



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)

Newsletter editor: [touchstone@uff.ca](mailto:touchstone@uff.ca)

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## Sunday Services

- May 5** Carlos Gomes *Drumming Spirituality*
- May 12** Sylvia Hale *Mothers' Day*
- May 19** Stephen Pidwysocky *Alternate Justice in Ireland*
- May 26** Laurence Wuest *Betraying the Nashwaak for Tungsten: Water, the Sisson Mine and You*
- June 2** TBA



## Tea and Scones

Come and join me for some scones made using "Jon Oliver's Remarkable Sunday Scones" recipe

Wednesday, May 14<sup>th</sup> 1:30 – 3 or so  
The Unitarian Fellowship of Fredericton

Janet Crawford



## Women's Pot Luck

The next women's pot luck will be held Friday, May 24th. Janet Crawford will host the gathering at her home, 155 Aberdeen St. We gather at 6 PM and eat at 6:30 PM. Topic for discussion - Share a significant time/moment of happiness or sadness and how it impacted your life. For further information contact Joan Brewer at 455-5169 or [jebrewer@rogers.com](mailto:jebrewer@rogers.com)



## Men's Discussion

Just to remind everyone that we have agreed, for now, to meet on the third Wednesday of each month, that makes May 15th at 7pm at 874 York Street for this month's 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.



## Sixth Annual Spring Fling

Another successful Spring Fling Art and Craft sale, our 6<sup>th</sup>, has come and gone, and we are \$1,692.00 richer for it. Other than financially though, it is our way of reaching out to the artists of our community, and at the same time, opening our venue to the public. Judging by the number of programs I printed, I would say about 400-450 people passed through our doors.

We had 21 artists this year, and they all seemed happy, and they showed off their art beautifully. They were very appreciative of the delicious lunches that were prepared for them by members. See one note of thanks below.

*I just wanted to take a moment to say thank you for allowing my sister, Linda, and I to participate in your Spring Fling. Linda was successful in selling a number of wooden pieces, probably about six. She even had a sale yesterday of the plate with the copper center, as a result of your Show. I sold only one painting at the sale, but it gave me an opportunity to show my art and for that I am appreciative. I also met so many people and had an opportunity to renew acquaintances as well as meet all the lovely ladies, both vendors and workers. Please pass on our thanks and appreciation to all the ladies who worked in the kitchen, as well as everyone who provided us with lunch on both days. It was a very pleasant atmosphere and Linda and I both enjoyed participating.*

*Thank you once again.  
Gloria White*

All the work presented represented top quality in their field of jewellery, photography, wood turning, pottery, quilting,

baskets, ink and water colour painting, fabrics, wood craft, handmade bath products, hooking, crocheting, items made from recycled leather, and the popular preserves, and biscuits, etc.

The New to You room continues to be a popular part of the art and craft sale and draws lots of traffic. However we did not make as much money this year, \$276 compared to \$493 in 2012 and \$543 in 2011. We did not have any high-priced or expensive items this year other than a valuable painting donated by a member that did not sell. There are various factors that affect our sale, and we should expect revenues to vary from year to year, just like any other business. However our members continue to be generous in supporting the sale, donating whatever they can and the committee appreciates their participation.

This year our Spring Fling bake sale was even more successful than 2012, \$426 this year, and \$356 last year. We benefited from the contribution of a wonderful variety of baked goods which offered a little something for everyone's taste. Many members and friends sent in delectable goodies. The Fellowship is gaining a reputation for the excellence of its bake sale items! And our prices are really good too. Bake Sale organizers were very pleased with the number of volunteers who came in to help sell our baked goods and coffee over the two days of the sale. It was not only very helpful, but a great opportunity to get to know each other. Thanks to the contributions of baked goods and volunteer time we were well satisfied with our results.

The advertising was remarkable again this year with mention on the radio stations, an interview on the radio, Facebook, email and over 120 posters were distributed. There was a great article in the Gleaner, before the sale, featuring two of our vendors. (There is a copy of it on the bulletin board by the side door.)

I mention here, just in case you are wondering, we cancelled the raffle, due to lack of ticket sales.

The Committee wishes to thank Tony, Ken and David for their helping hands in clearing out the building, setting up the vendor's tables and chairs, and then doing it all over again in reverse when the sale was finished. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you.

Sincerely, Spring Fling Committee

Nancy Beltrandi, Janet Crawford, Betty Lou Daye, Glenna Hanley, Haifa Miller, Sheila Moore



## From your President

Do my eyes deceive me? Is it really full blown spring? Hooray! Bicycles and walking and yes, facing that garden are in focus now for many.

The past month has been a full one, with events like the well-attended Spring Fling, which Nancy Beltrandi and

her erstwhile crew carried off seemingly seamlessly, raising over \$1600 for our coffers from the table rentals, baking proceeds and New to You. Many thanks to Nancy and her team of volunteers for a job well done!

### Rev. Kitsy Winthrop's weekend

We also had Rev. Kitsy Winthrop's visit from Maine on the last weekend in April. It's the first time I've had the chance to meet her, and I was impressed with her ability to pull people together and focus on the value and worthiness of the whole earth and how we connect with it. She gave a workshop entitled "*The Beloved Community of Earth and our UU Fellowship's part in it.*" It started out with a film about Thomas Berry called "The Great Story" which was well attended.

