



The Newsletter of the Unitarian Fellowship of Fredericton

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Sunday Service 11 a.m. Web Site: <http://www.uff.ca> Email: tuff@nbnet.nb.ca

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Sunday Services

May 4 *Making Music - Music and Spirituality* A celebration of music and the new Weber piano. Remembering the Steinway. A thanks for the Margaret Warren memorial.

May 11 *People who have played the Mother Role in Our Lives* Mei Huang & Haifa Miller will co-lead a talking circle on People who have played the Mother Role in Our Lives.

May 18 to be announced.

May 25 *The Food Miles Challenge Project* Shannon Herbert is the Coordinator of and will be speaking about the Food Miles Challenge Project, which is an education based program that focuses on the social, economic and environmental impacts of choosing New Brunswick produced products. The program has two main action areas; one is set up to work with Elementary and middle schools in Carleton County (district 14) with a Food Miles Education Module that we developed using the current curriculum, and the other is to engage the New Brunswick public at large at community and speaking events with the hopes of sharing information and educating consumers about their buying choices and the impacts their choices

have on our NB economy and rural community viability.

June 1 The speaker will be Kathy Holtman with Lorna Drew as service leader.



Animal Farm

Stepping Stone and The Unitarian Fellowship have joined forces to produce a readers' theatre production of George Orwell's classic "Animal Farm".

Opening Night is at Stepping Stone at 7pm May 9 followed the next night by a performance at Unitarian House again at 7pm (May 10).

There will be a discussion following each performance wherein you will be able to speak to any of the performers. There will also be tea and fair-trade coffee as well as cakes or cookies served. No tickets are being sold but there will be a free-will offering taken to support the establishment of a hospice here in Fredericton.

Actors:

Joanne Wilson: Storyteller

Tony Fitzgerald: Squealer (a pig)

Margaret Fitzgerald: music director and pianist

Carol Ann Hadley: pigeon, Animal 3, pig, sheep, young animal

Sue Steen: Moses(a crow), pig

Madeline Gaudet: Major (an old sow pig), Benjamin (a donkey), Animal 2

Patricia des Champs: Clover (work horse), goose, hen

Sharon van Abbema: Mollie (young mare), Animal 1, pig, goose

Don Watts: Snowball(a pig), Pilkington (English gentleman)

Don Duval: Napoleon (pig)

Muriel McMillan: pig, goose, sheep, Minimus (a pig) poet

Allan Green: Boxer (workhorse)

Malcolm Miller: director

If you come to this performance you will learn the answer to the question: “If all animals are equal why are some animals more equal than others?”



The “O’Donnell-Daigle’s” would like to thank the entire congregation for organizing our beautiful wedding reception. Many people shared their time, effort, and expertise to make this wonderful event happen on very short notice. We are so amazed at the generosity of everyone in our community. As new members we not only feel welcome, we feel cared for and appreciated.

Sincerely,
Heidi & Eric
Emily & Sarah



Diary Entries

Sunday, February 5, 9:30am Sunny, cold Well, what do I think of this wonderful kitchen today, and the cellar, and all? My pipes are frozen and when I went to the cellar to put the hair dryer in position to hit the proper pipe, I saw that a good portion of the cellar floor was wet. More scary was when I went to switch on the light in the cold room and was hit by a fine spray of water. Panic, panic. What now?

The leak was in the valve on the cold water system, and while anything to do with plumbing is serious. I am sort of relaxed again. I’m waiting for this tap to start dripping,

and then for a big gush. It really is a marvelous sight. And it happened! As for my pipe leak, I could hold my finger on it, but in lieu of that, I wrapped a cloth around it and now it drips into a pail which I will empty as required. Tomorrow I’ll call a plumber.

This has not been a day for nostalgia. I have a gimpy leg and I am not sure of the treatment. I will hope that after a day or two it improves. Meanwhile, I took Mum’s 1929 diary up to Aunt Eva’s. She only wrote in it for less than two months. One wishes it had covered a much longer period. She started writing on her Birthday, February 5, just 60 years ago today. She was 39 years old.

Monday, February 6, Fine, steady snow Monday was always wash day, if weather permitted. On Sunday night the boiler was brought in, put on the stove, and filled with water from the kitchen tap. It was quite a performance. The washing machine was brought in from the shed and a rinse tub was placed on a stand beside it. Nothin’ was simple, and I’m not even sure how that old washer worked. The wringer was turned by hand the way you’d crank a car, or wind up a Victrola, if you know what i mean. Mum used a washboard, a thing you rubbed the clothes against if they were particularly soiled. And, boy, you had to be fussy about getting the white things done first. I look back and wonder how Mum did it, especially with all Pup’s greasy clothes from the mill.

