



The Newsletter of the Unitarian Fellowship of Fredericton

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Sunday Service 11 a.m.

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February 23 Marina Nedashkivska *Integrating Students with Disabilities* Marina is international student advisor at STU and also coordinator of services for students with disabilities.

March 2 TBA

Sunday Services

February 2 Sylvia Hale *Revising Laws on Prostitution*

February 9 The Reverend Priscilla Geisterfer *The Inter-spiritual Journey – From Fragmentation to Wholeness* In our world today, we place a large emphasis on identity. We tend to identify ourselves as individuals and as groups. The presumption is that this gives us a sense of belonging. The reality is that it creates a sense of separation and nurtures isolation and fragmentation rather than inclusion and wholeness. Interspirituality is an emerging approach to understanding the human search for meaning and truth. Up until now this search has resulted in a rich religious and spiritual diversity that has over time resulted in religious and spiritual adversity. Interspirituality digs deeper into the diversity and finds within it a conscious awareness of unity. Each of us, no matter our sex, age, race, or creed is connected to the larger whole. To live this unity requires an openness of heart, mind and soul.

Rev Priscilla Geisterfer will speak to this movement from fragmentation to unity using examples of her own spiritual journey. She will also offer a group experience of how to practice non-dual awareness. She will lead those in attendance in a sacred practice of wholeness.

February 16 Pat Daley *Philosopher-theologian Charles Hartshorne*

Women's Pot Luck

The next women's pot luck will be held Friday, February 28th. We gather at 6 PM and eat at 6:30 PM. Joan Brewer will host the gathering at tUUF, 874 York St. The topic for discussion is "Laughter". Are you a person who laughs a lot? Whom do you laugh with the most? Tell us about a time when you laughed so hard, you thought you would 'lose it'..... For further information contact Joan Brewer at 455-5169 or jebrewer@rogers.com.

Books, Books, Books...

Many of us received books as Xmas gifts and some of them are ones that we would recommend to our friends as being of special interest. Many of the books that are presently in our \$2.00 lending library will be moved out to the University Women's collection in March. This leaves space for all those special new Xmas books that you would like to share. Please add them our lending library (against the back wall beside the piano). Just mark the date at which they were added to our collection in the front page so we will know when its time to move them on.

Thanks Betty

Spring Fling Art and Craft Sale

Another year, another popular fund raiser for the Fellowship.

If all goes as experienced in past years, I will be looking for another 5-8 artists to participate. We have space for

25 displays, and usually have about 16-18 repeats from the year before. The sale will take place Friday, May 2 and Saturday, May 3. (please mark your calendar) The arts are well represented, but there is room for additional media. In past years we have had jewellers, painters, photographers, potters, wood workers, glass, fabric, paper, pen and ink, food products, basketry, hand made bath products, imports and novelties. Please consider joining us if you have an artistic talent or if you know someone who does. Please call me to discuss whether this is for you, and for more information Nancy 459-8004 or nahbel-trandi@gmail.com.



New to You Sale

Planning has begun for the annual Spring Fling Art and Craft Sale, being held May 2 and 3 this year. There will also be a New To You room so we are giving you a heads up. If you are downsizing or getting rid of stuff we would like you to consider setting aside anything suitable for the New To You. This is not a yard sale so don't want your old shovels and lawn-mowers. We are looking for collectibles, antiques, unique decor, etc. If you are anxious to get rid of stuff now give me a call and we can arrange to store it at the fellowship. Glenna (Phone 462-8431; e-mail: ghanley@nb.sympatico.ca).



Noche Latina Dinner

Silent Auction and Entertainment

Date: Friday, Feb 7, 2014
Time: 6:00 PM-9:00 PM
Location: Wilmot United Church,
Corner of King and Carleton Streets,
Fredericton, NB, Canada

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 Central American meal combined with Latin rhythms featuring a variety of local performers. The event will be held on Friday, Feb. 7, 6-9 pm at Wilmot United Church, corner of King and Carleton Street in 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.), True Foods Organics (207 Charlotte St.) and MCAF (28 Saunders St.) or can be reserved by calling: 454-8292.

