan tree just inside the cemetery fence. One day, two boys filled up a bucketful of nuts and sat down by the tree, out of sight, and began dividing the nuts.

'One for you, one for me. One for you, one for me' said one boy .... Several dropped and rolled down toward the fence.

Another boy came riding along the road on his bicycle. As he passed, he thought he heard voices from inside the cemetery. He slowed down to investigate. Sure enough, he heard, 'One for you, one for me. One for you, one for me.'

He just knew what it was. He jumped back on his bike and rode off. Just around the bend he met an old man with a cane, hobbling along.

'Come here quick,' said the boy, 'you won't believe what I heard! Satan and the Lord are down at the cemetery dividing up the souls.'

The man said, 'Beat it kid, can't you see it's hard for me to walk.' When the boy insisted though, the man hobbled slowly to the cemetery.

Standing by the fence they heard , 'One for you, one for me. One for you, one for me.'

The old man whispered, 'Boy, you've been tellin' me the truth. Let's see if we can see the Lord.'

Shaking with fear, they peered through the fence, yet were still unable to see anything. The old man and the boy gripped the wrought iron bars of the fence tighter and tighter as they tried to get a glimpse of the Lord.

At last they heard, 'One for you, one for me.. That's all.. Now let's go get those nuts by the fence and we'll be done.'

They say the old man made it back to town a full 5 minutes ahead of the kid on the bike.

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Cat heaven.

A cat lives out his nine lives and ends up in heaven. God appears and said to the cat, "I hope you find your stay enjoyable. Anything you need, just ask."

The cat replies, "All my life I have been running around, chasing mice, scrounging for food and sleeping in alleys. It would be great if I didn't have to work so hard."

"Say no more," said God, and he gave the cat a fluffy cloud-bed to sleep on and all the food he could want.

The next day, 6 mice are sent to Heaven. God appears to the mice and said, "I hope you find your stay enjoyable. Anything you need, just ask."

The mice replied, "All our lives we've been running around scrounging for food and running away from cats. It would be great if we didn't have to run anymore."

"Say no more, replied God, and he equipped each mouse with roller skates.

The next day God appears to the cat: "I hope you are finding everything to your satisfaction?"

"Oh, yes," said the cat. "I love my new soft bed, my fancy chew toys, the food here is terrific, AND those meals on wheels aren't bad, eiither!"



The New Church

Gladys Dunn recently moved into a retirement community in a small town.

One beautiful Sunday morning she walked down the street to a church not far from her apartment. Gladys was in awe of the big beautiful church building as she stepped inside to attend the worship service.

Gladys however, wasn't too impressed with the sermon. She thought it was kind of boring and, as she looked around the church, she

noticed that many of the members were nodding off.

When the preacher finished his sermon he encouraged the congregation to greet those sitting close by. Gladys turned toward the man sitting on her left. He, too, had fallen asleep and was yawning and stretching trying to wake up. He smiled at her, and Gladys returned the smile.

She politely offered her hand and said, "I'm Gladys Dunn."

"You and me both!" the man replied.



Two robins were sitting in a tree. "I'm really hungry," said the first one.

"Me, too," said the second. "Let's fly down and find some lunch."

They flew to the ground and found a nice plot of ploughed ground full of worms. They ate and ate and ate 'til they could eat no more.

"I'm so full I don't think I can fly back up to the tree," said the first one.

"Me neither, let's just lie here and bask in the warm sun", said the second.

"OK" said the first.

They plopped down, basking in the sun. No sooner had they had fallen asleep than a big fat tomcat snuck up and gobbled them up. As he sat washing his face after his meal, he thought, "I love baskin' robins."

Contributed by Candace Parks



Corn Corner

Q: (Woman to her doctor) - Should I have a baby after 35? A: No, 35 children is enough.

Q: I'm two months pregnant. When will my baby move? A : With any luck, right after he finishes high school.

Contributed by Evan Davies

To my fellow "Old Dogs:"

One day the old German Shepherd starts chasing rabbits and before long, discovers that he's lost. Wandering about, he notices a panther heading rapidly in his direction with the intention of having lunch.

The old German Shepherd thinks, 'Oh, oh! I'm in deep doo-doo now! Noticing some bones on the ground close by, he immediately settles down to chew on the bones with his back to the approaching cat. Just as the panther is about to leap, the old German Shepherd exclaims loudly, 'Boy, that was one delicious panther! I wonder, if there are any more around here?'

Hearing this, the young panther halts his attack in mid-strike, a look of terror comes over him and he slinks away into the trees. 'Whew!' says the panther, 'That was close! That old German Shepherd nearly had me!'

Meanwhile, a squirrel who had been watching the whole scene from a nearby tree, figures he can put this knowledge to good use and trade it for protection from the panther. So, off he goes, but the old German Shepherd sees him heading after the panther with great speed, and figures that something must be up.

The squirrel soon catches up with the panther, spills the beans and strikes a deal for himself with the panther.

The young panther is furious at being made a fool of and says, 'Here, squirrel, hop on my back and see what's going to happen to that conniving canine!'

Now, the old German Shepherd sees the panther coming with the squirrel on his back and thinks, 'What am I going to do now?', but instead of running, the dog sits down with his back to his attackers, pretending he hasn't seen them yet, and just when they get close enough to hear, the old German Shepherd says...

'Where's that squirrel? I sent him off an hour ago to bring me another panther!'

Moral of this story...

Don't mess with the old dogs!

Of course, I am in no way insinuating that any of you are old, some are just more 'youthfully challenged'.

