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Sunday Service 11 a.m.

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Sunday Services

May 2 Malcolm Miller *Gretta Vosper - a new Paradigm for Christianity*

May 9 Jo-Anne Elder-Gomes *Our Foremothers, Our Futures* This year is the bicentennial of the birth of Margaret Fuller, Author, editor, journalist, literary critic, educator, Transcendentalist, and women's rights advocate. Mother's Day is a wonderful occasion for us to remember her and other women who have marked the UU movement, as we celebrate the women who have marked our own pasts and futures.

May 16 Gloria Paul *Pilgrim House - a retreat from militarism to peace*

May 23 Maury Landry *TBA*

May 30 Stewart Donovan *Freedom from Nostalgia - a poetry reading*

June 6 Glenn Turner *To Endeavor in the Face of the Impossible* Reverend Glenn Turner, who served as our District Minister when we part of the North-West District of the UUA, will be our guest minister for this service. His sermon, entitled "To Endeavour in

the Face of the Impossible," is inspired by a novel by Margaret Drabble who believed that happiness was a by-product of our efforts to live our lives with devotion and depth. Turner writes: 'She commented in an interview that she liked "fairly happy endings," and in the novel I read, her characters "go in for continued effort" when things are less than "happy." When I watch friends and family struggle with the issues that arise in life, I realize again and again that though we may wish we/they were happy, what we all deal with may have little to do with "happiness" per se. It has everything to do with how we meet those issues.'

June 13 Elisabeth Elder-Gomes and the N.B. Youth *Moving On Up: multi-generational service* As we approach the end of our "church year" and prepare for UFF's Annual General Meeting, we also want to recognize the changes in the lives of our young people. At this multi-generational services, we will be celebrating the Coming of Age and Bridging of youth members, and the growth and vitality of our children and junior youth.



Board News and Updates

The TUFF Annual General Meeting will be upon us soon. The Board will meet on May 2 to plan for the new fiscal year and to determine the date of the AGM, which will be set for one of the Sundays in June, after service. Please plan to attend. Bring your questions and suggestions on any topic that concerns you, so that we may have a productive discussion and direction from all members for the coming year.

The Board will also name a new nominating committee on the 2nd. The members of this committee will be contacting individual members throughout the month of May to request your help in managing the administration of our Fellowship. We look forward to your participating as a volunteer to head committees or to represent us as a Board member.

This will be a celebratory year for us as we mark our 50th anniversary. The banquet culminating the celebrations has

been tentatively scheduled for September 12th. The anniversary committee is starting to pull things together and will keep you informed of special events and speakers as dates and names are confirmed. We are particularly interested in receiving photos and small write-ups of the early years of the Fellowship, as the committee plans to publish an anniversary scrapbook. So, if you have any good tales to tell or pictures to publish, please contact Betty Ponder or myself with your suggestions and we will be sure they will be looked after.

May 24th weekend is also the time of the CUC Annual Conference. This gathering will be in Victoria this year and we will have representation at the conference (George & Allison, John & Sharon, as far as we know now). The CUC has experienced limited budget with increased demands for services and there has been a great debate on this situation all winter and spring between CUC directors and local directors. We expect to be providing you with a news summary after the conference.

Thank you, everyone, for helping out during my absence this winter. The organizers of the arts and crafts sale did a marvelous job for us last month, and I much appreciate Tom Hanley for standing in for me again this winter.

John van Abbema

vided. Max is a 17 lb Russian Blue, with attitude. He does not sit on laps, and does not know how to meow. He only squeaks occasionally. He is intelligent, sleeps all morning, and all afternoon, with snacks in between, a real pleasure to have around when he is conscious.

If you are able to help us out, please call John and Sharon van Abbema at 454-1551.....a.s.a.p. Thanks..



Joanne Keezer at the Spring Fling Sale



Visit by STU Ritual Studies class

Announcing visit to TUFF by Ritual Studies class from STU

WEDNESDAY, MAY 12, 4pm — You are invited to the fellowship, for a late afternoon presentation focused on Unitarian hymns and songs. Special guests, STU professor, Dr. Alexandra Bain and her class of twenty-five students in Ritual Studies, will be with us. Margaret Fitzgerald will be on piano; perhaps other invited musicians will participate; and TUFF choir, members, and friends will do the singing. Light refreshments — crackers, wine, and juice — to follow the presentation, especially if somebody brings them. Contact Betty Lou Daye with contributions of cheese, crackers, juice, etc: 357-8256 / daye@nb.sympatico.ca



Cat Billet Wanted

WANTED: A good home for our INDOOR cat MAX to board while we are out west visiting children and grandchildren AND attending the National Unitarian Conference at Victoria University.

