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Sunday Service 11 a.m.

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minister, Anne Treadwell, to join with us. For more information contact Joan Brewer at jrjeb@nb.sympatico.ca or 455-5169.



From the Editor

This month's issue is a little thin. Many of our regular contributors are away and with the executive of the CUC occupied by the ACM in British Columbia, there has been relatively little correspondence from the CUC. There are, however, important local items that need to be published, so I am putting out the June edition regardless of slim size.

I have taken the personal indulgence of publishing a couple of my own photos just because I like them. I hope you do as well. I will probably publish only one issue of Touchstone over the summer and we will try to get back to normal in September.

It has been my pleasure to be your newsletter's compositor over the past year and I hope you have enjoyed the letters. Remember that this is your newsletter and it reflects what you send to me. I thank the regular contributors on the readers' behalf and hope that they continue to use this medium to express opinion and communicate Fellowship business.

In fellowship
Tony Fitzgerald



Sunday Services

June 3 Cathy Holtmann "*Exploring Catholic Feminist Ministries*" The struggle for women's equality in the Roman Catholic church is intimately tied to the struggle for justice for women in society. The ordination of women is one aspect of the Catholic feminist movement, but one that raises issues of power, authority, leadership and service. It isn't just a future possibility; it is a present reality, a strategy among others in the work for women's full participation in the world's largest religion.

June 10 Gary Hay, Gary Manuel and Paul McConnell "*Reflections on Fathers and Fatherhood*"

June 17 The reverend Anne Treadwell

June 24 The reverend Anne Treadwell



Women's Pot Luck

Regular Women's Pot Luck dinner and conversation will be held June 22nd. at 6 pm. Linda Sprague will host the gathering. The show and tell topic has not been decided upon yet. An invitation will be extended to visiting retired

Anne Treadwell's Visit

Hello, All!

The time is drawing nearer, to the two workshops offered to us by Reverend Anne Treadwell! Some people have already signed up, but for those of you who have not yet done so, here is some additional information which may prompt you to make the call...

First, a brief review:

- Sat., June 16th : Anne arrives in Fredericton
- Sun., June 17th : she will do the Sunday service for us
- Sun., June 24th : Anne will do a second Sunday service

for us

If you wish to schedule a personal, pastoral visit with Anne, please let me know. If you wish to offer hospitality to Anne during her stay here, please let me know. If you wish to invite Anne to any committee meetings, discussions, or consultations, please let me know.

New Info: Mon., June 18th : first WORKSHOP: 7-9:00 p.m., in the UFF library

Thurs., June 21st : second WORKSHOP: 7-9:00 p.m., in the UFF library

Also: Fri., June 22nd : Anne has been invited to the monthly Women's Potluck

PLEASE NOTE: In order to provide choice to as many participants as possible, the two workshops, Our Inward Gardens; and Should We/Could We Be More Diverse have not yet been ASSIGNED to the Monday and Thursday dates. That means: If you are excited about going to, say, Our Inward Gardens, but you could only attend if that particular workshop will be scheduled on the Thursday evening, then SIGN UP NOW, and specify your date preference!

Tomorrow is the first day of June – Don't delay!

In fellowship
Nancy Cameron

❁

Board Items

The May meeting of the board finalized the following dates:

Tuesday, June 19th at 7:00pm - Regular June Board Meeting

Sunday, June 24th at 1:15pm - Annual General Meeting

Wednesday, June 27th at 7:00pm - Joint Meeting - New and Old Boards

Note that all board meetings are open to members of the Fellowship.

The AGM agenda will include the election of officers for the coming year so it is very important for members to attend.

Also note that provincial regulations require that we receive and file committee and board reports as part of our AGM. I have volunteered to collate and print in a consistent format for distribution and filing the committee chair and board member reports. Please send electronic copy to me prior to June 15'th if your report requires special markup (bold/italic/underline) formatting, otherwise,

prior to June 22'nd if you are content to just mail the report as a plain email message and let me do the markup. In any event, I can not use proprietary fonts, so make sure reports are not dependent on fonts only available on Windows or Macs. Again, just pasting the report into your email message should work fine.

