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Love is not an easy thing to do. It takes work – brave, self-giving work.

–Rev. Dr. HyeRan Kim-Cragg

Why Asian Heritage Month is important to me

I was born in Malaysia in the early 1960s and my childhood friends were from Malay (Muslim), Eurasian (Christian), Indian (Hindu), Chinese (Buddhist/Taoist) and European backgrounds. It never occurred to me that we were different, since we all looked different, ate different things, and had different traditions and religious. Our differences did not make anyone of us stand out. It just was. And there were no pranks or jokes because of a child's ethnicity or food or culture. For me, I assumed the whole world was like this.

Then in 1980, I moved to Toronto, which was a very unfriendly place for a racialized immigrant. I remember being in high school with about a thousand kids, and I was only one of two Asian kids. The kind of racism I experience as a new teenage immigrant was harsh, direct and clear. I was taunted in school about my accent, my looks, my hair, my clothes, my food, ... my everything really. It got to a point where I tried to blend in with the walls as I walked the corridors. Those were traumatizing experiences for a young adult.



Over the decades of living in Toronto, I have witnessed a slow and subtle change in how I am perceived, and in how society has evolved to embrace diversity. And yet, it only took a pandemic for ugly racism to surface, again. During the early days of the pandemic, I was accosted twice by strangers and told to go home. Those two experiences remind me that while I am a Canadian, I continue to be an outsider at the gates.

Asian Heritage Month is one way to break these negative cycles. Its opens-up avenues to the diversity of being Asian (South, South-East, North-East and East), and celebrate the variety of cultures through events, performances and of course, culinary delights. But Asian Heritage Month is more than that to me and the many, many Asians of Toronto, and MCC Toronto. We, like all of us, are individuals with (charisma), uniqueness, (nerve and talent) and perspectives. What binds us is our heritage, our family ties, our traditions, and most of all – our experiences of growing up in a place that continues to want to learn – even if still at a snail's pace.

My hope for Asian Heritage Month is that MCC Toronto continues the journey of true inclusion through what makes us unique, but also similar. Family values, compassion, respect and love are universal. And isn't that enough for all of us to want to be kinder, to question our assumptions, to break those cycles of exclusion and racism, and to be open to appreciate and understand better what each of us bring to and for each other.

- André Goh,
MCC Toronto Congregant



As MCC Toronto celebrates its 50th Anniversary in 2023, we are launching a weekly column looking back at the year 1973 to identify the news, happenings and trends that defined the year of MCC Toronto's founding. This week, we look at what was happening in Canada!

Canada's population was 22.4 million. Today it is 38.7 million.

- Roland Michener was our Governor General and Pierre Trudeau was our Prime Minister. His son, Justin was two.
- In Pride Week of August 1973, a national gay rights event, occurred simultaneously in several major cities, including Toronto, Montreal, and Vancouver.
- A jury refused to convict Henry Morgentaler for performing abortions.
- On April 1, Toronto's Interval House opened at 173 Spadina Road, in the Annex area, becoming Canada's first women's shelter.
- The international oil crisis in October 1973, set the stage for a dramatic increase in the price of gas. The crisis would benefit Alberta while taking a toll on the rest of Canada.
- The RCMP celebrated their 100th anniversary.
- Montreal announced Canada's first lottery to help pay for the 1976 Summer Olympics.
- Montreal Canadiens defeated the Chicago Blackhawks to win the Stanley cup and the Ottawa Rough Riders defeated the Edmonton Eskimos to win the Grey Cup at CNE Stadium.

It has been fascinating to research what was happening in Canada in 1973. The gay rights movement was gaining momentum after the 1969 Stonewall uprising. Women were demanding action in terms of the right to choose and protection from abusive partners. And we had a controversial Prime Minister named Trudeau! Déjà vu?

What other world events do you remember from 1973? [Let us know!](#)

- Jennifer Alexander & Lori Boyce

Pre-Order Your MCC Toronto 50th Anniversary T Shirts!