Max would require room and board from Friday May 14th until Monday, May 31st. All supplies and equipment pro-



Aphorisms

Editor's note: Ed Leslie sent me a listing of common (and not so common) English proverbs with the suggestion that they might be useful as "fillers" in Touchstone. The editor liked the idea, however, it appears that a lot of material was submitted on the deadline date, including unsolicited material from the CUC, and time limits what I can do. What I really liked about the list was that some have links to background material as to the source and meaning of the proverb, so I'll probably pick out ones that I like and summarize the etymology.

A leopard cannot change its spots

The notion that things cannot change their innate nature.

From the bible, actually, Jeremiah 13:23: "Can the Ethiopian change his skin, or the leopard his spots? then may ye also do good, that are accustomed to do evil."



Joys and Sorrows

Hello Everybody, Allison here, with a sorrow, although there is joy in this story as well.

About a month ago, my daughter, Jennifer felt/heard a loud snap on the side of her head. There was no pain, but something happened. “It was as if a large elastic had been released against my skull,” she said, describing the event.

She was at a very busy time in her career, and left the worrying to her partner, Richard. His curious and loving fingers gave her a massage, paying close attention.

“I think I can feel a crack in your skull,” he said, innocently and with wonder. Not that he really believed it. “Are you sure you don’t have a headache?” he asked.

“No headache,” she said. “And no time for hanging around a walk-in clinic either.”

Jennifer had a schedule—interviewing deputy ministers, facilitating workshops, writing technical material. Anyway, who would believe a person doing as much as she was could have a crack in her skull?

A week later, she awoke to a bit of swelling behind her ear. “OK,” she said to Richard. “Maybe you should take me to the clinic.”

Thank goodness for CAT scans. They discovered a fist-sized brain tumour that had weakened the bone to the point of cracking open Jennifer’s skull. In the bone and not in the brain itself, the tumour had produced no neurological symptoms—nor do we expect her to have any headaches or seizures in the future.

I am also thankful for the steady, skilled hands of the surgeon. On March 31, Dr Tsai, a young and talented woman, successfully and tidily removed that tumour, the resulting wound a great curve beginning in front of Jennifer’s ear, rising up to her crown, and falling down to the back of her neck—forty-one staples in a spectacular question mark. A question mark; questions marking our lives in this new and still very tender direction.

Surgery is an historical action, an excavation of both tumour and process—who first found the courage to cut into a skull? Who first submitted? How many oops! happened during the evolution of surgery, allowing us today to benefit from this amazing level of accomplishment? Which brilliant researcher/technician developed the cement used recently to patch the hole in Jennifer’s skull? And: What next?

According to the doctors and nurses, there were no indications that the tumour was malignant, no markers of malignancy in Jennifer’s body. But the pathology report—which has taken over four weeks to arrive instead of the expected one week—is in. Unfortunately, the doctors and nurses were wrong, or maybe they were just avoiding the word cancer until they were sure.

It turns out the tumour was not the bone hemangioma, lovely and benign, that i was hoping for; it was an unusual, solitary, primary, malignancy—a plasmacytoma. And it has left spots. Which, in spite of the interconnectedness

of all existence, none of us is particularly welcoming of. Beginning in two weeks or so, Jennifer will receive small and precisely delivered radiation to those spots, in order to convince them to leave the neighbourhood. We trust those doctors and technicians to do a superb job.

There have been fewer than 100 of this type of plasmacytoma ever diagnosed in the world, and Jennifer is getting attention from top-notch doctors and researchers because of the rarity of this event. She is young, otherwise exceedingly healthy, and has just demonstrated an enormous capacity for recovery. These are positive signs for this next chapter in the story. Her spirits remain genuinely high and she is as energetic as ever, preparing now for the radiation.

Whew, eh? We have many resources, and many reasons to feel hopeful that Jennifer will continue her happy and productive life into the future. We are grateful for Canada’s medical system, and are astonished at Jennifer’s strength.

