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Sunday Services

- Mar 3** The Reverend Mary Tingley *Eternal Life in the Vision of Bishop Spang*
- Mar 10** *T.B.A.*
- Mar 17** *T.B.A.*
- The Unitarian Chamber Readers group will be presenting their play “*All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten*” at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Saint John.
- Mar 24** Carlos Gomes *The Spirituality of Drumming*
- Mar 31** Heather Lunergan *The Office of Religious Freedom*
- Apr 7** Jo-Anne Elder-Gomes *May Sarton*
- Apr 28** The Reverend Kitsy Winthrop *Everything*

Men’s Discussion

Just to remind everyone that we have agreed, for now, to meet on the third Thursday of each month, that makes March 21st at 7pm at 874 York Street for this months assembly. No set discussion topic to allow our intellects to roam freely. Coffee if anyone feels the need and cares to do something about it. Tea, ditto. All men welcome.

Women’s Pot Luck

The women’s pot luck group will meet next on Friday, March 22nd. Host not yet decided We gather at 6 pm and eat at 6:30. Discussion topic: still to be decided. For more information contact Joan Brewer at 455-5169 or jebrewer@rogers.com

When the spirits are low, when the day appears dark, when work becomes monotonous, when hope hardly seems worth having, just mount a bicycle and go out for a spin down the road, without thought on anything but the ride you are taking.



Sir Arthur Conan Doyle
 Scientific American 1896

Maritime Religious Exploration

March 22-24

Registration for the Maritime Religious Exploration Retreat is now available online at <http://cuc.ca/maritime-retreat/>. The Retreat has been designed to help support people leading or wanting to lead religious education and exploration in their UU communities. Two different streams are being offered. One is **Religious Education for Children**, with Caroline Balderson Parry, which is designed to enrich leaders working with children. The other is **Youth Ministry 101**, with Ariel Hunt-Bronwin, and

is designed for youth advisors and other adults who are interested in working with youth and or starting a youth program.

Bringing CUC programming and resources to the Maritimes in this way has been a long time coming. The program is being developed with the needs of your congregation in mind. I would like to encourage everyone who is interested in growing RE and Youth Ministry in your congregation to take advantage of the opportunity.

The program will begin at 6pm on March 22nd and close on March 24th at 2pm. Registration costs, which include meals, are \$75 for adults, \$55 for young adults, and \$30 for children. Billeting and childcare are available as are leadership subsidies. Check out the registration page for full information. CUC subsidies are also available if finances are an obstacle for anyone. The process for acquiring these subsidies is not onerous. For subsidy information go to <http://cuc.ca/subsidies/>. The deadline to register for the retreat is March 14, 2013.

Please feel free to contact Kelly if you have any questions.

Peace,

Kelly McDowell
Congregational Development - Eastern
Canadian Unitarian Council
kelly@cuc.ca
705-745-1078 (9-5 Tue & Wed)



Coffee and Scones

Come and join your friends at the fellowship for a drop in coffee break and scones.

Thursday, March 14
10 – 11:30 a.m.

Everyone welcome. Children welcome although there is not a special program, but we love to see them.



Greetings from Hawaii

I am enjoying my time here. It is very beautiful and I am finding people generally warm and helpful. Thanks for the interest in my activities. It would be an honour to have a few passages in the newsletter.

I am working at the zoo for a break from school. It is located at a beautiful spot in Waikiki, very close to the beach and Kapiolani Park. A group of us were trained as docents or volunteer educators - we tell people about the zoo and share facts about the animals. We had training from various zoo staff persons including the zoo keepers. This is the zoo's first effort at a docent program - thus my timing was good. I have one shift a week and will build in more time over the next few months I am here

as it is relaxing and fun. Here is a link to the Honolulu Zoo if anyone wants to take a virtual tour. "We" have a wide range of animals including lions (recently parents to three cubs, housed at the Zoo), tigers and elephants. <http://honolulu-zoo.org/>

I am out a lot and not on email much yet I think of everyone often. The letter arrived from Lorna and I was more than delighted to have news from home. If others write, their letters will be equally appreciated. I will write back, too! My address is 1571 A Thurston Ave. Honolulu, HI 96822. I live in the Makiki area which is Barack Obama's former neighborhood. Congratulations for bringing the film (It Was The Dance, by filmmaker Semra Yuksel) to the Fellowship. I saw a few films here for Black History Month yet the one shown there sounds equally good or even better. My clothes are on the line and I am heading out to enjoy the day!

