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Sunday Service 11 a.m.

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Sunday Services

September 27 Malcolm Miller "*I doubt ... therefore, I am*" Malcolm will look at how people normally use the term "doubt" and how he believes we can do so in useful ways.

October 4 John Dillon "*Belief, Knowledge, Reality: The Journey*"

October 11 Dr. Stewart Donovan "*Freedom from Nostalgia - A Poetry Reading*" Dr. Donovan is a professor of English and Irish studies at STU and is publishing a new book of poetry that explores the impossibility of ever really "returning".

October 18 The Reverend Mac Campbell.

October 25 Elisabeth Bailey, UU minister from Nova Scotia.

November 1 Elisabeth Elder-Gomes and Elizabeth Vickers-Drennan.



Women's Pot Luck

The monthly women's pot luck dinner for October is planned for Friday, October 23rd at 6 PM. (we'll eat at about 6:30). Josephine Savarese and her mother, who will be visiting with Josephine, will host the gathering at 564 Kings College Road. The discussion topic will be circulated by email and printed in the Sunday bulletin. For more information contact Joan at jebrewer@rogers.com or 455-5169.



R.E. Piano

Hello Everyone,

I have some good news to pass on! Sheila Thompson has kindly agreed that it would be a better use of her gift to the Fellowship to buy a piano in good shape for the R.E. Program than to spend it on the refurbishing the old one.



When Klaus took the old one apart, he found two cracks in the sounding board. To fix up the appearance of the old one would be like painting an old car with a broken motor. For the same price of redoing the finish of the old one, we are able to buy the newer piano with a bench, have it moved to the Fellowship, tuned and have the humidifier from the old one fixed and transferred to the new one. Sheila's gift will cover the whole cost. It will be delivered on Monday and the old piano will be given to Anti-Poverty.

Margaret has tried the new one and found it to more than satisfactory. It is an apartment size piano of recent vintage and lovingly cared for by the family. When not in use it was always covered. We are very pleased that Sheila Thompson is supporting us with her gift for this purpose. We will have a dedication ceremony during one of the upcoming services and we will provide a suitable plaque of Sheila's choosing to commemorate the memory of her mother.

Thanks to Margaret and Klaus for facilitating the acquisition of this piano.

John van Abbema



CUC Poetry Chapbook - reminder

The CUC Chapbook Editorial Committee has asked newsletter editors to publish a reminder that the deadline is November 30th. Other details are in the September Touchstone.

Please submit unpublished material to Jo-Anne Elder at eldergomes@yahoo.com



Samhein/Beltane

Beginning at sunset on the 31st of October, pagans in the Northern hemisphere begin the observance of Samhein while in the Southern hemisphere where the seasons are reversed, Beltane is observed.



Samhein is, arguably, the most significant of the pagan festivals and, in the Celtic tradition, is the pagan new year. At this time of change of seasons, the veil between this world and the next is at its thinnest and communication with the next world is easiest. It is from this tradition that the ghosts of the modern Halloween derive.



Adult Programs - Fall Guide

This is a guide to the adult learning opportunities and social activities available at the Unitarian Fellowship of Fredericton congregation between September and December 2009. We welcome new people who want to meet us and find out who we are. The Adult Program Committee is made up of Anne Leslie (chair) Gail Moore, Joan Brewer, Rosemary Clews, John Dillon and Alyssa Sankey. If you have any questions or suggestions for activities please call any member of the committee.

Registering for Adult Programs

Some workshop information may indicate that registration by phone or email is required. This helps the planners to judge the amount of refreshments, handouts etc are required. In the past programs have been cancelled because

of insufficient registration, but later it was discovered that people were disappointed because a number had planned to come but hadn't gotten around to registering. Regular monthly or weekly meetings do not require registration.

Location

Unless otherwise specified, workshops and activities are held at 874 York Street, Fredericton. For more information call the contact person specified for the activity. Most of the programs are free, although there may be a charge for materials. Some workshops may have a registration fee.