When she hung all the clothes out, on the lines, her fingers would go white like mine are Marie’s do now. The large, heavy rinse tub was left for Pup to dump from the back platform when he came home at noon. Mum had to get all this done in the early part of the morning, and wipe up the floor before she started preparing the noon meal. She’d just have to hope Pup wouldn’t arrive home from the mill with a couple of men for dinner. It happened.

Many things had to be starched, sprinkled, and rolled up for ironing. The irons were heated on the stove. We used tow or three irons with a holder that fitted on them so you could get a hot iron as your old one cooled down. I ironed a lot of handkerchiefs. Today, few people use them a box of hankies, as a gift, was a usual thing, now it would be an antique. Well, so much for Blue Monday, Surprise Soap, bluing and starch!

R.E.C.



KEEP ON KEEPING ON

Editor’s Note: From Linda Thomson’s April mailing Curtis Mayfield wrote a song, Keep on Keeping On, in which he reminded us that we needed to “keep on keeping on,” “continue to live and continue to give” and that there was the potential for a great deal of faith and love and trust possible in this world. It’s easy, I know, to get over-

whelmed by all that we have to do and all that we could do in the world. It's easy, I know, to step back and hope someone else will take charge and deal with all that needs to be done. Many of us feel that way as individuals and many of our congregations face the same challenge and struggle to answer related questions.

- How do we act responsibly in the world when there is so much to do?
- How do we deal with the variety of interests and passions held by members of the congregation when there is only limited time and energy?
- How do we translate personal action into congregational action?
- Should we?

Sometimes congregations struggle with these questions knowing that any decision has the potential to be a divisive one. It seems safer and more respectful of congregational 'peace' to stick with the status quo. We tell ourselves, "we don't need a focused congregational action because so many of our members are already involved in justice and social action in the community." We tell ourselves, "there are plenty of good groups doing good work and we already have so much on our plate." Yet, if we overcome our resistance and work together to devise processes for conversation and decision making we have an opportunity to do the powerful work of combining our values, principles and theologies with action. I find the thought of our congregations and our association of congregations coming together to make statements, engage in educational programs, provide support and lobby for change, to be an exciting one. Imagine what it would mean in your community if people learned about your congregation through their positive, affirming messages about poverty or the environment or, or, or²⁰²⁶ And while it can be difficult for congregations to decide how or where to engage, it is possible for them to do so. Starting with conversations and careful dialogue we can explore together what a public, prophetic expression of Unitarian Universalism would look like. We can do the work of consensus building and in doing so can be of use in the world and help others work, we need to do it, and the world is waiting. Let's keep on keeping on!

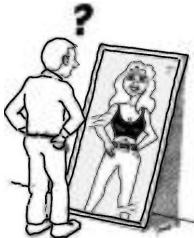
In faith and with affection,
Linda

From the April newsletter of UCMontreal


Entre Nous

Rev. Diane Rollert has been awarded the 2008 Dana McLean Greeley Award from the Unitarian Universalist United Nations Office for her sermon "A Month Behind

and Never Too Late," which she delivered to our congregation this past November. Each year the UU-UNO selects an outstanding sermon or address that promotes the development of a peaceful and just world. Diane will preach the sermon at the Unitarian Universalist General Assembly in Florida this June. The sermon will be posted on the UU-UNO website soon, and also can be found on the UCM website



Rainbowdaze Fredericton



A new group meeting 7PM on third Tuesdays at the Unitarian Fellowship. We are the "T" and a lot of the "Q" in GLBTQ, the conundrum when sex and gender are at variance.

The Fellowship is a welcoming congregation where diversity is not just tolerated, it is accepted and celebrated. Join us for a chance to talk openly. Welcoming, discretion and confidentiality are our covenant.

What is Congregational Polity anyway?

Editor's Note: From Linda Thomson's April mailing

Congregational Polity describes the way that our autonomous congregations operate and connect with one another. The Canadian Unitarian Council is not, strictly speaking, a denominational body, rather it is an association of independent congregations.

