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Sunday Service 11 a.m.

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Sunday Services

- Mar 4** Sylvia Hale *The End of the (Capitalist) world: What next?*
- Mar 11** The Reverend John Baros Johnson *Clashing Gospels: Different stories of Gospel Writers.*
- Mar 18** Chief Hugh Akagi *Recognition: A Path to Extinction* From Quanusquamcook (aka St. Andrews, NB), Chief Hugh Akagi of the Passamaquoddy First Nation will discuss their lengthy fight for recognition by the Government of Canada. He will focus on how the removal of Passamaquoddy "recognition" in their Indigenous homeland by Canada was a deliberate attempt to extinguish both the Passamaquoddy and their rights (Constitutional, Treaty, Inherent) from their homeland in direct contravention of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and a genocide as defined by the UN convention on Genocide.
- Mar 25** Stewart Donovan *Ingonish Poetry.*
- Apr 1** Lorna Drew *Women's Poetry.*



Women's Pot Luck

The next monthly women's pot luck dinner will be held March 23rd. We gather at 6 PM and eat at 6:30 PM. Allison will host the evening at her home 259 Lynhaven St.. Discussion topic is bureaucratic idiocies, as in: Have you ever been bamboozled by insurance companies, the government, or application forms? Let us know of the details, briefly, and if you won, lost, or developed ulcers. For more information contact Joan Brewer at 455-5169 or jebrewer@rogers.com



From your President

Hello everyone!

Winter is wending its way through Fredericton, and some people for sure are embracing the snow and cold weather I know Glenna, for one, is thoroughly enjoying her new found interest in cross country skiing!

As for Board business, the latest meeting (26th March) was shorter as there were fewer items on the agenda and many things have been dealt with over the last few months, notably, development of the TUFF budget for 2012 and the General Meeting which approved the budget.

Ad hoc committee to explore part-time ministry

Following on from the General Meeting at the end of January, we are moving forward with the ad hoc committee to explore part-time/contract ministry for our Fellowship. Despite her recent bereavement, Joan Brewer is pulling together members of that committee, and I know we'll all have an opportunity to feed into the work of that committee in due course. It is expected that preparing a report for consideration by the members of the Fellowship by the end of May, in time for our Annual General Meeting, is 'do-able.'

Tax receipts

In other business, there have been some recent requests for charitable receipts for donations to organizations outside TUFF. The Board has determined that should individuals

want to use the Unitarian Fellowship of Fredericton for charitable receipts associated with donations to organizations outside the UFF, they must submit a letter to the Board asking for such, and the Board will shoulder the responsibility of determining the appropriate response.

City Sign

Thanks to the efforts of Allison Calvern, we are going to get a blue City sign for the Unitarian Fellowship, with an arrow, which we expect to be erected on Regent Street. This will show Unitarians visiting the city where we are, and hopefully help to raise the profile of the Unitarian Fellowship in the community. We're planning to get a picture when it's up, and post it in Touchstone.

Hospitality

As I mentioned in last month's Touchstone, Haifa Miller has taken it upon herself to ensure that there is somebody in charge of the kitchen, coffee and comestibles, at every service. The new news is that Haifa has arranged to piggy-back with Wilmot United to buy fair-trade coffee on Wilmot's large order, thereby eliminating a costly shipping charge for us. Thanks to Haifa, and thanks to Wilmot United for allowing us to share their orders.

Nominating Committee

As is normal around this time of year, we are in the process of establishing a Nominating Committee to ensure a full complement of Directors, in preparation for the Annual General Meeting in June. Watch this space...

Upcoming CUC Symposium

Members of the Board are wondering who from the congregation is planning to attend the Canadian Unitarian Council Symposium in Ottawa in May. I will be sending around an e-mail soon to see who is thinking of attending, and the Board will consider who to ask to represent our Fellowship as an official delegate for our congregation. Whoever represents the UFF will have the opportunity to participate in on-line information sessions prior to the Symposium.

