



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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## Sunday Services

**Apr 1** Lorna Drew *Capitalism is ending - So Now What?*

**Apr 8** Andrew Titus *Buddhism, punk rock & poetry: Bring the Noise!*

**Apr 15** Jo-Anne Elder-Gomes Jo-Anne will speak on the theme of translation and her work in making Acadian culture and poetry accessible to English speakers.

**Apr 22** Dr. Michael Clow *Science, proof and truth?*

**Apr 29** Josephine Savarese *Art and Crime*

While Josephine is speaking in Fredericton, the Unitarian Readers Theatre group will be performing the "Peace Play" in Saint John.

**May 6** Tom Hanley *The meaning of 'faith' for Unitarians*



## Women's Pot luck Dinner

A decision has been made to move the next pot luck date forward a week to May 4. We gather at 6 pm and eat at 6:30 pm. Janet Crawford will host the evening at her home, 155 Aberdeen St. Discussion topic is still to be

decided and will be circulated as soon as we know what it will be. For more information contact Joan Brewer at 455-5169 or [jebrewer@rogers.com](mailto:jebrewer@rogers.com)



## City Sign for the UFF

A recent project of the board has been to work with the City of Fredericton to erect a sign pointing out to visitors and citizens alike, that the Unitarian Fellowship lives here. That sign has been planted on Smythe Street at Montgomery, and Touchstone was there to record the historic event. Sunshine prevailed as the efficient city worker mounted the words: Unitarian Fellowship, thus claiming a small but visible presence for our community of faith.



## From your President

Happy April Fool's Day!

Anything to celebrate! My mother, Margaret Warren/Thompson, who helped to found the Unitarian Fellowship of Fredericton in the early 1960's, and her partner Buz couldn't recall when they're actually got together, so they decided to use April 1st as an anniversary date. What fun!

### Board record set

We had a record breaking 50 minute meeting on Sunday – efficiency at its best (or perhaps there were just fewer things needing discussion than usual). Things are moving along with many people engaged in important work, so the Board's job to keep informed and provide guidance and decisions is easier. Minutes are always available if you're

interested.

### Financial position

The Treasurer's treasured assistant, George DeMille, has a wonderful system set up to keep track of our financial position; so, despite recent eye surgery, he was able to produce a very thorough financial report. We are currently showing a surplus, as the nature of pledges means they generally arrive in the early months. This is normal for this time of year, and will even out as spending continues throughout the year.

### Annual General Meeting

A date for your calendar - the Annual General Meeting (AGM) date has been set for the last Sunday in June, the 24th, following the Sunday Service.

### Ad hoc committee on part-time ministry

The committee exploring ministry within our Fellowship is working to gather information for a report to be considered at the AGM. Thanks to Joan Brewer, Sheila Moore, George DeMille, skyping with John van Abbema who is enjoying warm southern weather. Through contact with other Unitarian Fellowships similar in size to us, Joan has been getting some surprising and valuable information. They will keep us posted through Touchstone so everyone is kept up-to-date.

### Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee has been struck (that conjures up odd images!) to ensure a full complement of Directors on the Board and Chairs of Committees. Joan Brewer, Glenna Hanley, John van Abbema and Betty Lou Daye will be searching our congregation for suitable and interested candidates. The list will be presented at the AGM. If you have an interest in the workings of the Fredericton Fellowship, are captivated by figures or editing/writing, or would like to enhance your skills or try something new, then there's valuable work to be done. By the way, Committee Chairs don't have to attend Board Meetings although they are welcome. Join us!

### City Sign

We're increasing our presence in the City! There is now a blue sign directing people to the Unitarian Fellowship, on the downward side of Smythe Street just before Montgomery Street. Thanks for all your efforts on this, allison!

### Social Responsibility

There is a lot going on right now as people are really interested in social activity. You may have seen emails circulating about Fredrick Wangabo Mwenengabo's hunger strike in support of Human Rights Accountability in the Democratic Republic of Congo. If you would like more information, contact Tom Hanley, Chair of our Social Responsibility Committee, who has a draft letter that you can submit to the Prime Minister.

The Unitarian Fellowship will be hosting Jim Merkel, international advocate of simple living to help protect and save our planet, at a pot luck for Members and Friends (and friends of friends) the evening of the 25th of April, 2012. For more information you can contact Tom Hanley.

Also, don't forget that our primary focus is support for the Fredericton Food Bank. We take over food and other non-perishables that you bring to Unitarian House by the last Sunday of the month, and will provide you with a tax receipt for money donated.

### Spring Fling Arts and Crafts Sale

Efforts are in full swing for the upcoming annual very successful Spring Fling Arts and Crafts sale April 27th and 28th at Unitarian House. You can contact Janet Crawford for a poster if you know of somewhere to post one.

