



The Newsletter of the Unitarian Fellowship of Fredericton

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Sunday Service 11 a.m.

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Sunday Services

Sept 2 *Water Ceremony and Corn Boil* Please bring a small amount of water with a significant meaning to you and a short explanation of its significance.

Sept 9 Sue Rickards *Poverty and Policy: NB's Great Leap Forward??* The NB Economic and Social Inclusion Plan (poverty reduction) - what it is, how it works, how to get involved.

Sept 16 *to be announced*

Sept 23 Priscilla Geisterfer

Sept 30 *to be announced*

Oct 7 Sheila Moore, Sharon van Abbema, and Tony Fitzgerald *Lay Chaplain Service* The chair of the Lay Chaplain Committee and the two Lay Chaplains will talk about the CUC Lay Chaplain service and about being a Lay Chaplain.



Women's Pot Luck

The next women's pot luck is planned for Friday, September 28th. We gather at 6 pm and eat at 6:30 pm. Sharon

van Abbema will host the evening at her home, 143 Morning Gate Drive. Discussion topic: Epiphanies - what experiences/events have clarified your thinking / altered your outlook on life /caused a change in your life's direction? For more information contact Joan Brewer at 455-5169 or jebrewer@rogers.com



Stand in Unity

The St Thomas University Inter-Faith group; Unity in Diversity invites you to stand in unity and fellowship with people of all faiths and spirituality. As a symbol of the oneness of the human family and the bond of fellowship we will link arms over the Walking Bridge September 27th at 6:30pm. Please help us spread the word about inter-faith unity; so we might foster awareness and deeper understanding of ourselves and others of faith.

For further inquiries contact jryan@stu.ca.



Book Launching

7 P.M., Sept.6th at Westminster Books King St.
2-4 P.M., Sept.8th at Chapters

Presenting Fredericton writer sassimint grace's debut novel, "A Friend of a Friend". The author will read and sign copies over refreshments.

A Friend of a Friend

This is the compelling story that follows an international journey of a little boy abducted by captors demanding an impossible ransom from immigrant parents. But more than one life is at stake and the survival of the others may depend upon the well being of this child. The story speaks of devotion to family, friends and even strangers who lend helping hands along the way. Friends of friends create a chain of love that reunites strangers.

About the Author – Fifty-two year old sassimint grace spells her name with lower case to accentuate the content rather than the person of her writing. She is a devoted wife, mother and grandmother. She has written and staged

three plays; Comfort the Children, The Traditions Play and The End.

She is known as a community advocate who uses writing skills to promote social change and speak up for the disenfranchised. A B. A. degree achieved at STU in sociology often infuses her ideas. As a sociologist her art forms include; guerilla street theatre and public protest acting as a gadfly to call revisions to oppressive social policies. Her work is a socially informed call to the audience to question assumptions, values and norms.

Her writing and speaking presentations represent ;the life experience of an abuse survivor, recovery from addiction ,Coming Out of the Closet as well as the creative survival skills gleaned from a lifetime of poverty. She has a sincere wish to share the amazing hope she has drawn from these struggles.

Amazon.com and Kindle.

Soon to be available at Westminister Books and Chapters

For more information see , ‘ThesassimintGrace’ on Facebook, or call 450-2852



Fredericton Pride

Editor’s note: article submitted by allison calvern

A report on Fredericton Pride Parade, August 11, and two awards: This year’s pride parade began behind City Hall, with participants walking quietly (but with some very flamboyant outfits) down Queen Street to Officers’ Square. Because of inclement weather, parade organizers used an indoor venue, Wilmot United Church (the only mainstream congregation to appear welcoming), to set up gay-friendly kiosks of artwork and organizations – jewelry, paintings, & curiosities. The NDP, Scouts Canada and a local gym were there, among others. Not only was TUFF the only community of faith with a declared presence in the parade, it turns out our little congregation is even more deeply involved in Fredericton’s journey towards GLBTQ inclusion.

Tony Fitzgerald (current lay chaplain and all round mover and shaker at TUFF) received the Jason Tidd award, for bravery, shown in his persistent and valuable practice of dressing as he feels most comfortable. He is affectionately known around town as “The guy with a long white beard and skirt.” It was very clear from the loud cheering of the crowd, that they are all aware of Tony’s courage, daily challenging people’s expectations of what it



means to be a man, of what it means to be human. The text read by the presenter includes: “Tony is wonderful example of learning to embrace who you are and has become an advocate for people with varying degrees of gender dysphoria. Gender dysphoria is a broad description that acknowledges that some men and women sometimes feel a little like the opposite gender to feeling like you are trapped in the wrong body and actively seek treatment and gender reassignment. . . Tony’s willingness to step out in public as who is he, is still a courageous act, as dysphoria, and its subsequent cross-dressing, is poorly understood, and the closeting and bullying of the gender dysphoric still leads many youth to suicide. Thank you Tony for being an example that youth in Fredericton can follow and for continuing to educate many on this subject.”

