



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

Sunday Service 11 a.m.

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

Email: [office@uff.ca](mailto:office@uff.ca)

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Who today is our spiritual guide? What now is our vision? Where to now?

**March 20** Sheila Thompson *Clutter - food for the soul, or soul-destroying?* Clear pixel for spacing Does our clutter, whether it's physical or emotional, give us a comfortable feeling or cause us discomfort? Whether clutter is treasure or trash depends on your current perspective. Do we 'love it' or 'heave it', and how do we do that?

**March 28** T.B.A.



## Women's Pot Luck Dinner

The next monthly women's pot luck dinner will be held March 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)



## Atlantic Unitarian and Universalist Week-end

Bouctouche, New Brunswick

The fifth annual week-end in Bouctouche will be happening the week-end of April 15-17, 2011 at the Auberge Le Vieux Presbytère, in Bouctouche.

COST \$20.00 per person, per night (+ provincial tax of 13%) (shared accommodation) \$5 for the week-end for youth

ACCOMMODATION: We are trying to accommodate as many people as possible so we are asking people to share. The youth, as usual will bunk out in the chapel. Find your roommates and get one of them to BOOK YOUR ROOM EARLY! Space is limited.

If you are looking for more private accommodations the nearby Dune view Inn has 3 additional rooms. They will charge their regular rate (506-743-9893).

PROGRAM: As in other years we are working on an open space concept. This means if you have a passion to work on something, discuss something, plan something, complain about something, create something, sing something,

## Sunday Services

**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.

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*

**March 13** The Reverend Ray Drennan *Where to Now?*

In the 18th Century Charles Chauncy gave Unitarians direction. In the 19th century it was Channing, Emerson and Parker. Here in Canada in the 20th Century we might cite Angus Cameron and Lotta.

share something etc. then bring what you need along and see if there are like-minded people who wish to join with you. Vegging out is also an option.

FOOD AND DRINK: Ann and Ray will provide breakfast in the morning. The rest of the food and drink is pot-luck. So, imagine what you or a group of you may want to eat and then bring more than you can eat to share with others. Don't forget that there will be lots of hungry youth! There is a local Co-op store in town and an NB Liquor store.

Any questions call Ray or Ann at 506-743-5568



## A Little Chat from South Carolina

John and I are fully immersed in All Souls Waccamaw Unitarian Universalist Church...just five miles from Myrtle Beach in Soccaste. We attend the 10 a.m. UU class before the service begins at 11a.m..along with 12 others. We discussed two questions.. 1., So what is Unitarian Universalism? 2. Okay, you are a UU. What do you believe? We also had an interesting web site brought to our attention, one you know already I am sure...to know the names of well known UU's from the past. <http://uucch.org/famous-uus>

On Friday night 18 of us met for a Snowbird Shorebird Potluck get together..no big discussions but lots of conversation and getting to know you.

John is presenting next Sunday, and I am service leader.

John is giving a brief workshop Tuesday morning at the church in the kitchen..on How to Use your Breadmaker. He will make a loaf ahead of time, someone else will make soup. At noon, we will put the two together, and a dozen women will have lunch together.

(not his idea to do that, but they remembered his bread from last year)

This church with a membership of 60 is meeting to decide on whether they should take on a minister twice monthly for the next ten months. Some are for, and some are against...always a challenging decision. Their web site if anyone is interested is [www.aswuu.org](http://www.aswuu.org)

Today John and I volunteered at the 14th running of Myrtle Beach Marathon. We were at mile 8, to watch 3,000 runners pass by. John and the 'boys' from the amateur radio club handled the communications between the different points along the course. I just cheered them on....looking good, only 18 miles left , keep up the good work. We both got sunburned, temperatures rose to 79'f by noon.

Now we are talking in Fahrenheit and gallons and yards..Time to come home to Canada at the end of April. We miss you all, but we find it easy to get around with no snow underfoot, and nothing to shovel up except fallen palm leaves. The dandelions on the front lawn of our rental are multiplying. On Monday we had seven, on

Saturday we had 37. I am not complaining, in fact I give them some water as they look so dry. They are rather cheery looking on the brown grass; it will be green by end of March. The pansies next door, all yellow and purples make a colourful sight as we come out the door each morning.

We look forward to Touchstones and being back with you in early May

Warm wishes  
Sharon and John van Abbema



## Social Focus

### Introduction

Over the last couple of years the Board of Directors has from-time-to-time discussed the level of involvement of the Fellowship in local social actions. At its monthly meeting on February 20th the UFF Board of Directors approved a project which calls for a process to be implemented on a pilot basis that will see the Fellowship adopt a "Primary Social Focus" for the 2011-2012 year. Following is a description of the process. There will be opportunities to ask questions and seek clarification about both the rationale for this project as well as the process itself during upcoming services. Please give this important project your attention. Thank you.

