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## Sunday Services

**April 1** Rick McDaniel "*The Honduran YMCA Leader Corps*"

**April 8** Jo-Anne Elder leading intergenerational service. "*New Growth, Roots Dug Deep, Branches Wide.*" To mark the season of growth and change, we will be gathering in small, intergenerational circles to talk about spring and freedom. With a few more months to go before summer, this is the perfect time to think about joining or changing small groups, starting new activities, stretching our legs and brains, and making and renewing promises to ourselves and others. Don't worry if your roots are showing... Come and share what the earth feels like and what new growth is budding.

**April 15** Patricia desChamps leading service with Peter Cronin presenting on "*The Spirituality of Fly Fishing.*" Peter Cronin will be introduced by Tim Andrew

**April 22** The "*Ministry of the Earth,*" service led and presented by members of tUFF, who carry a profound compassion for our earth.

**April 29** Service Leader Tony Fitzgerald with presenter Tom Hanley whose hotly anticipated topic is "*In Search of Spirit.*"



## Women's Pot Luck Dinner

Regular Women's Pot Luck dinner and conversation will be held April 27th., 6 pm at the home of Sharon Van Abbema - 130 Cortland St., New Maryland. "Show and tell" topic is to share what the follow bit of prose says to you —

*The song that I came to sing remains unsung to this day  
I have spent my days in stringing and unstringing my  
instrument*

*The time has not come true*

*The words have not been rightly set*

*Only there is the agony of wishing in my heart*

by Tagor a Bengali poet

If you don't have time to think about it, come anyway and see how the conversation is woven. For more information contact Joan Brewer at [jrjeb@nb.sympatico.ca](mailto:jrjeb@nb.sympatico.ca) or 455-5169.



## Elevator Speeches

Answering the question, "What's a Unitarian?"

During Kitsy's recent visit to Fredericton, a small group of us were able to attend an evening workshop discussing the topic of Identity as UU's. Our focus was to develop an "Elevator speech" to help prepare us to answer the

question, what's a Unitarian/Universalist believe, if approached by a stranger, possibly in an elevator. It was a eye-opening experience with many idea's exchanged. Many of us were further educated on the history of Unitarianism and Universalism by Kitsy, which enabled us to better understand the historical differences and similarities between the two paths, leading to their merger. Below are a few examples of speeches from some of the participants. Check out some more speeches on Mary Bennett's blog at the CUC website <http://x.cuc.ca/wordpress>. I encourage all of you to spend some time to develop your own speech. It may encourage someone to discover a new spiritual path.

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**Danny Mathias wrote:**

We all believe in something different, but I would say that we are a community of liberal-minded individuals who come from a diverse background, with different ideas for divinity. We are peace-loving people who believe in equality, and acceptance for all creatures of the Earth. We have a strong reverence for life and make decisions based on long term consequences for future generations, and the health of all children of this world. We are open-minded questioning people whose lives are an exploration of all the possibilities of the universe.

**Kitsy Winthrop wrote:**

One of my favourite short definitions of Unitarian Universalists is that we are "free-thinking mystics with hands". We believe in the sacredness, the worth and the interconnectedness of all life. While no single theology unites us, we share deeply such values as being open to new truths, and to mystery itself. We believe that our religion must be put to work to help both ourselves and the world become more just, compassionate and peaceful. We are a hopeful faith, a questioning faith, active in the affairs of the world.

**Barb Fairweather wrote:**

A diverse and inclusive liberal-minded religious faith that believes in the value of all persons and ideologies, which encourages one to seek the truth as it fits in their spirit/soul/heart. With the freedom to ask questions to better understand the divinity as understood by other persons, followed by a potluck.

*In fellowship*  
Danny Mathias



## Small Group Ministry

"Small groups have become an important part of our community : through our small groups, participants have established new and deeper connections with one another, and found a place for religious exploration and spiritual growth. At the same time, our small groups are connected

with one another and with the life of the whole congregation and with a larger vision of ourselves as religious liberals, as Unitarian Universalists." Rev. Calvin O. Dame

At just about this time last year, the Fellowship embarked on its Small Group Ministry program. The idea of Small Ministry Groups, also called Chalice Groups or Covenant Groups, was first introduced us several years ago when Reverend Nancy Anderson encouraged the congregation to consider it, and shared information developed by Rev. Calvin O. Dame, Rev. Glenn Turner (then the District Minister for the UUA's NorthEast District, to which the UFF belonged). For various reasons, the program didn't take off at that point, but it certainly did after several of our members became enthused about its potential. It is important for facilitators to have an understanding of this particular small group process, and the facilitators we have now and will have in the future have had the good fortune in participating in Small Group Ministry sessions with Rev. Kitsy Winthrop, both in Saint John and in Fredericton (twice, now!) and in other sessions. I am thrilled to have the Small Group program as part of my responsibility since becoming chair of the new Adult Programs committee. I've really enjoyed the many Small Group Ministry sessions I've attended; when I was the Lifespan Learning Service Consultant for our region we learned about developing SGM programs for children, for youth, and for young adults as well as for older adults.

