



Sunday Service 11 a.m.

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## Sunday Services

**October 27** *The Seeker* Heather Lunergan.

In the early 1990's I became a full-time mature student, and in the mid-90's I realized that Unitarianism could help me continue my learning/spiritual journey I began at university. Come hear how I became a "seeker."

**November 3** Lorna Drew.

**November 10** *Water in the Wine* John van Abbema.

A talk on the value of Remembrance Day and the important lessons therefrom. The experiences from that time still provide guidelines for us to follow in our daily lives today. John will review events of the time and examine how similar they are to our present times, even in the microcosm we call a "Fellowship".

**November 17** Jo-Anne Elder-Gomes.

In the second of my theology talks, I will be looking at Unitarianism and Universalism in Canada. In its early days, the UU movement was largely an imported phenomenon, as UUs from the USA, England and Europe immigrated to Canada. However, Canadian Unitarianism and Universalism were both influenced more deeply by humanism than their counterparts elsewhere. In my November talk, I will be giving some basic historical information and trying to discern what is uniquely Canadian about our UU movement.

**November 24** Heidi O'Donnell.

## Women's Pot Luck

The next women's pot luck will be held Friday, November 22nd. Sharon van Abbema will host the gathering at her home, 143 Morning Gate Drive. We gather at 6 PM and eat at 6:30 PM. Topic for discussion will be circulated by email at a later date. For further information contact Joan Brewer at 455-5169 or [jebrewer@rogers.com](mailto:jebrewer@rogers.com).

## Fall Campaign

November has been the traditional month during which we talk openly about the need for money. You should be receiving a letter shortly with a form to allow you to indicate a pledge for the coming year. If you do not receive such a letter, please bring it to the attention of the Finances Committee so that we may correct our records.

I once heard someone express surprise that we do not get our money from the Government. We truly don't, it comes from you. We do get support in the form of partial rebates of the HST which we pay. We do not pay property tax. We can issue tax receipts.

We are grateful for these, however, we still have to find the means to plow the snow off the driveway and to sand and salt it in the winter. We have to heat and light a building that was constructed when energy was cheap. We pay honoraria and travel expenses to professional ministers when we invite them to speak and we pay for child care and the Children's RE Facilitator. Any building has regular and unexpected maintenance costs.

Please give the letter your careful attention. Please be generous but only within your ability to be so.

There will be a campaign wrap up dinner on Thursday, December 5<sup>th</sup>, so please reserve that evening. We will have draws for allegedly valuable prizes for people who have returned their pledge sheets and post-dated cheques.

Tony Fitzgerald  
VP Finances and Facilities



## Youth Group: November Update

In October, we had a chance to get together on October 6 during service time. In recognition of World Food Day and the volunteer work the congregation was doing for the Community Kitchen, we talked about homelessness and hunger. People made some suggestions about what we could do and talked a bit about local foods, and we did some positive affirmations at check-in.

On October 20, some of our youth were involved in a hastily-put-together service for United Nations Sunday. They did a great job and everyone was happy to see them (and glad they identified themselves, because they've grown several inches since they were in the children's program!) We hope to put together a youth worship service later on in the year, this time driven by the interests and talents of the youths themselves.

In November, plans are to meet during service time on November 24 to start our discussions on world religions. There will be other activities outside of the Fellowship that I'll also be adding to the Facebook page, including a Divali celebration, in case you would like to attend with your families or friends. If you haven't already done so, please bring me your registration form next time you're at the Fellowship. Also, don't forget to join our Facebook group to find out about upcoming meetings and activities: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/FrederictonUUYouth/>

Please feel free to contact me any time at [elder-gomes@yahoo.com](mailto:elder-gomes@yahoo.com), or to just show up at the Fellowship when we're meeting.

Jo-Anne Elder-Gomes



## Envelope Stuffing

I would like to thank the congregation for the wonderful effort put forth for the Fredericton Community Kitchen. On October 6th, twenty members of TUFF stayed for the pot luck and stuffed 2,000 envelopes in an hour and a half. It was an impressive feat. Everyone worked well together and hopefully enjoyed getting to know one another better while helping out a good cause. I thought it was great to see us working together to help the community. I sincerely thank you all for making this effort a huge success.

Heidi O'Donnell



## Grandmothers Helping Grandmothers

Linda Sprague is taking orders for Christmas wreaths in support of Grandmothers Helping Grandmothers (The Stephen Lewis Foundation). The wreaths are 12 inch double-sided balsam fir. \$12 for undecorated and \$14 decorated with a red ribbon, a few white springs and pine cones. Please place orders to [spraguela@yahoo.com](mailto:spraguela@yahoo.com) by Nov. 25. They will be available for pick up at Linda's house Saturday Nov. 30 or at The Fellowship Sunday December 1. She will deliver any remaining Sunday afternoon. Cash or cheques (to Grandmothers Helping Grandmothers) at pick-up or before.



## UU-UNO

How our Unitarian Universalist voice is heard at the United Nations:

Bruce Knotts and the UU-UNO

by allison calvern

Bruce Knotts is a big man, overweight and overactive, his energy a wild and wooly commitment to justice, that enfolds him and follows him into a room, like the dust puffing up around the Peanuts character, "Pig-Pen." In 2008, after retiring from twenty-five years in the American Foreign Service, Knotts saw the advertisement seeking an Executive Officer at the **Unitarian Universalist-United Nations Office (UU-UNO)**. "That's three things I love in one sentence: New York City, my UU faith, and the work the UN is capable of doing," he said, and he has been there ever since.