PROGRAM INFORMATION

Women's Pot Luck Supper

The women of the Fellowship come together on the fourth Friday of each month at 6 p.m. at someone's home or at 874 York Street. Sometimes the eats are mostly dessert, sometimes mostly main course, but usually a wonderful combination of appetizers, main course foods, and desserts. It happens by magic. Once the eating is finished, participants focus on a topic that has been chosen beforehand. Each person has an opportunity to speak while the other women listen carefully, without interruption or asking questions. The topic is usually of the sort that provides the opportunity to know about each others' lived experiences, dreams, favorite books and movies, and much more. Joan Brewer sends out an email reminder each month especially if there is a change in venue.

Contact: Joan Brewer, 455-5169, or jobrewer@rogers.com

New UU

Our congregation holds New UU Orientation sessions once or twice a year to provide information to those who may be thinking of joining. The sessions, usually held once a week for four weeks, look at denominational and congregational history, an outline of governance and congregational operation and structure, and the UU approach to religious faith and UU beliefs. The sessions are advertised in The Touchstone and orders of service.

Contact: Carol Ann Hanley, 459-8550, or thanley@nbnet.nb.ca

Circle Conversations

Our Fellowship has been holding Circle Conversations for a number of years as part of the Small Group Ministry Program. The goals of Small Group Ministry are to build community; explore spirituality; share with others; practice our principles and right relations, and to nurture shared leadership.

As has become our custom with the Small Group Ministry program (SGM), twice a year, all the members of the congregation are invited to join a Circle Conversation group. Current Circle Conversation group members may leave, change their group or renew their commitment to the group they have been attending. Circle Conversations

are held twice a month, and participants are asked to make a commitment to attend them regularly and for a specific period of time. At the first or second meeting, the groups agree how to be with each other and create a covenant.

Groups are made up of six to eight people, and a led by facilitators who are members of the Fellowship and are selected by a Small Group Ministry Team. Meeting topics are selected from outlines available from other UU churches and fellowships or are suggested by people involved in the program. Meetings usually last two hours. The general format of a meeting includes: an opening reading; a personal check-in; a focus topic chosen in advance; a closing check-out and a closing reading. One group meets in the evenings and another during the day.

Contact: Anne Leslie, 363-5412 or aleslie@nb.sympatico.ca

Lunch with Mac

As a way of offering more time to talk about the ideas and questions raised during his presentations, Rev. Mac Campbell will be sharing a long lunch hour at 874 York with any who would care to drop in. He will be there from 11:30 to 1:30 on the Tuesday following his presentations. This Fall, those Tuesdays will be September 15, October 20, November 17, and December 15. Conversation can touch on the presentation of the previous Sunday, or any other area those present would like to explore. Bring your curiosity and a brown bag lunch and join the conversation! Contact: Rev. Mac Campbell, 366-3734 or mcampbel@nb.sympatico.ca

Spiritual Connections with Local Food

Professional Church Consultant Elisabeth Bailey of Nova Scotia will conduct a weekend workshop about different ways we make spiritual connections with food and how we can celebrate the connections we already have as we deepen relationships with local food sources. Elisabeth will also be the Sunday Service speaker on October 25th. The Workshop will begin Friday evening October 23rd and will continue on Saturday October 24th beginning with a visit to Boyce Farmers' Market in the morning. Look for further details in the Orders of Service and Touchstone.

Who Wrote This Stuff Anyway? Bible Study Course

Join the Rev. Mac Campbell for an exploration and discussion of the Bible, one of the shared sources of UU faith. Participants will design the course together. No prior study or Bible knowledge is necessary. Please bring your own Bible.

First meeting: Saturday, September 26, 2-4 p.m.