Thanks, all
Tony Fitzgerald



Working Windmill - near Amsterdam

❁

First Thursday

June 7'th is the first Thursday of June. That makes it time for the not to be missed "First Thursday of the Month Discussion Group and Potluck".

The topic is: "If you didn't know how old you are, how old would you say you are?" In our lives we often reminisce about our childhood, youth, etc. Would you say that knowledge and experience increases the pleasures of life, or, are the innocent years of childhood more enjoyable? What makes us feel young? What makes life enjoyable? How important is age?

Potluck at 5:30 pm Discussion from 6:30 pm.

Come to the Fellowship and join in the discussion, Thursday, June 7th.

In fellowship
Haifa Miller



Raging Granny Imprisoned

Editor's Note: This item was received too late for the May newsletter, it contains dated information but the editor feels deserves inclusion even if some items have passed.

Following a series of protests to stop an environmentally destructive road project early last March Betty Krawczyk, 78 an active member of Raging Grannies, was sentenced to 10 months in prison for contempt of court. Aboriginal activist Harriet Nahanee, 71 was sentenced to

14 days on a similar charge and died soon after release, from pneumonia contracted while in jail.

The project to build a road through this environmentally sensitive but beautiful area near Vancouver to provide access to the Whistler Olympic site

has outraged environmentalists and social justice advocates across Canada.

Such onerous sentencing of persons involved in peaceful demonstrations exercising their right to dissent sets a new low for civil rights in Canada. With the advance of global warming, relations between concerned citizens group and corporations involved in environmentally destructive projects are likely to be more frequent.

There are also rising numbers of unsettled conflicts over aboriginal land claims. In the past courts have complied with Canada's Supreme Court guidance to refrain from imprisoning aboriginals due to a history of abuse of treaty rights.

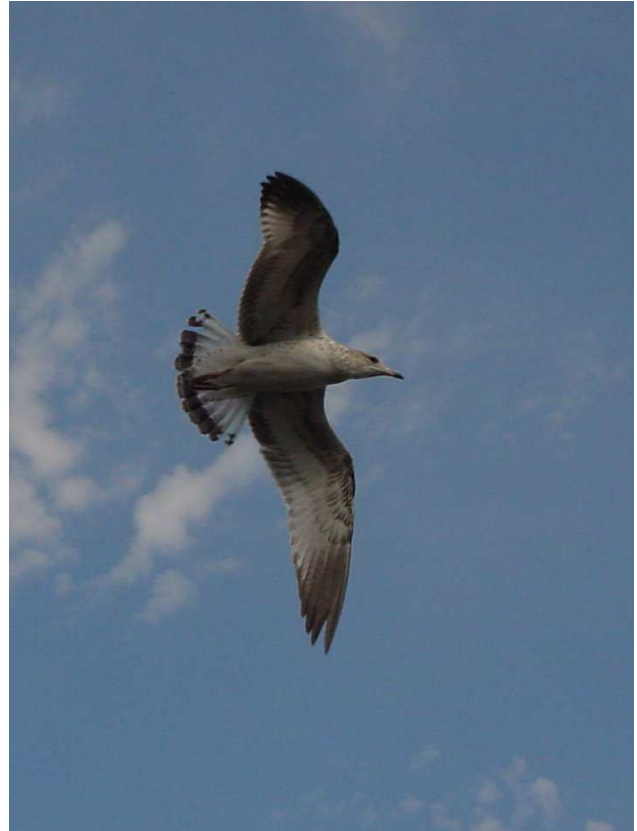
The use of the injunction procedure in the Eagleridge cases sets a dangerous precedent as the accused are tried for contempt of court and the motives and background of their actions is not considered. Social justice jurists are concerned that the use of injunctions rather than placing charges under public order and other laws will become a practice by which future protests against corporate abuse of the environment and aboriginal rights will be silenced.

For more information on this critical social justice issue go www.eagleridgebluffs.com

Concerned Unitarians attending the CUC conference on the Victoria Day weekend have been invited to attend a silent protest of Betty's imprisonment and a commemoration for Harriet. This will also provide an opportunity to visit the beautiful Eagleridge site (now threatened) on a two hour bus tour, Monday, May 21st, 1.30 p.m. to 3.30 p.m.

