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Sunday Service 11 a.m.

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Sunday Services

Feb 3 Heidi O'Donnell *Adult Literacy Learners*

Feb 10 Sharon van Abbema *A Cuba Experience* John van Abbema will be the service leader.

Feb 17 Sheila Moore and Tony Fitzgerald *CUC Sunday and Sharing our Faith*

Feb 24 Luke Randall *Endeavours*

Mar 3 *T.B.A.*

Coffee and Scones

Monday, Feb 11, 2013 from 10 am through 11:30
Everyone welcome. Come and meet and greet.

Janet Crawford

Women's Pot Luck

The women's pot luck group will meet next on Friday, February 22nd. and be hosted by Heidi O'Donnell and Darcie Dunbar at the Fellowship, 874 York St. We gather at 6 pm and eat at 6:30. Discussion topic: "The Soundtrack of Our Lives." Share a piece of music that holds a special memory/meaning for you and why. For more information contact Joan Brewer at 455-5169 or jbrewer@rogers.com

Fredericton Unitarian Men's Group

Six men appeared for our first get together Wed Jan 23 at 7pm in the library at TUFF. We opened the meeting with a check in which helped us warm up to each other on this cold night. Next gathering will be Thursday, Feb 21st at 7pm in the library. All men are welcome.

Lay Chaplain Position

Would You Like to be a Lay Chaplain?

Our Fellowship is lucky to have two Lay Chaplains, Sharon van Abbema and Tony Fitzgerald, who dedicate themselves to providing rites of passage for our members and for the general public. These services may be weddings, funerals, memorial services, or child dedications. Lay Chaplains follow guidelines issued by the Canadian Unitarian Council and policies established by the UFF Board of Directors and the Lay Chaplaincy Committee. These rites of passage mark some of the most important events in peoples lives and the Lay Chaplains role constitutes a service to our members as well as being a significant outreach to the public by our Fellowship.

Sharon van Abbemas six year term as Lay Chaplain comes to an end in June 2014. If you might be interested in being considered for this position and would like to know more about what is involved please contact:



Nancy Beltrandi's Mother

Gwen (Kitchen) Herbin 100 years, Open House

For anyone who knows my Mother, please come celebrate with family and friends the 100th birthday of Gwendolyn (Gwen Kitchen) Herbin, Sunday, February 10th, from 2:00 pm until 4:00 pm, at Ste. Anne's Court. Take a walk down memory lane and enjoy light refreshments, music, and festivities. The enjoyment of your company and best wishes only are most welcome, and looked forward to. Ste. Anne's Court is located at 81 Duncan Lane, not far from the Fredericton Golf Course.

Nancy Beltrandi



From the President

Budget

Thanks to everyone who attended the Annual Budget Meeting on Sunday the 27th of January. It's important that we all understand how our Fellowship stands financially, and to bring a balanced budget in these days of overdrafts and deficits is great. We're heading into the budget year of 2013 (which operates on the calendar year) in a healthy position, thanks to annual Pledges and the weekly offertory. We didn't have any huge expenses in 2012, and managed to keep our costs down. This is in no small part attributable to the generous donations of time and 'things' that our members and friends contribute to our UU community. Having a balanced budget with a small surplus going into the year allows us to look at effective ways to use our funds, including the maintenance and upgrading of our Unitarian House, and continuing to explore the possibility of part-time ministry.

News from your Board

Besides dealing with budget issues, your Board has been busy ensuring the smooth running of Unitarian Fellowship business. We want to thank Rhonda Connell for her contribution to the Board as Treasurer and Vice President of Finance and Facilities. Daniel Ruiz has agreed to take on the role of Treasurer for our Board for the rest of the term (officially until election of Board of Directors at the Annual General Meeting in June). Thanks to Daniel for taking this on, with the ongoing support and guidance from our intrepid George DeMille.

Membership

Not a member? Thinking about it but are not sure what's

involved? In a nutshell, being an official member of the Unitarian Fellowship of Fredericton means you have signed the Membership Book and follow/support/believe in the Seven Principles of UUism. These are written on the back of the Order of Service each Sunday. Being a member entitles you to vote, and to become a Chair of any committee. This doesn't preclude you from participating and contributing as a member of a committee- you don't have to be an official Member of TUFF to do this. Glenna Hanley as Chair of Membership will be happy to talk with you if you have any questions or would like to sign the green Membership Book. I know that Glenna could also use some help on the Membership Committee (contact for Glenna: 472-8431, ghanley@nb.sympatico.ca).