This year, MCC Toronto is making it easier than ever for you to purchase a Pride T Shirt by creating a special Pre-Order opportunity!

These stylish turquoise-coloured 50th Anniversary logo branded T Shirts, with a slight metallic, iridescent material that produces a special rainbow effect, will be available for in-person purchase in the McCain Family Social Hall beginning **Sunday, June 4**. However, to ensure the T Shirt size of your choice, please consider pre-ordering your T Shirt **before May 19**! T Shirts cost \$25 and are available in sizes from XS to 4XL. We can also mail your T Shirt to you anywhere in Canada at a delivery cost of \$12 per T Shirt.

Beyond looking “stylish”, these T Shirts will show your pride in 50 years of MCC Toronto!

ORDER YOUR T SHIRT TODAY!



TIME CAPSULE



MCC Toronto has launched a Time Capsule Project for its 50th Anniversary, and we invite our entire MCC Toronto family to take part!

LEARN MORE AND GET INVOLVED!

Musical Guest

Ma-Anne Dionisio is our Offertory Performer this Sunday!

Philippine-born Canadian actress Ma-Anne is best known for her role as Kim in the Canadian premiere production of *Miss Saigon*, for which Toronto's Princess of Wales Theatre was built. She has since reprised the role in Sydney's Capitol Theatre, London's Theatre Royal Drury Lane, and Toronto's Four Seasons Centre for the Performing Arts.

In 2019, she won the Dora Mavor Moore Award for Outstanding Performance in a Leading Role for her portrayal of Diana in the Mirvish production of *Next to Normal*. She is also a three-time Dora nominee for Best Actress in a Musical, most recently for her role as Grizabella in *Cats* (Panasonic Theatre).

Some of her other theatre credits include Eponine in *Les Miserables* (International and US National touring companies), Bertrande in *Martin Guerre* (London's Prince Edward Theatre), Maria in *West Side Story* (Stratford Festival), Mary Magdalene in Jesus Christ Superstar (Starlight Theatre), Dot in *Sunday in the Park with George* (Equity Showcase), Sandy in *Grease* (Elgin Theatre), Little Girl/ Meili cover in *Flower Drum Song* (Broadway revival), Winnie in *Colours in the Storm* (Grand Theatre), and Donna in *Mamma Mia* (RainbowStage).

Her film credits include *The Waiting Room* (TimeLapse Pictures), *In Her Mother's Eyes* (HERetic Films) and the animated film *Mirabelle and Me*. TV credits include *Schitt's Creek* (CBC), *Remedy* (Global), and *Flashpoint* (CBS/CTV).



MAY 7 | 11 AM | MCC Toronto's YouTube Channel

[CLICK HERE TO JOIN US FOR THIS SERVICE ONLINE](#)

Special Request from Rev. Dr. HyeRan Kim-Cragg

As part of her Lesson for Life, "We Are Family?," our guest preacher, Rev. Dr. HyeRan Kim-Cragg, shared the story of her friend and colleague, Rev. Borah Lim from Korea, who passed away in February. She was a fierce LGBTQ+ advocate working on bringing queer Christian ministers-to-be to Canada for education. Why do they have to come to Canada, you ask? In South Korea, if you are called by God to be a minister and you are queer, the conservative churches make life very difficult for you, and there is no opportunity to receive a seminary education and pursue



your calling. This is where we come in. She is looking for partners and calling MCC Toronto to welcome home these students on their journey to education in Canada.

If you want to be part of changing the Christian landscape in Korea to be LGBTQ+ inclusive, email me at office@mcctoronto.com or leave a message at 416-406-6228 ext 103, and I can connect you with Rev. Dr. Kim-Cragg.

Listen to the extract from her Lesson for Life this past Sunday [here](#) for more information.

JJ Viviers,
Office Manager

Men's Retreat 2023 | Registration Now Open



2023 Men's Retreat will take place from **May 26 – 28** at **Jericho House** in beautiful Niagara Region. It is open to self-identifying males, with an all-in registration fee of \$260, which covers accommodation, food, and participation costs. Scholarships are available for those needing financial assistance. Please reach out [here](#) to request a Scholarship Fund Application form.