[Jason Tidd is a straight Frederictonian who stood up for a man outside a gay bar in Halifax; while he took a bad beating, Jason’s intervention saved a gay man’s life.]

Also, former chair of TUFF’s children’s RE program, Debi Skidmore (Menescus) was given the Barb MacMullin Award for outstanding volunteerism. Debi, a solid volunteer in the Rainbow community, is an outspoken advocate for those who are on the fringe, particularly for gender-queer and trans folk, and is a beloved mentor for many of the city’s queer youth. Those of us who know Debi are glad she received such a warm and deserved recognition.



Bird Garden

Hello Everybody, allison here, with a report from Bill Knight.

There was a meeting one Thursday evening in the library concerning the grounds at the peopleship, and the possibility of making them more bird-friendly. Six people showed up, with interest also sprinkled elsewhere amongst the congregation, all of us responding to a presentation a while back by Tony Diamond. We call ourselves a committee, and are still waiting for the perfect name to dawn on us: Garden Committee; Birds & Bees Committee; Bird-Friendly Garden Committee. . .

Bill has written up the minutes of that meeting, posted below, and he is prepared to receive any contributions of time, energy, money, and/or ideas for a name of our committee. Anybody can join us; just speak with Bill at the next service, or eMail him: <knight@unb.ca>

Notes on meeting of the bird committee 2012 Aug 16 – W.R.K

Knight has a copy of “The Audubon Society Guide to Attracting Birds” (second edition) by Stephen W Kess

(2006) ISBN 978-0-8014-8864-1.

Distributed documents:

- * Design a Bird Friendly Landscape by Melissa Mayntz (3 pages)
- * How to Create a Bird-friendly Yard by "Rondale" (3 pages)
- * One paragraph by Mark Garnett of FHS
- * Google satellite image of property

We will gather before service Sunday Aug 18 at 9:45 to look at the property.

Shelia and Ken Moore have expressed need for a memorial area for cremation ashes. [I submit that plans thereof should be in place before we move any dirt.]

We have too much lawn. [The document by Mark Garnett disagrees]

We decided to start on both sides of the hedge immediately north of the building, selecting plants suited to its degree of sun/shade. No height specifically decided; it is my impression people were thinking 50 to 150 cm.

Everybody has favorite plants. [Before rushing in I recommend reading Kress' lists of recommended plants for the northeast, page 128-141.]

There should be official information on property boundaries somewhere. Get hold of it. (East boundary is not a simple line. It lies somewhere between the trunk of the basswood tree outside the east door and the lily patch immediately beyond; south thereof it moves further east to include a fenced shed.) I cannot locate either North or South boundary within maybe 20 meters.

Water for birds is desirable but presents safety problems and cat problems. [See Kress pages 258-260 for this and for simple bath ideas.] Building has an outside faucet.

Prof Diamond probably willing to tour the property with us, but is not available at the moment. Other sources of advice were mentioned, one from St. Thomas, but I failed to note the names [Please e-mail me this information.] Another possible source of plants and/or advice is "Save a Plant" (16 Fletcher Court) which is concerned with native plants. We expect it to be financially advantageous to work with a particular nursery, Scott was mentioned.

Some money is available, \$1000 was mentioned [Is an official motion by our governing body required?]

My comments:

Committee members should read chapter 1 of Krell, "Backyard Habitats" pages 6-45 and consult "Recommended Plantings for the Northeast" pages 128ff before we decide what plants to plant. (Mayntz and Rondal also have material on choosing plants.)

I note with amusement that our meeting decided to start with the area immediately visible outside the window of the room wherein we met.

Southeast corner: The only part of our property in any way resembling wild is the southeast corner. This should be preserved and augmented. Suggest discussion thereon at our next meeting.

Native Plants: Rondale, Mayntz and Kess [119f] all recommend using native plants. A Fredericton source of native plants can be found by entering into Google save a plant borealis I suggest committee members look at the website.