Winter

March appears to have come in like a lamb, but there may still be plenty of snow this month. The snow ploughing has been done thoroughly this winter. Thanks to Ken Moore for ensuring this happens. I would ask people to please be careful if it looks slippery, as we don't want anyone slipping and hurting themselves. Also, please try not to park too close to the road on the entrance driveway into the Fellowship, so others can easily get around and into the parking area. There is usually lots of room at the far end of the driveway (ie. near the exit).

If you have any questions, or would like to raise an issue, please don't hesitate to contact me or any member of your Board.

Have a great week!

Respectfully submitted,
Sheila Thompson
President, Unitarian Fellowship of Fredericton



Keswick Ridge Historical Society

LOOKING FOR SOMETHING TO DO ON SUNDAY AFTERNOONS?

Keswick Ridge Historical Society is hosting their annual "History Speaks" series in March. 2 pm at the Old Superior School, 112 Route 616, Keswick Ridge. Coffee and refreshments will be provided.

Sunday March 4th – New Brunswicks involvement in the War of 1812 - presenter Bob Dallison

Sunday March 11th – Women's Fashions in New Brunswick - 1780 - 1980 - presenter Peter Larocque

Sunday March 18th – The Irish in New Brunswick - with Bruce Driscoll and Denis Noel

Sunday March 25th – The British Home Children: Canada's forgotten immigrants - speaker Michael Staples.

Open to the public and free of charge. See our website: www.keswickridge.ca



Sugarbush Breakfast

A New Brunswick welcome to spring tradition, like no other!

York Sunbury Search & Rescue (YSSR) will be holding its annual Pancake Breakfast fund raiser at Kings Landing Historical Settlement on the two last weekends of March, (March 17 & 18; March 24 & 25). Breakfast includes eggs, pancakes, maple syrup, sausage, bacon, baked beans, toast and beverage. \$9.00/adults; \$6.00/children. YSSR is a 100% volunteer organization that has been serving York, Sunbury and Queens Counties for over 28 years. We appreciate your support!



UU Bouctouche Spring gathering

Hello to you all,

I have had a couple of people ask me about this year's UU Bouctouche Spring gathering and I thought it best to write to you all early. Ann and I have decided that we are unable to offer the space for this year gathering. A

number of things have contributed to this decision.

We have just returned from a vacation in Australia and Mauritius. It was GREAT!!! This is the first time in 8 years that we have had a real vacation and we needed it. We are feeling a bit overwhelmed by the work ahead as we prepare to ready the inn for another season (our 8th)-hard to believe- .

I have agreed to go to BC and to lead another lay-chaplains' week-end, assisting lay chaplains who are nearing the end of their term to leave well and training others to lead this retreat in the future. A lot of preparation is needed to get ready.

We have agreed again this year (3rd year in a row) to host a 10,000 villages sale at the Inn and the week-end they are suggesting is in the Spring too. We are the only business that does this and I am working hard to get the local Catholic Church to co-sponsor it.

So, life is full!!

In addition to all of that, Ann and I feel that it is a good idea from time to time to alter patterns. As they say, "the difference between a rut and a grave is only the depth." The format for the week-end seems to have worked well for those who came over the past (is it 4 or 5 years). We cannot help but think that there are other ways to use this facility - for the remaining time we own it- to be of support to our "neighbouring" congregations. We will keep you posted.

I know there will be some who will be disappointed at this news, even though we are confident that it is the right decision for now.

I guess since I have your ear, I wanted to let you know that I decided to officially retire from UU parish ministry late last year. There didn't seem much of a chance that I would return to a parish again, so it seemed the right thing to do. The decision is part of a life change that I am sensing. I am sensing the need for a change of direction or a change of emphasis in my life's journey. So, I have decided, for the foreseeable future, that I will not be available for Sunday morning preaching supply. I have enjoyed dropping in on your congregations- especially Fredericton and Saint John- but it seems that the time has come to take a break from that role too.

Anyway, be assured of our continued interest and love in your lives and in the work that you do together,

Ray and Ann

Editor's Note: I wish to thank Ray and Ann very much for having hosted the Spring gathering over the past few years and look forward to whatever other ways the Auberge might come to enhance the Maritime UU experience.



Foster Parents Needed

Ever thought about becoming a foster family?