A visit to MacQuarie Bank, Vancouver, a key source of financing for the road

project is also being considered for the morning on May 22nd by the SRI Study Group. More information will be available May 21st at 9 a.m. in UBC's SU building, room 209 during the Group's session.



Gull - fellow traveller in the web



The cry has been that when war is declared, all opposition should therefore be hushed. A sentiment more unworthy of a free country could hardly be propagated. If the doctrine be admitted, rulers have only to declare war and they are screened at once from scrutiny ... In war, then, as in peace, assert the freedom of speech and of the press. Cling to this as the bulwark of all our rights and privileges.

— William Ellery Channing
Unitarian Minister
Speaking on the war of 1812



UniCamp

Your Unitarian Universalist Camp and Conference Centre. A great place to create a summer of memories for you and your children. Spaces are still available in our children's camps and in most of our other program. Please pick up a copy of our green 2007 brochure for more details, visit www.UnicampofOntario.ca or contact UnicampofOntario@hotmail.com or call 519-822-6353 to obtain a copy.



Death of a Salesman

(or, Thanks Jerry Falwell for Helping Me To Found Heart-Strong and Become a Unitarian Universalist)

by Marc Adams
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Twenty years after I watched friend after friend outed and expelled from Liberty University for being gay or lesbian, I feel hope. Twenty-two years after watching my friend Denise doubled over and dissolved in tears after being kicked out of Liberty University for getting pregnant, I feel peace. Twenty-three years after watching my Old Testament Survey professor committing adultery with his sister-in-law on more than one occasion and virtually getting away with it, I feel honest.

Most people knew Jerry Falwell only by what they saw of him in the media. Most thinking people viewed him as a radical fundamentalist Baptist who spewed biblical venom for anything he perceived his god perceived as sin. Including, but of course, not limited to, women's rights, women's role in the church, homosexuality, gambling, drug abuse, alcohol consumption, secular pop/rock music, homosexuality and a horde of other no-no's.

First, he wasn't that radical. While many people identifying as Christians don't see things the way he did, millions more do. In fact, the basis of his religious beliefs and theology are embraced by the majority of people who identify as Christian. (i.e., the Virgin birth, the Trinity, the physical resurrection of Jesus, his imminent return and the inerrancy of scripture)

Second, he wasn't a fundamentalist, he was a neo-evangelical. Which is why people like my parents and true fundamentalists like Fred Phelps viewed him and people like him as left wing liberals.

I spent three and a half years as a student and employee at Jerry's university. I left during the middle of my senior year, not necessarily because I was gay, but mostly because I had begun my personal journey to wholeness and peace by challenging my fundamentalist Baptist Christian beliefs.

Over and over again, I found myself in pain for my friends. So many people that I knew struggled to survive in an environment that taught women they were to be submissive to men and gay and lesbian people that they were giving the devil pleasure by thinking about self-acceptance instead of self-hatred.

Bisexual and transgender issues were never discussed since most evangelicals do not see them as actual issues. This is mostly because they see the Bible from a male/female point of view. However, this certainly doesn't mean that bisexual and transgender people are not attending these schools.

After a few years of seeing friends and others devastated by the theology of Jerry's Thomas Road Baptist Church and Liberty University, I began to question the things that I was taught as truth. Too many tears, broken spirits and lives forced me to choose my path. I could choose to continue the legacy of hatred, intimidation and shame laid out for me or I could choose to break the chains. In doing so, I could help provide healing to those devastated not just by Jerry Falwell, but by the millions who perpetrate the same physical and emotional life-ending message of self-hatred.

I chose the latter.

And my life has never been the same.

For the first time in my life, I found personal peace which gave me the courage, in 1996, to begin the work of Heart-Strong. Out of respect for my friends who committed physical and emotional suicide and out of hope for my friends still stuck in restorative therapy, I founded Heart-Strong (<http://www.heartstrong.org>) as a way to provide hope and help to the countless gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered students persecuted at religious educational institutions in the United States and around the world.

