



# The Touchstone

The Newsletter of the Unitarian Fellowship of Fredericton

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Sunday Service 11 a.m.

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The social sciences offer a model for understanding this phenomenon. Acknowledging differences in personality type and temperament may provide a method of managing the chaos, if not resolving the tension.

This message will look at the vast differences between psychological tendencies, such as introversion and extroversion, abstract reasoning and concrete thinking, to see if we can gain a more effective way of framing this "problem", and its possible "solutions".

**March 6** Doug Devine *Is Your God Giving You the Silent Treatment*

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## Sunday Services

**January 30** Tom Hanley, Anne Leslie, Jeff Frooman *What We Have Left Behind* The original speaker had to cancel because of family matters so we have changed the schedule to feature speakers from the congregation.

Many people come to Unitarian Universalism from other religious or faith groups, often because of perceived misalignments between what those faiths offer and what we need. Today we will look at some of the things we miss about the faiths we have left behind.

**February 6** Judy Coates *Life and Faith*

**February 13** Paula Keppie *Reading the Landscape*

**February 20** Tony Tremblay Tony has a movie which it is recommended one watch to get the full value from his presentation. We are still planning the best way to show the movie and details will be circulated once plans are firm.

**February 27** Maury Landry *Degrees of Disagreement* Raging debates among assorted secularists and believers during the recent Xmas season, as well as, the violence in Tucson, AR., have served to underline the challenge associated with conflict and rhetoric.

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## Women's Pot Luck Dinner

The next monthly women's pot luck dinner will be held February 25th. We gather at 6 PM and eat at 6:30 PM. Further information about the location and discussion topic will be made available in the Sunday bulletin and sent via the email circuit. For more information contact Joan Brewer 455-5169 or [jebrewer@rogers.com](mailto:jebrewer@rogers.com)

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## Bouctouche UU Retreat

This is scheduled for the weekend of April 16-17. More details will be provided as they become available, but you should save the date.

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## Hospital Seeking Volunteers

The Dr. Everett Chalmers Regional Hospital is looking for volunteers to assist with day and early evening volunteer programs. We have shifts available in our Coffee Shop and The Gift Box run by the Dr. Everett Chalmers Hospital Auxiliary. If you are a friendly, outgoing individual who loves to work with people and would like to give a few hours of your time during the day, please call Volunteer Services at 452-5322 for more information and an application package.

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## Regina Clarke

Regina Clarke, nee Little, was loved by all who knew her, especially those of us at the Unitarian Fellowship of Fredricton. She grew up across the dam from the Briggs and Little woolen mill, in a vital and well loved family, with many hijinks to their credit. Some of those hijinks were captured by Regina in her memoir, printed in serial form in TUFF's newsletter. Her mother and father were founding members of the Harvey Universalist Church, where they had services only in summer because winter weather prevented access to the church. Regina played the piano and loved to sing, not to mention dance. In fact, the whole room danced when Regina was in it, her energy contagious right up until the end. She will be greatly missed.

Regina passed away in December

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## Rita van Groenewoud

With great sadness we note that Rita van Groenewoud has died, on Friday, January 21, at the hospital, at the age of 83. She had woken up that morning with difficulty breathing, and the family called an ambulance. Though only recently diagnosed, Rita had for years (probably) been suffering from amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS or Lou Gehrig's disease). Rita has contributed decades of intelligence and insight to the fellowship. We have lost a giant soul from among us, measured in many tears shed close to the heart.

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## Poem for ACM issue of the Canadian Unitarian

It's that time again – we are hoping to get a poem for the ACM issue of the Canadian Unitarian. Besides having a big ACM spread, this issue will have a strong focus on youth and Young Adults.

If there is a young poet out there with a poem for the next issue

- \* please could you send it to poetry@cuc.ca
- \* put Canadian Unitarian submission in the subject line
- \* include a brief bio - your age, affiliation to your CUC youth group or young adult group, or your congregation

Deadline is Feb 25.