Fifteen people stayed to participate in the workshop which followed. Comments on the workshop day included "she lifted our spirits and helped us put forth a solid show of consensus." "It was a wholesome and healing experience." "Kitsy is full of love, healing, and wisdom. She reminded us of how much we enjoy being together in community and how much we love learning together." Her talk about the Earth and how our Fredericton Fellowship might link in with the whole was inspiring. Apparently the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) in the United States and the Canadian Unitarian Council (CUC) in Canada are considering revisiting the seven principles that we currently live by, as they do every couple of decades. One idea is to reverse the order, putting 'respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part' at the fore, and broadening the inherent worth and dignity of every person to include all living beings. I believe this makes eminent sense in the greater scheme of things. I'm sure there will be great discussion in due course.

### Business of the Board:

The Board didn't meet in March due to the Easter weekend falling the last weekend in the month, and met early in April instead. A number of points of business were discussed: Having determined that the role of secretary/treasurer is too much for one individual to fulfil, the Board is preparing an amendment to the By-laws to reflect this, which will be presented at the Annual General Meeting in June. We have been fortunate that Daniel Ruiz has been able to help fill in as interim Treasurer and thank him for his work; Daniel has learned a lot from George DeMille's long-serving expertise. A nominating committee is being struck in preparation for election of Board Members and Chairs of Committees at the AGM. The Board is looking to consolidate congregational mailing lists into a single list, with a central database in due course. The need for clear policies and procedures was identified, and this will be an action item over the coming months. A motion was unanimously accepted to pay delegate registration fees for up to two UFF approved delegates to the Annual CUC general Meeting. The meeting this year is in Calgary on the long weekend of May 17-20<sup>th</sup>. The Fellowship contin-

ues to support the work of Canadian Unitarians for Social Justice.

### Conflict within our Fellowship

The past couple of months have been a difficult time for our Fellowship, and for me, personally. We have been working towards resolving some issues between the Board of Directors and the Religious Education Committee.

The Board of Directors of tUFF and the two members of the Religious Education Committee have been attempting to resolve some difficulties which have arisen between them as a result of a member of staff making an allegation of sexual assault against a member of the congregation, which was denied. Sexual assault is an offense under the Criminal Code of Canada. Nothing happened on tUFF property, or at a tUFF sanctioned event. The matter was subsequently referred to the police.

The R.E. Committee wanted to find a way to protect the staff member so she could return to work. At the time of the allegation, the person who had been accused made a voluntary offer to withdraw from attending the Fellowship. The R.E. Committee members, as advocates for the staff member, felt this was insufficient and requested written confirmation. In terms of providing a safe place to work, the Board determined unanimously that the voluntary offer should be sufficient. The Board sought advice from UU clergy, legal advice and advice from the CUC. The Board was advised not to put anything in writing.

With the exception of a couple of Sundays, the children's program has continued to be offered throughout the last several weeks, and the R.E. teacher has resumed her duties.

After much consternation, and many, many hours spent agonizing over this issue by all those involved, the Board of Directors and members of the R.E. Committee met on Friday evening, the 12<sup>th</sup> of April, to determine a way forward. Reflection on the last few weeks has revealed many learning points, including referring allegations of sexual assault to the proper authorities and ensuring that communications are handled well.

One of the action points from the meeting was for representatives of the R.E. Committee and the Board to meet to draft a joint communiqué to the members of the congregation. Two meetings were held but the difficulty in writing a joint communiqué dealing with facts from two different perspectives became very apparent.

We also agreed at the April 12<sup>th</sup> meeting to review and develop relevant policies and procedures to help guide volunteers on the Board and Committees that will help provide a greater understanding of working as a community.

It is now incumbent upon us to move forward and for the Board as representatives of the Unitarian Fellowship of Fredericton to steer us towards a place of peace and calm, where people feel welcome, and where we strive to live our

principles and value everyone.

### Up next

The Agenda for the next Board meeting includes such things as the review and development of policies and procedures, on subjects including Safe Congregation and Conflict of Interest, and preparing for the Annual General Meeting in June. We are looking to reinstate the initial training session for new and existing Board members, and include the Chairs of the committees as well, so everyone has the opportunity to understand our By-laws, policies and procedures, and roles and responsibilities.

Our Fellowship is strong and I have every faith in us.

Respectfully submitted,

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



## CUC eNewsletter

The CUC publishes the Canadian Unitarian semi-annually and copies may be downloaded from their website in addition to paper copies which are sent to the Fellowship for distribution and individual subscriptions are also available.

In addition, a bi-monthly electronic newsletter is available. I usually look these over and add any articles which I think might be of particular interest to this newsletter. You may also subscribe to the electronic newsletter and can then make your own decision as to what is interesting to you. The electronic copy makes it much easier to follow links to additional material.

To subscribe to CUC communications, use a web browser on your computer and navigate to the [www.cuc.ca](http://www.cuc.ca) web site. Ask a friend for help if you are not familiar with web browsers.

Just below the "masthead" of the CUC home page is a line of navigation tabs and a "search" box. Move your mouse cursor over the tab labelled "Communication" which will open up a selection menu of communication options. Move the mouse cursor down through the options to the one labelled eNews and click the mouse select button.

In the resulting page will be a brief description of the newsletter, a link to allow you to subscribe, information on submitting articles and links to past issues of the newsletter.

Enjoy!

*In fellowship*  
Tony Fitzgerald



## May the Fourth be with You

May the 4<sup>th</sup> is known to some as “Star Wars” day. An item on the local CBC Radio 1 morning show inspired me to look into this a little farther and to decide that it deserved at least mention to our readership. A local “light sabre” enthusiast group teach a martial art based on the Force and on light sabres, at least wood or nerf facsimilies until such time as technology catches up. As in any martial art, there is a focus on discipline, both mental and physical and who can object to that.

This space wants your material!  
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