Tom Hanley  
On behalf of the Board

### A Proposed Process for Selecting a "PRIMARY" Social Focus by TUFF on an Annual Basis

February 21, 2011

1. Any member or friend of the Fellowship may request to address the congregation with respect to a social issue in which they have an interest and which they think should be adopted by the Fellowship as its "primary" social focus for the coming year. Prior to making their request, however, they must find at least two other members or friends of the Fellowship who are also interested in pursuing the same social issue.
2. The request to address the congregation and information relating to each social issue (including any proposed social actions) shall be submitted to the Chair of the Social Responsibility Committee.
3. The scheduling of the presentations to the congregation will be made by the Chair of the Social Responsibility Committee in cooperation with the Chair of the Sunday Services Committee. Only one presentation may be made on any given Sunday.
4. Presentations to the congregation may take the form of a whole Sunday Service or may be presented in a shorter format. In either case it is expected that the group will

include information about the social issue, provide some background as to why they have an interest in this particular issue, and how they would like the Fellowship community to be involved. The presentation to the congregation may be supplemented by circulating information via e-mail and/or by an article in *Touchstone*.

5. Presentations should be made prior to the annual meeting in June with preference given to the months of April and May.

6. In preparation for the Annual General Meeting in June the Chair of the Social Responsibility Committee will prepare a synopsis of each social issue being proposed for adoption as the “primary” social focus of the Fellowship for the following year.

7. During the AGM, the sponsor of each proposed social focus may address the meeting in support of their proposal. Their remarks will be limited to three minutes.

8. Following the presentation of proposals the members in attendance at the AGM shall vote to determine the primary social focus for the coming year (July to June). **As per our By-Laws, “...two-thirds of the members in attendance must vote in favour of a social action in order for it to be adopted ...in the name of the Fellowship.”** (This may require more than one round of voting.)

9. The adoption of a “primary” social focus by the Fellowship commits the Board and membership to support that particular cause to the extent possible for the year indicated.

10. The adoption of a “primary” social focus by the Fellowship does not prevent individual members or small groups from supporting other social actions in which they have an interest.

11. Consideration of a “primary” social focus shall become a standard agenda item as part of the Fellowship AGM.

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## The Fellowships eMail address

For a long time, the Fellowship has advertised its email address as [tuff@nbnet.nb.ca](mailto:tuff@nbnet.nb.ca). It costs the Fellowship on the order of \$150/year to rent this mailbox. At the same time, the web hosting company on which [www.uff.ca](http://www.uff.ca) is located has, as part of its basic plan, the ability to set up up to a dozen mailing lists at no additional charge and the cost of the web hosting service is less than just the mailbox rental from nbnet.

Last year, I suggested to allison (who has been looking after the Fellowships email) that I could set up a “mail re-distribution” list on our web site that would send mail directly to her without her having to connect to a different mail host as is the case with the [tuff@nbnet.nb.ca](mailto:tuff@nbnet.nb.ca) mailbox.

The plan was to keep the old address until everyone was using the new address then we could drop the old and stop paying for it. On our web site, the address for mail to the fellowship is [office@uff.ca](mailto:office@uff.ca) and email sent to that address is delivered directly to allison. We would ask that anyone who publishes the Fellowships email address use the [office@uff.ca](mailto:office@uff.ca) address. This includes brochures, adds in the newspapers, orders of service, etc...

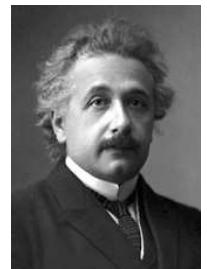
In addition to [office@uff.ca](mailto:office@uff.ca), we also have the following: [laychaplain@uff.ca](mailto:laychaplain@uff.ca) which sends messages directly to Sharon (it was also copying to Dave but he has asked to have his name removed from the list), [congregation@uff.ca](mailto:congregation@uff.ca) which sends messages to me and is the apparent source of messages which I send to the congregation, and [treasurer@uff.ca](mailto:treasurer@uff.ca) which sends messages to George (although I suppose this should be changed to allison) and was set up when Tracy Walls designed the “form fillable” UFF expenses form which may be found on the website under the “Forms, Reports and Administrivia” tab.

*In fellowship*  
Tony Fitzgerald

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## March 14

March 14 is the anniversary date of the birth of Albert Einstein. Einstein was awarded the Nobel prize in physics for his explanation of photoelectric effect and the wave/particle duality of light, however, his work spanned explaining Brownian motion, devising a refrigerator with no moving parts, and a wealth of theories in diverse areas. In popular culture, he is best known for the equation  $e = mc^2$  which followed from the failure of the Michelson-Morley experiment to determine the speed of the Earth through the “luminiferous aether.”



