



874 York Street, Fredericton, N.B., E3B 3R8 (506) 451-0919

Sunday Service 11 a.m.

Web Site: <http://www.uff.ca>

Email: tuff@nbnet.nb.ca

Contents for April 2009

Sunday Services	1
Sincere Sympathy	1
Ramnavami Greetings	1
Camas Lilies	2
Conversations of the Spirit	2
To Worship	2
Note from Sharon	2
Easter Greetings	3
Highlights From the CUC Board	3
Spring Fling Art and Craft Sale	4
National Identity Workshop	4
Ridván Greetings	4
Eliot Institute	4
From When We Were Young	5
Church of the Larger Fellowship	5
CUC ACM	5

Maliseet is actually a request for forgiveness for all the past wrongs you may have done to the person you are greeting so that you may begin anew," says Imelda Perley. Robert Leavitt, co-editor of the recently published Passamaquoddy-Maliseet dictionary, presents on how the gentle philosophy shining through the Maliseet language has touched him.



Sincere Sympathy

We express sympathy to Lorna Drew on the passing of her mother, Mabel Ellen Drew, Writer, Poet. Saturday, February 28, 2009, in her 91st year.



Sunday Services

April 5 *"Fostering Children"* (the ones nobody wants)
Jean Johnson speaks on the love, benefits, and challenges wrapped up in the job of taking care of children whose own parents have dropped out.

April 12 *"Who has a bee in their bonnet over Easter bonnets?"* What do orthodoxy, egg hunts, and renewal have in common? Why can't the calendar hold onto Easter? Christmas doesn't play musical dates. The Wednesday Small Group Ministry will present: Reflections on Easter.

April 19 *"This Jesus fellow. After endless chocolate rabbits and painted eggs, what's all the fuss about?"* The Reverend Mac Campbell.

Note, this same weekend, in Bouctouche: After a weekend in retreat with fellow U*Us from the Eastern Region, the Sunday service will be led by Rev. Ray Drennan. (If you would like to attend, contact George DeMille: demille@unb.ca / 459.1436)

April 26 *"Maliseet-Passamaquoddy Dictionary."* How language reveals our values. Happy New Year in



Ramnavami Greetings

Ram Navami, or Ramnavami, is celebrated as the birthday of Lord Ram and it falls on the ninth day of Shukla Paksha (waxing phase of moon) in the month of Chait or Chaitra. Ramnavami also marks the end of the Chaitra Navratri. Lord Rama is the seventh incarnation of Lord Vishnu and is known as Maryada Purushottam — an embodiment of chivalry and virtue. In 2009, the date of Ram Navami is April 3.

The Hindu New Year, Bikrami Samvat, is on April 6th.



Camas Lilies

Consider the lilies of the field,
the blue banks of camas
opening into acres of sky along the road.

Would the longing to lie down
and be washed by that beauty
abate if you knew their usefulness,
how the natives ground their bulbs
for flour, how the settlers' hogs
uprooted them, grunting in gleeful
oblivion as the flowers fell?

And you — what of your rushed
and useful life? Imagine setting it all down —
papers, plans, appointments, everything —
leaving only a note: "Gone
to the fields to be lovely. Be back
when I'm through with blooming."

Even now, unneeded and uneaten,
the camas lilies gaze out above the grass
from their tender blue eyes.
Even in sleep your life will shine.
Make no mistake. Of course
your work will always matter.

Yet Solomon in all his glory
was not arrayed like one of these.

~ Lynn Ungar ~

(Blessing the Bread)

Conversations of the Spirit

As part of his continuing relationship with the fellowship Rev Mac Campbell is available for "conversations of the spirit" with fellowship members on a one-on-one or small group basis. If you would like to avail yourself of an opportunity to discuss anything of a spiritual nature with Rev Campbell please contact him directly at 366-3734 or mcampbel@nb.sympatico.ca.

To Worship

I came across these words during one of the Forums at All Souls Waccamaw Unitarian Fellowship here in Myrtle Beach. I thought we might enjoy having this for the Touchstone Newsletter. It seems to me to be appropriate for spring.