Contact: Rev. Mac Campbell, 366-3734 or mcampbel@nb.sympatico.ca



Fair Trade Gift Show

Fair Trade Gift Show, Sale and Slide-show Documentary
Charlotte Street Arts Centre, 732 Charlotte St., Fredericton, NB

Saturday, Oct 17, 2009, 10 am - 4 pm (Slide-show: 1:00pm)

Support sustainable communities and rural women artisans with your purchase of fairly traded handwoven, natural textile products. "Social Fabric" talk and slide-show screens at 1pm; exhibit and sale all day long. More info at www.TAMMACHAT.com
<http://www.TAMMACHAT.com>



OWL Training Weekend

From 5PM, Friday, October 23rd through 2PM, Sunday, October 25th. At the Unitarian Congregation of Ottawa, 30 Cleary Ave., Ottawa, K2A 4A1, 613-725-1066.



Our Whole Life training weekend.

Fee \$200 (but negotiable) includes all meals, beverages, and snacks with exception of Sunday breakfast. Contact 613-853-2635 or owl@firstunitarianottawa.ca. Home hospitality is available on request.

editor's note: I have an electronic brochure if anyone is interested.



Diwali

The Indian Festival of Lights

This year, October 17 sees the celebration of arguably the most significant holiday on the Indian sub-continent. In rural areas, Diwali (or Deepavali) is the harvest festival which marks the end of the cropping season. The Hindu religion commemorates the return of Ram, an incarnation of Lord Vishnu after a fourteen year exile.

The Sikh religion celebrates Diwali for the return of the sixth Guru from captivity in the city of Gwalior.

The Jain religion celebrates the Nirvana of Lord Mahavira



who established the dharma as it is followed today.

India is a land of festivals. Diwali, the Festival of Lights, is celebrated with fervor and gaiety. The festival is celebrated by young and old, rich and poor, throughout the country to dispel darkness and light up their lives. The festival symbolizes unity in diversity as every state celebrates it in its own special way.

Like as a Huntsman

Edmund Spenser
circa 1592

Like as a huntsman after
weary chase,
Seeing the game from him
escap'd away,
Sits down to rest him in
some shady place,
With panting hounds
beguiled of their prey:
So after long pursuit and
vain assay,
When I all weary had the
chase forsook,
The gentle deer return'd the self-same way,
Thinking to quench her thirst at the next brook.
There she beholding me with milder look,
Sought not to fly, but fearless still did bide:
Till I in hand her yet half trembling took,
And with her own goodwill her firmly tied.
Strange thing, me seem'd, to see a beast so wild,
So goodly won, with her own will beguil'd.



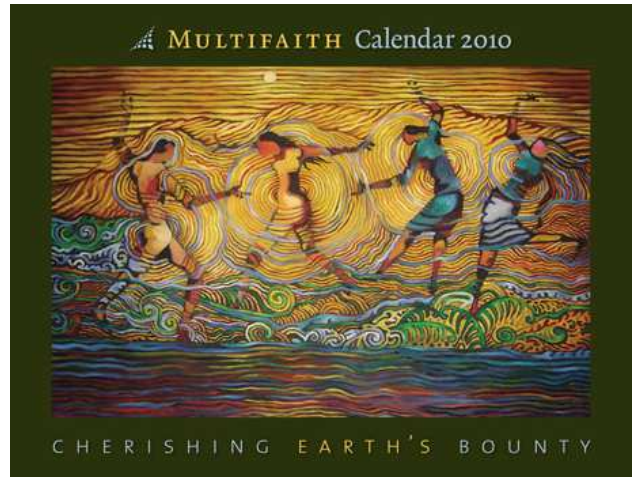
editor's note: *The poem was something I stumbled over while looking for something else. It's presented purely for the reader's consideration.*

Reformation Day

On October 31, 1517, Martin Luther posted his 95 Theses to the Castle Church Doors in Wittenberg, Germany. The anniversary of this date has become known as Reformation Day. While the date has become a holiday in a number of countries, the usual custom now is to observe Reformation Sunday as the Sunday on or before the 31st. This year, October 25th.