$\pi$  Coincidentally (although some claim connection) March 14 is also celebrated as Pi day since the date 3/14 encodes the first three digits of the transcendental number pi (the ratio of the circumference to the diameter of a circle).

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## The Madness of Youth

Ray Fraser will be presenting a talk at The Unitarian Fellowship, on his new book “The Madness of Youth” , Thursday, March 17th, 2011, at 7 p.m. Questions and Discussion to follow. All are welcome!

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CANADIAN UNITARIAN  
COUNCIL COMPLETES  
ENDOWMENT FUND  
CAMPAIGN

“MAKING THE FLAME BRIGHTER” was the slogan for the campaign to raise an endowment fund for the CUC. A National Steering Committee was formed in the summer of 1992, publicity started that Fall, and five regional fundraising training workshops were held in 1993. The CUC Annual Meeting in Toronto in May 1995 marked the official end of the campaign, although more pledges and contributions are still being sent in.

The total raised as of July '95 in pledges and one-time contributions is \$422,000. At the Annual Meeting, special recognition was given to eight societies which met or exceeded the campaign goal average of \$150 per member. Three UU groups from the Northeast District were honored: Halifax with an average of \$153, Moncton with an average of \$275 and Fredericton was the national winner with an average donation of \$284 per member. On behalf of the Unitarian Fellowship of Fredericton, Ken and Sheila Moore received the award. It is a beautiful circular hanging made of stained glass depicting a flaming chalice backed by a maple leaf. Fredericton was also congratulated for placing second for having 57.1% of its members participate.



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## 2011 CUC Annual Meeting and Conference

### ACM Venue Offers Unique Advantages

The CUC ACM material is now available at the CUC web site, [www.cuc.ca](http://www.cuc.ca), and click on the conference poster.



*Trust the Dawning Future*

There is far too much material to reproduce here and I will refer people back to the articles in the January and February issues of Touchstone for the basics. The conference venue is fantastic for a visit to Toronto and the conference rates are unbeatable. Go early or leave late and let the conference be the icing on the cake of a visit to the big smoke.

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## Sassimint Plays Again

Ok, so here is the scenario...

A comet is within hours of destroying planet Earth. The people have known about this future for around a week. What kind of conversations would they be having?

Does this sound like an interesting case of circumstances to be in?

How would you like to be one of the performers of this 10 minute play?

If you think you are up for this bold endeavor contact Malcolm Miller and he'll tell you the details.

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## Thoughts on TUFF Lay Chaplaincy

I've been thinking hard about the Unitarian chaplaincy role over the last few months since the vacancy has been advertised with the Sunday Services, and particularly since talking with Anne Leslie. In many ways I am drawn to the role. I have served in designing and leading funerals for people I cared about - Eva Wall and Elizabeth Diamond come to mind. I have taken favourite music and changed the wording to suit the lives of particular people. Malcolm and I were married in a Unitarian service in England so I know well the importance of spiritually meaningful ceremony that does not entail belief in some external deity or fixed symbol systems. I think I could perform those services for others, and that I would enjoy doing them.

However, I am held back by the enormity of the commitment of time and energy that such a role could entail, if one really cares about it and does it well - as Anne



Leslie has done. Ann has done 66 weddings in 6 years, or between 11-12 weddings a year - mostly in the summer months. This adds up to commitment of Fridays and Saturdays virtually every second week over six months. This includes time to meet with people, go over possible services, make adjustments, go through a rehearsal, and the big day itself. This is separate from the special events of birth and funeral services. When I consider adding this to what George DeMille refers to as “the relentless march of Sundays” in preparing Sunday services for the Fellowship, it seems altogether too much. The role seems to call for a commitment that, if one does the work fully, would entail extensive time out and away on Fridays and Saturdays for perhaps every second weekend over the summer months for six years. I am not yet sure I am ready to make this total commitment.

I am wondering if the Fellowship is interested in thinking about other ways to meet what may well be a growing demand for the kind of wedding service that Unitarians can give - a spiritually meaningful service that does not entail belief in a deity. For the service we had in England, the lay chaplain at Crewkerne was not legally authorized to do marriage licences. Instead, a clerk from the government registry office attended the Service. The clerk required only that two lines be explicitly included “Do you take this man/woman to be your lawfully wedded husband/wife” “Yes”. The clerk charged a fee to attend, plus a fee for the wedding certificate, and the rest was done by the Unitarians. I am not sure this would work in New Brunswick. If it does apply, it might bypass the need to have an officially-sanctioned CUC chaplain to officiate at every wedding. We might then perhaps train a number of us to perform weddings, and share the load that any one chaplain would need to carry.

Wondering how members think about this?

Sylvia Hale



## Annual Art & Craft Sale

Vendors have been knocking on Nancy Beltrandi’s door, wanting to know when we are holding the art and craft sale.

The organizing committee has met and the dates are set. The weekend of April 8 and 9 we will hold our fourth Spring Fling Art and Craft Sale.