Take care,
allison calvern



Pat Kennedy and Nancy Beltrandi at the Spring Fling Sale

Land of the Little People

I hope that you all wintered well and that you are looking forward to planning all the wonderful things that you’d like to do for the summer months ahead.

Saturday 14th August 2010 will be our official opening of ‘The Land of the Little People’ when we finally throw the doors open fully to the public and we would love to

share the day with you by including a very special outdoor Spiritual Event.

Here's what we have so far, we also welcome the extra ideas that you might have by means of some feed back from this email. We are going to do 'Drums Around the World' again, led by Nate Miller (www.emanate7.com) and Cesar Morales as usual. Subject to weather conditions and prior commitments we may even have doves to release too. Janice MacMillan and Cony Brienza will do Shamanic blessings for both the Labyrinth and the new 'Medicine Wheel' and Nate and Cesar will also lead the 100 Drum Ceremony for that too.

Throughout the day Cesar, Nate and their merry gang will give demonstrations of their drumming abilities and we are all invited to join along with them.



Shelley Ling (www.abundantreikienergy.com) who gave us the wonderful Equinox walking Trail last September is organizing an Angel Walk along the woodland trails for us too.

We'd like for you to put your thinking caps on as to what else you would like us to put on for you, or even nicer, should you choose, what you feel drawn by Spirit to add to this big day alongside us.

We would love to include the 'Festival of Hope and Healing' again, like last year, but this time, those wanting to give presentations can do so at their stand where all your business cards, appointment books and literature will be at hand. You will also be able to park your vehicle behind your stand so that you may secure your belongings in order to join in with any of the other events going on throughout the day should you wish.

I shall arrange it that no presentations will have to compete with either 'Drums Around the World 2010 - The Dawn of Time' at the Labyrinth or the Shamanic Blessing and 100 Drum Ceremony at the Medicine Wheel. I know how you all love your drumming.

You will also have the choice of having your stand 1. In the field near the Labyrinth, 2. In the woods by the fire pits (near the labyrinth - the same as last year) or 3. In

the clearing near the Medicine Wheel.

So far we also have pony rides (possibly a petting zoo too), wagon rides by farm tractor as well as wagon rides with horses and let's not forget the Coddle-Popper story trails too.

It is going to be a huge long day and we have every intention of finishing the evening off with a laser light show around the Labyrinth when it gets dark and have the labyrinth lit up by candles once again.

Overnight camping will be available for people with stands and the limited remaining space will be on a first come first serve basis only by prior booking.

I'd like your feedback whether to squeeze in the laser light show with this day, or run a separate event for Saturday 18th September 2010 when we do the 10 Billion Beats event at the Labyrinth. (or maybe both)

Depending on interest would you prefer a 2 day weekend event if we can fill the time up?



It costs money to organize and requires a real team effort from everyone whether it's participants to have stands, people to give presentations and go getters to bring ideas into reality, so I will be extremely grateful for your views or how you can either support or promote this wonderful Spiritual Event, even if it is just a link on your website, a poster on a wall, face book, passing the email along to your friends or that you may join us with your family. I am not asking for full commitments, I just would like to see how the ground lies before throwing money at it.

I like the idea that it will be a Spiritual Event for the people by the people, as we have all been blessed with our various gifts and how wonderful it will be to share them with other like-minded people from across the Maritimes.

To find out a little bit more about our intention, please visit our newly re-vamped website or click on this webpage link: www.thelandofthelittlepeople.com/8000drums

After we have had chance to go through our feedback we shall post further details in the 'More Info' section, but

the date for the event will definitely be Saturday 14th August 2010 so please mark your calendars for another 'very different' fun-filled family day out.

Please press the video link for an edited version of last years 'Drums Around the World' event.

Thank you for your valuable time and I look forward to your ideas. (Please also note our new email address below)

Grenville Woollacott
Phone: (506) 367 1801
onceuponatime@xplornet.ca



Super-Duper Art and Crafts Sale



Walking into the fellowship on April 23 and 24 was a little like walking into a museum - or something as unique as a museum.

Everyone on the art and crafts sale committee had the same reaction, that the 20 vendors that took part had taken great care to arrange and display their work beautifully.

We, the four committee members, had agreed last year and again this year, we wanted a quality event with quality items for sale. The vendors more than lived up to our expectations.