Information Packs

If you're a visitor, or are new to the Fellowship, and would like some information, Glenna has prepared envelopes with Information for Visitors. You can find them on the table beside the visitor's book in the foyer behind the sanctuary.

Publicity

Have you noticed the new, improved Notice of Service in the Daily Gleaner? Thanks to some thoughtful members for their input into this. If you have any comments you can speak with Glenna Hanley, who looks after Publicity, or one of your Board Members.

Website

Don't forget about our website: www.uff.ca where you can find information about our Fellowship, including upcoming services, historic data and past services. If you have any questions relating to the website, please contact Tony Fitzgerald (jaf@unb.ca).

Annual General Meeting of the CUC

May 17, 2013 in Calgary, Alberta

I know a few people have regularly attended the Annual General Meeting of the Canadian Unitarian Council, and we have traditionally identified a couple of delegates. Unfortunately last year we didn't have any representation at the AGM, although we have been kept informed of the resolutions and activities.

If you are thinking of attending, would you let me or one of the Board members know? We have some advance papers, including proposed resolutions, which you may be interested in seeing. And we could use a presence there to represent our Fellowship. Besides important national business, it's always interesting to find out what other Unitarian Universalist congregations are doing throughout Canada and meet some of the people.

Sunday services

We are including a regular announcement in the Order of Service reminding everyone about the opportunity to submit suggestions for Sunday services to the Sunday Services Committee (Sylvia Hale, Allison Calvern, George DeMille,

Tony Fitzgerald, Heidi O'Donnell and Joan McFarland). If you have any ideas or suggestions, don't hesitate to share them with a member of this Committee. The Board has agreed that we will continue to invite visiting ministers approximately once a month.

Part-time Ministry

The ad hoc committee on part-time ministry has been reconvened to continue exploring the idea of part-time ministry, and is investigating costs and looking at possible scenarios. Questions that are being considered include 'How much would it cost?' 'How often would be appropriate?' The Committee is also revisiting the findings of the focus groups held last year to help identify what our congregation would want/need in a part-time minister, including such things as pastoral care and personal support for those seeking guidance with spiritual issues. The Canadian Unitarian Council (CUC) is supplying information and some guidance in order to help formulate some of the thinking and outline parameters for deliberations. This is an ongoing process, and progress will be shared with the congregation for discussion in due course.

We are looking forward to another visit in April by Kitsy Winthrop, an ordained Unitarian Universalist minister who visits us periodically from Maine. Along with giving a Sunday Service, Kitsy will be offering the opportunity for people who want to speak with her in her professional ministerial capacity. More information will be provided soon.

Other activities

Thanks to Janet Crawford for organizing the monthly coffee mornings and providing delicious scones. The day of the week changes each month so that everyone who has regular commitments can make it at least sometimes if they want. The next one is scheduled for Monday, February 11th from 10 to 11:30. We hope to see you there!

Also new is the opportunity for men to get together for a chat, which has just been set up. The sessions are being held in the library at Unitarian House and I understand the next one is scheduled for February 21st at 7 p.m. If you would like to join this group for men or have any questions, you can contact John van Abbema see information on the Fredericton Unitarian Men's Group elsewhere in this issue of Touchstone.

A bit of time to spare?

Like many other organizations, TUFF relies on volunteers to contribute a range of talents and time, and we've been blessed with the generosity of our volunteers. Having said that, we could still use some extra 'minds and bodies' for a couple of our Committees.

The Children's Program Committee could use some help while Jeff Frooman is in Europe. If you're interested, the committee could use your input. Contact Rhonda Connell: rconnell@nbnet.nb.ca

Tom Hanley is looking for a third person to assist him and Janet Crawford on the Social Responsibility Committee. For more information contact Tom (459-8550) thanley@nbnet.nb.ca or Janet (454-0441) janetcra@nbnet.nb.ca

Issues? Questions? Please feel free to contact me or any other member of your Board. The contact list is posted by the inside back door. Minutes of the Board meetings are also available if you're interested.