The Cambridge Platform, one reference point for our understanding of Congregational Polity, outlines some of the rights of members of churches. It addresses matters of congregational size, and speaks to the necessity of voluntary agreement and covenant and asserts that members of the church must be free to choose, and dismiss, their own officers. It also suggests that the "weakest measure of faith" ought to be enough to ensure admission into membership. Regarding the relationship between congregations the documents says, "Although churches be distinct, and therefore may not be confounded one with another, and equal, and therefore not have dominion one over another." All of this is fuel for our too common modern understanding of the ways our congregations are governed and structured. Voluntary association is read as, "I don't need to be here unless I feel like it," or "I don't like that minister or Board

member and won't hesitate to tell anyone who will listen why I think we'd be better off without him or her." "It's not necessary to stand for anything, or believe anything, we're an 'anything goes' group, not a religion really," is how we often interpret the lack of creedal test. Finally, we agree that we'd rather not be 'confounded' with other congregations, and feel our choices about congregational matters are 'private'. Too often we understand our congregations to be collections of independent-minded people who gather to amuse ourselves or to promote a particular philosophical viewpoint - without regard to the needs or preferences of others or to the larger movement.

A more balanced reading of the Cambridge Platform suggests that the heritage of Congregational Polity is both richer and more demanding than we often consider it to be. The document outlines the purpose and effect of the Covenant, saying it "puts us in mind of our mutual duty", and that a company of faithful persons will, "meet constantly together in one congregation, for the public worship of God, and their mutual edification". It also, in its review of the duties and appointment of Elders and Deacons, points out that members of the congregation, in entering into Covenant, understood that they could expect to be held accountable to community standards of behaviour. Additionally it is clear that members are expected to maintain the Covenant once they enter into it. And in regards to the relationship between congregations, it is equally clear in setting expectations for supportive, mutual relationships between them.

In addition to providing us with a rich heritage of rights, it also provides a call to mutual support and responsibility. We encourage an exploration of both the rights and responsibilities of individual membership in congregations and of congregations in the CUC - we'll be richer for it.



New Administrative Coordinator West

I'm pleased to announce the appointment of the new Admin Coordinator West. Janet Vickers will be in the CUC West office Tuesdays and Thursdays and working from her home office in Abbotsford on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. If you are at the Ottawa ACM, you'll have a chance to meet Janet there.

In the meantime, janet@cuc.ca reaches Janet (all staff and board have their first name @cuc.ca as their email addresses - Except for Jean Pfleiderer and Jean Armstrong who are jeanp@cuc.ca and jeana@cuc.ca respectively.)

Mary
March 26, 2008

Janet Vickers selected as full-time Administrative Coordi-

nator - West

I am pleased to announce that Janet Vickers will be starting work with the CUC on April 1, 2008, as the Administrative Coordinator - " West.

Janet brings strong administrative, event planning and volunteer coordination experience to this role.

Within Unitarian congregations, Janet has been an office administrator, lay chaplain and performed a variety of volunteer roles, including charring Sunday services committee. She has a B.A. in Adult Education from University College of the Fraser Valley, attended "UEAGLES" (Eastern Great Lakes Leadership School) and has completed Toastmasters - Communication and Leadership Program

Janet has coordinated the CUC poetry anthology, Shoreline, and the about-to-be-published second anthology. She is the volunteer poetry editor for the Canadian Unitarian newsletter.

Here is some of what Janet said in her application letter to the CUC, "UHaving lived in the bible belt for the last thirteen years, the prospect of working more within the Unitarian*Universalist fold seems like a welcome homecoming. In those thirteen years my energies have been spread over studies for my degree, working for seniors in third age learning, supporting mental health consumers, looking after family and friends, and writing poetry.

The latter part of this time has witnessed a mushrooming cloud of global threats, with a media purported public trend towards exclusion and prejudice. I see the Unitarian movement as being a vital voice towards life affirming principles and a vision that offers hope for the future. Working here would be a privilege, and a responsibility to support the fragile interdependent web of life."

Sincerely,
Mary Bennett
Executive Director
mary@cuc.ca

Following, for your information, is the posting of this position.

The Canadian Unitarian Council is part of a religious tradition offering an open, justice-seeking faith without dogma. As the national organization of Unitarian congregations in Canada, we were formed in 1961. In January, 2007, we opened a "UCUC West" office located at 49th and Oak on the premises of the Unitarian Church of Vancouver. We serve our 50 member congregations by providing conferences, workshops, newsletters, electronic communication and central database, libraries and other resources.

The Administrative Coordinator - West arranges in-person meetings and teleconferences; compiles information in MS Publisher for newsletters; uses electronic tools such as surveymonkey, wikis and email lists to coordinate in-

formation and events across the country; supports volunteers and staff in program planning; curriculum development and promotion of programs and resources; assists the Executive Director with newsletter communications and event planning (especially our Annual Conference & Meeting).