**14-16
OCTOBER
2012**

A TIME FOR ALL AGES
Eastern Regional Gathering
First Unitarian Congregation of Ottawa

KEYNOTE SPEAKER:
DALE MCGOWAN,
AUTHOR OF PARENTING BEYOND BELIEF

**WORKSHOPS
FOR ALL AGES**

TRAINING
WISE ELDERS FACILITATION
RENAISSANCE TRAINING
UU IDENTITY
ALL AGES SUNDAY WORSHIP
OPEN HAND PUPPET THEATRE OF SYRACUSE

To learn more, contact Kelly McDowell at kelly@cuc.ca

The **Eastern Region Fall Gathering**, "A Time For All Ages," is happening in Ottawa from October 12-14, and has been specially designed for multi-generational participation. Come make new friends and renew connections!

Keynote speaker Dale McGowan's address is called "Embrace Influence," and explores how parents can share their beliefs and values with their children without indoctrination. Saturday workshops topics include parenting, yoga, singing and spirituality and the outdoors, and have been designed for children and parents to attend together.

Childcare will be available for very young kids, while teens, ages 14 and up, are invited to join in the Youth Con. The Active Democracy Task Force will facilitate a discussion on recommendations about how the CUC “does” democracy, and CUC Board members will be on hand for conversation. On Sunday morning, members of Ottawa First and friends from around the Eastern Region will offer a multigenerational worship service for all ages using puppetry and story inspired and aided by the Open Hand Puppet Theatre of Syracuse, NY.

Youth Con: Youth aged 14 years and older will have their own programming, with a sleepover at Ottawa First on Friday and Saturday nights.

Renaissance Module - Unitarian Universalist Identity: Oct 12-14 Interested in being more articulate about your religious identity? Want to have the deep background you need to create an elevator speech? Would you like to be able to answer questions about Unitarian Universalism? Are you involved in faith development of children and youth? If you answered “yes,” join with others to create understanding and development of identity as a life-long process. This module is open to all, and will run concurrently with the Eastern Fall Gathering.

Wise Elders: Oct 12-13 The Eastern gathering will debut the Wise Elders Facilitators training. This is a training designed by Audrey O’Callaghan from Ottawa, and encourages participants and leaders to look at their pasts, learn from shared experiences and honour the values and experiences they have lived. At the end of the weekend, participants will see themselves as Wise Elders with wisdom to share, have a deeper understanding, respect and appreciation for their life’s journey and for the role Unitarian Universalism plays in their lives and the role they play in their congregation. This training runs concurrently with the Eastern Fall Gathering, and will also be available at the Central Fall Gathering from November 9 - 11.

For more information and to register visit <http://cuc.ca/2012-eastern-regional-fall-gathering/>



Travel with UUs

Take a Mindful Journey with UUs to Argentina - Buenos Aires and moonlight at Iguazu Falls! We leave time for serendipity to happen, take time to soak it in, and be mindful of what we are experiencing. February 23 - March 3, 2013.

www.nuuc.ca Neighbourhood UU Congregation’s journey for UUs everywhere.



Bert Vanderhorst

Hubert Jacobus Vanderhorst’s life has ended, but his life’s work lives on in every corner of New Brunswick.

The funeral for 89-year-old Bert Vanderhorst of Fredericton, who passed away peacefully on July 26, 2012, at the Chalmers Hospital, was held at the J. A. McAdam Memorial Chapel on August 3rd.



His friends recollected the loss of a beloved professional colleague and friend.

“He came to Saint John in the late 1950s to work as the construction superintendent for Anglin Norcross Ltd. His first project was to oversee construction of St. Joseph’s Hospital in Saint John ... As a result, he stayed in New Brunswick and went on to build a number of both private and public buildings,” said retired Saint John Construction Association executive director Pat Darrah.

“Bert was quite a character, very well liked, very well organized and a great builder.”

He said Vanderhorst went on to do such buildings as the Dr. Everett Chalmers Regional Hospital, and his final job was the Saint John Regional Hospital as project manager.

“Bert was very deeply involved in all aspects of the construction industry and participated in the association and the general development of the industry. He was a pleasure to work with and a dear friend,” he said.

Vanderhorst was vice-president of Atlas Construction.

Bill Young of Maritime Bricklayers Ltd. said his firm did a lot work with Vanderhorst when he was with Atlas Construction Maritimes.

“He could give you a blast of hell one day, and the next day it was like it never happened. His bark was worse than his bite,” he chuckled.

“He was a very unique individual.”

Young said if Vanderhorst told you he was going to do something, you could set your watch by it.