In the next couple of months, we are hoping to offer more members a chance to join small groups. Spring seems to be a good time to make transitions, and we'd like to open the doors of the small groups wide. Some people may be ready to leave or to change groups, and I know there are many who are looking forward to joining. People who are interested in learning more about our small groups are invited to attend the Sunday Service on April 8, in which we'll be talking about and experiencing small group ministry. We will also have a small group information session on May 6, immediately after the Sunday Service.

In the coming weeks, we will be preparing information packages about our small groups, and a little later we'll be forming a new group and providing forms for you to indicate your interest. The facilitators will also let you know if and when they will be holding open meetings of their groups. After this transition time, should you choose to join a small group, we will ask you to make a commitment for between nine and twelve months and make a sincere effort to attend regularly. SGM meetings are held every two weeks. They include between 5-8 people. Session plans are available in print and on-line from the UUA, from congregations in Canada and the U.S., and follow a similar format: Opening Words / Chalice Lighting, Check-in, a focus Topic, Check-out or feedback, and Closing Words. Participants are asked to bring deep respect, a positive and non-judgmental attitude, a willingness to share and learn. The SGM meetings are not discussion

groups, nor are they therapy groups. Each group makes a covenant or an agreement to respect confidentiality and to establish its own guidelines about sharing and safety.

When participants of our small groups had a chance to meet with Rev. Kitsy recently, they were eloquent and moving in their comments about how important their group was to them. We hope you'll all consider whether joining a group is right for you, whether it is an opportunity for personal and spiritual growth and for developing community in a different way.

*May it be so,*  
Jo-Anne Elder-Gomes



## Saint John Youth Group

Since November 18, 2006, Steve McCavour has been organizing youth gatherings in Saint John. They are held on the third Saturday of every month, usually from 6-9 p.m. in the PRUDE space in the City Market building. (More specifically, participants enter through a green door, one of the side entrances on North Market Street not far from Charlotte Street, and go up to the fourth floor. Then follow the laughter.) The format is relaxed; there are activities (games, storytelling, music) and lots of snacks. There are plenty of adult volunteers, and many, many junior youths. The Saint John youth gatherings draw young people between 12 and 15 from Bouctouche and Fredericton as well as the Saint John area. I'd be happy to give you more information or help arrange transportation if there are any other youth who would like to join Elisabeth and Gabriel when we take them - which is as often as we can! Steve's address is: <samcc@nbnet.nb.ca>

The Saint John group is a rich part of the programming offered by societies and fellowships of the Canadian Unitarian Council. Every year at the Annual Conference and Meeting and again at the Eastern Regional Gatherings, kids have had opportunities to meet other U\*Us in excellent programs for children and youth. I'm grateful to Steve, Heidi, Caroline, John and all the other adults who have made this program happen in Saint John, so close to home!

*Blessings*  
Jo-Anne Elder-Gomes



## Why VOW IS for Women

I was hoping there's be room for this in the next newsletter, since Brigid will be giving a talk on Mother's Day, May 13'th, at the Fellowship.

Many thanks, Lorna

Sometimes a man asks to join VOW. Although most members want us to remain a women's organization, there are young women who think this old-fashioned. It is true we inhabit a world greatly changed since the suffragettes. Loud and cheerful cries of "New and better!" and "You have come a long way, Baby!", distract us from noticing that many of the changes are very bad indeed, or did not happen as we thought. Half-tempted to applaud CondaLeezza Rice, a woman of colour who is US Secretary of State, we forget that outsider, criminal women, like Catherine the Great, have held power before. We fail to notice that "women's liberation" largely benefits the privileged, developed world, and that most women in the world are still poor and work, as always, both outside and inside the home. Dazzled by technical hoopla, we fail to notice the total transformation taking place as unique societies throughout the world are ploughed under and replaced by the monoculture we live in. It is a monoculture of level playing fields, not fairness; of equal opportunities and rights, not of human beings cherished in all their frailty and difference. It forces us to participate in a weighted competition which discards losers and rewards with more those who already have. It claims to be the only true face of human nature. It is misogynist. It is always ready for war.

