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## Sunday Services

**March 30** Dr. Michael Miller *What Makes Music Spiritual* Dr. Miller is an Emeritus professor of Music at Mount Allison University

**April 6** Janice Ryan *Witnessing Suffering in Ministry* Janice will speak on the lessons of suffering witnessed in ministry. The suffering of those who have lived as transgender, those who live with alcoholism, those who live in abuse, with disease, or fear, disability, ...

**April 13 ...** TBA at press time. Please check with the Sunday Services tab on the UFF web site (<http://uff.ca/>) or check the Sunday Service reminder emails sent to the congregation in the latter half of each week.



## Unitarian Chamber Readers

The Unitarian Chamber Readers will be performing a play as part of the Easter Service on Sunday, April 20. The Easter Service will include a fellowship service, a pot luck meal and our play at about 1:15. The play is a rewrite of George Orwell's "Animal Farm" from a Unitarian perspective. It includes Diane Peck, Geneviève Laloux, Sarah Richard, Tony Fitzgerald, Mike McCormick, Joanne Wilson, Janet Crawford, Sylvia Hale, Sara Smallwood and Malcolm Miller. So please come out to support our Unitarian readers theatre group.



## Family Potluck and DVD

Friday, April 18, 2014  
 5:30 pm – 8:30 pm

Everyone is invited to the Unitarian Fellowship of Fredericton for a family potluck and showing of the first part of the six-part DVD series about Unitarian Universalist History. This is a new series developed in 2013 by the Unitarian Universalist Association. Each DVD is one hour. Please arrive at 5:30 pm we eat at 6 pm. DVD will start at 7 pm and end at 8 pm. We will have a brief check-in after the DVD for feedback from the participants. Wrap-up by 8:30 pm to allow folks with children to get home at a reasonable time. Babysitting is available.

For planning purposes please RSVP Haifa Miller at 472-1509 or email [hmiller@nbnet.nb.ca](mailto:hmiller@nbnet.nb.ca)



## Artists Wanted

There are still a few spaces available for The Unitarian Fellowship's seventh annual Spring Fling Art and Craft Sale. We would like to invite you to participate. Our building has two floors for display with a welcoming, homey atmosphere, and space limited to 25 vendors.

Last year's event was very successful with a full house of artists and crafts people participating, including painters - watercolour, ink, oil - as well as a potter, photographers, jewellers, fabrics - felt, silk, yarn, cloth bags, and leather bags, hooked items, wood crafts, glass works, home made pickles and baked goods, hand made oils, soaps, crystals, and a selection of imported jewelry from the Middle East. We try to have a variety for added potential of sales for each artist.

**Location:** Unitarian Fellowship of Fredericton, 874 York Street

**Dates:** Friday, May 2, 12 noon - 7:00 pm, Saturday, May 3, 10 am- 4 pm

Set up: Friday, May 2, 9 am - 12 noon (displays may stay up overnight)

**Cost:** \$45 per table for 2 days includes a 6 ft table, chairs,

extensive advertising, lunch for both days, plus beverages throughout the day.

**Buyers:** Free admission, and plenty of parking space.

To confirm your interest or for information, please contact Nancy Beltrandi nahbeltrandi@gmail.com.

Time is running out and we need more participants. This is one of our biggest fund raisers. Please pass the word along.



## Leftovers from Linda

When Rev. Linda Thompson, the CUC's Eastern Region Congregational Development consultant, gave her very good talk "Travelling Together" on March 23<sup>rd</sup>, she referred to Rev. Phillip Hewett's book "Unitarians In Canada". I had not looked at that book for some time. So on a wintery evening a few days later I re-read portions of it. What a great reference book it is for Canadian Unitarians.

Here is what Phillip Hewett says about why it is so difficult to define Unitarianism in a few words:

"It's distinguishing characteristics are not to be found in the realm of beliefs and doctrines at all. Unitarianism represents a wholly different approach to the question of authority in religion, by which an individual's beliefs and lifestyle are to be justified. Within traditional Christianity this authority is found in the Bible, or in the Church, or in the recorded sayings of the founding fathers. Unitarians find it (authority) in the reason and conscience of the individual."