“If he told you something he would stick by it. His word was his bond,” he said.

Vanderhorst’s widow, Geneviève Laloux, chuckled when she heard Young’s description of her second husband.

The couple married in 2004 in Fredericton after Vanderhorst’s first wife Ida, the mother of his three sons, died in

2003.

Laloux said Ida was a wonderful, lovely person, active in the Fredericton Curling Club and they were all friends.

Vanderhorst was born in Amersfort in the Netherlands in February 1923.

“He was 17 when the Second World War started, and it was a big change in his life and in everybody’s life. He had started undergraduate work at Amersterdam Technical Institute in 1942 in mechanical engineering,” Laloux said.

“His studies were interrupted when the Germans started picking up young people to work in the German factories. So he went into hiding, did some farm work, even worked in an insane asylum.”

He enlisted in the First December Division of the Dutch Army which was assigned to guide the independence of Indonesia from Japanese control. He received artillery training in 1945 and 1946 in England.

As a sergeant-major, Vanderhorst taught young soldiers in the Dutch Army and went back to Indonesia in 1946 to guide the transition to peace time there.

“He ended up hating war because he saw all the victims of the Japanese there, and he believed in co-operation with the local authorities and he was extremely proud of helping to rebuild the local economy, like providing electricity so the rice factory could work,” he said.

In September 1949, he went back to Holland to complete his studies as a mature student.

In the early 1950s, it was hard to find work in Holland, and he heeded encouragement from his father and an invitation from a friend who had emigrated to Montreal to head for Canada.

Vanderhorst married his first wife Ida in September 1953, and they arrived in Montreal in October 1953 with \$300 in his pocket and no job.

His degree wasn’t recognized in Canada, but he applied for an estimator’s job at Anglin Norcross Ltd.

“He always loved to tell stories, and apparently the original supervisor liked to party and when Bert arrived from Montreal, he put an end to that and he was immediately put in charge,” Laloux said.

“He was a sergeant-major to the end, to the very end.”

After supervising jobs such as the federal building in Prince Edward Island and a Halifax shopping centre, Vanderhorst was recruited by Atlas Construction in 1962 as construction manager and that’s when Vanderhorst settled in Fredericton.

Projects he worked on in the capital city included the Chalmers hospital, Fredericton High School, the foundation for the Centennial Building. He worked on the Uni-

versity of New Brunswick engineering building.

Under Liberal premier Louis Robichaud’s equal opportunity program, Vanderhorst built new schools and he worked on hospital construction during the Richard Hatfield government’s hospital-building boom.

In Saint John, he worked on Oland’s Brewery and the Holiday Inn.

After Atlas Construction was sold, Vanderhorst formed his own consulting firm and worked with Rocca Group in Saint John to build the regional hospital, at that time the biggest hospital east of Montreal. The hospital opened Sept. 11, 1982.

“He worked well with all the political parties,” she said.

Laloux said Vanderhorst was interested in the esthetics of the finished project.

He detested the orange bars that still clad the Chalmers hospital, and he insisted on siting the regional so that it would look like it was rising from the rock and he searched for rock for the building’s exterior to enhance that illusion.

“He had a very good eye for the location of a place,” she said. “He was a problem-solver.”

Vanderhorst worked hard to create a pension plan for Atlas employees when he worked for that company.

“He always insisted on giving work to local firms and rearranged the schedule of his buildings so that local firms not able to do a big order could do spaced deliveries according to the rhythm of construction,” she said.

“He was extremely concerned with giving his working man his dues ... He loved mentoring young people.”

In his later years, he and his first wife sold their home in Fredericton and explored North America in their recreational vehicle.

After his first wife’s death and his remarriage to Laloux, Vanderhorst enjoyed his morning breakfast and was waited on hand and foot at Tim Hortons before taking his morning stroll about the downtown of Fredericton and dropping in to chat with Gus and John Mazzuca when they ran their variety store downtown.

Laloux said he’d scrap with the local politicians and offer sage advice to young people to start saving early for a happy retirement.

If he liked you, he’d pull out the Dutch candies he always carried with him and offered you one, Laloux said.

Vanderhorst is survived by his three sons Bert Jr. of She-diac, Jack of Edmonton and Ron of Chilliwack, B.C.; four grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Vanderhorst had a long-time friendship with Ron and Shirley Newman of Fredericton.

A memorial service will be held from McAdam’s Funeral

Home. The time and details will be forthcoming next week.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Dr. Everett Chalmers Regional Hospital Foundation for palliative care or to Hospice Fredericton.