### Wheelchair

Thanks to the eagle eyes (for a sale) of Ken and Sheila Moore, we have acquired a new wheelchair for the Fellowship, placed just inside the back door by the washroom. We can use it for emergencies, for comfort for anyone less able to walk or stand, or if someone needs to borrow it for Fellowship activities.

### CUC Symposium in May

George DeMille has circulated an email with information about the Canadian Unitarian Council (CUC) Symposium May 18-20th in Ottawa. I know the early bird registration by 31st March reduces the registration fee by \$50. If you are planning to attend, and would like to represent the Fredericton Fellowship as an official voting delegate (we can have two), please let me know, and I'll bring it to the Board for decision.

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



## Spring Clean and Donate to Us

In conjunction with the Spring Fling Art and Craft Sale (April 27-28) we will again be operating a New To You room. This room is very popular and added nicely to our total revenues last year.

So this is a good motivator to get at those cupboards and crannies and do a little spring clean, a little decluttering, and donate your unwanted and no longer needed items to this worthy cause.

We try to have this venue in keeping with the tasteful art and crafts for sale by being a little fussy about what we accept. Here, for you, is a list of ideas;

1. Aunt Bessie's crystal vase that you are tired of dusting.
2. Dishes, ornaments, small size furniture (our room is small)
3. Hard cover books you have never read or won't ever read again.
4. Sculpture, picture frames
5. Children's upscale toys in good condition. Include batteries if needed
6. Clothes, unique, brand names, upscale, in perfect condition.
7. Collections such as spoons, tea cups, stamps, etc.
8. Quilts, blankets, linens.

If you have an idea of the value of your items, especially anything antique, it would helpful to mark a suggested price on them.

You can bring your donated things to the fellowship and leave them in the small room upstairs, across from the children's RE room. Or we can pick them up. Deadline is April 26.

Contact Glenna Hanley at 472-8431 or by e-mail at ghanley@nb.sympatico.ca or Carol Ann Hanley at 459-1077 or email at info@anncarol.ca



## Sustainable living speaker

author visiting us April 25



“When one practices global living, each of our daily actions improves the health of the whole locally and globally. The ecological, social, political, and spiritual systems at all levels are then able to regenerate and flourish.”

I think most of us will agree that living an environmentally sustainable lifestyle is highly desirable, and, some would say, essential to preserve our planet. But how to do it? Where to begin?

The quote above is from the book *Radical Simplicity: Small Footprints in a Finite Earth*. The author, Jim Merkel, is coming to our area.

Mark your calendars for Wednesday, April 25. Tom Hanley, chair of social responsibility, with the aid of David Brown (aka Margaret's son), has arranged for Merkel to visit the Unitarian Fellowship on that date. A pot luck supper will be held, along with an opportunity to interact with Mr. Merkel.

If you wonder how much Merkel knows about the topic of sustainability here are the titles of some projects he ran at Dartmouth College (in Hanover, New Hampshire): Sustainable Dining, Solar Thermal Evaluation; Carbon Reduction, Sustainable Offices, Green Greeks and Solid Waste Reduction.

If that is not enough to convince you here is more about Jim.

He is director of the Global Living Project and consults with municipalities and university campuses to explore sustainable practices. GLP also operates a summer institute where participants attempt to live equitably with as small an ecological footprint as possible.

Merkel, who now lives in Belfast, Maine, founded the Alternative Transportation task force in San Luis Obispo, California, researched sustainability in Kerala, India, built a permaculture home and demonstration site, and started a Cycling for a Sustainable Future speaking tour that has logged over 17,000 miles and delivered hundreds of workshops on sustainable living.

This event is not open to the general public but you can bring along a friend or neighbour interested in this topic.

You are also asked to bring along a dish to share. Coffee and tea will be provided by the fellowship.

Watch for more details from the committee on the specific time, etc., in your e-mail in-boxes or in the Sunday notice of service.

Submitted by Glenna Hanley, chair of public awareness, on behalf of the social responsibility committee.



## Exploring PT Ministry Options

To Members and Friends of the Fredericton Unitarian Fellowship

At the annual financial meeting in January, members of the Fellowship approved the setting up of an ad-hoc committee to look into the feasibility of engaging a part-time minister. Joan Brewer spearheaded this initiative and has now been joined in this committee by Sheila Moore, George DeMille and John van Abbema.