To worship is to stand in awe under a heaven of stars,
Before a flower, a leaf in sunlight, or a grain of sand.

To worship is to be silent, receptive, before a tree
astir with the wind,
or the passing shadow of a cloud.

To worship is to work with dedication and with skill;
it is to pause from work and listen to a strain of music.

To worship is to sing with the singing beauty
of the earth;
it is to listen through a storm to the still small
voice within.

Worship is a loneliness seeking communion;
It is a thirsty land crying out for rain.

Worship is kindred fire within our hearts;
it moves through deeds of kindness and
through acts of love.

Worship is the mystery within us
reaching out to the mystery beyond.

It is an articulate silence yearning to speak;
It is the window of the moment open to the sky of
the eternal.

Jacob Trapp

1899-1992

U.U. Minister,

Summit, N.Jersey

Respectfully submitted....

John van Abbema

Hello fellow Unitarians

John and I are winding down from wintering in South Carolina. The three months have gone by with great speed. We have met many interesting people, both in our Oceanside Village and at All Souls Waccama Unitarian Church. Our eleventh and last service was today. They were genuinely sorry to see us leave and we felt likewise,

but must admit we will be happy to be home sweet home with all that is familiar. Circle Suppers, and Covered Dish events were common happenings and a great way to get to know other unitarians quite easily. The Snowbird event was a wonderful success with 45 men and women getting together, locals and travellers like ourselves, a sit down dinner with everyone contributing with a covered dish and suitable liquid refreshments. We will come home via Ottawa to be able to spend a day or two with grandchildren there. We will light a candle of joy when we see you all again on Sunday April 5th...weather permitting.

Sharon van Abbema



Symbol of Redemptive Suffering

and the symbols of rejuvenation and continuing life everlasting.

A greeting to our Christian friends who observe, this month, the most solemn and joyous festival of their calendar. The pain and suffering of their Saviour on the cross on Good Friday followed by the rising from the dead on Easter Sunday.



Highlights From the CUC Board

MARCH 2009

The CUC Board met at the Cedar Glen YMCA retreat just north of Toronto this February. The Board has traditionally met three times a year, face-to-face. Over the last year, we have begun holding monthly teleconference meetings using desktop sharing software. We know that face-to-face meetings cost money and have a substantial carbon footprint, and as the technology becomes more ro-

bust, we are considering moving to two face-to-face meetings a year.

Hearing the Voices of our Members. Central to our discussion was the question of how the board receives input and responds to it. (Our board meetings always begin with a report back from each board member based on conversations they have had with congregational presidents and ministers in their region.) The Board is drafting a formal Communications Plan. Please talk to us about how best to keep the channels open and in use.

Weathering the Current Financial Storm. Our congregations are experiencing widely varied responses to the current financial situation. Some have seen an immediate negative impact on pledges, some others have been buoyed by modest increased financial support for their communities - underscoring the importance of caring community in these difficult time. On paper, the CUC's investments have lost value along with everyone else's, however our conservative investment strategy has contained that loss to 16.3% over 2008.

Sustainability & Growth continues to be a major concern to most congregations. However, a number of congregations have taken a conscious decision not to focus on numeric growth for its own sake, but rather to deepen the spirit of the existing community, thereby making a more welcoming and enjoyable place for newcomers to visit - and, of course, stay!

Steering the CUC. Naturally, the CUC Board is excited that it will soon be naming a permanent Executive Director. We were pleased with the number and quality of applicants and are beginning the interview process. We would dearly love to have the new E.D. present and engaged at the ACM in May. Once in place, the E.D. will rebuild our staffing.

The CUC in Action. Much of the weekend was taken up reviewing progress against the CUC's short-term plan. Full details can be found on-line at www.cuc.ca/strategy/short_term_plan.

The Board is tremendously grateful for all the input it is receiving from our congregations' leaders and members. It seems that, together, we are responding to the challenges we face in our local communities and our national organization with determination and a positive spirit. Our upcoming ACM in Thunder Bay offers a fine time to celebrate that spirit...

CUC Board of Trustees

This is an highly abbreviated version of the full News from the CUC Board available in the Governance/Board section of the CUC website.