Because we have chosen not to have a Wal-Mart quality sale we don't get the traffic of a Wal-Mart store. But we are calling it a success and, in what follows, the committee members will tell you how and why.

Finding the Vendors

it's funny how you can assume one thing, and then it turns out quite the reverse. I was very apprehensive when we started looking for artisans. I was thinking they wouldn't want to be bothered with us. It turned out that they were all very proud and appreciative of being asked. At the end, we unfortunately had to refuse a few, because we had

filled our quota. We had 20 vendors plus a Nu to You area. Here is the complete list:

1. Pat Kennedy, original oil paintings
2. Lynda Rae Burke, water colours, both paintings and note cards
3. Maboube Maher-Hielscher, painting with wax, pastel, water colours
4. Carole Forbes, ink paintings, ink kits and lessons
5. Mani Irani, "Mani's Treasure Chest", African imports, jewelry, bags, boxes, dresses
6. Don MacPherson, wood worker with end tables, shelves and small utility pieces
7. Joanne Keezer, "Jewels by Joanne", Swarovski crystals, pearls, etc with sterling silver
8. Janet Crawford, "Lightcatcher Photography", photo cards and canvas prints
9. Kathy Thornhill, "Sparrowhawk Photography", perpetual day planner featuring wildflowers of Nunavut, cards, book marks, coasters
10. Amber Cober, "Cober Glass", kiln fired, hand-crafted glass works
11. Joan Shaw, "Garden Creek Pottery", wheel thrown stoneware pottery and porcelain
12. Isabelle Pineau, "An Oddity or Two" (Bedford NS), mixed media assemblages and collages
13. Sandie Breau, with lovely crocheted hats, sneakers, sandals, and baby sets
14. Ali Johnson, "Knitting Nymph", original hand knits and designs. Custom orders available
15. Judith Sherry, hand sewn rag quilts, tote bags, baby quilts, seniors bibs, place mats, etc.
16. Hilda MacPherson, homemade jams, jellies, and baked goods
17. Roseline Godin-Cochrane, "Rosie's Rings" rings for ladies with arthritis or metal allergy
18. Heidi Beckwith, handmade bracelets and ear rings of plated silver and glass beads
19. Susan Napper-LeDuc, lovely stained glass sun catchers
20. Barbara Telford, "Woodsmoke Woolworks", Knit wear using original designs.

Another misconception on my part was whether or not we had too many people selling homemade crafts. It turned out that the wonderful people who knit, crochet, sew and made jelly & jam are marvelous artists with their products. They were very artistic at displaying their work, and popular with the visitors. All the vendors seemed to enjoy themselves.

They enjoyed meeting the public and each other, and

voiced the wish to do it all again next year.

– by Nancy Beltrandi

Getting the Word Out

Doing publicity for the sale is very hectic. We (this means Janet mainly /gh) send public service announcements to all of the newspapers and radio stations, some electronic bulletin boards and a number of flyers. Over 100 posters were distributed around town and four bright posters were put up by the Market, and on York, Regent and Smythe on Friday morning.

CBC Radio did an interview with me Friday morning. The Gleaner featured a lovely picture of Maboube Maher-Hielscher with her en caustic wax paintings on Saturday.

No matter how much publicity you do, you hope that it was enough and people will come. I think we were fairly successful. Many people were introduced to the fellowship and it was vibrant with activity and life.

As a vendor, I was very happy, talking to the many interesting people who passed through our doors. And we could be proud of being part of this organization. I was in the board room with three other vendors including Heidi Beckwith who came with her three-month old baby. We all were enthused about our crafts and were happy for each other when we sold some wares.

I'd say it was a success, both as a fundraiser and as a PR effort for the fellowship.

– by Janet Crawford

Meeting, Greeting and Sharing Fellowship

My responsibilities were to man the NU to YU booth and greet the public.

The days were long, yet a sense of energy and camaraderie were prevalent. The air was filled with fellowship from new vendors and returning vendors, some involved since the beginning in 2007. We hope this is a testament to the welcoming atmosphere, the quality of publicity/marketing and personal attention.

It was indeed a pleasure to welcome the public to the fellowship, show support to the arts and crafts community. I made note of returning buyers from previous years.

We had two enquiries from vendors in Nova Scotia this year and one took part. In three years we jumped provincial boundaries.

I had the opportunity to gain a sense of visitor receptiveness to the vendors. Vendors were open to conversation and the calibre and diversity of the show was much appreciated.