Josephine Savarese



Jon's Remarkable Sunday Scones

Ingredients

2	cups	unsifted regular all-purpose flour
3	teaspoons	baking powder
2	tablespoons	demerara sugar (or a bit more)
1/2	teaspoon	salt
4	tablespoons	butter (Jon used a bit more)
2	eggs	beaten
		Keep some egg white to coat top of scones
1/3	cup	18 % heavy cream
2	teaspoons	sugar to sprinkle

Vanilla (about 1 tsp)

Currants (Jon always said 38, but probably $\frac{1}{4}$ cup)

spices (Jon used about $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp. allspice)

In a bowl combine the flour, baking powder, demerara sugar and salt. Cut in the butter until mixture resembles fine crumbs. Add currants and other stuff. Stir in the eggs and cream to make stiff dough.

Turn out onto a lightly floured table top and knead lightly until dough sticks together. Divide into two parts. Roll each part out to make a circle about six inches in diameter and about two inch thick. With a knife, cut each circle into quarters, making even wedges. Arrange on an ungreased baking sheet about one inch apart. Brush tops of scones with the reserved egg white and sprinkle with the two teaspoons sugar. Bake in a 350 oven for 15 minutes or until cooked. You will be unable to restrain yourself or your guests. Makes eight scones.

December 1995

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Kitsy Winthrop Visit

Rev. Kitsy Winthrop (UU minister) will visit with us April 26th to April 29th. It is expected that she will conduct a workshop while she is here and lead the service on Sunday morning. Kitsy will also be available for one-on-one conversations. By the beginning of April we should know the workshop times and be able to set up appointment times for those people who want to meet with her. I have agreed to be the contact person for those meetings. Please let me know by email or phone if you wish to be on what Kitsy calls her “dance card.”

Joan Brewer
455-5169
jebrewer@rogers.com

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Spring Fling Art and Craft Sale

April 19 and 20

COME AND ENJOY THE LIVELY FELLOWSHIP,
OVERFLOWING WITH ART AND CRAFTS.
VOLUNTEERS ARE WELCOME
WATCH FOR SIGN UP SHEETS OR EMAIL

janetcra@nbnet.nb.ca

Volunteers needed

in the kitchen, to help with set up, help with food, donate quality used items for our “Nu to You” room, help with advertising, organise a raffle of a piece of art.

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Vernal Equinox/Ostara Ritual

For those interested in the celebration of Ostara, the doors will open at 10:30am with ritual beginning at 11am. The ritual will take place at the Unitarian Fellowship house on Saturday, March 16th. Please mark your calendars.

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New to You

Our annual fund raiser, the arts and crafts sale, is set for April 19 and 20 and we will include a New To You room again this year. SO, please start having a look around your abodes to see what you might like to dispose of for a good cause. We are again asking for less garage sale, more giftware items, collectibles, antiques, toys, games, books, items in good condition and working order. No clothes unless you have something quite unique.

Thanks to our generous members we made about \$500 in this venture in each of the last two years. You can deliver

your donations to the fellowship before and after Sunday service. Or contact either Haifa Miller at 472-1509, or Glenna Hanley, 472-8431, to arrange delivery. For pick up call Glenna but nothing weighing more than 50 pounds please.

❁

Annual Conference and Meeting

The 2013 ACM will be in Calgary, at the Radisson, from May 17-19th, 2013. The theme is “Diversity: Creating A Shared Understanding”. Six streams on the various aspects of diversity are being planned. The Calgary Host Committee extends a personal invitation to each and every one of you to attend.

A bi-annual conference is also under consideration.