Spring Fling Art and Craft Sale

At The Unitarian Fellowship of Fredericton

874 York St

Friday, April 3 12:30 - 6:00

Saturday, April 4 10:00 - 4:00

Original paintings by Pat Kennedy and Lynda Rae Burke, fine photography by Shasta Merlini and Janet Crawford, impeccably crafted jewellery by Joanne Keezer, jewellery, crafts and clothes from India, Africa and Iran by Mani Irani, hand woven items by Sarah McIntyre of unbeweavables, Woodworking and dip mixes by Donald MacPherson, Pashmina scarves and handicrafts from Nepal by Raj and Indira Shrestha, and knitting by Sandie Breau, hair bows by Tara Brice, Handmade afghans and rugs by Pat Mason, wax paintings by Maboube Maher-Hielscher, ink and watercolour drawings by Carole Forbes and and more. There will be a separate room with Nu to You and quality used items.

Come, and meet the artists. Relax and browse Free admission. Coffee and muffins available. For more information

Nancy Beltrandi beltrand@rogers.com 459-8004

Needed: Quality Used Items. Leave in little room off library or contact Carol Ann Hanley 459-8550 info@anncarol.ca

Needed: Home baked Goods for a home baking table and volunteers to help out Contact Carol Ann



National Identity Workshop

“Who Are We?” conversations have been springing up all over the country. UUs have been talking about our identity in Kingston, Calgary, Ottawa and Saskatoon, and as far west and east as Coquitlam, Kamloops, Fredericton and St. John’s.

Is your congregation or group one of these? If you have held, or are planning to hold, a National Identity Workshop or Sharing Our Faith service, the Task Force thanks you. If your congregation hasn’t scheduled a workshop, we encourage you to encourage your members to share their individual responses to the workshop questions, or to tell us their stories about being UU.

The Task Force is using your results from the workshops to present an update at the Annual Conference and Meeting in Thunder Bay in May, and to plan for the “Where Do We Go From Here?” concurrent session. We’d like the responses entered into the SurveyMonkey tool by March

31 if at all possible (if you’ve done this already, thank you.) If your congregation’s workshop is scheduled after this date, we’d appreciate the responses asap.

The Identity site is at

<http://canadian-unitarian-council.pbwiki.com/Our-National-Identity>

where you can blog, dialogue on our Facebook group, share your thoughts, and input your workshop responses.

Questions or comments? E-mail vyda@cuc.ca.

Thank you for being part of this conversation with us.

Vyda Ng

Task Force Chair



Ridván Greetings

Beginning at sunset on the 20th of April through sunset on the 2nd of May, our Bahá’í friends remember when Bahá’u’lláh sought refuge for the twelve days in the garden of Ridván (meaning paradise) just outside Baghdad after being exiled by the Ottoman Empire. The gate to the garden is pictured above. The time has a significance beyond the scope of a simple greeting and I urge all to do some research.

“This is the Day whereon naught can be seen except the splendors of the Light that shineth from the face of Thy Lord, the Gracious, the Most Bountiful.”

From the Writings of Bahá’u’lláh



Eliot Institute

Naramata 2009 - Joyful and Liberating!

Eliot Institute offers a seven day, one-of-a-kind experience of play, community, and worship for the whole family in beautiful Naramata, on the shores of Lake Okanagan in British Columbia. This year’s session runs June 27 - July 4, and will feature Rev. Amanda Aikman and Julia McKay as the theme speakers Come join us!

Visit www.eliotinstitute.org or call 206-374-2497 to learn more.



From When We Were Young

Wednesday, February 15

It is difficult to write about 60 years ago with the tv on and I am also writing with a ball point pen. When we started school we got new things, like a slate and slate pencils, a pencil box with pencils and an eraser, and a scribbler, often with rough paper. When we were old enough to use a pen, it was a straight pen with various nibs. Each desk had an inkwell. In winter they froze and sometimes broke. You had to have scribblers with smooth paper for ink pens because they sometimes stuck, and either tore the paper or caused a blot. We used blotters so that we could turn the page and not have the ink smear. Arithmetic was done on slates and sometimes this made quite unpleasant sounds. We had rags in our desks to clean the slates, and often a little spit helped.