There were two enquiries for information about the fellowship. Both parties took UFF pamphlets when they left.

There were many hands, eyes and ears putting in many

hours to make this event a success.

The Unitarian Fellowship is fortunate to have such cooperation and interest from the membership.

Another year, another dollar, lots of smiles and tired feet.

– by Carol Ann Hanley

I serve on the art and craft sale committee and the hospitality committee so I will put in a few words for both.

We decided to make this more of a TUFF community event and involve more of our members. Betty Lou Daye, chair of the hospitality committee, and I divided up the membership directory and phoned members, first inviting people to come and then asking if they could volunteer. We were very pleased with the results.

Volunteers helped set up Thursday night. People dropped off sandwiches and other food to feed the vendors lunch, some contributing both days. Our great cooks donated food for the bake table and heaps of muffins. We sold coffee and muffins to visitors (You would be surprised how much this adds to our revenues).

This year we also had some men take shifts monitoring the parking-due to past problems with people blocking the entrance. And finally we had help for the take-down when it was all over late Saturday afternoon.

Both committees express their thanks to those volunteers. They added to the buzz of the place. (We found time for good chats and catching up.)

Adding to our revenues we also sold raffle tickets on a quilt, handmade by former fellowship president Genevieve LaLoux. So thanks to Genevieve who also volunteered for a shift in the kitchen. Our very own Paul McConnell is now the proud owner of a lovely patchwork quilt.

Our revenue for the event - table rentals, bake sale, coffee and muffins sale and raffle - totalled \$1143.00. We have to subtract some expenses for a true picture. But we think it is a worthwhile event as a fundraiser and for all the reasons expressed above.

Now who wants to get in on all the fun next year? Hmmm!!

– by Glenna Hanley



Church of the Larger Fellowship

Is someone in your congregation serving in the military?

Through our Military Ministry, the Church or the Larger Fellowship (CLF) provides ways for current service members and their families to develop their Unitarian Universalist faith, as well as ways for currently-serving military-

affiliated Unitarian Universalists to connect with military veterans of our faith tradition. In addition to all the resources of CLF membership, we also provide a special connection forum for serving military members, veterans, and their families to connect with and ask questions of Unitarian Universalist ministers and seminarians currently serving as military chaplains and chaplain candidates.

There are also resources that will allow congregations to better serve military members, spouses, and veterans in your communities and in your pews.

Who is welcome?

- * Service members
- * the spouse of a service member
- * the child or grandchild of someone who has served
- * veterans
- * Department of Defense employees
- * Defense contractors
- * A friend whose service in the military is touching your life

Need more information?

www.clfuu.org/military
Call Lorraine Dennis
617-948-6166

The Church of the Larger Fellowship (CLF) – Your church at home anywhere in the world. Donations to the CLF support the CLF’s work to bring Unitarian Universalism to isolated religious liberals throughout the world. www.clfuu.org



Credo

Editor’s note: At the Sunday worship service in Bouctouche this year, four people were asked to think about three questions and speak for about five minutes in response. The four were representatives of each of the three congregations represented and Linda Thomson, representing the CUC. I was one of the representatives and have been asked by a couple of people to reproduce my presentation.

The three questions were:

- *What do you believe?*
- *What brought you to Unitarian*Universalism?*
- *Why do you stay?*

A couple of weeks back, Ray contacted me about being one of several people to participate in a “credos” session. “Credo”, from the Latin “I believe”. Yes, I can do this!

Or so I thought.

Once upon a time, it was easy. Stand, in a crowd of others, also standing and, looking at the decoration in the dome of the apse or the stained glass behind the altar, intone:

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, begotten of the Father, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father and on and so forth...

Time is a very tough stone that grinds coarse and fine at the same. As time passed, the early simple answers were ground away and I came to realize more and more that I did not believe. Inserting a deity failed the test of Occam’s Razor in my considered opinion. In eliminating the multiplicity of gods, monotheism had stopped one step short of truth.

One problem with a dogma-less religion, on the other hand, is that there is no one stock answer that I can pick off the shelf when asked to talk about credos. I suppose I have to think. Perish the thought.

I came to Unitarianism as many men have come to many misfortunes, the advice of a woman. After various discussions touching on many things, she suggested that I might find the Unitarians interesting. As in a “may you live in interesting times”, interesting.