Annual General Meeting and Resolutions: The AGM will be held on Friday, May 17th from 9am to 5pm at the Radisson. The UFF is entitled to send two voting delegates to the annual general meeting (on May 17). If you would be interested in being a delegate please speak to Sheila Thompson.

Further information is available on the ACM web site, cuc.ca/acm2013/.

❁

Life can only be understood backwards; but it must be lived forwards.

Søren Kierkegaard

❁

Reflections on Ministry

Hello Everybody, allison calvern here with a Movie Time announcement. (See the coupon for free popcorn below.) Consider the world of movies, and think of the fellowship as a film; what genre would we be: Action Thriller; Adventure; Fantasy? How about Comedy – or Comedy of Errors? Maybe we are all of those things, and all the other genres, too. I am suggesting a movie theme as we move through this year focused on the question: Do we want a minister or are we satisfied with the status quo?

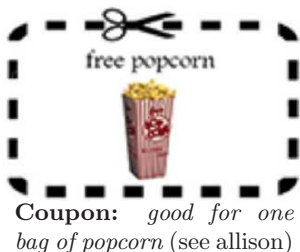


The answer, as is usual for UU business, holds multiple excitements, fears, obstinacies, and worries. Under the leadership of the board, and remembering that the board answers to the congregation, we are exploring the place of professional ministry in our midst. We have been for a while now. Perhaps our genre is Mystery, or Detective

Drama. CUC literature reminds us that we must develop a transparent process, one that is both sturdy and evolving, asking for and receiving the voices of all. Aha; perhaps we are a Documentary.

Whatever the movie, it is time for reflection; time for discussion amongst ourselves; time for comments, for helpful words and gestures towards discovering the satisfaction we need as a community of faith. Whether we are disdainful or welcoming of the idea of professional ministry, we need to say what we feel – not to convince anybody of our point of view, but simply to express it and trust that it will be heard. We need to listen to one another. We are ready, as a congregation, to grow into consensus.

allison calvern
 acalvern@nbnet.nb.ca / 459-1436



Travel to India

Take a mindful journey with Unitarian Universalists and their friends to India, November 5-18, 2013: Visit the renown Golden Temple in the Punjab, and experience the incredible one-of-a kind, once-a-year Pushkar Camel Fair in Rajasthan. Sikh art in Punjab, frescos in Rajasthan, ornate palaces, spectacular hill top forts – the varied architecture and art on our journey will be memorable. Visiting Hindu, Sikh, and Jain temples, we'll learn their history and beliefs. We'll stay in small Heritage Hotels and two nights in a tented camp. At the end of our journey it will be possible for you to add the Taj Mahal or other places in India.



Taking a mindful journey is about being alive in the moment, being wide-awake, being present to what is on our path. No better place to do that than India! This will be the Best Exotic Marigold adventure ever! Email beverlz@me.com or see www.nuuc.ca Mindful Journeys, for more information. UU Rev. Wayne Walder will accompany us. – Beverly Carr, Neighbourhood UU Congregation, Toronto.

February Womens' Potluck

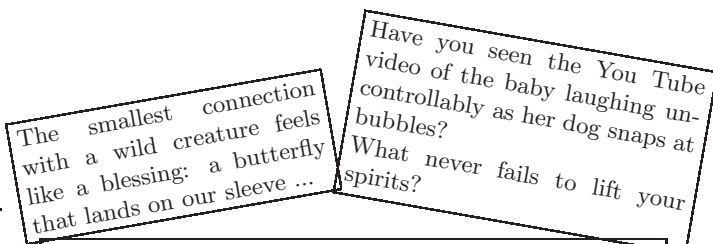
Darcie and I would like to thank all of the women for coming out to the potluck on February 22nd. Haifa thinks we created a new record of attendees: 27 women! The discussion topic was "a piece of music that holds special meaning to you." The variations of the presentations were

very interesting from singing a song individually and as a group to describing special songs by decade to talking about one or more pieces of music to listening to a few songs on the stereo. The food was, of course, amazing. We enjoyed spending time with women from the congregation and met some of them for the first time!! It is definitely something we look forward to doing again.

