

ELUCO

East London United Church Outreach



The Voices of Broadway Show Choir

One of the Most Entertaining Choirs in London

There are many great choirs in London. However, The Voices of Broadway is a very different type of London choir.

The Voices of Broadway Show choir sets a very high standard for choral music in general, but especially in the Broadway genre. Over and over our audiences have commented on the amazing diction of the choir, making every word of the songs crystal clear without sacrificing the beauty of the music. This wonderful London choir turns each piece into a voice painting that at times brings the audience to tears. The Voices of Broadway don't just sing, they act each song, passing every emotion from joy, sadness, tears, laughter, love straight through to the audience.

If you like Broadway music, and not just the golden oldies of Broadway but also modern Broadway including Phantom, Wicked, Les Miserables, Cabaret, We Will Rock You, Shrek the Musical, Lion King, Into the Woods, A Little Night Music, Company, Young Frankenstein and many, many more - then these **Broadway singers** will absolutely DELIGHT you.

The Voices of Broadway Show Choir will be presenting a concert on Saturday March 5th at 7:30 at Siloam United Church on Fanshawe Park Rd. E. in support ELUCO. There is ample free parking. Tickets are \$20.00 and are available at the door or from your ELUCO representative.

Save the Date:

- March 5th** Voices of Broadway Show Choir
Siloam United Church
7:30pm
- Feb-Mar** Cinnamon Bun Fundraiser
- April 6th** ELUCO Annual General Meeting (**New Date**)
- Sept. 25th** ELUCO Walk and Roll for Families
Springbank Park

Contact Us

Nancy Howard
267 Marconi Blvd
London, ON
Phone: 519-451-3709
Email: eluco@bellnet.ca

Mailing Address:
East London United Church Outreach (ELUCO)
P.O. Box 32013, London ON, N5V 5K4

The ELUCO Food Cupboard

Gesthemene Gardens,
1461 Huron St.
Hours: 9:30-12:00, Wed & Fri
519-451-0600



Notes from Nancy

Late fall and winter are bustling with activity in our community. Much has to do with preparation for the holiday season, but I also participated in a couple of special events.

My 5th anniversary as Community Outreach Worker was recognized and celebrated with a surprise party hosted by some ladies in the Marconi Community. What a lovely and touching gesture. We shared laughter and memories, and will continue to grow and walk together for many years to come.

Some of you are aware of my background in zoology, so it won't surprise you how excited I was that one of our families invited the Marconi community to join their son's birthday celebration to participate in an interactive demonstration of reptiles. Our children were fascinated with the creatures and asked so many great questions! Lucky for us, the instructor didn't need to rush off and greatly extended his time with us. Don't worry; for those with a phobia or just the "ew" factor, I refrained from submitting the photo of myself with the Boa Constrictor around my neck eyeing each other.

I always come home from workshops and educational opportunities energized and informed. A highlight for me was being able to participate in ISARC (Interfaith Social Assistance

Continued on page 3



Call for help

With the ground cover and tree branches sagging under the weight of snow it might seem crazy but already we have to start planning for summer. The deadline for applications for employment at City Summer Day Camps has already passed. That becomes my alert that registration for both summer day camps and overnight camps will soon be upon us. What an incredible experience to be able to spend a week outdoors, exploring nature and developing spirituality, making new friends and having fun, fun, fun. Children in the families ELUCO supports will not be afforded the opportunity to attend, without your financial support. Please consider sponsoring a child for Camp Kee-Mo-Kee. Every dollar amount adds to the fund to help support registration costs.



Cinnamon Bun Season!

The ELUCO Bakers, led by Elma Johnson will soon begin their annual cinnamon bun bake-a-thon! Bakers include ELUCO board members, friends of ELUCO and members of the Marconi community. A lot of fun and hard work in the Richards Memorial United Church kitchen results in the production of dozens of delicious cinnamon buns. Cinnamon buns will be available for sale in support of ELUCO programs from ELUCO Board members and at member churches in early spring. Watch for them, they don't last long!



Continued from page 2

Reform Coalition) Religious Leaders Forum, “Faith Moving Mountains” in Queens Park. We heard talks from progressive economist Armine Yalnizyan, Deputy Premier Deb Matthews and Opposition MPPs Cheri Dinova and Julia Munro. In small groups we shared ideas for mobilizing faith groups against poverty. From this event, I hope to contribute by hosting community hearings in the springtime for the publication “Voices from the Margins.” This will include expressions from individuals with low income as well as from faith organizations and others who work with them, with the aim to explore ways our society can provide dignity for all and answer the question, “Has Ontario’s Poverty Reduction Plan yielded positive results?”