Respectfully submitted,
Sheila Thompson
President, Unitarian Fellowship of Fredericton
Tel: 455-3665
sheilamariet@hotmail.com



Ad Hoc Ministerial Committee

The Ministerial Committee met in the library on Monday Jan 21st at 1:30. Members of this committee are George DeMille, Allison Calvern, Joan Brewer, Sheila Moore and John van Abbema.

We reviewed the deliberations of last year's ad hoc committee and studied the advice we had received from the Canadian Unitarian Council..Allison will liaise with Kelly McDowell from CUC to further explore the availability of Unitarian ministers for a part time position. We are also open for suggestions to engage liberal thinking ministers from other faiths.

If the members of our fellowship have suggestions for our committee to consider, please contact any of the above.

The next meeting will be held in February when we have gathered more information.

John van Abbema



Noche Latina

Noche Latina is an annual evening of Latino food and music hosted by the Maritime-Guatemala Breaking the Silence Network and co-hosted this year by the Multicultural Association of Fredericton (MCAF). The evening is a traditional Guatemalan meal combined with Latin rhythms featuring Cesar Morales, and other performers such as the popular Fredericton band Eric of Many Hats. The event will be held on Friday, Feb. 8, 2013, 6-9 p.m., at the Wilmot United Church, 473 Carleton St., Fredericton. There is also a silent auction with unique items from Latin America as well as here at home. Tickets are \$12 for adults and \$25 for a family (two adults, two children). Tickets are available at the following locations: Westminster Books

(445 King St.) and MCAF (123 York St.) or can be reserved by calling: 454-8292. Joan McFarland also has tickets to sell. Please note, only a limited number of tickets will be available at the door.

Proceeds go to support ongoing solidarity work in Guatemala and for the MCAF Newcomer Scholarship Fund.



Maritime Religious Exploration

Save the Date! – March 22-24

We are very excited to announce that the CUC will be coordinating a special leadership development retreat in the Maritimes for members interested in Religious Exploration.

There will be two streams. The first stream will be developed and facilitated by Caroline Balderson Parry, the Director of Religious Education from the Unitarian Church of Montreal, and aims to support people leading or wanting to lead religious education and exploration in their UU communities. The second stream will be developed and facilitated by Ariel Hunt-Bronswin, the CUC Youth and Young Adult Ministry Development staff person and will focus on youth and Young Adult programming in the context of smaller congregations. This stream will include sharing best practices for Youth Advisors, ideas for growing a youth and or young adult ministry in your community and what to do when you don't have enough youth for a youth group. Both streams will be ideal for Religious Exploration teachers, volunteers, committee members and Chair persons. The event will be hosted by the Universalist Unitarian Church of Halifax.

On-line registration will available on the CUC website early in February.

For more information contact Kelly via email at kelly@cuc.ca or via the phone at 705-745-1078.

We look forward to sharing this time with you.

Kelly McDowell
Congregational Development - Eastern
Canadian Unitarian Council



An Uncommon King

Film Screening – Feb. 17

Some really wonderful news.

A screening of the remarkable feature documentary on Shambhala's leader, Sakyong Mipham Rinpoche,

“An Uncommon King” will take place during the new DOCTALKS Festival, part of the City's FROSTival celebrations.

The film will be shown at the Charlotte Street Arts Centre on Sunday, Feb. 17th, at 2pm. Following the showing of the film, there will be a panel discussion.

Shot over 17 years in 12 countries, this 72-minute was produced by Halifax sangha member Johanna Lunn. Johanna is an award-winning documentary and television producer, who has been the driving force behind many compelling, informative and thought provoking programs. Her work has garnered seven Gemini (Canadian equivalent of an Emmy) nominations and taken home three wins. In addition to producing hundreds of hours of television series & one-offs as an in-house executive producer, she has made independent documentaries for her own companies Wild East Productions & Centre East Media. She has worked as Director of Programming for Alliance Atlantis and played a key role in the launch IFC Canada. Prior to that, Johanna was Head of Independent Production for Atlantic Canada for CTV. She created the first competitive international children's film festival in English Canada and was Artistic Director of the Atlantic Film Festival.