There is an ongoing need in the Fredericton region for couples or individuals to become foster parents for children in care. Foster parents play an essential role in supporting the most at risk children in New Brunswick. The Department of Social Development is looking for people who are interested in becoming a foster family or relief foster family for children between the ages of 0 and 19 years old. If you are interested or wish to receive more information, please call 457-4892 or 1-866-444-8838 or visit www.gnb.ca/family.



Letter from Sharon

Hello y'all from South Carolina. John and Sharon are missing the scenic beauty of snow these days. Maybe next year we will experience that happening..winter. In the meantime, we are making the most of being a bona fide snow-bird in this land of palms , sand and surf. The weather hovers close to 60' but often does not go that high. We are promised 71'f by the end of the week, and look forward to that.

Life at All Souls Waccamaw Unitarian Universalist Fellowship is full. A snow-bird/shore-bird covered dish party on Saturday night went over well, with more than 30 attending, and that does not include the three dachshunds and one bichon frise.. who were yappy little creatures until everyone arrived.

I will do a service Sunday March 18, John will be the Service Associate as they call it down here.. John will do a service April 29th and I will be his Service Associate. We are team players. Along with my presentation, I will begin by explaining our Lay Chaplain program in Canada. Eventually we will think of flying north May 9th to the best country in all the world..... Canada...but not just yet.

I am taking some Literature and Philosophy courses through Coastal Carolina University, especially designed for people of maturity who have leisure time. John is doing several computer workshops. I am learning about Memoir Writing , one day a week for five weeks..Then I will begin a course on the Study of the Bhagavad-Gita. I packed my copy (a gift from a friend four years ago) by chance..and arrived here only to find a course is being offered on this very book...again, five weeks, one day a week. So of course, I signed up.

John enjoys his involvement with Myrtle Beach Amateur Radio club, and helped with Communications last week-end during M.Beach Marathon event . He meets with the

'boys' each Sat for breakfast at Unca John's restaurant. He also attends a bi-monthly gathering with the men at the fellowship...a Mens Group..on Wednesday evenings. He enjoys sharing ideas with a group of men and listening to their stories.

We have been happy to take part in The Forum each Sunday morning at the fellowship. 14-16 men and women met for 8 weeks, to take part in a discussion that stemmed from the book, Questions for the Religious Journey - Finding your own Path...by George Kimmich Beach, a Unitarian Minister. This was led by a fellow snow-bird (from Pennsylvania, a former Methodist Minister)..About 40 people gather at 9:30 and finish at 10:45 before the morning service begins. Coffee and goodies and conversation following the service. There is great interest in the small group that meets the hour before the service.

OH...and sometimes we golf-cart to the beach and walk alongside the water's edge, watching out for jelly fish and pelicans. John's sister and family have come by for a visit, and my sister and husband will be here early March on their trek up north to Ontario after their time in the south. A good place to connect with families who come by for a brief visit.

That is it for now, our Fredericton Unitarian good friends. You can never be replaced, nothing like old friends back home. We will be in Fredericton, before we know it. Time has a habit of continually moving along faster than we wish it would. We have not figured how to slow it down. Bottom line...we miss the familiar, we miss you. We shall return.



Small Group Ministry

Also known as Circle Conversations

I promised a more extensive article for this month, however, after a couple of discussions have come to feel that by the time we get something organized, the year will be close to ending and things are difficult to keep going over the summer. The best approach is probably to defer the article to the Summer Touchstone so that the idea will still be fresh for an organizational meeting to be held in early to mid-September.

I am still open for anyone who is interested to speak to me. We are trying to start a second conversation group for people for whom a morning or afternoon meeting time would be more convenient than an evening time.

In fellowship
Tony Fitzgerald



The 2012 Spiritual Leadership Symposium

Ottawa, May 18-20, 2012

Spiritual Leadership
SYMPOSIUM



MANY CANADIAN UU leaders have expressed a need to develop spiritual leadership that lives, out in the world, the values expressed by our seven principles, and to explore how spiritual leadership helps us discern meaning in our lives.

The 2012 Spiritual Leadership Symposium, jointly organized by the Canadian Unitarian Council and the UU Ministers of Canada (UUMoC), will gather a multi-generational community to seek answers to these questions through worship, workshops, music, arts, and discussions that will engage our heads, hearts, and hands taking us far and deep into a greater understanding of shared ministry, and renewing spirit and leadership across Canada.