The hours will be 12 noon to 7 p.m. on Friday and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday.

As usual we plan to fill the fellowship, upstairs and down, with quality works by local artists and crafters and, for variety, maybe the odd out-of-town vendor.

Along with becoming a regular show place for the art and crafts community this event increases the fellowship’s pro-

file in the city and enriches our coffers (by about \$1,000 last year).

The committee would like to make this an all-fellowship event and invite members to get involved.

Here are the ways:

- Do you know an artist or crafts person who does quality work and would be interested in being a vendor? Contact Nancy Beltrandi at 459-8004 or nahbeltrandi@gmail.com
- Do you have items to contribute to a New To You table (all proceeds to the fellowship). Please no junk. Contact Carol Ann Hanley at 459-1077 or info@anncarol.ca
- Can you bake? We need muffins for a coffee/muffin sale, and yummy stuff for a bake sale table. These things really add to our profit. Contact Betty Lou Daye at 357-8256 or daye@nb.sympatico.ca
- More food. Can you donate to feed the vendors Friday lunch or Saturday lunch? This is one of the things that makes our sale special to the vendors. Contact Betty Lou for what is needed.
- Men and women with muscle. We can use your help to set up and take down tables, move furniture. Thursday evening and Saturday after 4 p.m. Contact Nancy Beltrandi.
- Parking lot attendants. Contact any committee member for a time slot.
- Watch for sign-up sheets at the Sunday service.
- There is always a friendly atmosphere at the sale so don’t forget to come and visit, meet the talented vendors and have a great time.



Raffle tickets will be available from the art and craft sale committee on the above wall hanging by Ivan H. Crowell and Gertrude Duffie. It is valued at \$1,300 and was donated by Geneviève Laloux.



## March Festivals

**March 2:** beginning of the Nineteen Day fast for Bahá'ís which will end with the New Year on the 21st.

**March 3:** Mahashivratri (Hindu) Mahashivratri (also known as Shivaratri) is a Hindu festival dedicated to Shiva, who destroys the universe, one of the deities of the Hindu Trinity. Devotees of Shiva observe a fast during Mahashivratri and stay up all night at a place of worship.

**March 8:** Mardi Gras, also called Shrove Tuesday, Fat Tuesday or Pancake day. The last day for Christians to eat rich foods before the start of the Lenten fast.

**March 9:** Ash Wednesday. Ash Wednesday is the beginning of Lent for Western Christian churches. It's a day of penitence to clean the soul before the Lent fast. In Ash Wednesday services churchgoers are marked on the forehead with a cross of ashes as a sign of penitence and mortality.

**March 17:** St. Patrick's Day. Saint Patrick is the patron saint of Ireland. Taken to Ireland as a slave at the age of 16, he escaped and eventually became a priest then a Bishop and returned to Ireland as a missionary and was instrumental in converting the Irish to Christianity.

**March 19:** Purim begins at sundown. Purim commemorates the time when the Jewish people living in Persia were saved from extermination by the courage of a young Jewish woman called Esther. The main commandment related to Purim is to hear the reading of the Book of Esther.

**March 20:** Hola Mohalla (Sikh) Hola Mahalla begins on the first day of the lunar month of Chet in the Nanakshahi calendar and follows the Hindu festival of colours, Holi.

Guru Gobind Singh started this festival as a day for Sikhs to practise their military exercises and hold mock battles.

**March 20:** Spring Equinox or Ostara, is when light and darkness are in balance but the light is growing stronger. Ostara was not originally a part of the Celtic year, and all of its associations were given to Beltaine until recent times. Because it was named for the Teutonic Goddess of Spring and New Life, Eostre, it is assumed that it was brought to prominence in the Celtic world by the Saxons.

**March 21:** Jamshedi Noruz (Zoroastrian) Noruz is the seventh obligatory feast and it is dedicated to fire. It is the Zoroastrian New Year celebration, and occurs on the spring equinox.

Noruz is so deeply embedded in Iranian culture that it is still celebrated as the Iranian New Year in Islamic Iran, although without the religious connotations. Many fires are lit and there is feasting and celebrations. In modern times fireworks have also become part of the festivities.



## It's Our Turn

Fredericton has offered and the CUC has taken us up on the offer to host the Eastern Regional Gathering in the Fall of this year. This will be a fantastic opportunity for our members to meet with other Unitarians and Universalists from the Eastern region.

The plan is to host the conference beginning on Friday, October 14, 2011, and running through Sunday, October 16. The CUC has provided us with guidelines for organizing the gathering and suggest that a local arrangements committee of eight is ideal. The board has asked me to head up the committee and we have four others who have expressed interest in helping. I am looking for a couple more volunteers and we should be ready to get going. Please contact me if you are interested.

*In fellowship*  
Tony Fitzgerald



*Snow Story*