Multifaith Calendar



Today's society is diverse and multicultural. Festivals and religious holidays are an important part of many peoples' lives. Being aware of these occasions can foster a working environment that is open, inclusive and productive.

The Multifaith Calendar facilitates understanding of these religious occasions and festivals important to our diverse cultural communities. Our Calendar is held in high regard for its accuracy and integrity.

In addition, the Multifaith Calendar 2010: Cherishing Earth's Bounty offers...

- A source of accurate dates and descriptions of over 350 observances and events from 14 world religions.
- A collection of original art.
- An excellent fundraising vehicle for non-profit/charitable organizations.
- Wholesale and retail opportunities.

The calendar will be officially launched on October 4th. More information is available at <http://www.multifaithcalendar.org>

Climate Change Day of Action

editor's note: This note was received from the CUC Social Responsibility News. See the Adult Programme Fall Schedule for UFF related events.

Re: Climate Change Day of Action October 24, 2009

On October 24th, 2009, concerned citizens of the world can participate in an International Day of Climate Action. Thanks to 350.org (see web page below), who initiated this action, the global voice of humanity can rise together and

call for reducing Greenhouse Gas in the atmosphere, to 350 parts per million (ppm) - the maximum level for safety determined by climate scientists. Levels above this put us all at the mercy of catastrophic climate events - and the current level is close to 390 (ppm). Urgent international action is needed to put a cap on carbon emissions.

For our children, and grand-children's sake, we must let our governments know we care about climate - before December - when world leaders will meet in Copenhagen, Denmark, to sign the 'post-Kyoto' climate change treaty. We want Canada's leaders to listen to us, the people, and to take scientifically required action. For more info, see www.350.org and/or www.eco-justice.org (then click "Join the 350 Movement").

We encourage congregations and communities to join in taking climate action anytime - leading up to, on, and beyond October 24th.

— Plan a worship service, on "Climate Justice and Global Poverty" for either Sunday October 17th or Sunday October 25th.

— During the week of October 17 - 23: We invite you to visit your MP asking for his/her support for the Climate Change Bill C311 which comes up for 3rd reading this Fall, and asking for him/her to sign the pledge for politicians.

— Plan a church and/or community activity addressing climate change or calling attention to the need for climate action (see 350.org for examples - a tree planting, walk, speakers, music, art, workshop, bike action, community clean-up, film, skit, carbon-free local dinner, rally, etc).

— Promote your activities with local newspapers, radio stations, etc before the Day of Action to publicize what you will be doing and why.

— Circulate petitions for signatures.

— Share what your congregations and community are doing. Please send your info to: Janet Vickers (janet@cuc.ca)

— Register your action and send in a photo to www.350.org

Thanks for getting involved in this important ministry of caring for the earth and its climate for the life and health of all creatures.



Turkey Notebook

In the Land of the Goddess

This past April, I had the privilege and pleasure of visiting the Republic of Turkey. I became a member of a tour group of Unitarians from across Canada and the U.S. The tour's itinerary was developed by Beverly Carr of Neighbourhood UU in Toronto in conjunc-

tion with Quest International. The group visited museums, ruins, archaeological dig sites, and natural wonder sites. The following are some points of interest I would like to share with members of the congregation.

Anne Leslie

A Pictorial Tour of Goddess Sites/Images

Travelling through the Anatolian region of the Republic of Turkey was a journey back into the cradle of civilization and the ancient religion of the Great Mother Goddess which represents the creative power of nature, the process of fertility and the renewal of life. These are some of the marvelous things I was able to see on the tour.



The Great Artemis stands almost 10 feet tall and was carved from marble in the first century AD. It is found at the Elphesus Museum located in Seljuk, two miles from the ancient city of Ephesus.