We met Wednesday March 7, 2012, and quickly realized that it would be a more complex task than we had imagined earlier. Several questions came up:

1. What are the expectations of our members and friends?
  - .a Do we only want only a regular minister one Sunday a month?
  - .b Do we also expect someone to provide pastoral care and counseling as well?
  - .c Do we expect someone to provide and organize workshops, programs, small group discussions, etc.?
2. Where do we resource a part-time minister?
  - .a Locally, through our informal network in Atlantic Canada and the New England States?
  - .b From a resource of retired ministers from other faiths?
  - .c Formally, through the Canadian Unitarian Council or the Unitarian Universalist Association?
3. What resources are available to us to make this a reality?
  - .a Would we as individual members be willing to donate extra funds for this purpose?
  - .b Are there financial programs available from the CUC or the UUA to help us pay for a part-time minister?
  - .c Is there a combination of (a) & (b) that we should be exploring?

The committee members feel strongly that a part-time minister could be a great benefit to our small fellowship. However, we need to explore this initiative wisely and include our members and friends in the process.

To that end, Joan will be our liaison with the Canadian Unitarian Council to explore the administrative avenues available to us. Sheila will organize small focus groups within our Fellowship to determine our expectations. George has the history of previous involvement with the UUA and CUC to give us guidance in this matter. John van Abbema will keep you informed of our progress as we look more deeply into this matter.

Thank you for taking the time to consider this initiative. We look forward to your input and guidance in this matter. The committee will meet again on March 28 to consolidate its findings and to determine the next step forward.

Sincerely,  
John van Abbema



**Spring Fling**  
**874 York St**

The Unitarian  
Fellowship of  
Fredericton

**ART AND  
CRAFT SALE**



**Friday, April 27**

**12:00 - 7:00**

**Saturday, April 28**

**10:00 - 4:00**

**Jewellery, Photography, Paintings,  
Wood Working, Quilting, Dolls, Neckwear,  
Pottery, International Crafts, Collage,  
Jams, Home Baking and much more**  
**Refreshments Available**

**Relax and Browse**

Also A Selection of Quality Used Items

More Information: Janet Crawford, [janetcra@nbnet.nb.ca](mailto:janetcra@nbnet.nb.ca) 454-0441

Nancy Beltrandi [nahbeltrandi@gmail.com](mailto:nahbeltrandi@gmail.com) 459-8004



**The 2012  
Spiritual Leadership  
Symposium**

*Spiritual Leadership*  
**SYMPOSIUM**

Ottawa, May 18-20, 2012

**2012**

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.



## Some April Festivals

**Chag Sameach** (joyous festival) to our Jewish friends. Passover begins at sundown, Friday, April 6, this year and continues until sundown, Saturday, April 14. Passover commemorates the story of the Exodus, the escape of the Israelites from slavery in Egypt.

**Happy Easter** to our Christian friends. The most solemn festival in the Christian calendar, Good Friday is April 6th this year followed by Easter on the 8th. To paraphrase Pope John Paul II: "Do not abandon yourselves to despair. You are the Easter people and hallelujah is your song."

**A celebration of reason** to our atheist friends at the Global Atheist Convention in Melbourne, Australia, from the 13th to the 15th of April this year.

**A happy Vaisakhi** to our Sikh friends on the 13th of April. A harvest/new year festival to all Punjabis, Sikhs celebrate the date as the day of the formation of the Khalsa (the pure one). On the day, in 1699, Guru Gobind Singh (the tenth Sikh Guru) established the Khalsa and eliminated the differences of high and low and established that all human beings are equal.

**A blessed Beltane** to our Pagan friends who celebrate the Celtic calendar. Beltane begins at sundown on the 30th of April and continues through sundown on May 1st. As one of the "fire" festivals, celebrations include bonfires and a Maypole dance is often a center of the celebration.



## Faith in Diversity

The Faith in Diversity event will be held Wednesday, April 4 from 9am to 5pm.

Come see the diversity of Frederictons faith community and the Unitarians contribution to that diversity. This years presentation will feature Najat Abdou-McFarland

speaking about the experience of UU youth in the morning portion. In the afternoon there will be a fifteen minute presentation at around 2:30pm on the elements of the Unitarian faith.

The other participating faith communities are the Bahá'í community, the Hindu community, the Moslem community, the Jewish community, the Catholic community, the United Church community, the Buddhist community, the First Nations community among others. The lunch will be a fabulous vegetarian feast from which all the faith communities will be contributing a dish. This event will be attended by provincial dignitaries and Lieutenant Governor Nicholas Graydon will be opening the ceremonies. I encourage you to come for a portion or all of the day. The location is in Margaret McCain Hall in the Noël Kinsella Auditorium on the St. Thomas campus.

Najat Abdou-McFarland



**What are you celebrating?**

Mother's Day, Father's Day, Graduation,  
Coming of Age Ceremonies, Birthdays, Spring!

**PENDANTS & PINS FOR SALE**  
FROM THE CHURCH OF THE LARGER FELLOWSHIP

[www.QuestForMeaning.org](http://www.QuestForMeaning.org)

617-948-6150