Jerry acknowledged that in a room full of people, a homosexual can pick out the other homosexual in the room. I had never heard of gaydar before but as soon as he said that, I knew I had always had it. It was one of the things that eventually helped me in my self-acceptance process.

Had I not grown up in the ridiculous home I grew up in and had I not attended Jerry's university and worked for him, I doubt I would care at all about my GLBT brothers and sisters struggling to survive in these schools. Jerry's hatred for what he calls the sin of homosexuality provided me with the inspiration and the ongoing energy needed to continue to provide hope and help to those injured by his former belief system.

His evangelical university and church was also a stepping

stone for me to escape my self-hatred brought on by my fundamentalist Baptist Christian beliefs and eventually find true personal peace as a Unitarian.

Jerry Falwell taught me that the greatest thing a Christian could do to show god how much you loved him, was to die for what you believe. (Where else do we hear this theology?) Well, now that Jerry has died, perhaps others can learn how unimportant the things are that he thought were so important and how important the things are that he never was able to experience.

So, thanks Jerry, for the inspiration. It was your persecution of me, people like me and every girl I ever knew at your schools that empowers HeartStrong to help heal the scars from the wounds you inflicted.

In honor of Jerry Falwell's legacy of being the ultimate anti-GLBT fundraiser, please consider what you can do to help HeartStrong provide hope and help to our students. Your donation helps HeartStrong continue this important work and helps heal some of the damage caused by the message of self-hatred. <http://www.heartstrong.org>

HEARTSTRONG MISSION STATEMENT

HeartStrong is a non sectarian organization established to provide outreach to gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered and other persons adversely affected by the influence of all denominations of religious educational institutions.

HeartStrong is also committed to educating the public about the persecution of GLBT's and others at religious educational institutions.



CUC ACM

Editor's Note, the following is "borrowed" from the Saint John June newsletter

The new CUC board - A message from Vyda Ng ACM 2007 in Vancouver is done and, as outgoing president, I would like to introduce the CUC Board for 2007-2008 to you, in particular Ron Bulmer from Halifax, who will be your new trustee for the Eastern region. Ron has been president at UUCHalifax, and is also coming on as the new CUC Board secretary.

The CUC Board is:

President: Jean Pfleiderer (Eastern Region)

Vice-President: Calvin Drake (Central Region)

Treasurer: Jean Armstrong (Western Region)

Secretary:

Trustee: Ron Bulmer (Eastern Region)

Trustee: Rev. Katie Stein Sather (BC Region)

Trustee: Jan Greenwood (BC Region)

Trustee: John (Mich) Michell (Western Region)

Trustee: Rev. Christine Hillman (Central Region)

Vyda Ng (Past president, ex officio)

As your trustee for the region, Ron Bulmer's role includes contact with board presidents and ministers prior to board meetings to highlight any board agenda items that might be of interest to congregations, and to bring matters from congregations that might influence or affect CUC policy. All board members can be contacted at @cuc.ca.

It has been an honour and a joy to serve as trustee for the Eastern Region for the past 4 years; I will stay on the board for another year as past president, and am looking forward to continuing the work of "growing vital religious communities." —Vyda Ng

Racial equity and the First Nations Jo-Anne Elder-Gomes of Fredericton became the chairperson of the Racial and First Nations Equity Monitoring Group of the Canadian Unitarian Council at the Vancouver conference.

Many in the Saint John congregation know her husband, Carlos Gomes, because he has spoken to us and performed on several Sundays, and has taught at a number of drumming workshops.

As Joanne says, "My husband, an Aboriginal artist and spiritual leader, the seven children we've raised together, and I, belong to the Unitarian Federation of Fredericton. Being an interfaith, interracial and blended family, we have felt welcomed by UUism since I started attending in 1990. As a writer (in both official languages), translator and community worker, I am involved in the UU movement in many ways."

To emphasize its stand for diversity in its congregations, the CUC has issued a new pamphlet showing a person from a visible minority who asks: "Would I be welcome here?"

Another section reads: "I am proud of my heritage. Will people understand what it means to me? I speak a different language. I wonder if people want to hear what I have to say?"

For more details, go to the CUC web site and look for Diversity Pamphlet.

This space wants your material!