Here in London, within several groups of colleagues and the community we serve, I participated in the community discussions for the current Mayor’s Poverty Panel to determine the definition of poverty, barriers and possible solutions to eliminate poverty in London. We will be hearing from the Panel as they continue their efforts.

Our community was privileged to have Matthew Burns from B. Davison Secondary School return for a two-week placement with us. He is well loved and accepted by both children and adults.

He delighted children facilitating our After School Program with baking and crafts for Christmas. Together we hosted an informative display of support services for an assembly at J.P. Robarts Elementary School. Last summer he excelled as a Jr. Leader at our Social Skills Camp. In the future Matthew would like to work with children. With his compassion and genuine love Matthew will surely be a positive influence for so many children.

Our ladies group was very active, especially in the kitchen. Some tried their hand for the first time in the art of canning. We made salsa, pasta sauce, applesauce and jam. In the tight space of the unit, we prepared freezer meals, and baked pies, cookies and squares for our Christmas celebrations. Initially London InterCommunity Health assisted with our program, and then we continued on our own. Volunteers from Bethel Christian Reformed Church opened their hearts and lovely kitchen facility to assist in some of our endeavors. Thank you for the fellowship.

Of course the celebration of Christmas is the most meaningful event of the winter season. We hosted a family Christmas party mid-December and with generous support assisted 75 families with our Christmas Share Program. On behalf of the ELUCO Board and the Marconi community, thank you so much. We are truly blessed.

Family Christmas Party

Over 75 people registered and gathered for our Christmas celebration. Thank you to Royal View Church for the use of their facilities to host our Annual Family Christmas Party. A Mad Science Show of "Santa's Workshop" started the festivities. Children and adults were held captive to the magic of science in an interactive demonstration. For sure a favourite, the crowd was thrilled with bubbling, boiling, foaming, smoking, dry ice potions in the making of snow. Hunter's favourite was "when she made smoke rings from the bucket with the reindeer antlers. My dad can make smoke rings with his e-cigarette." Alexis "liked the bubbles coming from the long tube. It tickled when it touched my hands and burst, and my hands smelled like soap." Ethan thought, "The fat Santa in the chimney egg experiment was the best." Clinton "really liked the ride on the hovercraft." Shyanne couldn't determine a favourite part; like most she "just loved the whole show!" We served a delicious ham dinner for brunch, before Jolly Ole St. Nick arrived with gifts. Some of the children were a little shy of Santa Claus (our own Board member Gerry) and his elf helpers Amanda and Matthew, while others didn't want to leave his side and wanted to talk his ear off. The huge hearts of our dedicated volunteers and the community involvement made this celebration a joyous success. Thank you all.

Christmas Share Program

Wow! We were overwhelmed with the response for our Christmas Share Program. We were able to provide food and gifts to 75 families this year. Sponsors chose how they donated. Some families and groups sponsored a whole family. Thank you to the anonymous families, Rose Birrell and Thorndale UCW, River Heights Public School teachers and Forest City Community Church. Some provided money or gifts for children. With thanks to Richards Memorial, Rowntree Memorial, and the children of Stoneybrook Public School, Zach and Maddie. First-St. Andrew's and Richards Memorial provided gift cards. Siloam and Metropolitan provided turkey dinner hampers.

The unit was mayhem with a ladies' group baking pies simultaneous to Santa's elves sorting and wrapping the perfect gifts from the top of children's wish lists. We made sure by checking the list twice, even three or four times! It may not have been as magical as Santa's red sleigh, but David Wilkes and the elves brought excited smiles and tears as they delivered packages and good cheer to our families.

This is truly a community effort with generous donations from people across the city, and volunteers from our Board plus many individuals whose families would be receiving a hamper. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you. Christmas can be depressing and stressful for many, and you lifted the spirits of our families, sharing God's gifts of hope, peace, joy and love.



ELUCO Food Cupboard

It was another busy year at the ELUCO Food Cupboard. We give out mainly non-perishable foods on an emergency basis. Hand knit hats, scarves and mitts, made by the Friday volunteers are going quickly with the change in the weather. We continue to get new clients. In 2015 we served 674 families, 1165 adults and 609 children. The number of families is down by 13, but both the number of adults and children has increased. The need is still there. We are very grateful for any contributions.

Welcome Wednesday

On December 16th, a tasty traditional Christmas dinner was enjoyed by 140 persons at the Hillcrest Salvation Army. The meal was prepared and served by volunteers from; Salvation Army, ELUCO, Siloam United Church and Valleyview Mennonite Church. Our weekly lunches continue to serve approximately 80 guests.