Thank you.

Janet Vickers  
Poetry Editor, Canadian Unitarian

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Let us honour the winter for time it offers for reflection and preparation, that the soil will be ready for the seeds of our dreams.

## Winter

David Rankin

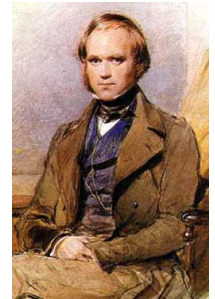
I refuse to wish away the winter  
It is a glorious season of the year and not simply  
a prelude to spring.  
The winter air is pure and refreshing.  
The winter sky has a clarity and brilliance at night.  
The winter trees are penciled in the dawn and sunset.  
The winter birds give shows of strength and endurance.  
The winter fields hide rare and mysterious truths.  
The winter winds sweep friends and family together.  
The winter snow invites fun, sport, and play.  
The winter ice calls for skill and alertness.  
The winter cold inspires hugs and cuddling.  
The winter needs elicit gifts and sharing.  
The winter silence assists in thoughts and meditation.  
The winter kitchen has deeper smells and finer tastes.  
The winter fog and darkness stir joy and merrymaking.  
I refuse to wish away the winter.  
It is a season rich in meaning and pregnant with  
the colossus of hope.

Submitted by Sharon van Abbema while on holiday in Calgary in January and enjoying Chinook winds for a week or two.

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## Darwin Day



February 12 is the anniversary of the date of the birth of Charles Darwin, the evolutionary biologist. Many people hold Darwin Day as a celebration of science and reason. The objective of Darwin Day Celebration is to encourage existing institutions worldwide, such as municipalities, public and private schools, colleges and universities, libraries, museums, churches, private organizations and individuals to celebrate Science and Humanity every year.

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## Seed Keepers Bumper Stickers

Thanks to Sharon van Abbema for these. Seed Keepers is from Catholic Network for Women's Equality.

- 1 Walk slowly, bow often
- 2 Go easy - open to light - shine
- 3 Direct your energy, be of service, move the world

- 4 Be open, act holy and wholly
- 5 Celebrate difference
- 6 Give like you mean it
- 7 Sacred activism



## Church of the Larger Fellowship

Going for a walk?  
Commuting to work?

Wouldn't you like to take along some UU friends?

For your UU listening pleasure –

Unitarian Universalist Pod casts from the Church of the Larger Fellowship:

Sermons, meditations, RE materials and more

Anytime and any place

Use your iPod, MP3 player, or computer.

Hear the voices of UU contributors to the CLF's worship publication via iTunes subscription, or listen à la carte.

The Church of the Larger Fellowship is the UU congregation through mail and the Web. Our monthly worship publication Quest (also available in print and online) gathers contributions from renowned UU ministers.

Have a listen -  
[www.clfuu.org/podcasts](http://www.clfuu.org/podcasts)  
[www.clfuu.org/quest](http://www.clfuu.org/quest)

Visit the Church of the Larger Fellowship at [www.clfuu.org](http://www.clfuu.org)



## 2011 CUC Annual Meeting and Conference

### ACM Venue Offers Unique Advantages

Like most CUC annual meetings, the venue for this year's conference is a university residence. But this is a residence with a difference! The University of Toronto's Chestnut Residence used to be a hotel. So, all rooms come with two queen size beds and a private bathroom - all for the very reasonable daily rate (at least for Toronto!) of \$100.

The Chestnut is large enough to house all conference activities (except the Sunday morning service), making it easy for conferees to move between events.



*Trust the Dawning Future*

Another advantage of The Chestnut is its location in the heart of downtown Toronto. Access is quick and easy from Pearson International and Billy Bishop (Toronto Island) airports, Union Station and the Toronto coach terminal. The Dundas subway station is only two blocks away and there are lots of restaurants in the area.