It is a new kind of event, held this year in place of the CUC annual conference.

We hope you will join us, and carry the flame back to your congregation and UU communities. Not sure whether the Symposium is for you? Visit <http://2012symposium.cuc.ca/> for more information.

Note, CanUudle XII will also be part of the Symposium.



CUC Peace Monitoring Group

I'm delighted to be able to pass on this announcement, now on the front page of the CUC website. It reflects the time and effort of the CUC Peace Monitoring Group, led by Colin Read of First Unitarian Congregation of Waterloo, CUC Social Responsibility Liaison Leslie Kemp, Social Responsibility Coordinator April Hope, and CUC President Gary Groot,

control arms

THE CANADIAN UNITARIAN COUNCIL has signed the Interfaith Declaration in Support of an Arms Trade Treaty, joining more than 40 religious leaders and nearly 70 faith-based organizations in many countries in this prominent international peace campaign.

The Declaration was originally drafted by Swedish Fellowship of Reconciliation (SweFOR), Caritas France and CCFD -Terre Solidaire, and recently revised by an Inter-

faith Working Group, including the Unitarian Universalist Association in the U.S.

The declaration will remain available for signatures until it is presented to governments ahead of 2012 arms treaty negotiations. More information on the Control Arms campaign and the global arms trade is available at contro-larms.org

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CUC Active Democracy STUDY GROUP

The Active Democracy Study Group Needs Your Input

The Canadian Unitarian Council's Active Democracy Study Group (ADSG) is undertaking a national conversation on democratic processes in the CUC. Between now and March 11, 2012, the Study Group encourages congregations and other stakeholder groups (including youth, young adults, religious education professionals and ministers) to participate in the conversation.

The ADSG will compile the results and make recommendations in their report to the CUC Annual Meeting in Ottawa, May 18, 2012.

The Study Group has prepared discussion materials and a survey, available on the Active Democracy Study Group page on the CUC website, and has asked all congregations to hold a workshop on the topic. Some of the workshops have already been held and others are scheduled.

Individuals are also invited to review the study materials and complete the survey - or even just those parts which are of most interest to you.

The survey needs to be submitted by March 15, 2012.

If you have questions please e-mail the Active Democracy Study Group at activedemocracy@cuc.ca.

John Hopewell ADSG Co-Chair

TO CONTACT US

We invite your comments, at

activedemocracy@cuc.ca

With thanks from the Active Democracy Study Group.

CHAIRS

John Hopewell Co-Chair Rev. Karen Fraser Gitlitz Co-Chair

MEMBERS

Gary Groot, Forbes Leslie, John Marsh, Mary-Anne Parker, Carol Cumming Speirs, Bridget McFadden



CUUSJ Actions re C-10

Editor's note: Frances refers to an attachment which, apparently, the software used for the mailing re-distribution has stripped. If anyone wishes to have the attachment, please contact me and I will send you Frances' email address

Dear Leaders and Activists in the CUC

Many of you have been writing letters to the Senate on C-10. We want to ensure that there is a valid CUC Social Justice Policy on Criminal Justice and Crime Prevention.

The attached resolution was distributed by April Hope, Social action coordinator for the CUC, for congregations to discuss in February. I would really appreciate your giving it some attention and arranging, if possible for interested people in your congregation to discuss and help me improve it before it is presented to the annual meeting in May. One of the questions that Gary Groot is asking is – do we want an interim policy and a study group for a year or do we want to simply form a Monitoring Group and continue to improve it through that process. My goal is that the CUC would be empowered to speak on these issues this year.

Please contact me directly with your feedback.

Blessings,
Rev. Frances Deverell

We can cherish all our individual diversities as we like, but it will be those essentials we share in common that will empower us to transform the world as we wish it to become. - *Robert Latham*



Young Adults Welcome Here

www.QuestForMeaning.org

The Church of the Larger Fellowship
offers community,
worship and support

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[www.questformeaning.org/reflecting/
dailyreflections](http://www.questformeaning.org/reflecting/dailyreflections)

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