And further... "Unity in Diversity' has therefore become a key phrase expressing one aspect of Unitarianism. The unity is to be found in the process; the diversity in the product."

Thank you Linda for leading me back to re-reading this great reference book.

Sheila Moore



## CUC Expression of Reconciliation

*Editor's Note: as of press time, it is planned to use the statement for our chalice lighting on Sunday, March 30<sup>th</sup>.*

We are pleased to let you know that the Canadian Unitarian Council and the Unitarian Universalist Ministers of Canada will be offering an Expression of Reconciliation at the final Truth and Reconciliation Commission national event in Edmonton, on Saturday, March 29.

Gary Groot, President of the CUC Board of Trustees, and Rev. Meg Roberts, from UU Ministers of Canada, will make the presentation of the framed written statement

and a chalice.

We ask congregations of the CUC to include in their Sunday, March 30 service, (or one close to it) a reading of the statement to let our members know of our public commitment to the journey of healing and reconciliation between Canadian Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal people.

Feel free to post it on your websites, and include it in your newsletters for April.

Attached is the full Expression of Reconciliation that will be done by Gary and Meg; as well, there is a modified version for congregational reading.

Please let Meg know if your congregation is planning on reading this, so we can keep track and include names in an article to be submitted to the CanU newsletter (mroberts@uuma.org).

You may also want to let your congregations know ahead of time that this presentation is happening. The TRC does live-streaming on their website, so it may be seen across the world: [www.trc.ca](http://www.trc.ca).

There will be events available for viewing during the national event in Edmonton, March 27-30. It is an event for all Canadians to learn more about the Indian Residential School System and its impacts—all are welcome to attend the free events. It will be an inspiring and historical weekend. If you are planning to attend, and want to link up with other Unitarians, contact Meg (mroberts@uuma.org).

Thank you for helping us get the word out about this important part of our commitment to healing and reconciliation.

Gary Groot  
CUC President

Debra Faulk  
UUMOC President

Vyda Ng  
CUC Executive Director

———— attachment ————

On March 29<sup>th</sup> in Edmonton Alberta, Meg Roberts, representative of the Unitarian Universalist Ministers of Canada and Gary Root, President of the CUC Board of Trustees, presented an Expression of Reconciliation at the Final Event of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission concerning Residential Schools.

*On behalf of the Canadian Unitarian Council and the Unitarian Universalist Ministers of Canada and the Unitarian Fellowship of Fredericton, we commit today to the journey of healing and reconciliation between Canadian Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people.*

We commit to continue to encourage our congregation to learn more about the richness of Aboriginal spirituality and cultures, working together to advance the struggle for

justice for Aboriginal people. As Unitarians, we hold in common seven principles, and see how these were transgressed in the Canadian Indian Residential School system and by government legislation:

As our first principle, We affirm the inherent worth and dignity of every person

*This was denied when you were forced to relinquish your cultural identities and denied the nurturance of your families*

We affirm justice, equity, and compassion in human relations.

*These were violated when parents were forced to give up their children to a schools system where so many children were emotionally, physically, and sexually abused*

We seek to accept one another and to encourage each others spiritual growth

*This was disallowed when your spiritual practices were outlawed and another religious tradition imposed upon you.*

We support a free and responsible search for truth and meaning.

*Although many children received basic education, they were also used for manual labour, living in unsanitary conditions, leading to thousands of deaths from tuberculosis and other contagious diseases.*

We promote the right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large.

*The mere imposition of this school system was a clear violation of the use of any democratic process.*

We affirm the goal of world community with peace, liberty and justice for all

*How could this be achieved when government legislation revoked the basic rights of Aboriginal people to govern themselves?*

We respect the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

*This principle is integral to Aboriginal cultures. Not only did non-Aboriginals lose an opportunity to learn from your cultures, this understanding was all but eradicated from your childrens way of life by the school system.*

Our congregations across Canada are reading this Expression of Reconciliation in their services. We want our Aboriginal brothers and sisters to know that we walk with them.