Heidi & Darcie

Daily Compass

A daily UU meditation and spiritual inspiration email. Now offering an audio version with an audio response



Sunflowers are at their most beautiful as they turn their great gold heads toward the sun. But after their petals have withered and their leaves dropped away is when they provide food for the birds, and the basis for a new generation of sunflowers. What in your life has borne fruit after your hopes for it had faded away?

www.dailycompass.org

Produced by the Church of the Larger Fellowship, the Unitarian Universalist Congregation Without Walls

www.QuestforMeaning.org or
www.clfuu.org



Toronto Green Choices Workshop

On March 23rd, Toronto First will host the Green Choices for Faith Communities Fifth Annual Forum



"Making the Leap: Hope for a Sustainable World". The Forums objective is to build a better understanding among faith communities of the progress that has been made in the alternative energy field, and the real and actionable alternatives that are available to the current course of fossil fuels.

The keynote speakers are: José Etcheverry, whose work is focused on building the teaching and research partnerships needed to create green energy economies in Canada and around the world; and Stephen Scharper, whose interests include integrating the natural environment into healthy

urban centres from philosophical, religious, socio-political, and planning perspectives

There will be workshops on Eco-Spirituality, Greening Faith Buildings and Building Sustainable Energy in Ontario. The Forum is expected to attract over 125 leaders from diverse faith communities from Toronto and beyond. The forum runs from 9:00 to 3:30. Please join us.

For more information: www.greenawakeningnetwork.ca

Registration is \$35 at: www.greenchoices5.eventbrite.com



Native activist urges local action on climate change

An American Native author, leader and activist brought her message to New Brunswick that an endless growth economy, dependent on access to cheap oil, is no longer where our future lies.

“There are no new planets to exploit. We cannot go to more and more extremes with mining, more and more extremes with energy and act as if there is no consequence,” said Winona LaDuke.

The costs of ignoring that reality will be born by this generation and by future generations said LaDuke who addressed an audience at St. Thomas University early in February.

LaDuke is from the White Earth Reservation, an Anishinaabe Nation in Northern Minnesota near Fargo. The reserve is 837,000 acres with a population of 20,000 band members.

An economist, LaDuke studied at Harvard and Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). She is also an environmental and grassroots activist and legal advocate. In 1996 she was Ralph Nader’s running mate, seeking the U.S. vice-presidency.

LaDuke’s visit here coincided with Premier David Alward’s visit to Alberta and to that province’s tar sands. LaDuke was not impressed with our premier’s enthusiasm for bringing tar sands bitumen across the country by pipeline to NB.

“You cannot have hydrofracking and pipelines and nuclear power plants all next to each other. It doesn’t work out,” said LaDuke. “I look at your picture province and I say, aw, don’t do that.”

LaDuke said the Point Lepreau nuclear power plant, the oldest of its kind in North America, should have been scrapped, not refurbished. That brought considerable applause from the audience, a mixture of students, local First Nations people and interested people from the community.

Demonstrating that she had learned something about our provincial economy the speaker noted that her ancestors

taught that the forest is a living system, not an “Irving-managed mono-crop”. She called the Irving forest empire “insidious”

Three issues that concern the visiting speaker most are climate change, peak oil and food security.

LaDuke was educated in Euro-centric universities and is well versed in the economic models of endless growth and the concepts of empire building that are still with us today.

“It is possible that the paradigm we have inherited that we have come to expect, that we’ve become comfortable with, may not actually be the one that’s going to be there for the long haul.”

LaDuke said she has looked to the teachings of her own indigenous people to form another view of the world. “We have some ideas about how to live well.” One is to consider the impact of everything you do on the seventh generation from now.

“Do we plan on living anywhere that we are now in a thousand years. How are we going to do that?”

She admires the Idol No More movement and said it is not only for the indigenous people but for everyone. “The reality is you cannot destroy the water for the benefit of private corporations.”

She urges people to take a step outside the intellectual box they were educated in and look for a different view of where we are at in the world.