Bruce Knotts and spouse Isaac Humphrie

While UUs are the only religious group that has an office at the UN, we do not have the influence the Catholic Church has. The Holy See was given Member Status at the UN in 1964, which is a strong position, entrenched as it is in the General Assembly. While the UU-UNO must follow the consultative route into UN workings, the Vatican's Ambassador can simply proclaim, vote, and veto. And in spite of the fact that the Catholic Church is "the largest employer of LGBTQ people in the world" (says Bruce Knotts), when

it comes to advocating for the health of women, children and the GLBTQ communities, the Holy See's power rarely supports justice as UUs and the UU-UNO see and feel it. The bulk of this advocacy is accomplished by NGOs and liberal activists, such as Bruce Knotts.

Without a member voice in the General Assembly, and often with very little money, small not-for-profit organizations must work through the consultative arms of the UN: the Department of Public Information (which is DPI status); or the Economic, Social, and Cultural Committee (ECOSOC). The UU-UNO must connect ideas and people, building networks that huff and puff towards justice. Luckily, our man Bruce is a master in the consultative process.

He grew up in California, the son of a Canadian mother. Openly gay, Bruce Knotts told his parents that he was in love with a man he met in college. "They were very concerned, and they sent me to Germany for a year." This European sojourn had no effect on his gayness, but it did prompt a fascination with life abroad. He joined the American Foreign Service, retiring in 2007 after twenty-five years of excellent and highly decorated service in Greece, Sudan, Kenya, India, Pakistan, Ivory Coast, Zambia, and the Gambia.

A few years ago, Bruce got married in Vancouver, to Isaac Humphrie, because Canada made the right changes to include same sex couples into our marriage laws. Also, Bruce has come to Canada every May for the past seven years for the CUC-ACM. I have spoken with him, eaten with him, and attended his presentations. He reminds me that our UU-UNO is funded entirely by donations from UUs around the world. Bruce is the only paid worker in his (our) office, although many people work there, as volunteers, usually on six-month internships, the brightest of the bright UUs (and non UUs) from around the world. Their work is cutting edge and exciting, and there is no shortage of mostly young people willing to donate their time and talents.

The UU-UNO organizes international conferences with titles such as: Human Rights; Disarmament; Sustainable Societies, Responsible Citizens; Global Health. Bruce Knotts and his interns bring items forward for consideration at the world level, such as the bill of rights for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgenders, (LGBT) in 2008.

Under Bruce Knotts' direction, the UU-UNO serves on many essential committees, but I shall tell you of one in particular, The Faith and Ethics Network for the International Criminal Court (FENICC), which happened before Bruce Knotts.

The UU-UNO was led in the 1990s by Elaine Harvey, UU from Kingston, ON. She used the UU-UNO, and her allies from other communities of faith, to establish the International Criminal Court, contributing in particular to the Rome Statute, especially in the area of protecting women

from violence.

This is one of the most significant accomplishments in UU-UNO history:

*"This court will be a permanent world court which will try individuals accused of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes, and will be located in The Hague. This will eliminate the need to create criminal tribunals such as those for Rwanda and for the former Yugoslavia, because this court will be permanent and will not be geographically limited. Unitarian Universalists have participated significantly with other Non-Governmental Organisations in establishing this court. Our primary contributions have been to the Preamble of the Statute, to women's issues and to providing support for victims and witnesses who are children and people with disabilities. In addition, we have worked hard to try to encourage the United States to support, or at least not to hamper, the establishment of this court. The celebration on April 11 has recognized a very significant occasion in the history of the world."*

There is much more about Bruce Knotts and the UU-UNO, easily found on the internet, if you have a mind to look them up. Meanwhile, here is a concluding quotation from the man himself:

"I hope this brief introduction to how the UU-UNO works to make UU voices heard within the UN is helpful. As always, we stand ready to assist you and your congregation in our denominational quest for world peace, acceptance and social justice." Bruce Knotts

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Also from the internet, a brief bio of Elaine Harvey:

Elaine Harvey, a Unitarian since 1964, has served the Kingston Unitarian Fellowship as President, Vice President, Search Committee Chair, Social Responsibilities Chair, UU-UNO Envoy and member of a variety of committees. She is presently a member of the CUC Peace Monitoring Group, and served on the CUC Social Responsibility Task Force. She was Vice President of Canadian Unitarians for Social Justice and Editor of its newsletter, JUSTnews.

She served for six years as the first official main UN representative of the UUA through its consultative status with the Economic and Social Council. Her work focused on the establishment of the International Criminal Court as a member of its Non-Governmental Organization Coalition, its American NGO Coalition, its Canadian Network; and its Faith-Based, Children's, Women's and Victims Caucuses. For six years she served as director and then Vice President of the UU-UNO, and is at present a member of its Advisory Council. Frequently she has participated as both delegate and presenter at annual meetings of the CUC. UUA and the former St. Lawrence District.

She is a retired mathematics and English teacher, a published author and workshop presenter, and was awarded

life membership in the Ontario Association for Mathematics Education. She has played a major role in activities involving her profession as well as TVOntario, the St. Lawrence College (Kingston ON) Women's Studies Program, and the Canadian Federation of University Women's National Resolutions and Legislation Committees, and is at present chair of CFUW Ontario Council's Legislation Standing Committee.



## Climate Fast Vigil



A small group of intrepid concerned Fredericton Unitarians joined fellow Unitarians across the nation to hold a vigil outside our Legislature.

This space wants your material!  
Please send articles to [touchstone@uff.ca](mailto:touchstone@uff.ca)