ELUCO Volunteers Honoured at the Annual General Meeting

LYNN ARDIEL

Lynn, you came to ELUCO in the early 1990's as the UCW representative to the Board. We know you were there from 92 to 95 but couldn't check if you were there in 90 and 91 as we have some gaps in our records. Although you left the Board you continued to be a welcome presence in the Marconi community. For many years you faithfully did the bread drop for the community. If something was amiss you let Carol know so things could be straightened out. As well you were frequently at the door with supplies for our food cupboard or lunch program. Not only did you commit to helping ELUCO, you also suggested that Lorne would help with used appliances or repairs. As the community worker at that time I can't tell you how much your smiling face and commitment to ELUCO and its ministry meant to me. When the red van drove in the laneway I knew there would be a smile and an abundance of donations for the folks in Marconi.

LINDA DECLERCO

Linda, for a number of years now, you have been one of two resident experts on Cinnamon Buns 101 in the kitchen at Richards. You are model of speed and efficiency as you measure and mix the batches of dough for rolling and cutting. As a multi-tasker you are second to none! You prepare dough while greeting helpers and church volunteers, entertaining grandchildren, preparing coffee, setting up for break, answering the phone and giving community members baking tutorials all without breaking a sweat or holding up the women rolling the dough. We appreciate your willingness to go the extra mile – printing and cutting Voices of Broadway tickets, providing coupons and donations to ELUCO. Thank you for your commitment to the ELUCO ministry!

JUNE URQUHART

June, affectionately known by the community as the "Pumpkin Lady" has been one of ELUCO's unsung heroes for many years. Each year she can be relied on to supply pumpkins for our Halloween Craft activity at the Unit. Not only does she supply them but also she makes sure they are washed and dried ready to be used. You have helped with Christmas parties, driven children on outings and helped with trips to the farm at various seasons of the year. Lately you have also been an invaluable helper with our cinnamon bun fundraiser. Not only do you help make the buns, you have also marketed hundreds of dollars worth. At Christmas last year she helped with the wrapping of presents for Christmas Share. You wowed everyone with your speed and the comment was each present was perfect when you were done. You make us think of the "Little Engine that Could" – small in stature, but mighty in effort and energy!

MARILYN HART

Marilyn, your commitment to ELUCO goes back to the very first meetings in 1983 when you represented Richards as part of the founding group. As seems to be the case with ELUCO Board members, you were with us for 10 years and had a year as co-chair and a year as chair. Your involvement in the Marconi community included working on the lunch program as well as coordinating and finding drivers for the bread runs. You probably also did food cupboard deliveries to the families. As important as your hands-on activities in the community, however, was the promotion and advocacy you did on behalf of ELUCO in congregations, Presbytery, and Conference. We truly feel that ELUCO has a place in your Heart!

Glen Eagle Scholarship Fund

The Glen Eagle Scholarship Fund has awarded grants to several post-secondary students from the Marconi Community over the last few years. This has assisted these students to pay for their tuition or books, allowing them to continue their studies.

One recent recipient graduated from Fanshawe in Recreation and Leisure and is now attending Brock University in Sports Management. Another student who was awarded a scholarship is in Political Science at Brock University with her sights set on Law School. Other examples are students studying at Fanshawe in Recreation and Leisure and at Fanshawe in Social Work and who will continue at Western University for a degree in Social Work. Another student was assisted to attend the University of New Brunswick in Kinesiology.

ELUCO encourages and supports these students' wish to improve their lives through education. If you would like to make a donation to this fund, please contact Nancy Howard.

ELUCO is blessed with a long list of generous supporters:

Many United Churches and UCWs of Middlesex
Presbytery including:

Grace
Siloam
Rowntree Memorial
Richards Memorial
First-St. Andrew's
Arva
Wesley Knox
Fairmont
Thorndale
Metropolitan
Byron

UCW Presbyterial

Sisters of St. Joseph
The MayCourt Club of London
London Conference M&S

Royal View Church
Bethel Christian Reformed Church
Forest City Community Church

London InterCommunity Health
St. Leonard's Society
Red Cross Babysitting Course
Middlesex London Optimist Club
East London Optimist Club

River Heights Public School
Stoneybrook Public School
J.P. Robarts Public School
Evelyn Harrison Public School

Federal Service Retirees Associates
Scotiabank Donations and Sponsorship

London Middlesex Housing Corporation
Generous individual donors and volunteers

We can never say thank you enough. We cannot operate without you.



presents

the **voices** of
Broadway
show choir

3RD
ANNUAL
Outreach Fundraiser

Saturday, March 5, 2016 - 7:30pm

Siloam United Church
1240 Fanshawe Park Road East, London

Tickets: \$20

**Available at the door, or in advance,
by contacting:**

Janice Elliott
519-657-7183