To demonstrate LaDuke named the months of the year in her Native tongue, all named after moons and natural features. “And you will notice not a single moon named after a Roman Emperor. I am saying this because it is possible to have an entire world view that has nothing to do with empire.”

She equated our federal government’s leasing of large tracts of land and water to energy corporations to empire building.

LaDuke said no society has a monopoly on botching things up and even her own indigenous people are capable of that because we are all human.

“The question is do you have the humility, the commitment, the prayer, the hard work that it takes to change it? That’s really what’s important.”

We are at a point in North America where we must chose one of two paths.

“One path is well worn but it is scorched. That is essentially the path that is proposed by your government. Then there is the path that is not well worn and it is green. It is our choice, which path to follow.”

“Your Prime Minister is headed on a dangerous path” she said, referencing the Harper government’s “gutting” of the environmental laws.

Drastically cutting carbon emissions is one of our options

She claimed that the Alberta tar sands alone contain almost half of the world's allowable level of CO2 emissions. "It is almost Orwellian," said LaDuke.

And she claimed the major energy corporations currently hold in reserve five times as much carbon as what scientists say we can emit before we combust.

"They consider it assets...they combust it and we're gone."

"The problem is that we live in a really really addicted society," said LaDuke. referring to our reliance on petroleum products and our consumption of energy in Canada, in this case, is worse than the U.S.

"The problem with being addicted is that you do a lot of bad stuff and hang out with dealers."

This leads to "extreme" behaviours such as fracking for natural gas and exploring for oil and gas in the high Arctic.

When it comes to alternative forms of energy like wind turbines and solar energy, Canada and the United States are "toddlers" compared to countries like Germany and Denmark.

"Why would you be such huge energy markets with so little vision?" asked LaDuke. "The easy answer is that the fossil fuels industry just has a huge lobby."

As for food security LaDuke said we need to reduce consumption and grow and buy more food locally. Her reserve has done just that, returning to a tradition of growing corn and harvesting wild rice, native to their area. They have taken steps to reduce petroleum consumption, to invest in use wind and solar power.

"We plan to be happy people who are not at the prey or in a panic 20 years from now because we don't know where our energy is coming from."

LaDuke said came to New Brunswick speak about these issues because what affects us also affects her and her people. And because "it turns out I care what happens in other places."

She advised that we not wait for someone's permission to make changes that will help preserve our environment.

"Just do it."

Submitted by
Glenna Hanley



Canadian Unitarian Subscriptions

The CUC is reducing the printed number of hard copies of the Canadian Unitarian, both in an effort to be environmentally conscious and to reduce costs. From March 2013, everyone who has signed up for eNews will receive an electronic version of the Canadian Unitarian. (Past issues

are available at cuc.ca under "Communications.")

If you would like to receive a paper copy in addition, and haven't yet made your preference known to the CUC office, please fill out the form in your congregation's lobby (or other suitable location), or sign up at cuc.ca, or send an email to communications@cuc.ca. Paper copies are free to members of congregations, and \$4.50 to friends and others.



From your President

Spring is promising to be just around the corner, and then we get some more wintery weather. It's coming for sure, though, with our longer days of daylight and milder temperatures. I know some of our congregation really enjoy skiing and getting outside in the winter, but I, for one, can hardly wait for the flowers and birds to return!

News from your Board

As it seems with everyone these days, your Board members have been a busy lot, busy with their own lives as well as the demands of our Fellowship. And they travel! Therefore, we didn't have a quorum at our last Board meeting. This does not stop business being discussed, but it does mean that any motions made cannot be ratified until the next meeting that has a quorum, or by email if it's something more urgent.

Some of the issues on the table this month include recommendations from the ad hoc committee on part-time ministry, which is ready to do itself out of a role; and, from Allison Calvern who was tasked with getting information from the Canadian Unitarian Council (CUC) and the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) in the United States about ministerial search processes. The ad hoc committee is recommending that we set up an official Ministerial Search Committee to take the findings forward. The Board has considered the recommendations and will be voting on relevant motions as soon as possible. Allison will continue to keep us informed through reports and the Touchstone newsletter.