We lined up and marched into school, girls on one side and boys on the other. We had roll call, then said the Lord's Prayer, the Salutation to the Flag, and the Pledge of Allegiance, before class. We all belonged to the British Empire, and when we rolled the big wall map down from the map cupboard, all the portion in pink was the British Empire. It was at its height then.

My first teacher was Rheta Dewitt, from Fredericton Junction. She was a good teacher, but very strict, and she had quite a temper. She was rough on some of the older kids and they all hated her, or so they said. Even though I adored her, I said I hated her too. She was a beautiful writer, as were many of our teachers. In fact, many good writers came out of the York Mills school.

Thursday, February 16

One of the stores where we dealt locally was the Farmers' Trading Company, where Watsons' Store now stands. grandpa John Albert Little was one of the 'big guns.' Uncle Jardine Wilson was the first, in my memory, to run the store. He and his family, Aunt Elizabeth and their kids, Edward and Jenny, lived in the house attached to the store. Uncle Jird was a pet and always a favourite of mine, but when I was a kid, it was Aunt Elizabeth I knew better. She was Mum's sister. She was sweet and always gave us chocolates or whatever treat she thought we wanted most. I liked visiting there, but it was scary in a way, going from the store to the house, past the doorway that led down to the cellar. I was never down there!

Just outside the kitchen door was a huge kerosene tank. People would come with a can to buy a gallon or two to fuel their lamps, or to light the fire in their stoves. Molasses came in puncheons which probably held up to 100 gallons. It was also bought by the gallon because molasses was a staple on the table, like salt, pepper, and sugar. When we went to Grandma's, we were always given a 'piece' before we went home. This could be bread and jelly or bread and

molasses. People ate pancakes, pork, and molasses. Gingerbread, and molasses cookies were in every household.

Well now, I'll have to get back to the "Company Store" another day. It was not just a store. Upstairs was a hall for parties, dances, church services, and auction sales. It was a wonderful place.



It's Spring!

Give the perfect UU gift to celebrate Mother's Day, Father's Day, UU Volunteers, Coming of Age students, mentors, RE Teachers, your favourite UU minister!



Visit www.clfuu.org and click on **CLF shop** The Church of the Larger Fellowship

Proceeds support CLF's work to bring Unitarian Universalism to isolated religious liberals throughout the world.



CUC ACM

The planning for the 2009 Annual Conference Meeting is well underway. Our keynote speaker is Rev. Chris Buice. Here is some information about the keynote and Rev. Buice.

"Answering the Call : Répondre à l'appel" Rev. Chris Buice

Religion is an attempt to respond to fundamental existential questions, "Who am I? Why am I here? What is my purpose?" On one level, we can answer these questions with our words. On a deeper level we can answer them with our life choices. The decisions we make and the actions we take determine how we "answer the call" as individuals, congregations and as a national and international faith community. In 2008 Chris attended our Annual Conference Meeting on a sabbatical trip with his son Christopher and daughter Sarah. Chris returned to

his church from his sabbatical to face the most challenging year of his ministry. On July 27th a gunman opened fire in his church killing two people and wounding 6 others and traumatizing an entire community. In a manifesto in his own handwriting the assailant said he was motivated by his hatred of "liberals." Chris will share how his experiences in Canada helped prepare him for the pastoral work of trauma recovery and the public ministry of speaking out for a more just and peaceful society. He will ask us to reflect on the deeper meaning of what it means to be a part of a faith tradition where we discover together who we are, why we are here and what our larger purpose in the world is meant to be.

Chris Buice is minister of the Tennessee Valley Unitarian

Universalist Church in Knoxville, Tennessee. He is a graduate of the Earlham School of Religion, a theology school associated with the Society of Friends (Quakers.) He is the author of the books *A Bucketful of Dream: Contemporary Parables for all Ages* and *Roller-skating as a Spiritual Discipline and Other Meditations*.

For more information or to register, visit:
<http://www.cuc.ca/conference/2009/index.htm>

I hope to see many of you in Thunder Bay.

Linda Thomson
Acting Executive Director
linda@cuc.ca
905-332-3851

This space wants your material!