Residential Schools are not the only example showing that children exposed unprotected to this culture do not thrive. That millions of children do thrive implies the existence of an alternative culture of nurture, caring, sharing, and fairness, and it is largely women, due to biology and custom, who perpetuate this necessary, peaceable culture, a perennial challenge to the monoculture's claim to being all of human nature. Unable to destroy its own children (although global climate change and nuclear weapons certainly suggest this may be a possibility) as it destroys other alternative cultures, the monoculture constrains the threat at its heart by controlling women. The more warlike the society, the greater seems its concern to control fertility, marriage customs and child care. In Canada, a symbolic reminder that women's role in war is to breed cannon fodder is the Silver Cross Mother, honoured before the nation for bearing the greatest number of soldiers slaughtered. Juli! a Ward Howe responded to this role for women in her 1870 Mother's Day Proclamation when she wrote, "Our sons shall not be taken from us to unlearn all that we have been able to teach them of charity, mercy and patience. We women of one country will be too tender of those of another country to allow our sons to be trained to injure theirs."

That Julia Ward Howe's words provoke us after one hundred and thirty-seven years indicates how deeply we, men and women, have internalized the misogynist defense our culture makes to the affront that mothering presents to our core beliefs. In the Montreal Massacre, those many male students who all obeyed orders and left the female students to be shot demonstrated the deep undercurrent

of misogyny in our society. It did not seem to cross their minds that, while deserting the women guaranteed their slaughter, staying, which only risked harm to themselves, might have saved the women. The male students saved themselves, as our culture teaches. So did the adult women who took the boys and deserted the Amish school girls.

Of course being mothers is not what defines women who, like men, are unique, variously talented human beings, but until for all of us the first response to the threat of danger is to reach out to one another, as mothers and children do, I believe there is still a place for women-only peace groups. In them we can comfortably explore together the indigestible obstacle we women can be to the destructive culture we live in. We can imagine a society in which, faced by a man with a gun, those young students, most of whom must have been good and brave young men, simply sat down.

Brigid Toole Grant,  
March, 2007



## We've Gone Brown!

Don't be concerned about the brown hand wipes in the ground floor restroom or the brown paper towels in the kitchen! We changed to the recycled products to help our environment and our planet.

*In fellowship*  
Patricia desChamps



## Art and Craft Shop

Tracy Walls has agreed to take over the operation of our small shop in the library. I hope that everyone will continue to support this money making endeavor which is a benefit to artisans as well as Tuff. Please let her know when you pieces of art or crafts that you would like to display.

Thank for all your interest in the past years.

Betty Ponder



## Good News!

I'm pleased to say that as of today I'm the Final Candidate to be the Minister of North Shore Unitarian Church in West Vancouver, BC! My candidating week up there will be Apr. 15-22nd, so after that time, I'll let you know if they voted yay or nay.

If you think the congregation might like to know this, you

are free to announce it in any way you like within the Fellowship.

I'm delighted. It's a surprise; I honestly didn't expect to be called back to Canada, but North Shore looked/looks better and better the more we interacted. And, even so far away, it felt like home.

Let's not think of it as a done deal until the congregation votes on the 22nd, but even so, this is great news for me, and I hope for you.

Give my greetings to all  
Stephen Atkinson



## Souper Sundays at the Fellowship!

A number of members and friends have commented on our soup on Sundays after the service. Tom Hanley pointed out the happy chatter in the kitchen last week while people were having soup. It's such a great way to connect and stay connected with everyone who attends Sunday services. Sometimes it seems as though the soup making list isn't going to be filled but at the eleventh hour we always have soup! It's easy to clean up afterward with our great new dishwasher and many helping hands and Vera Watts! Proceeds from the donated homemade soup served each Sunday go directly into our general revenue account to reimburse the Board for the accessible restroom renovations. It should take about twenty six months to reimburse the Board in full. This project has been such a success that we will have to use soup to pay for a second project when this one is finished!

*In fellowship*  
Patricia desChamps



## Our folding tables

The folding tables are now stored in the kitchen. Tony Fitzgerald made a poster for 'making them up' which I posted on the cupboard beside them. In the past, several have damaged for lack of directions.

A tidbit from your Buildings & Grounds Committee



## Course to Learn Life Saving Skills

Several people have expressed an interest to learn the life saving skills of cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR). This course would be held on a Saturday morning to be determined and would be facilitated by a Heart and Stroke Foundation instructor.

The Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada sets the Canadian Guidelines for CPR, defibrillation and other aspects of emergency cardiovascular care in Canada. HSFC offers a comprehensive range of CPR training programs that are based on the Guidelines - the most current resuscitation and educational science. The Heart and Stroke Foundation courses you can take include the following options:

**Option 1:**

**Family & Friends CPR Anytime** The Family & Friends CPR Anytime Personal Learning Program allows families, friends and the general public - those who most likely would never attend a traditional CPR course - to learn the core skills of CPR in just 22 minutes using their own personal kit. The kit contains everything needed to learn basic CPR, and skills can be learned anywhere, from the comfort of a family home to a large community group setting. Also, at approximately \$40\*, the CPR Anytime kit is a cost-effective way for the entire family to learn CPR at home. This kit does not provide certification in CPR.

Each Family & Friends CPR Anytime kit contains:  
 \* A personal, inflatable CPR manikin - "Mini Anne"  
 \* CPR Anytime Skills Practice DVD  
 \* An American Heart Association CPR for Family and Friends booklet  
 \* Accessories for the program



Approximate Course Length: <1 hour Skills Learned: adult CPR, child CPR, adult choking This course does not teach the use of automated external defibrillators (AEDs).

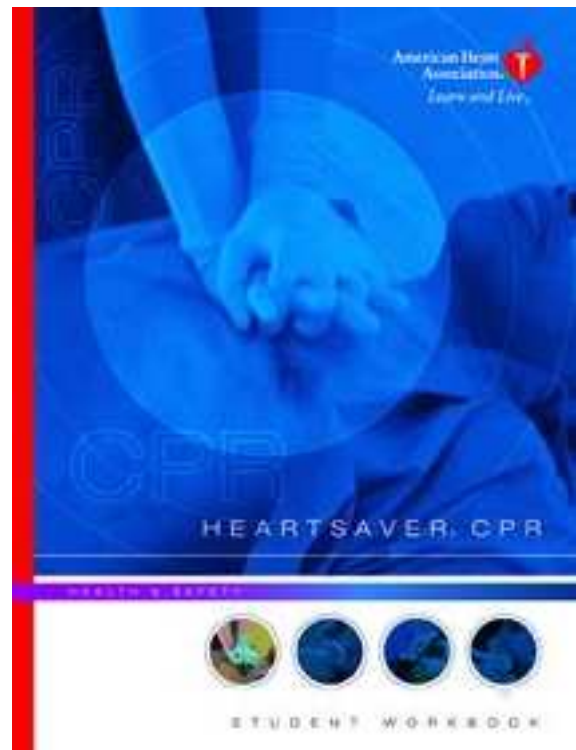
**Option 2:**

**HeartSaver CPR (A)**

The HeartSaver CPR course contains up-to-date content and science from the 2005 Guidelines for CPR and Emergency Cardiac Care. The course teaches cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and relief of choking in adults. Training in infant and child CPR and choking relief are optional. The course is designed for those who have a duty to respond to a cardiac emergency because of job responsibilities or regulatory requirements. It is also open to the general public. This course uses borrowed manikins AND includes a student manual for a cost of <\$15. A course completion card is provided on successful comple-

tion.

Skills Learned: adult/child/infant CPR & choking This course does not teach the use of automated external defibrillators (AEDs). Approximate Course Length: 4 hours



\*applicable HST and shipping and handling may apply

Please contact the Unitarian Fellowship of Fredericton to indicate your interest in attending and course option by calling 451-0919 or e-mailing TUFF@nbnet.nb.ca.



## CUC Board Report

The CUC Board met February 2-4 at the Unitarian Church of Hamilton, Ontario.

The CUC Board approved an expanded staffing model to meet increased demands for service – there is now a CUC-West office located in the Unitarian Church of Vancouver, staffed by Janice Lincoln, Administrative Coordinator-West, Kirstie Peden, Administrative Coordinator-East, and Phil Strapp, Financial Administrator, manage the CUC-East office in Toronto. The Administrative Coordinators will provide increased support to the Directors of Regional Services (Linda Thomson and a to-be-hired DRS West) and our Director of Lifespan Learning (Sylvia Bass West) – bolstering our regional service delivery capability. To improve and streamline communications, the CUC has a part-time Communications Director to co-ordinate and enhance internal and external communications. Bruce Schwartzentruber, will, along with other duties, be the ed-

itor of the Canadian Unitarian magazine.

Our Treasurer, Jean Armstrong, delivered on her promise and reported that we are on track with our budget and our goal of achieving a balanced budget this year.

The Board was elated when it received the report that EVERY CONGREGATION delivered on its Annual Program Contribution pledge for 2006! Look for a column about this in the Spring Canadian Unitarian; view it on-line at [www.cuc.ca/canu/spring](http://www.cuc.ca/canu/spring).

This fall/winter, Canadian congregations have been holding workshops on the Go-4-It! and Statement of Principles Initiatives. There'll be presentations at the ACM in Vancouver on both of these.