It took a couple of months to accept the fact that indeed this was a religion which was not religious in the manner that I assumed all religions were. No dogma, just seven principles which struck me as “well, how else would you do things?”

I’ve stayed. February was the beginning of my second decade, so perhaps I’m here for good (or bad). Why? I feel useful and have skills which I think benefit the Fellowship. I feel welcome and accepted and the community has helped restore my confidence.

So, my credo:

I believe that the universe is fundamentally understandable. Understandable without reference to the supernatural. We are still ignorant about many of the details and may forever remain so, however, the hypothesis of a supreme, omnipresent, omni-benevolent, omniscient being is unnecessary to cover our ignorance.

I believe that we, all living things from viruses to great barrier reefs, giant sequoias, great blue whales or fungal growths spanning entire forests, are the products of over 3 billion years of evolution. I believe that once organic molecules became complex enough to self-organize, the march to sentience was inevitable barring massive accidents.

I believe that altruism necessarily arises with the evolution of social animals. I believe that homo (self-styled) sapiens

is a social animal. I believe that we care about one another because evolution has wired our brains to feel right when we do so and to feel disquiet when we do not. I believe that diversity is the fuel upon which the engine of natural selection runs.

Diversity and caring. We have to care about one another and the environment in which we live. Nothing else is going to.

Blessèd be...

Tony Fitzgerald



Joan Shaw at the Spring Fling Sale



Ascensions

May 13th this year is 40 days after Easter and thus marks the Christian celebration of the ascension of Christ into Heaven. May 29th will mark the day when our Baha'i friends celebrate the ascension of Baha'u'llah.



Shrine of Baha'u'llah
in Akko, Israel

The first of May is Beltane, one of the major festivals in the Celtic Pagan tradition. We most often associate dancing the May Pole with the festival, however, there are also "Fire Point" traditions and a wealth of ancient heritage that modern Pagans are attempting to restore to religious significance.

The 18th of May is Shavuot, the festival of "weeks" which falls seven weeks (a week of weeks) after the first day of Passover. The 21st, however, will be the far more solemn Yom Hashoah (Holocaust Memorial Day).

To all our friends, in whatever faith traditions they choose

to live, we wish a blessèd, holy or meaningful May observation.



Invitation to CUSJ AGM

Will you be in Victoria for the CUC ACM? We warmly invite you to join us for CUSJ-DAY on Friday, May 21st, 2010 from 9:30am - 4:30pm, Room C112, David Strong Room, University of Victoria (same general location as the CUC ACM).

If you cannot come for the whole day, come for whatever part you can.

Details and registration at:

<http://www.cusj.org>



CU*UL School

Editor's note: this has been extracted from an electronic brochure. I can send both the brochure and the application for to anyone who is interested.

What is the benefit? At CU*UL School leaders develop a better sense of their strengths and learn how they can work more effectively with others to help their congregation. Congregations benefit when they support their leaders in acquiring new skills, and help expand the network of their leaders.

What is the cost? We recommend the cost for CU*UL school be shared between the participant and their congregation. This sharing helps ensure the commitment of the participant and the congregation. The tuition for CU*UL school covers the cost of materials, accommodation and meals. Please note: this is a residential program - all participants stay in the accommodation at McMaster.

The registration fee for the first participant from each congregation is \$549. The fee for subsequent registrations from each congregation is \$499. A limited number of \$100 scholarships are available from the CUC to offset the participant cost.

What is it like? CU*UL school provides participants with a variety of whole group and small group learning and reflection opportunities. Each day begins and ends with simple worship services. This intense program has a full schedule. While you'll have fun, you should not expect a vacation.

Who should attend? Leaders and emerging leaders from UU congregations are encouraged to attend. Those

who seek a better awareness of their own leadership abilities and styles and their effect on others are well suited to the program. Leaders who have attended a UU leadership school more than 10 years ago are eligible and are encouraged to apply. A willingness to learn, to be challenged and to serve as a congregational leader is essential.

Dates & Times Thursday July 15th beginning at noon through Sunday July 19th, concluding at 2 p.m.

Location McMaster is located in Hamilton and is well served by Go Bus and local bus services.

Accommodation Accommodations for CUUL school are in suite style (Mary Keyes Residence) residences. Each participant will have a single room, shared with 3 other participants. Each suite has 2 washrooms, common areas and a kitchenette.