You likely possess a Community College diploma in office administration or non-profit management with relevant work experience preferably within the non-profit sector; have excellent communication and problem-solving skills; are highly organized and work well in a team; possess excellent Microsoft Office skills; are in tune with the values of a liberal faith tradition.



Volunteer Week

A message from Mary
Volunteer Week: April 27 to May 3

Hello and Happy Volunteer Week to all of you!

Many of you volunteer for the CUC in formal or informal roles.

Most of you volunteer in your own congregations-our members.

Some of you are in paid or unpaid roles where you rely on volunteers to work with you to do more than any one person can do alone.

Thank you for all that you do to support growing vital religious communities in Canada.

In honour of Volunteer Week and your contributions, I thought I'd share with you the CUC staff commitment to our volunteers.

YOU ARE THE CUC

We believe a healthy organization is characterized by healthy individuals who have committed to work together as an organization, not just as individuals.

We, the staff of the CUC, commit to do the following:

1. nurture and strengthen a network of volunteers
2. clearly and publicly define the process for volunteer recruitment and selection
3. develop committees which include both new and experienced members
4. provide a position description which includes clear and specific information about our needs and expectations and the commitment we're asking for
5. always have a time-limited term, in order to provide opportunities to as many people as possible
6. provide opportunities for you if you have not previously been involved in the CUC

7. provide balanced and appropriate opportunities for you as a seasoned volunteer
8. provide opportunities for you to work in your area of expertise or to explore new areas.
9. provide an orientation, training, support and feedback for you in your volunteer role
10. engage you in choosing your area of interest.
11. find a match between your needs and ours so that the work you do can be meaningful and enriching.
12. encourage you to limit the number of volunteer opportunities you take on at a given time in order to develop our volunteer base
13. accept graciously if you decline an opportunity or decide to leave a volunteer position before the term is complete
14. seek your feedback so we can continue to improve the volunteer process which is central to the CUC structure

I invite you to share with me any responses, and especially if you have thoughts around number 14, I'd like to hear your feedback.

Take care of yourselves and each other,
Mary.
Mary Bennett, Executive Director



CUUL School

When we do a quick survey of the leaders in our congregations we note that many of them are graduates of a Unitarian Universalist Leadership School. Since 2003 the Canadian Unitarian Council has offered a made-in-Canada Leadership Program and School. This year will be the fifth year the Canadian Unitarian Universalist Leadership (CUUL) School is offered and our combined total registration for all years has exceeded 125 participants. In five years more than 125 participants will have learned about themselves as leaders, considered how to effectively work with others, learned about other congregations, explored some of the 'hot' issues in Canadian Unitarian Universalism, gained a greater understanding of our history and participated in group learning processes. Participants have consistently reported that the four days of program have equipped them to function more effectively in their congregational role. Registration for the 2008 CUUL School program is underway.

Editor's note: I can provide brochures and registration material to anyone interested. Basics:

When: noon July 19 through 2PM July 22, 2008
Where: McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario

If you are interested in learning more about CUUL

School, please feel free to contact us at cuul-east@cuc.ca or to browse the information found at: <http://www.cuc.ca/programs/leadership.htm>. Of course you can also contact me at the phone number found below.

In faith and with affection
Linda Thomson
Director of Regional Services - East
linda@cuc.ca
905-332-3851



OWL/UNICAMP

Here's your opportunity to get trained to teach the youth or young adult levels "Our Whole Lives" the comprehensive lifespan sexuality education program, on two weekends at UNICAMP.

We've added online registration forms and updated the [cuc.ca/calendar.htm](http://www.cuc.ca/calendar.htm) page for all of our upcoming trainings. REGISTER ON LINE NOW!

The Junior and Senior High OWL (for grades 7-9 and grades 10-12) training weekend workshop is scheduled at UNICAMP of Ontario for May 30-June 1, 2008 Trainers are Monica Bennett and Bill Vogler

The registration deadline is being extended ONE week to April 28. PLEASE SIGN UP! If we do not have 10 people by April 28 the training cannot run. We have a commitment to the trainers and UNICAMP and must give them enough notice to make other plans if the training is under-registered.

The BRAND NEW young adult curriculum weekend workshop is scheduled at UNICAMP of Ontario for June 6-8, 2008 Trainers are Jane Detwiler and Monica Bennett. AGAIN, REGISTER NOW!

Sylvia Bass West
Director of Lifespan Learning
Canadian Unitarian Council -
Conseil Unitarien du Canada
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This space wants your material!