The Unitarian Universalist Association ("UUA") continues to provide services to Canadian congregations in the areas of Ministerial Settlement and Youth & Young Adult Programs. CUC President, Vyda Ng, and Executive Director, Mary Bennett, met with representatives of the UUA to ensure that Canadian concerns continue to be reflected in these UUA services as they evolve over time.

Plans are well under way and programs are in place for our "*Diversity in Community*" Annual Conference and Meeting to be held in Vancouver from May 18-22. This is anticipated to be the biggest ACM ever! Come and connect with UUs from across the country – early bird registration deadline is April 1st. For information on accommodations, concurrent sessions, keynote speaker, children & youth programming, and more, look on-line at [www.cuc.ca](http://www.cuc.ca), or in your March congregational mailing.

Respectfully submitted,  
Vyda Ng  
President, CUC  
[www.cuc.ca](http://www.cuc.ca); [vyda@cuc.ca](mailto:vyda@cuc.ca)



## View from a Grain of Sand

Mark your calendar for Tues April 10 at 7pm at the Fellowship

"View from a Grain of Sand" a movie presented by the Social Responsibility Committee. For more information please call Danny Mathias 457 0646. We have on loan for Tuesday April 10 from the Peace Coalition a movie, called "View from a Grain of Sand" about the lives of Afghan women, shown through the eyes of three women. It is a fantastic movie. It was shown to rave reviews at UNB on International Women's Day as a fundraiser for RAWA, an Afghan women's group that has released the movie. We will 'pass the hat' on April 10'th for donations to RAWA.



## The Stewardship of Risk

From the Alban Weekly  
- Week of 3/19/2007  
Dan Hotchkiss

Years ago a bright Yale student asked me how I would describe the difference between a church and any other charitable group. I gave the sort of answer most of us might give: I emphasized the church's unique life-transforming mission and its special responsibility to treasure and transmit precious traditions across generations.

It was a good answer—but today I am afraid I'd have to add that of all nonprofits, congregations as a group are the most cautious and least willing to accept risk in order to fulfill their mission.

This is ironic because our traditions encourage risk as part of good stewardship. The parable of the talents, for example, is about risk. The "good" servants whom the master rewarded for managing his money wisely were daring and venturesome. The "bad" servant was the cautious one. He invested, so to speak, in federally insured bank deposits with a guaranteed return of zero. Today such investments do even worse than that—because of inflation, a guaranteed investment can be expected to lose value.

The "good" servants chose the riskier portfolios. Jesus rewarded them, but as the saying goes, past performance does not predict future returns. Risk is risk; they could have lost their master's money. I can't help wondering: what would Jesus have done then?

In recent months I have attended two training events designed for leaders of nonprofits. I learned many things, but one theme stands out: how far the nonprofit world has come in understanding how to get boards, staffs, and volunteers to act as if the mission were more important than safety, harmony, or comfort. I was surprised and impressed by leaders I met at seminars run by BoardSource, a leading think-tank for nonprofit leaders, and at a training conference for grantees of the Kellogg Foundation. In planning your continuing education, I recommend that you seek out similar opportunities.

Consider what happens when somebody has an innovative idea. In most nonprofits a staff member or senior volunteer vets such ideas for consistency with mission, plans, and vision. If it passes muster it goes to someone, usually another staff member, with the power to OK both the idea and the necessary resources. It is up to that decision maker to seek necessary input and support. Major decisions get passed up to the executive director, who may ask advice from the board before deciding to approve the money, staff, and other resources to carry out the plan.

In a majority of churches the response to new ideas is quite different. The first response is often, "If you're willing to

take charge, just go ahead!” Then, after a pause: “Unless, of course, you need money. In that case you’d have to ask a committee to allocate some of its budget. If you need a budget increase, then the finance committee needs to pass on it, and on their recommendation the board might or might not say OK. Or sometimes things go to the board first, then finance. If your idea would require new staff, you have to go to the personnel committee—but honestly, you might as well forget it. The senior minister has wanted an associate for years. The music director has been asking for a youth choir director since VE Day. There’s no way any other staff will be approved until those two get what they want, or die.”

We who lead congregations have a lot to learn from people who lead other kinds of organizations and especially from the leaders of nonprofits. Some of you are saying, “But congregations are different, and a pastor is not the same as an executive director.” That is true, but not for the reasons you might think. Churches and synagogues are organized as an expression of religious faith—but that is also true of many charities, whether they are explicitly “faith-based” or not. I was impressed with the deep faith that called many of my fellow workshop participants into their vocations.