The Ephesus Museum has some wonderful statues of the goddess Artemis from Ephesus particularly the one shown at left known as the Great Artemis unearthed during excavations at the Prytaneion in Ephesus. The statue shows characteristics that reflect the mother goddess so prevalent in various guises throughout Anatolia in prehistoric times. The statue, whose face and posture express divinity, is frontally presented, with its legs close together, a typically archaic pose. The arms, which are missing at the elbow, would have been outstretched as though dispensing the gift of fertility. The goddess wears a three-tiered headdress (polos), the top tier of which represents various temples of Ephesus, indicating Artemis's sovereignty over the city. Animal figures inhabit the lower two tiers. The neck and décolletage display a necklace of precious stones, and another of alternating pearls and grape clusters. In a corona on either side of the face, and on the panels of the tight garment that covers the lower body, are animal figures such as lions, bulls, goats, griffins, deer, and sphinxes. Bees, the emblem of Ephesus, also appear both in these panels, and alternating with rosettes on the belt. The broken protrusions on either side of the skirt are probably fragments of supports. The most prominent part of the statue is of course the chest, which bears numerous egg-like objects formerly thought to be the goddess's breasts, symbolizing fertility and motherhood, leading people to call the Artemis Ephesia "the goddess of many breasts." It now seems likely that these objects represent another symbol of fertility, the testicles of sacrificial bulls. The shape is actually more similar to testicles, and since bulls were often offered to Artemis, this view seems likely.



The Great Mother Goddess statue discovered at Catalhoyuk now in the Anatolian Civilization Museum in Ankara, Turkey.

The Neolithic settlement at Catalhoyuk was excavated between 1961 and 1965 by James Mellaart and became famous for its association with the ancient worship of a female deity evidenced by the discovery of many clay “Mother Goddess” figurines, made from stone and clay more than 9,000 years ago, especially that of a large, stately woman seated (and allegedly giving birth) flanked by leopards (shown at left). Followers of Goddess spirituality adopted Catalhoyuk as a quintessential Goddess site. Nearly 2,000 figures have been unearthed at Catalhoyuk which lasted as a settlement for 2,000 years. Some archaeologists now say the the figurines may have been toys or teaching aids.



Kubaba is depicted as a mother goddess holding a mirror and a pomegranate or poppy seed pod in a relief in the Anatolian Civilization Museum in Ankara.

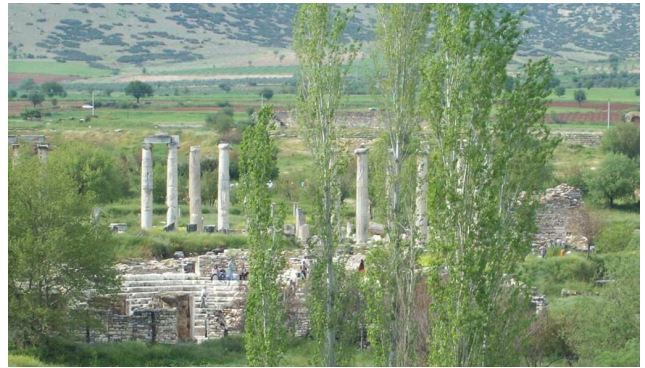
Kubaba was an ancient goddess adopted by the Hittites and later by the Phygians as Cybele. Kubaba was a later version of the Hurrian Goddess Hapat. Hapat was aligned with the Hittite’s Sun Goddess of Arinna, the consort of the Storm God Teshub. Kubaba was later the prototype of the Phrygian Goddess Cybele, who was in turn described as the Phrygian Aphrodite.



Statue of Cybele in the Anatolian Civilization Museum.

Also known as Kybele and Magna Mater and the Mother of the Gods, the worship of this goddess spread throughout the Roman Empire. Originally Phrygian, she was a goddess of caverns, of the Earth in its primitive state; worshipped on mountain tops. She ruled over wild beasts, and was also a bee goddess. Her festival came first on the Roman calendar. Along with her consort, the vegetation god Attis, Cybele was worshipped in wild, emotional, bloody, orgiastic, cathartic ceremonies. Cybele was the goddess of nature and fertility. Because Cybele presided over mountains and fortresses, her crown was in the form of a city wall. The cult of Cybele was directed by eunuch priests called Corybantes, who led the faithful in

orgiastic rites accompanied by wild cries and the frenzied music of flutes, drums, and cymbals. She is shown flanked by two leopards.



