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MANITOBA
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MMC CONNECTS

news, updates, inspirational memes and articles

March 28, 2025

Charleswood United Church
with

The Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs (CIJA)
presents

Uri Goldflam

expert on the geography, history, and the ancient religions that transect
the Holy Land
and founder of Travel Trailer Israel

“How to Talk About the Conflict: Unpacking the Issues”

Moderator: Rev. Dr. James Christie
Professor Emeritus of Theology
University of Winnipeg

2:00 p.m.

Sunday, March 30, 2025
Charleswood United Church
4820 Roblin Blvd.

no charge
fully accessible facility
ample, lot parking



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SERVING MANITOBA SINCE 1872
PROUDLY CANADIAN

Booth University College debuts 'Shelter U' educational project
Aimed at those experiencing economic hardship

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter
By Megan Klassen
Posted 2:41 AM CDT Thursday, Feb. 20, 2025

Manitoba's newest university campus has a self-imposed mandate to recruit students who are experiencing poverty and searching for stable housing.

Shelter U — a pilot project by Booth University College — is up and running in Winnipeg, as of the start of the winter semester.

"On the one hand, universities have all this academic intelligence — but we're often criticised for this ivory-tower model of practice. The shelter, on the other hand, has all these wonderful resources, practical supports," said Aaron Klassen, who is teaching a first-of-its-kind course at the Winnipeg Centre of Hope this term.



Citing a goal to reduce barriers to higher education in his hometown, Klassen began looking for programs around the world that had been successful.

The assistant professor of sociology said he was inspired by the Clemence Course in the Humanities.

Its model, which was developed in Manhattan more than 30 years ago and has been replicated across the United States and Canada, gives non-traditional adult learners who are facing economic hardships an opportunity to study the social sciences.

Instructors aim to empower participants to further their schooling and careers, learn how to advocate for themselves and engage in the cultural and civic lives of their communities, its website said. The subjects include philosophy, history, literature, art history and writing.

Klassen's local rollout reflects his passion for music education. The academic, who oversees his school's community and urban transformation program, researches the intersection of music and social change.

Textbooks, field trips and other expenses are paid for with private donations and a roughly \$60,000 community grant from the Winnipeg Foundation.

The Salvation Army is providing space at 180 Henry Ave., as well as laptops to its clients who are registered in the intro to music sociology course.

On Wednesday, 11 students gathered for their latest lecture on the grounds of the emergency dorm, transitional room and family shelter facility in Point Douglas.

The Winnipeg Centre of Hope is the logical host for Shelter U, given the Christian university's ties to the Salvation Army, Klassen said.

His students, a mix of typical Booth attendees and shelter residents, took their seats in the facility's chapel shortly after 1 p.m. to review the chapter they were assigned to read in *Understanding Society through Popular Music*.

This week's focus? Youth, deviance and subcultures — topics that ignited discussion about the moral panic associated with rock and roll, the Beatles' mop-top haircuts and parent advisory labels on albums containing explicit lyrics.

Participants were asked to share examples of "deviant music."

"What about electric powwow?" one student mused. "I've gotten grief from elders, but also, I've gotten the go-ahead from elders praising electric powwow just to get the young people interested in it."

Another noted Kendrick Lamar's Super Bowl halftime show was deemed reggae due to his public diss against Drake, continuing the rappers' longtime feud, and critiques of capitalist exploitation and African-American struggles throughout history.

The three-hour-long seminars are taking place every Wednesday, from late January to mid-April. An extra meet-up is scheduled for Thursday so the group, made up of Winnipeggers of all ages, can watch the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra perform during Shelter U's inaugural field trip.

"The most important thing for me was that [our clients] were students. They got the same exact treatment that any university student would get," said Mark Stewart, executive director of the Winnipeg Centre of Hope.

The majority of people who access the facility, which houses close to 500 people nightly in the winter months, have either had their schooling disrupted or have never had the opportunity to pursue higher education, Stewart said.

He noted Salvation Army leaders recognize education is key to help their clients build confidence and community, find employment and break intergenerational cycles of poverty.

Klassen said he plans to offer letters of reference to graduates who "discover a desire for learning" so they can apply to a college, university or vocational school of their choice.

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Special guest:
Hon. Wab Kinew
Premier of Manitoba



Keynote speaker:
Payam Akhavan
International Human Rights Lawyer



Keynote speaker:
Elin Kelsey
Environmental Thought Leader



Special guest:
Scott Gillingham
Mayor of Winnipeg



Keynote speaker:
Lloyd Axworthy
Former Minister of Foreign Affairs of Canada

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For more information: www.interfaithconversation.ca

To register: [OWS2025.eventbrite.ca](https://www.eventbrite.ca)

The world today faces numerous crises. Complex challenges related to climate change, violence, and increased political and economic instability, among other calamities, have led many to turn inward out of a sense of despair. The Our Whole Society conference, which explores insights from diverse faith traditions and secular perspectives, will be a forum for sharing the grassroots experiences of individuals and communities making positive contributions to Canadian society. The Our Whole Society (OWS) operates under the auspices of the Canadian Interfaith Conversation (CIC).

Now in its seventh iteration, the biennial Our Whole Society Conference organised by the Canadian Interfaith Conversation will address such challenging questions as, what conceptions of hope encourage and sustain collective action? How do we recognize the gravity of challenges before humanity while working toward a more positive collective future? What understandings of hope can we draw upon to meet the most pressing demands of our time? These topics will be addressed within the framework of our 2025 theme, **Fostering Hope in a Divided World**.

This year, we are pleased to be offering this event in partnership with **Manitoba Multifaith Council, Canadian Museum for Human Rights, Mauro Institute for Peace & Justice** at St. Paul's College at the University of Manitoba, **Martin Luther University College** in Waterloo and the **Centre for Philosophy, Religion, and Social Ethics**, Institute for Christian Studies in Toronto.

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