I was struck by the organizations’ clarity of purpose and ability to take bold steps in changing circumstances. In one case, the childhood disease for which a group was founded had been cured. The board reflected deeply on the question whether their most faithful next step was to dissolve. Instead they decided to reorient themselves to address health issues that threaten children now. How many churches—despite Jesus’s admonition—would be willing to lose their lives in order to find new life in this way? How many synagogues would leave known and familiar Egypt to set out on the bumpy path of promise?

Congregations naturally structure themselves to avoid risk. That is the fact that stood out for me as I contrasted the nonprofit leaders I met in the course of my continuing education with the clergy and lay leaders I see in my consulting work. The nonprofits, as a group, were far more willing to risk the treasure in their keeping—which was, in most cases, very little to begin with—in an all-out effort to fulfill their mission. Most congregations, by contrast, act as though the Great Commandment said simply, “Exist.”

From the best leaders of nonprofits, we can learn the advantages of a clear decision-making structure that holds leaders accountable. One part of our accountability is for sheltering our common treasure against theft and waste. The other part of our accountability—the part we aren’t so good at—is for the results that can come only when we weigh the stewardship of prudence against the stewardship of risk.

Dan Hotchkiss is a senior consultant at the Alban Institute. “The Stewardship of Risk” originally appeared in the February 2007 issue of *Clergy Jour-*

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## Poem & Response: Welfare

Hello all,

I am so proud that we accept refugees in Canada. We provide an environment with no civil war, no incarceration without fair trial, no abuse of women or children, and no murders by our government. We provide an environment with clean air, clean water, safe communities, good health care and good schools. I have been personally involved in the lives of several refugees that have settled here in Fredericton - especially ones from Ethiopia, where I lived for two years. In Canada we are all from somewhere else unless we are aboriginal!

It is true that refugees receive a monthly cheque from the federal government for one year for settlement expenses. In NB the monthly assistance cheque is \$270. For every dollar over \$250 that you earn each month you lose dollar for dollar from this cheque. This is not a one-way ticket to riches at all! One thing that does sadden me is that two brothers with identical engineering degrees from Bosnia left their country during wartime. One immigrated to Sweden where he works as an engineer the other who came to Canada drives a cab. Sweden recognizes the engineering degree while Canada does not. Physicians from other countries run restaurants or teach at UNB Nursing here in Fredericton.

Last Wednesday was the international day to stop racial discrimination - this email poem shows and encourages discrimination against people settling in Canada from other countries. I encourage all of you to find out more - get in touch with your local multicultural association - learn well, live well. This Welfare Poem email is circulated widely. I have received it several times in the past two years.

Yours truly,  
Patricia desChamps

### Welfare Poem

*I cross ocean, poor and broke,*

*Take bus, see employment folk.*

*Nice man treat me good in there,*

*Say I need to see welfare.*

*Welfare say, “You come no more,*

*We send cash right to your door.”*

*Welfare checks, they make you wealthy,*

*Medic aid it keep you healthy!*

*By and by, I got plenty money,*

*Thanks to you, Canadian dummy,  
Write to friends in motherland,  
Tell them 'come fast as you can.'*

*They come in turbans and Ford trucks,  
I buy big house with welfare bucks  
They come here, we live together,*

*More welfare checks – it gets better!*

*Fourteen families, they moving in,  
But neighbour's patience wearing thin.  
Finally, white guy moves away,  
Now I buy his house, and then I say,*

*"Find more aliens for house to rent."  
And in the yard I put a tent.  
Send for family they just trash,  
But they, too, draw the welfare cash!*

*Everything is very good,  
And soon we own the neighbourhood.  
We have hobby, it's called breeding,  
Welfare pay for baby feeding.*

*Kids need dentist? Wife need pills?  
We get free! We got no bills!  
Canadian crazy! He pay all year,  
To keep welfare running here.*

*We think Canada darn good place!*

*Too darn good for the white man race.  
If they no like us, they can scram,  
Got lots of room in Pakistan!*

*It is interesting that the federal government provides a single refugee with a monthly allowance of \$1,890.00 and each can also get an additional \$580.00 in social assistance for a total of \$2,470.00.*

*This compares very well to a single pensioner who after contributing to the growth and development of Canada for 40 to 50 years..... only receives a monthly maximum of \$1,012.00 in old age pension and Guaranteed Income Supplement.*

*Maybe our pensioners should apply as refugees!*

*Let's send this to all Canadians, so we can all be ticked off and maybe we can get the refugees cut back to \$1,012.00 and the pensioners up to \$2,470.00 and enjoy some of the money we were forced to submit to the Government over the last 40 or 50 years.*

*Please forward to every Canadian to expose what our elected politicians are doing - to the over-taxed Canadian.*



## News From The Cuc Board

The CUC Board met February 2-4 at the Unitarian Church of Hamilton, Ontario.