We are thrilled to announce that Johanna will be hosted by our Centre and be in attendance at the Festival. She will also participate in what is bound to be a rich panel discussion.

“There are two kinds of leaders in this world: those who exert their power over others to control them and those who teach others to be leaders of their own lives.” To view a trailer of the film, go to www.AnUncommonKing.com.

Everyone in the Fredericton Shambhala community and the general public is encouraged to attend and participate in the panel discussion.



Letter on Ministry

Hello Everybody, allison calvern here

The idea of having a minister at tUFF is a persistent one, and the board, attentive to the needs and wishes of the congregation, has for years been actively searching for the right course of action. Last year an ad hoc committee was struck to explore professional ministry. Aably chaired and run by Joan Brewer and Sheila Moore, the committee explored receptivity of members and friends to the idea of part time ministry, and discovered that we would like to have a minister, but that we are all afraid of the cost. (See report to board and congregation below.)*

The committee's work revealed our hearts (that said Yes to ministry) and our wallets (which said, Um. . . maybe not), but our souls remain unsatisfied. Many members and

friends wanted a different outcome, and thanks to John van Abbema and Gail Moore, the ad hoc Committee on Ministry was resurrected.

The focus this time will be on getting a clear picture of what a minister at the helm would look like (inasmuch as there is a helm at tUFF, of course).

This re-struck Ad Hoc Ministerial Committee (see John's notice in this Touchstone) has asked me to liaise with CUC staff person, Kelly McDowell, Congregational Development, Eastern, with the express purpose of getting a clear picture of what it would mean for the fellowship to have a UU minister at the helm.

Kelly, who is very interested in helping us find professional UU ministry, says: "There is no price for the value of having a UU presence in the pulpit." Of course, she would say that, she's CUC. She is also intelligent, dedicated to her job and family, and fully part of her own UU congregation; she knows the value of a good and well fitting minister.

While we at tUFF do pay attention to price and cost and bottom line and deficit and all things money, we are not without resources. George DeMille has had a long-standing interest in tUFF's accounts, beginning before and during our six-year relationship with full-time UU minister Rev Nancy Anderson (1996-2002), and continuing through our more recent warm experiment with UCC Rev Mac Campbell 2008-2009).

After reviewing the finances, George says that we probably can afford a quarter-time UU minister with no deficit spending and no deficit souls.

Kelly McDowell reminds us that we must together develop a transparent process of finding a minister, one that is both sturdy and evolving. Whether we wind up with a minister or not, the process must be open to continued dialogue – open to multilogue, let us say – because each voice amongst us must know that it is audible and welcome.

I shall be contacting Kelly in the next few days. Meanwhile, if you have any thoughts on getting a minister, please let those thoughts be heard by any member of the ad hoc committee – John van Abbema, Joan Brewer, Sheila Moore, George DeMille and me, allison calvern – or any member of the board – Sheila Thompson, Gail Moore, Betty Lou Daye, Rhonda Connell, Tom Hanley, and Betty Ponder. Actually, write a letter to Tony Fitzgerald; he will be happy to print every appropriate thought in Touchstone, which is one very good vehicle for this congregational discussion.

Thank you for your attention,
allison calvern

** Report from the ad hoc committee exploring options for part-time professional ministry, from Joan and John: Let the minutes show a strong vote of thanks to Sheila Moore and Joan, whose work via this committee has successfully brought many members and friends into contemplating ex-

actly what is satisfying and/or dissatisfying about the fellowship. The committee (which also includes George DeMille) organized eight sessions that listened to fifty voices (members and non-members with no distinction given to how long each has been here); thirty-four responded to the questionnaire. There is enthusiasm for professional ministry, but there is also trepidation concerning the cost of such ministry. The committee feels that while contract ministry may be appropriate, the congregation is not presently ready to support professional part-time ministry. They present two recommendations to the board:

1. In order to make Sunday services even more satisfying, that individual members and friends be encouraged to inform the Sunday Services Committee about personal preferences on topics and possible local speakers (which might include non-UU clergy).
2. That the Board advertise via CUC and UUA networks for a UU clergy who could visit with us throughout the year, much as the Rev. Kitsy Winthrop has done in the past. This would involve a contractual arrangement that could include giving Sunday services, facilitating workshops, and providing one-on-one counseling, either regularly (every third month, say) or as needed.