The ACM program will include dozens of activities that promise to be informative, engaging, inspiring and just plain fun. So, participants may not have much time to see anything else during the conference weekend. However, anyone thinking of arriving early and/or staying on after the conference (rooms should be available at The Chestnut) might like to know that many of Toronto's best attractions are within walking distance of The Chestnut, including:

- \* Eaton Centre, home to more than 230 stores, restaurants & services
- \* Elgin and Winter Garden Theatres
- \* Canon Theatre (Billy Elliott will be playing in May)
- \* Four Seasons Centre for the Performing Arts, home of the Canadian Opera Company (three different operas will be playing in the days leading up to and following the ACM)

Many other attractions are very close by, including:

- \* Royal Ontario Museum, one of the world's leading museums of natural history and world cultures (open daily)
- \* Art Gallery of Ontario, one of the largest art museums in North America (closed Mondays).
- \* Gardiner Museum, Canada's only museum devoted to ceramics (open daily)
- \* Bata Shoe Museum, housing over 12,000 artifacts (open daily)
- \* Princess of Wales Theatre (The Lion King will be playing in May)
- \* Royal Alexandra Theatre (Calendar Girls will be playing in May)
- \* Queen street West, a totally hip neighbourhood, much like New York's Soho.



## CUUHS Publication: Guarding Sacred Embers

Historical, spiritual, educational, Guarding Sacred Embers: Reflections on Canadian Unitarian and Universalist History presents the work of Canadian Unitarians and Universalists most of whom have delivered essays to the Canadian Unitarian and Universalist Historical Society.

This compilation has been prepared to mark the 50th an-

niversary of the founding of the Canadian Unitarian Council. By publishing this book, CUUHS hopes to share Canadian Unitarian and Universalist History among members of our movement and beyond. Copies will be available at the Annual Meeting and Conference of the Canadian Unitarian Council in Toronto or may be pre-ordered by sending a cheque for \$20.00 to the secretary

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## Figures Don't Lie

*but liars do figure.*

The story is told of a pedestrian who is involved in a very serious accident and the ambulance technician is asking him if he would like the priest called to administer extreme unction. The victim responds "well, actually, I'm Unitarian", to which the technician says "then we'll call a logician from the University."

I started thinking about writing this article in the fall when I heard a follow up story on the radio about an article they had broadcast a few years earlier. The original article had said that a research paper had been published indicating that smoking might play a role in preventing Alzheimer's disease. That was pretty much it, no detail.

The follow up article gave more of the details. First the methodology: what the researcher had done was compare the percentage of Alzheimer's patients who were smokers

with the percentage of smokers in the general population and noted that there were relatively few Alzheimer's patients who smoked or who had smoked. The conclusion was that something about smoking must be preventing the onset of Alzheimer's. A bit of thought and you would say "Of course!" Smoking typically kills you before you reach the age when Alzheimer's sets in so it does, in a very real sense, help "prevent" the disease. The second bit of information in the follow up story was that the research had been funded by the Tobacco industry, more likely, a Tobacco company.

A bit of digging, and it does not take much, and you will quickly find that when research funded by Tobacco companies is removed from consideration, the remaining research typically shows that those smokers who do make it to the age when Alzheimer's sets in are twice as likely to suffer the disease.

Chapter 12 of Carl Sagan's book, "*The Demon-Haunted World*" is titled "The fine art of baloney detection". He lists in point form nine examples from what he calls "Tools for skeptical thinking" and while most of them would appear to be common sense, common sense, it would seem, is remarkably uncommon.

The main point to remember is, that like any tool, the scientific method can be abused. Keep your skepticism at hand for ready use and, in fairness, apply it to things you deeply want to believe as well as to things that are obvious frauds. On rare occasions, the frauds become fact and fundamentals are relegated to fiction.

*In fellowship*  
Tony Fitzgerald



Fuzzy Snow - UNB Woodlot - these flakes have grown by accumulating frost during the couple of days since the snowfall