The Temple of Aphrodite in Aphrodisias.

The first settlers arrived in Aphrodisias during the Neolithic period 8000 years ago. Construction of this temple began in the first century BC and was completed in 130 AD. At the end of the 5th century the temple was converted into a Christian church and was used until the 11th century.



The chapel built over the foundation of the home of Mary, the Blessed Virgin on Mount Pagus, near Izmir.

Some Christians and Muslims believe that Mary, the mother of Jesus, was taken to this stone house by Saint John following the crucifixion of Jesus. Roman Catholics believe that she lived there until her assumption into Heaven; other denominations of Christians recognize this spot as her burial place. Mary filled an important functional role for the formerly pagan peoples of the Roman/Hellenistic world. These new Christians had to fill the gap created by the loss of a female religious principal, i.e. Juno/Hera, Ceres/Demeter, etc. Mary began to assume some of the features of these goddesses and could fill the need for both men and women to invest their religious heart in the warmth of a mother figure.

A visit from the Goddess?

During the tour group's stop at the ruins of the city of Troy in western Turkey an unusual occurrence brightened my day. Trudging through ruins of a city that had been destroyed and rebuilt nine times in the same location, the group was about to proceed to the remains of the Temple of Athena a short distance away until someone in the group pointed out that an owl had landed on the edge of a nearby wall. I recalled that in Greek mythology Athena often appeared as an owl or was pictured with an owl on her shoulder or head. At first I was surprised to see an owl in broad daylight because they are known as nocturnal birds, but soon realized by its small size that it was likely a burrowing owl a species that hunts in daylight. I was struck by the whimsical notion that this was Athena herself, wishing me well in the "Land of the Mothers."



The Tailgater, a Cautionary Tale

editor's note: I've received this story from a couple of sources and suspect that it is apocryphal. A Google search found at least one reference going back to 2006, so it's not new. Another reference found it quoted in a Christian homily, so I hope it won't offend. Humour is always tricky so I try to avoid humour in this publication.

A man was being tailgated by a stressed-out woman on a busy boulevard. Suddenly, the light turned yellow just in front of him. He did the right thing, stopping at the crosswalk, even though he could have beaten the red light by accelerating through the intersection.

The tailgating woman was furious and honked her horn, screaming in frustration, as she missed her chance to get through the intersection, dropping her cell phone and makeup.

As she was still in mid-rant, she heard a tap on her window and looked up into the face of a very serious police officer.

The officer ordered her to exit her car with her hands up.

He took her to the police station where she was searched, fingerprinted, photographed, and placed in a holding cell. After a couple of hours, a policeman approached the cell and opened the door. She was escorted back to the booking desk where the arresting officer was waiting with her personal effects .

He said, "I'm very sorry for this mistake. You see, I pulled up behind your car while you were blowing your horn, flipping off the guy in front of you, and cussing a blue streak at him. I noticed the 'What Would Jesus Do?' bumper sticker, the 'Choose Life' license plate holder, the 'Follow Me to Sunday-School' bumper sticker, and the chrome-plated Christian fish emblem on the trunk. Naturally... I assumed you had stolen the car."



Sukkot

Originally a harvest festival, Sukkot is celebrated for seven days beginning, this year, at sunset on October 2nd. This is the Feast of the in-gathering as commanded in Exodus 23:16.

Sukkot is one of the three biblical pilgrim festivals when it was traditional to visit the Temple in Jerusalem. The name of the festival is the plural of sukkah, the word for the small huts or booths which are constructed for the taking of meals. The huts served to symbolize the dwellings used after the Exodus while wandering in the desert for forty years.



This space wants your material!