From the Composer

With an open mind and an open heart.

I participated in an Imbolc ritual earlier this evening. We celebrated the re-awakening of the Goddess as the crone has been transformed to the virginal maiden, Brighid, in the eternal cycle of the seasons. Brighid is honoured by Catholics as Saint Brigid and her feast day is tomorrow. We celebrate the eve according to the ancient tradition of beginning and ending the day at sundown.



It was a gentle and very spiritual experience with dance, chants and a meditative trance.

The fourth principle, central among the seven, of Unitarian*Universalism is the free and responsible search for truth and meaning. Here are people trying to rebuild a religion that was almost obliterated by the holocaust that was the Holy Inquisition, the "burning times". It is the

very essence of the fourth principle and I, for one, am proud that the Fellowship provides a safe space for this pagan group to conduct their search.

It never ceases to surprise me when, as still occasionally happens, a person I had considered to be educated and intelligent accuses pagans of being devil worshippers. Respect or reverence for the Goddess is as far from devil worship as I can imagine.

This pagan group is open to members of the Fellowship who want to learn a little about paganism or who have already investigated their Celtic roots and are looking for a group with which to practice. The rituals are religious ceremonies and are to be respected as such, the same as you would respect the rules of temple, mosque, synagog or church when visiting. We are blessed to live in a time and place where religious intolerance is waning and we are gaining more dimensions in which to search for truth and meaning protected by our charter of rights and freedoms, specifically the freedom of and from religion.

In fellowship
Tony Fitzgerald



Love, Loss, Loyalty

"I am privileged to have known my friend these last 40 years. He was a gentle, welcoming man. Now, my friend's body has lost the struggle against age, and we are sad to see him leave us. I doubt, however, that we have seen the last of the spirit of his soul.

For me, life is much like the ocean. The incoming tide of birth brought him to this earth. The outgoing tide of death has taken him away. But, as the last large wave is leaving, the seabirds, spirits of the sparkling sea, take sail in the fresh air, soaring and hanging in the wind-swept sky, a pleasure for all of us to see.

And so I believe it is with my friend. His body may be gone, but the sparkling spirit of his soul is still here, like the sea birds, bobbing and weaving through our minds. His memory, now in our souls, will continue to comfort and encourage us. His memory will be a pleasure for us to enjoy again and again, for all time.

Let us keep the light of his spirit in our hearts, as a companion along the way. Let the memory of him continue to guide and support us as we travel our separate paths

through life. Thank you my friend, for all you have meant to us, and will continue to mean to us."

Excerpt from a Eulogy for a Gentle Friend

My cousin's husband, my friend, died of old age this summer. Our families have shared a 90 year relationship. Her mother and my mother were the oldest and the youngest of a family of 12 children. They survived the great depression as farmers.

Her father and my father were brothers-in-law in arms. They fought for the Resistance, surreptitiously exchanging potatoes and vegetables for meat and grain, on pain of death, if caught. They hid Jewish children and Allied airmen, dodging bullets on the run. Again, they survived.

One emigrated to Canada, the other stayed home in Holland. However, the family connection stays strong, now to the third generation. Rare family get-togethers are special occasions to catch up on news of cousins and grandchildren. Topics of social injustices, personal freedoms and world developments are not far behind on the list of discussions.

Many of our Fellowship have experienced deep personal losses during this last year. All of our departed friends had had unknown personal stories to reveal about their sojourn on Earth. Memorable stories were lovingly told by surviving family members and friends. These rich tales revealed how much the deceased's life had contributed to the value of our collective lives while they were with us. The communal sharing of these histories helped us all in our understanding of the cycle of life and death.

I thought of these memories last summer while ambling by the river with friends who had travelled a distance to visit us. The warm sun, the empathetic listening and sharing, and a walk on this beautiful Earth, renewed our souls.

The Spirit of Life had returned to us. It was a resplendent day.

John van Abbema,
January 23, 2013



When I give food to the poor, they call me a saint. When I ask why the poor have no food, they call me a communist.

– Hélder Camara

This space wants your material!
Please send articles to touchstone@uff.ca