REGISTER NOW

To make the Retreat available and accessible to folks who might not otherwise be able to afford the full registration fee, please consider making a charitable tax receiptable gift below.

MAKE A SCHOLARSHIP FUND DONATION

Children's Church | Returns May 14

Bi-weekly Children's Church returns next **Sunday (May 14)** for kids from kindergarten to grade five. No registration is required, but please click [here](#) to tell us about your child/children should you be interested in having them take part!

Volunteer with MCC Toronto's Congregational Care Ministry

This spring, MCC Toronto is looking to grow our team of congregational care ministers. We're currently seeking 2 or 3 volunteers to serve as lay ministers in the congregational care

program. Lay minister responsibilities include providing basic pastoral care to folks who submit care requests at mcctoronto.com/care as well as occasionally leading the prayers of the people during worship. If you think you may be suited for the work of congregational care, or would like to learn more about the role, please contact Rev. Junia Joplin at jjoplin@mcctoronto.com. An information session will be hosted in the Rainbow Room this **Sunday, May 7** following the Worship Service.



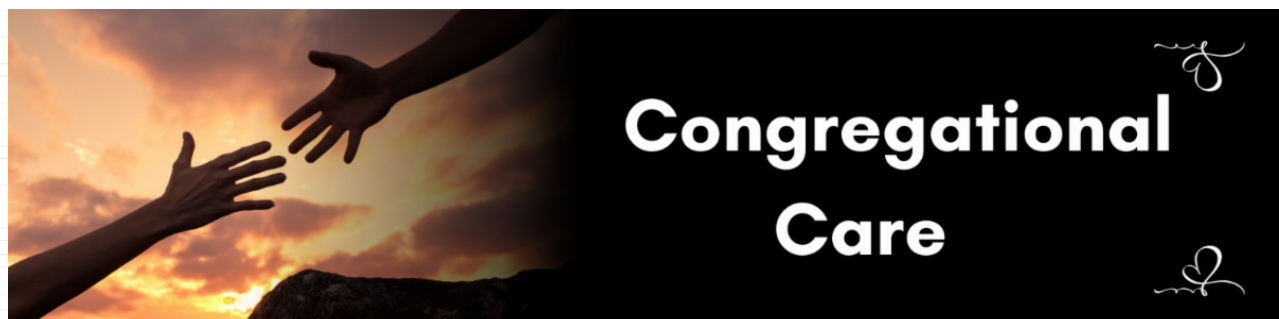
Volunteers have always been at the heart of MCC Toronto. We would not be the strong, inclusive and welcoming community we are, without the support and dedication of volunteers who help support our Worship Services and our other public programs.

To sign up for volunteer opportunities, please click the link below.

[SIGN UP TO VOLUNTEER HERE](#)



It is always a pleasure to acknowledge and celebrate members and congregants enrolled in our weekly and monthly giving program! The on-going support of our 300+ sustaining donors is so critical to the work MCC Toronto does everyday, and we are extremely grateful for your gifts. However, like a lot of churches, MCC Toronto has seen our weekly and monthly contributions decline over the past two years. Today, we invite you to consider joining our family of weekly or monthly donors. Whether your gift is \$5 a week, or \$25 a month, every bit helps support our operations. You can sign up on our [website](#) or contact giving@mcctoronto.com for more information.



Taking care of ourselves or others is always important. Just hop on the link below and fill out the form to let one of our pastors know about your needs.

Want to learn more about our Congregational Care program? [Watch this video by Rev. Junia Joplin!](#)

This Week at a Glance May 7 - 13

Sunday:

11 AM - Online and In-Person Sunday
Service



Bible Study

[Bible Study](#)

There'll be no Bible Study until MAY 16



Digital Fellowship Hall

[Digital Fellowship Hall](#)

There'll be no Digital Fellowship Hall until
further notice



Questions? Comments? Inquires?
We'd love to hear from you!

Connect with us at communications@mcctoronto.com



Sent with love 