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Heather McLaughlin

Editor's note: a minor change has been made regarding the funeral arrangements which were not available to the Gleaner at publication



VHU Seeks Volunteers

Editor's note: this article was received as an image of a brochure which was unsuitable for publication. I have extracted the pertinent information and will forward the original to anyone who wishes a copy.

The Veterans' Health Unit next to the DECH is seeking a volunteer or volunteers to provide musical accompaniment and leadership for weekly hymn sings. A keyboard is available or a guitar might be equally suitable.

The starting date is Thursday, Sept 20, and runs weekly including summer at the request of the Veterans. Two 45 minute sessions in separate wings at 10am and 10:50am.

Please contact Angela King at 452-5135 if interested.



UC of Canada Leads

Editor's note: reprinted at request of Tom Hanley

United Church Canada leads on social justice

The United Church is to be applauded for its action, and they have done much the CUC can learn from. In terms of development, they have a head start on us, having started their union discussions in the early 1900s and consolidating in 1925. The CUC is a mere 51 years old, and has some catching up to do. On the other hand, we may be one of the few faith communities in the country whose numbers are not rapidly declining.

Much of the background work that is being done to move the CUC forward is not necessarily visible to congregations and members, which may lead to the perception that things are not well. I welcome questions asked from a place of curiosity, and am pleased to share information about any aspects of our community. Of necessity, because of the staffing changes, major transitions and budgetary challenges experienced over the past two years, CUC staff

are taking time to consolidate, evaluate and plan. In the meantime, our congregational development staff are continuing to engage with congregations and ministers on matters like mission and vision work, conflict resolution, youth and young adult ministry and ministerial transitions; 3 Regional Fall Gatherings are planned, plus a lay chaplains' retreat and youth/Young Adult gathering in BC; and plans are moving ahead for ACM 2013. Structures and processes are being put into place to enable administrative tasks (like lay chaplain registration, website maintenance, and event registration) to move more smoothly so that we may put more energy to the bigger picture work of visioning and growing our religious communities.

The CUC has taken, and will continue to take, stances on issues of importance to Canadian UUs. Some of the background work is driven by individuals committed to a particular cause, and this is all the more powerful when it comes from grass-roots membership. The CUC has 11 Social Responsibility Monitoring Groups on various issues ranging from peace to the environment and economic justice. Our two newest groups attend to affordable housing and criminal justice matters. We have a part-time Social Responsibility Coordinator (a new position as of Nov 2011) who works with the Monitoring Groups, the Board's SR liaison and staff to advance work on SR matters. <http://cuc.ca/social-responsibility/>. Many of our congregations engage in local social justice initiatives and are leaders in their communities. There is always much more we could be doing, which is where individual and congregational involvement can complement national initiatives. We also have to ask where to best put our efforts, so that what we do is effective and timely.

It takes many different parts to make up a healthy whole – diversity and social responsibility work are just two of the pieces. The challenge is to attend to all the parts equitably without neglecting any.

In faith,
Vyda Ng
Executive Director
Canadian Unitarian Council
Conseil unitarien du Canada

In case any of those on our leaders list serve missed today's (Aug 20) announcement [in the Globe and Mail, Aug 20] it is very much worth reading:

United Church of Canada approves
Israeli settlement boycott

It amazes me over and over how active the United Church is in putting its social justice commitment into actions. I wonder where we Unitarians would be if we were to take on a leadership role in promoting social justice among ourselves and also in promoting those values in our wider communities. And for all the wonderful things cusj does I wonder if splitting off our social justice so that we as a whole aren't responsible and involved with putting our lofty values into actions doesn't present a meta-message to

ourselves and the world that social justice is something a few Unitarians do that isn't much connected to Unitarians as a whole. I have taken leadership training for non profits, for governments, for corporations and for individuals AND I can sum up the essence of all those years of training: Leaders Lead. Successful leaders lead failed causes and failed groups, governments, companies and they come back to lead very successful efforts. Surely Ghandi's life is a prime example. But those who fear to stand out for fear of failing simply fail to understand the foundational role of leadership. Not to be mistaken leadership is a complex relationship of listening and leading but I am noting here the foundational role of leadership that is active and energized/energizing.