🍁

A Note From Linda

A recent report, "Faith Formation 2020" by an American organization, Lifelong Faith Associates, provides some food for thought for those who are currently thinking about what it is we need to do to position congregations now for a vital future in 2020. The report is based on American data and focuses on congregations that are both Christian and American, but in the interest of separating the baby and the bath-water, I urge us not to discount it. The report, drawing on research from many resources, suggests four possible scenarios for congregational life in the next decade. They are:

1. Vibrant Faith and Active Engagement in the Church Community
2. Spiritual, but Not Religious
3. Unaffiliated and Uninterested
4. Participating in Church Activities, but Faith and the Spiritual Life Are Not Important

The report, found at:

<http://lifelongfaith.com/faithformation2020.htm> provides church leaders with ideas about how they might respond to the trends in congregational life.

The questions the report asks and the trends that it identifies are ones we, in Canadian Unitarian Universalist congregations are advised to consider. How will we position ourselves so that a younger previously unchurched cohort finds us something worth considering? In the past our practices and patterns of association have been appealing to those with previous congregational affiliation who were seeking an alternative. Now more and more, those who may be positioned to find our message attractive feel no pressure or strong inclination, based on previous practice, to make regular participation in a congregation part of their routine. If we rely on our past success in attracting those from other traditions, we'll be relying on an ever-shrinking number of potential members. However, before I implicitly send the message that my sole concern about this shift in demographic trends is primarily related to a concern about our survival or vitality, I'd like to suggest it is larger than that. Yes, the future of our congregations is important to me, but even more important is that our vitality enhances our ability to serve the needs of those who we've not yet met. Unless we adapt to the trends outlined in the report, our ability to serve - to change the lives of those who have sympathy with our values and theologies will be lost.

Faith Formation 2020 provides some insight into the needs and longings of the previously unchurched in unsettling times. Whether we like it or not the fear-provoking rhetoric we hear in the media and increasingly from politicians is disturbing. Society is changing and even those of



Susan Napper-LeDuc at the Spring Fling Sale

us who are pleased to see more racial and ethnic diversity, can find this and other changes stressful. The choices we make now in our congregations, will in large part, affect our ability to attract newcomers in the future. Congregations that attract those receptive to religion and with a strong theological inclination will be intentionally multi-generational, provide life-long faith development programs and opportunities, and will have a strong missional and service focus. Those who describe themselves as ‘spiritual but not religious’ will be attracted to congregations that help them develop a deepening relationship with the congregation, provide opportunities for small group relationships, and will provide a variety of spiritual and theological options. Some of this we already do well; in other areas we will need to adapt and change. We know that we have, in our tradition and in our congregations, a great gift it is my hope that we can find ways to remain relevant in 2020 and beyond!

In faith and with affection,
Linda Thomson
Director of Congregational Services



Beauty is only skin deep

Physical beauty is superficial.

Proverb. First found in a work by Sir Thomas Overbury’s, 1613: “All the carnall beauty of my wife, Is but skin deep.” What his wife thought isn’t recorded.

‘Skin deep’ is now also used to allude to anything superficial. An early use of this was also attributed to Overbury in 1613, in *Ordinary Fencer Works*, 1856: “His wounds are seldome above skin-deep.”



Even This Grey Dawn

Announcing the launch of the CUC’s fourth annual chapbook May 22nd, 10:30am - 12 noon at the 2010 ACM in Victoria.

Even This Grey Dawn is the title of the newest collection of poems published to coincide with the 2010 ACM theme *How Shall We Live?*

Selections for this issue were chosen blind by the editorial committee for the way they reflected the inner question on how we live through personal stories of a difficult scenario or relationship, where an easy answer is not available. They call up our mothers, husbands, children, chickadees, weather, stars and oil, as frames of reference for the reflective being. They illustrate journeys and aspirations, and together they possess the ghosts of our struggle to live well.

The cover image “Passing Tulips in the Rain” is a painting by Anne Swannell which won the viewer’s choice award at the Sooke Fine Arts Show in 2009.

For further information please email the editorial committee: Jo-Anne Elder, John J. Guiney Yallop, Rev. Carole Martignacco, Diane Stevenson Schmolka, Keith Wilkinson, & Janet Vickers at poetry@cuc.ca.

This space wants your material!