Much of the focus of the meeting was to consolidate the "new" Region & RNGs service delivery model (which we can no longer call "new"! ) and to prepare the ground for the updated strategy that will emerge from the Go-4-It! process.

In an increasing commitment to regionalize the CUC's services, there are now two "small-is-beautiful" regional offices – one serving the B.C. and Western Regions (with an office located in the Unitarian Church of Vancouver's premises), the other serving the Eastern & Central Regions (with an office shared with the CUC National Office in Toronto). To staff the Regional Offices, the CUC now has two Administrative Coordinators – Kirstie Peden in Toronto and Janice Lincoln in Vancouver. The Administrative Coordinators will provide increased support to the Directors of Regional Services (Linda Thomson and a new DRS West) and our Director of Lifespan Learning (Sylvia Bass West) – bolstering our regional service delivery capability.

One item that appears consistently in the feedback the CUC receives from the members is the need for improved and streamlined communications – within UU communities and with the world at-large. At the meeting, the Board approved a staffing model that included the role of Communications Director to co-ordinate, streamline and enhance both internal and external communications. The new CUC Communications Director, Bruce Schwartzentruber, will, among other things, be the editor of the Canadian Unitarian magazine.

Our Treasurer, Jean Armstrong, reported that we are on track with our budget and our goal of achieving a balanced budget this year, hailing a formal end to the "investment period" following the CUC becoming the primary provider of services to Canadian congregations.

The Board was elated when it received the report that EVERY CONGREGATION delivered on its Annual Program Contribution pledge for 2006!

This fall/winter, Canadian congregations have been holding workshops on the Go-4-It! initiative and the Statement of Principles. There'll be a report back at the ACM in Vancouver on both of these.

The Unitarian Universalist Association ("UUA") continues to provide services to Canadian congregations in the areas of Ministerial Settlement and Youth & Young Adult Programs. CUC President, Vyda Ng, and Executive Director, Mary Bennett, met with representatives of the UUA to ensure that Canadian concerns continue to be



reflected in these UUA services as they evolve over time.  
*ed note: board membership elided for space reasons, is available upon request*



## Women's Week conference

Hello to all of you!

For those that I met in North Hatley, QC last November 2006, at the North East Gathering of the CUC, greetings!

I have the pleasure of being the musician of the week for the wonderful "Women's Week at Ferry Beach", ME, USA this August 2007.

I want to send an invitation to all women who need a safe space "exclusively among women" of all "orientations and faiths" for "vacations and growth".

A special event: Crowning of the Crones celebration, we want to recognise the wisdom and the beauty of women over 50.

Please, have a look at the website, and notice the very different tracks offered in the morning, the multiple workshops in the afternoons; the games, dances, singing at nights. We have plenty of free time to go for shopping trips, or beach time.

The food is great and plentyfull, and this conference is worth the money spent.

<http://www.ferrybeach.org/summercon/women.html>

My picture is actually on the website for those of you who don't remember the pianist at North Hatley. I will be pleased to answer any questions you might have about the conference itself. Call or email Ferry Beach for prices/rental.

France Thibault  
<francethibault@gmail.com>



## Apartment for Sublet (Toronto)

Hi everyone at the Fellowship! It's Najat! I am planning on going to Honduras to conduct research on a sustainable livelihoods project from July 2- August 2. So I would like to sublet my apartment.

**APARTMENT FOR SUBLET: GREAT LOCATION (near Bay St. and College St. - downtown Toronto) AND GREAT PRICE**

Description of the Place - I have basic furnishings: a futon, a desk and office chair, a small kitchen table, and a weird seat.

**GREAT LOCATION!** 51 Grosvenor St. Apt 411 Toronto,

ON M5S 1B5 Just a couple blocks from both Queen's Park and College subway stations.

Twin Bachelor Apartment

300 square feet in each room with hardwood floors. Your roommate has an identical room with a SEPARATE ENTRANCE. Between us we share a small hallway, a small kitchen and a small bathroom.

\$520.00 + Hydro \$15=\$535 Wireless Internet=\$25



## Have Your Say!

**THE FUTURE BELONGS TO YOU!  
SO SAY WHAT YOU WANT!**

The future of the Unitarianism and Universalism in Canada will be heavily influenced by two CUC initiatives currently under way:

1. The "Statement of Principles Task Force"
2. The "Go-4-It!" Strategic Planning Framework.

**HAS YOUR CONGREGATION HELD A WORKSHOP?  
IF NOT, THERE'S STILL TIME!**

Hold your workshop and send in your results by March 31 (paper) or April 15 (on line) to have your voice included.

**NO WORKSHOP?**

Respond individually - either electronically or on paper.