Personally I wonder if we have been asleep so long under the anaesthetic effect of believing that we first and foremost defined by our diversity (once again a belief based on speculation on what we would like to believe rather than any actual on the ground look around) and our misguided perception that democracy means such radical individualism that the whole will not act in any way that any individual member might take offense to. Whereas democracy—the one we aspire to in our core principles—is actually the antithesis of the lowest common denominator. It means that each of us as individuals puts our lot in with the whole knowing that the value of being/acting together is worth accepting that the individual will not always get what they want in every action/decision. and we worry that if our members don't get a tax benefit they won't help support our congregations—our “faith”. I wonder if Ghandi considered the tax benefits to followers when he initiated the salt marches. I wonder if the United Church has—in this action—considered the possible actions of our vindictive federal government which is stripping environmental/social justice organizations of charitable status if they so much as oppose a pipeline or does the United Church simply ask “what is right; what is necessary for us to build a more just and sustainable world?”

I know that these words will not be welcome with some or even many. I read in a recent Canadian Unitarian an article assuring us that “the sky is not falling” but an objective look around seems to indicate that the sky may not be falling (that implies some substantive entity to fall) but it is certainly wafting away: no leadership schools—at all, not even youth, revolving door executives, loss of key staff positions, lack of growth despite focus on growth, no fall gathering in the west, sinking revenues, a dreary wait for the next shoe to drop. The sky may not be falling but any objective evaluation would suggest the CUC is not doing well. I think that the example of the Unitarian Service Committee is an example well worth noting in these challenging times. In the face of a changing world and conditions and its relations to other organizations the USC board did what—according to Policy Governance models—is the highest calling of a Board: it reinvented its mission to reflect a new and more currently

relevant organization. Of course a new mission can only be meaningful if it is a commitment to action. I think our present CUC predicament calls us to serious rethink who we are, what we do and why we do it. It just won't do to hide under an umbrella and pretend the sky isn't falling because we can't see past the brim of the umbrella.

I see that almost the whole of the current Canadian Unitarian is devoted to going over and over and over what has been said and said and said about what is less and less and less relevant—that we worship diversity of and by itself—that that one—ever evasive—goal is what we are to the near exclusion of all else. Ironically, we would likely have a much more diverse membership if we were actually leaders in social justice—but that would mean that not all the people would get exactly what they want all the time. I remember when in the late 80s the United Church voted narrowly to ordain gay and lesbian ministers. They lost 1/3 of their membership almost immediately but all that was rebuilt with an enthusiastic new vision of an inclusive church. Comox United is at least 4 x the size of our Unitarian congregation that meets in the same church building and shares the same commitment to diversity. Comox United has a report from it's social justice committee every Sunday. I would be drastically misleading anyone reading this if I left the impression that I know what the CUC or its congregations must do to become a “church” or social movement that is vitally relevant to the 21st century but I think it is time to ask the difficult questions about who we are and what we do.

The sky may not be falling, but we are. Trodding the same path to the same dead end over and over just makes for a deeper rut to no where. Continuing to label ourselves with an appellation reflecting a long since irrelevant Christian theological argument of the 17th century and single mindedly pursuing diversity as if diversity can be the driver of a dynamic organization rather than its delightful consequence is the deeply worn rut Unitarians need to reexamine if they want to arrive at a dynamically relevant organization committed to actions that create a just, sustaining and sustainable world and individuals who feel nurtured, empowered and informed by their spiritual community. Not to be misunderstood: diversity is good but it isn't—of itself— all or even sufficient. It would be a worthy/intended consequence of a commitment to universal value(s) in action and a dynamic spiritual organization relevant to the 21st century.



Humour

Editor's note: humour is always dangerous and I apologize in advance if you find this offensive.

A female CNN journalist heard about a very old Jewish man who had been going to the Western Wall to pray,

twice a day, every day, for a long, long time.

So she went to check it out. She went to the Western Wall and there he was, walking slowly up to the holy site.

She watched him pray and after about 45 minutes, when he turned to leave, using a cane and moving very slowly, she approached him for an interview.

“Pardon me, sir, I’m Rebecca Smith from CNN. What’s your name?”

”Morris Feinberg,” he replied.

“Sir, how long have you been coming to the Western Wall and praying?”

“For about 60 years.”

“60 years! That’s amazing! What do you pray for?”

“I pray for peace between the Christians, Jews and the Muslims.”

“I pray for all the wars and all the hatred to stop.”

“I pray for all our children to grow up safely as responsible adults and to love their fellow man.”

“I pray that politicians tell us the truth and put the interests of the people ahead of their own interests.”

“How do you feel after doing this for 60 years?”

“Like I’m talking to a wall.”

This space wants your material!