*We light this chalice, or symbol of Unitarianism. May it light our way to truth, offer its warmth in our healing, and may its fire strengthen our commitment to the process of reconciliation.*



## Some April Festivals

A few of the April celebrations which caught the editor's attention.

**World Health Day** is April 7. Observed since 1950 to mark the founding of the UN World Health Organization (WHO). Is seen as an opportunity by the organization to draw worldwide attention to a subject of major importance to global health each year.

**The Passion of Christ** begins on Palm Sunday, April 13<sup>th</sup> this year, which celebrates the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem and ends on the following Sunday, Easter, when Christ rises from the dead. In between the two Sundays, Christ celebrates the Last Supper, a Seder meal, with his Apostles, experiences his "Agony in the Garden", arrest, trial and crucifixion. The Passion story is central to Christian beliefs and the most holy event in their calendar.

**Passover** begins at sunset on April 14 this year and continues until sunset on April 22. The festival celebrates the emancipation of Israel from slavery in ancient Egypt. Passover specifically refers to the "passing over" of the homes of the Children of Israel by the tenth or last Plague visited upon Egypt by G-d. The highlight of Passover is the Seder, observed on each of the first two nights. The Seder is a fifteen-step, family-oriented tradition and ritual-packed feast.

**Earth Day** is April 22. An annual event on which events are held worldwide to demonstrate support for environmental protection. First celebrated in 1970, it is observed in more than 192 countries each year.

**Yom HaShoah** or **Holocaust Memorial Day** begins at sunset on Sunday, April 27, and ends at sunset on April 28 or the 27<sup>th</sup> day of Nisan in the Hebrew calendar. The date relates to both the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising (13 days earlier) and the Israeli Independence Day (eight days later). It is observed as Israel's day of commemoration for the approximately six million Jews who perished in the Holocaust as a result of the actions carried out by Nazi Germany and its accessories, and for the Jewish resistance in that period.

**Beltane** is, strictly speaking, May 1<sup>st</sup>, however, the Celtic Pagan day ends/begins at sunset, so Beltane Eve would be April 30<sup>th</sup> and the date for the actual Beltane ritual. Beltane marked the beginning of the pastoral summer season when livestock would be driven out to summer pastures. Fire was



important in the ritual to invoke the protection of the waxing power of the sun. The sí (pronounced shee, the “spirits” or the fairies) are thought to be especially active at Beltane and one goal of the rituals is to appease them. The dancing of the “May Pole” is a popular Beltane ritual element.



## CUC ACM in Montreal

The early-bird deadline, March 30, for this year’s Annual Conference & Meeting (ACM) is fast approaching! There is less than one week left to SAVE on registration costs and a chance to win back your registration fee.



This year’s theme, Building Beloved CommUUnity: Sacred Spaces Beyond Walls, has inspired our guest speakers and facilitators and fueled them to think outside the box. Rev. Meg Riley from the Church of the Larger Fellowship will kickstart our weekend with her unique perspective of using Technology as a Gateway to Community.

On Saturday, you are invited to engage in full-day “streams” to explore and deepen with UU friends. Choose from 6 exciting topics: Bricks and Mortar, Building Beloved Community, Imagining New CommUUnities, Connecting through Music, Theme-based Ministry or Networking.

In the evening you will be blown away by the “Many Flavours of Montreal”, a circus performance like only Montreal could provide!

Sunday will be filled with a specially created Sunday worship, with workshops and multigenerational activities, and will close with our Special Awards Banquet (the Banquet is included with your full conference registration).

The Annual General Meeting takes place on Friday, May 16th check the 2014 Annual Meeting page for updates.

Travelling with family? Young UUs will be well looked after in our “We Are the Web” and CanUUdle programs (CanUUdle is limited to 80 participants this year, and spaces are filling up fast!)

Sunday, March 30 is the final date to take advantage of the best savings! Complete your online registration at:  
<http://cuc.ca/acm-2014/adult-registration/>

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