A Summary of Responses and Next Steps will be presented at the upcoming CUC Annual Conference in Vancouver in May.

For full details and response forms, visit:  
<http://www.cuc.ca/statement>  
<http://www.cuc.ca/strategy>

Kalvin Drake  
Vice-President, CUC



## CUUL School

*Editor's Note: space restrictions prevent printing the entire brochure, however, I can make it and registration forms available electronically or by print to anyone who is interested. The minimal basics follow:*

CUUL School (Canadian Unitarian\*Universalist Leadership School) at McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario: July 19-22, 2007.



## tUFF Ride Registry

The Ride Registry is being set up in order to address two needs: 1. To provide friends and members needing transportation with a ride to Sunday service. 2. To provide friends and members with the opportunity to help out. It is a perfect melding of needs, expectations and satisfactions.

In order for this service to ramp up, we need an initial influx of players. We have a dispatcher, Allison Calvern, 459-1436, and now we need people who can offer rides, and people who need rides. Simply call the dispatcher—459-1436—in order to be put in touch with one another.



## Maritime UU weekend at Bouctouche

A Maritime Unitarian Easter Sunday service is being held at Rev. Ray Drennan's Auberge Le Vieux Presbytère de Bouctouche on the weekend of April 8. Ray will lead the service on Sunday which will start at 12 noon - giving those who want to drive to Bouctouche Sunday morning plenty of time to do so. The service will be followed by a pot luck lunch so please bring a sample of your favourite comestible to share.

The weekend activities will start at 2 pm on Saturday afternoon with a workshop at which we will explore ways through which Maritime Unitarians can help each other flourish as UU con-gre-gations. At the present time all the Maritime congregations are lay-led (Saint John has a quarter-time minister). There are three (at least) UU ministers currently living in the area who have served our various congregations on an occasional basis. Their professional services are just one of the resources available to local congregations. In what other ways might we work together for our mutual benefit?

For dinner on Saturday night, Ray has offered to let us use the auberge kitchen facilities to prepare a big pot of spaghetti and a salad. I would like to put out a call for a couple of volunteers to bring a suitable spaghetti sauce (one meat and one vegetarian) for this meal. Those who prefer may want to sample the local eateries or even go to Moncton (60 km away) for something more elaborate.

Saturday evening will be even more informal. Ray has a couple of video presentations which might be of interest. He would also like to organize a bread-making session, the results of which would be used in the Sunday service.

Otherwise, if your talents run to music, dancing, poetry reading or whatever, bring along the props you need and share with the rest of us. No grand pianos, though.

On Sunday morning before the service there will be an opportunity to participate in a number of small group discussions of interest to different aspects of UUism. At the regional meeting in North Hatley I found a treasurers' group to be of considerable interest. Other possibilities are Sunday programs, social responsibility, lay chaplains, etc. There will be a sign-up sheet on which you can suggest a small group of interest to you or indicate the group suggested by someone else in which you would like to participate.

For those who plan to come to Bouctouche on Saturday Ray and Anne have offered very attractive over night rates at the auberge - \$20 per person, double occupancy, including breakfast. I believe that they are fully booked at this time but there are other accommodations available in the area. You might also call the auberge to determine if there have been any last minute cancellations. Contact them at:

Raymond Drennan & Ann Vickers  
Auberge Le Vieux Presbytère de Bouctouche (1880)  
157 Chemin du Couvent  
Bouctouche, New Brunswick, E4S 3B8  
mraymond@nb.aibn.com  
www.vieuxpresbytere.nb.ca  
phone: 506-743-5568

Driving directions to Bouctouche: From Fredericton take Highway 2 to Moncton. Continue on Highway 2 bypassing Moncton and take exit #467 onto highway 15 (East) heading towards Shediac. Continue on 15 for approx. 20 km. At the intersection with Highway 11, take the second exit ramp (Exit 31 B), heading North in the direction of Miramichi. Continue on highway 11 North for about 30 km to Bouctouche. Get off at Exit 32 A. At the top of the exit ramp, turn right and continue straight through town and past the large Catholic Church. Near the end of town, the road forks sharply to the left (becoming Route 134). Do not take this turn but continue straight ahead, following signs to the Musée de Kent and the Eco-centre Irving. You will now be on Chemin du Couvent. We are about 1.7 km up the hill. You will pass the RCMP station and see a large church-like building on your right. This is the museum. Just after the museum the road turns sharply to the left. Rather than turn left continue straight into our driveway. We are set back a bit from the road, but there is a large sign out front with three flag poles behind it. Both the Auberge and the museum are large white wooden buildings. Driving time from Fredericton is about 2.5 hours.