We've had some transitions over the last couple of months with regard to the role of Treasurer. It has become obvious that the role takes more time and energy than the original conception of Secretary/Treasurer has allowed for in the past. It has been a struggle to find volunteers to take on both parts of the Secretary/Treasurer role since George DeMille did both. That's not to say that one very willing person couldn't do both, but we are conscious of volunteer roles being too onerous. As a result, the Board is considering changes to the By-laws to separate the two distinct parts of this role. Discussions continue and when final decisions are made by the Board, they'll be brought to the members for your opinions.

Committee Reports

At each meeting we receive reports from the Chairs of the committees within the Fellowship. I'm very happy to report that things are ticking away. The Sunday Service Committee continues to look for ideas for upcoming Sunday Services (talk to any committee member); the Hospitality Committee is running smoothly with volunteers signing up to be responsible for the much appreciated refreshments every Sunday, plus supplying other events at the Fellowship occasionally; the Caring Committee is keeping up its rounds and ensuring people within our congregation are as cared for as much as possible; the Lay Chaplaincy Committee meets regularly; the RE Committee plans to continue over the summertime, offering a more craft-based and babysitting type service; Touchstone newsletter comes out every month and our website continues to be populated with information about past and upcoming services. Membership continues to greet visitors and newcomers to our Fellowship, and Publicity is trying a new, value for money, ad in the Family supplement.

Singing the Living Tradition

Have you noticed the dedications in many of our books, Singing the Living Tradition? These books were purchased by members and friends, many to dedicate to people who we want to remember. Unfortunately, we seem to be short of these hymn books most Sundays. If you have one at home that you keep meaning to bring in, that would be great! If you'd like to purchase one (or more than one) John van Abbema has kindly offered to pick them up from the bookstore in Boston, \$28.00 US. If you could let me, or John, know before the end of March, when they're due to return from Myrtle Beach, he can bring them back for us. John will pick up phone messages from his home phone, or you can email him at jva1940@gmail.com. My email is at the end of this Report.

Visiting ministers

The Board continues to support the work of the Sunday Services Committee, particularly in encouraging visits from ministers on a monthly basis when possible. In April we'll see the return visit of Kitsy Winthrop, an ordained UU minister from Maine. Kitsy will be with us for the weekend of April 28th, arriving Friday evening, and leaving Monday. During that time, Kitsy will be giving the Sunday Service, and offering the opportunity of a workshop, probably on the Saturday. She will also be offering one-on-one personal time to anyone who would like to speak with her in her ministerial capacity. Joan Brewer will be

helping to co-ordinate these meetings with Kitsy. There will be more information available as her schedule gets finalized.

Other activities and events

The monthly coffee mornings that Janet Crawford has been organizing have been going really well. 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 Thursday, March 14th from 10 to 11:30. We hope to see you there!

To commemorate Black History Month, the Fellowship recently hosted 'It Was The Dance,' by filmmaker Semra Yuksel, in conjunction with one of our own, Deby Nash, centering on Deby's parents. Sheila and Ken Moore arranged to have this wonderful documentary brought to our Fellowship, and as Sheila said, "It was very moving and very sensitively presentedI was in awe of the whole thing. What a great way for us to show our support for Black History month."

Although I was unable to attend Tyler Hanley's special event to help raise money for Hailey's Dreams, I understand it was successful, as it would indubitably be with Tyler's fantastic abilities as an entertainer. We do have a lot of talent in our congregation!

The annual Spring Fling is only weeks away – the weekend of April 19th and 20th. Nancy Beltrandi is doing her usual magic (hard graph by any other name) with her team to ensure another successful event.

CUC Annual Conference and Meeting

The CUC will be holding its annual conference and meeting in Calgary the weekend of May 17-19th. We often have a few members who attend this meeting, but last year we were unable to have representation due to illness and other commitments. This is a volunteer attendance, but if anyone is going, we can award them delegate status so they can vote at the annual meeting on May 17th. Please let me know if you're interested.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Sheila Thompson
President, Unitarian Fellowship of Fredericton
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This space wants your material!
Please send articles to touchstone@uff.ca