Tickets are available from Joan McFarland (mcfarlan@stu.ca, 457-1995) and Sheila Moore.

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. Get your ticket now!



Alone

by Nikki Giovanni

i can be
alone by myself
i was
lonely alone
now im lonely
with you
something is wrong
there are flies
everywhere
i go



Editor's commentary:

In the December 6th episode of *Tapestry* on CBC Radio 1, Mary Hynes interviews a Mormon feminist, Stephanie Lauritzen, about her sense of being alone in her alienation from her church. In the interview, Stephanie, cites the above poem as having given her some solace. Mary is inspired to interview the author of the poem and that interview forms the second half of the program.

Your humble editor was reminded of a science fiction story, *Saucer of Loneliness*, by Theodore Sturgeon in his collection *E Pluribus Unicorn*. In that story, a woman encounters a small flying saucer in Central Park in New York. The saucer turns out to be the alien equivalent of a "message in a bottle". At first, the woman will not tell the message because she regarded it as personal but, later, no one will believe her that the message was not some secret piece of technology.

The message? "*There is in certain living souls a quality of loneliness unspeakable, so great it must be shared as company is shared by lesser beings. Such a loneliness is mine; so know by this that in immensity there is one lonelier than you.*"

The episode of *Tapestry* is well worth a listen and may be found, free of charge, on iTunes. The Sturgeon story is well worth a read. If you're lucky, a library may still have a copy of the collection.



February

February has several notable days which I thought were worth pointing out.

Four Chaplains Day

Regarded as an Interfaith day of observation, the first Sunday in February was established in the US by a unanimous act of Congress in 1988 as “Four Chaplains Day” to commemorate the sacrifice of four men, all relatively new chaplains. They included Methodist minister the Reverend George L. Fox, Reform-Rabbi Alexander D. Goode (Ph.D), Roman Catholic priest the Reverend John P. Washington, and Reformed Church in America minister the Reverend Clark V. Poling. Their backgrounds, personalities, and faiths were different.



Four Chaplains stamp

Sometimes referred to as the “Immortal Chaplains,” they gave their lives to save other civilian and military personnel during the sinking of the troop ship USAT Dorchester on February 3, 1943, during World War II. They helped other soldiers board lifeboats and gave up their own life jackets when the supply ran out. The chaplains joined arms, said prayers, and sang hymns as they went down with the ship.

This year, Four Chaplains Day is February 2nd.

Imbolc

This “cross quarter day” in the Northern hemisphere celebrates the awakening of the Goddess after her winter sleep and re-generation. The day is celebrated on February 2nd in the Roman (now Gregorian) calendar. The Pagan day begins at sunset, so Imbolc Eve begins the day. The maiden incarnation of the Goddess was known as Brighid to the Celts.



Brigid's Cross or Broom

The Church added Brighid to their pantheon as a Saint and observe her saint's day on the date. It is speculated that this was done to “Christianize” the Pagan festival.

Setsubun-sai

A Shinto and Japanese Buddhist celebration of the Lunar New Year. Celebrated on the day before the beginning of Spring in Japan, the name literally means “seasonal division”. Spring Setsubun can be and was previously thought of as a sort of New Year's Eve, and so was accompanied by a special ritual to cleanse away all the evil of the former year and drive away disease-bringing evil spirits for the year to come. Part of the ritual involved bean throwing. Setsubun has its origins in a Chinese custom introduced to Japan in the eighth century.

Intercalary Days

Ayyám-i-Há refers to a period of four or five intercalary days in the Bahá' calendar, when Bahá's celebrate the Festival of Ayyám-i-Há. The four or five days occur in between the 18th and 19th months of the calendar from sunset of February 25 to sunset of March 1 and allow for the Bahá' calendar to be synchronized with the solar year with regular years of 365 days, and leap years of 366 days.

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