You didn't notice the size of the print, did you?

A SPANISH Teacher was explaining to her class that in Spanish, unlike English, nouns are designated as either masculine or feminine.

'House' for instance, is feminine: 'la casa.'

'Pencil,' however, is masculine: 'el lapiz.'

A student asked, 'What gender is 'computer'?'

Instead of giving the answer, the teacher split the class into two groups, male and female, and asked them to decide for themselves whether 'computer' should be a masculine or a feminine noun. Each group was asked to give four reasons for its recommendation.

The men's group decided that 'computer' should definitely be of the feminine gender ('la computadora'), because:

1. No one but their creator understands their internal logic;
2. The native language they use to communicate with other computers is incomprehensible to everyone else;
3. Even the smallest mistakes are stored in long term memory for possible later retrieval; and
4. As soon as you make a commitment to one, you find yourself spending half your pay-check on accessories for it.

The women's group, however, concluded that computers should be Masculine ('el computador'), because:

1. In order to do anything with them, you have to turn them on;
2. They have a lot of data but still can't think for themselves;
3. They are supposed to help you solve problems, but half the time they ARE the problem; and
4. As soon as you commit to one, you realize that if you had waited a little longer, you could have gotten a better model.

The women won.

Contributed by Jan Tendys—who doesn't like sexism (except when the women come out on top!)

Chauvinism is your conviction that your sex is superior to all other sexes because you were born in it.

-- Adapted from George Bernard Shaw

God give us

God give us rain when we expect sun.
Give us music when we expect trouble.
Give us tears when we expect breakfast.
Give us dreams when we expect a storm.
Give us a stray dog when we expect con-
gratulations.
God play with us, turn us sideways and
around.

Michael Leunig
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## Having Come This Far

I've been through what my through was to be  
I did what I could and couldn't  
I was never sure how I would get there

I nourished an ardour for thresholds  
for stepping stones and for ladders  
I discovered detour and ditch

I swam in the high tides of greed  
I built sandcastles to house my dreams  
I survived the sunburns of love

No longer do I hunt for targets  
I've climbed all the summits I need to  
and I've eaten my share of lotus

Now I give praise and thanks  
for what could not be avoided  
and for every foolhardy choice

I cherish my wounds and their cures  
and the sweet enervations of bliss  
My book is an open life

I wave goodbye to the absolutes  
and send my regards to infinity  
I'd rather be blithe than correct

Until something transcendent turns up  
I splash in my poetry puddle  
and try to keep God amused.

~ James Broughton ~

*(Packing Up For Paradise: New and Selected  
Poems 1946-1996)*

## "Daffodils"

I wander'd lonely as a cloud  
That floats on high o'er vales and hills,  
When all at once I saw a crowd,  
A host, of golden daffodils;  
Beside the lake, beneath the trees,  
Fluttering and dancing in the breeze.  
Continuous as the stars that shine  
And twinkle on the Milky Way,  
They stretch'd in never-ending line  
Along the margin of a bay:  
Ten thousand saw I at a glance,  
Tossing their heads in sprightly dance.  
The waves beside them danced; but they  
Out-did the sparkling waves in glee:  
A poet could not but be gay,  
In such a jocund company:  
I gazed -- and gazed -- but little thought  
What wealth the show to me had brought:  
For oft, when on my couch I lie  
In vacant or in pensive mood,  
They flash upon that inward eye  
Which is the bliss of solitude;  
And then my heart with pleasure fills,  
And dances with the daffodils.

By William Wordsworth (1770-1850).

Contributed by Peter Berry

## **Newsy Corner**

Two of our “seniors” have had a miserable time with respiratory infections but are now recovering. As some Unitarians say: “We will hold them in the Light.”

Margaret H. and Jim have been on the WA trail - not chasing each other I believe. 🤔

Margaret A. is yet to rejoin us from her Turkey jaunt. We are hoping to hear more about these and other peregrinations next issue.

Following Jan’s resignation from the Committee, Janet has been appointed as Acting Secretary until an election for Secretary is held. Janet says, “The Committee wishes to acknowledge Jan’s contribution as Committee member and most recently Secretary. She has been a valuable contributor to the ongoing development and success of SOL”.

*If you have a news item or written article you believe would be of interest to the congregation, we invite you to submit it for publication.*

### **Notice**

**DEADLINE** for copy for the next issue of Esprit is

LAST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH

Please be sure Jan has your WRITTEN items by this date. Preferred method is as an MS-WORD or email to [jtendys@optusnet.com.au](mailto:jtendys@optusnet.com.au)

Hardcopy (or electronic media) submissions can be hand-delivered to Jan or posted to:

Spirit of Life

PO Box 1356

LANE COVE NSW 1595

Please note:

If space is limited, submissions may be subject to editing (WITH PERMISSION).

### **Do you have a topic of a spiritual nature that you would like to share with the congregation?**

As Unitarians, we support an “Open Pulpit” and invite members of the congregation to lead the service if they so wish.

### **Just let Candace know what you would like to speak about and when you are available and we will fit you into the schedule.**

Also, please feel free to give us your feedback on any of the services.

This is the best way to ensure the services address the needs of the congregation.

**Would you care to join us?**

**Membership is open to all adults and includes this newsletter**

If you would like to join us as an active member of Spirit of Life, please ring 9428-2244, consult our website [www.sydneyunitarians.com](http://www.sydneyunitarians.com) or speak to one of our members before or after the Sunday service. Please note that all membership applications are subject to approval at a meeting of the Committee.