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Sunday Services

June 1 Lorna Drew *Processing Ageing: A Personal Journey*

The Unitarian Readers will be performing "*Animal Farm*" in Houlton, Maine.

June 8 The Reverend Priscilla Geisterfer

June 15 Alan Bentley *Coleridge and Unitarianism*

June 22 Jeremy Rickards *Home Care - Issues and Concerns*

The AGM of the Fellowship will be held following the service to approve the new Board, renew the Lay Chaplain contract, review Annual Reports, etc... Please make every effort to attend.

June 29 *Seasonal Wrap-up and Picnic*



2014 AGM of the UFF

Will be held following the June 22 service. This is when the congregation elects a new slate of officers for the year,

renews contracts with the Lay Chaplain(s), and has a chance to review the work of the past year. Please make every effort to attend.

Sectional VPs should be contacting committee chairs to prepare reports on committee activities for the AGM Reports. These reports should be forwarded to Tony Fitzgerald, jaf@UNB.ca by June 6th so that the reports may be type set, reviewed, printed and bound in time for the AGM.



Women's Pot Luck

The next women's pot luck will be held Friday, June 27th. We gather at 6 PM and eat at 6:30 PM. Deby Nash will host the gathering at her home, 845 McLeod Ave. Apt. 319. Visitor parking available at back of building and along the short dead end street by Queen Square park. The topic for discussion is "Advice". What was the best advice you ever received? For further information contact Joan Brewer at 455-5169 or jbrewer@rogers.com



The Long Strange Journey - Part 3

On Friday evening, May 16, a group of us met at the Fellowship to enjoy desserts, and then view the second part of the series "Long Strange Journey." Afterward there was a discussion about how Unitarianism developed in eastern Europe, and later spread west to Holland and England. On Friday, June 20 at 7pm the third part of the series will be presented, in which we will hear about Joseph Priestley (Socinianism), William Ellery Channing (Arianism) and Ralph Waldo Emerson and Theodore Parker (Transcendentalism).

Before June 20, those who missed parts 1 and/or 2, please contact Haifa by phone (472-1509) or email (hmiller@nbn.net.nb.ca) and she will arrange for you to borrow the DVD, so that as many as possible are able to have access to our UU history. It is recommended that you watch the DVD with friends so that you can share and discuss points of interest.



Rev. Kitsy Winthrop Visit

Over the weekend of May 23-26, 2014, many members and friends of The Unitarian Fellowship of Fredericton participated in a nurturing and uplifting time with Kitsy. Many women came to the Women's Potluck on Friday night at Janet Crawford's home. Kitsy enjoyed the energy and vitality of the women. The next day Saturday afternoon, she held a workshop and in the evening presented a well-attended and inspirational film about the Dalai Lama. In between these events, Kitsy's dance card was filled with meetings in people's homes and out at a restaurant with members who wanted more time with her. Sunday Morning she led our worship service. The highlight for the children was the story for all ages about "Albert" (as in Einstein).

I am moved to write something in Touchstone about this visit of Kitsy's because I believe it is helping us enter into another stage of evolution into well-being. Well-being occurs sometimes quickly with an epiphany and sometimes more gradually. With all that is wrong in the outside world and in our congregation, it is time to find those seeds that are forming little flowers and water them. We all deserve to feel free to be who we are.

As I watch the Unitarian Universalist History DVDs "The Long Strange Trip", I have learned to appreciate that folks died in our religious movement so that future generations may have the freedom of religion which we now cherish.

Peace
Haifa Miller



Lay Chaplain Position Available

**The Unitarian Fellowship of Fredericton
Requires the Services of a Second Lay Chaplain**

To: The Congregation
From: Sheila Moore, Chair, Lay Chaplaincy Committee

Lay Chaplains prepare for and officiate at rites of passage (weddings, funerals, memorial services and child dedications) for members of our congregation and the general public. Lay Chaplains follow the guidelines issued by the Canadian Unitarian Council (CUC) and policies established by the UFF Board of Directors and Lay Chaplaincy Committee. The Fellowship currently wishes to have a second Lay Chaplain as Sharon Van Abbema's 6 year term ends in June.

If you are interested in being considered for this position, you are asked to read the information in the Lay Chaplains Manual which may be found on-line. Either use your preferred web search, e.g. Google, to find "CUC congre-

gational lay chaplain manual" which should give you a "PDF" file near the top of the search results or go to the UFF website "timely news" tab and use the link there.

Procedures for Lay Chaplaincy Appointment Search: The UFF Lay Chaplaincy Committee will accept applications and a Selection Committee will be appointed to conduct interviews with selected applicants. The Lay Chaplaincy Committee will recommend a candidate for appointment to the Board of the Fellowship. Once approved by the Board, the selected candidate will be affirmed by the congregation.

The Board of Directors will submit the name of the appointed individual to the Canadian Unitarian Council, which in turn, will register the individual with the Government of the Province of New Brunswick as a CUC officiant who is legally entitled to solemnize wedding ceremonies in New Brunswick.

The successful applicant will sign a contract with the Unitarian Fellowship of Fredericton which outlines the roles and responsibilities of the lay Chaplain, the LC Committee and the Congregation. Chaplains may serve a maximum of six years.

To apply, please submit your resume and a letter outlining how your background and skills would qualify you for consideration for this position.

Please mail applications to: Sheila Moore, 33 Ridgeview Dr., Keswick Ridge, N.B. E6L 1R1 or call 363-2480 to make arrangements to have the application picked up.

Deadline for applications is September 15th, 2014



Where to now TUFF?

Our fellowship has a long history of trying things that were different and making them work. Thirty years ago we hired an openly gay minister when few others would have done so. Eighteen years ago we took on a full time minister when we were a quite small group. Five years ago we contracted with a part-time minister from another denomination despite the views of the CUC. For the last 12 years volunteers have led the Fellowship in a committed and dedicated way. Each of these periods brought opportunities for renewal. In each case we forged ahead to grow the things we do well and did not look back to what we might have done better.

Throughout the past 10 years Sunday morning services have generally been thoughtful and interesting largely due to the efforts of the chair of the Sunday service committee. Other group activities such as women's potluck and small group ministry appear to be functioning well. What might we do to build on what is working well and also catch up on some of the technological assists many Unitarians are

now using with success.

Haifa Miller recently suggested that we purchase a TV for the sanctuary. The more I think about this the more I realize it might be the catalyst for the period of change and growth that we all want.

A smart TV could be put to a variety of uses. Showing one of the many hundreds of recorded UU sermons that are available would relieve the chair of the Sunday service committee of the task of finding a speaker. A discussion group could make use of videos like the BBC's "Big Questions". The women's group and a men's group might use internet downloads to focus their discussions and expand their interests. Young people could probably use it in ways that we old folk can't imagine. Streaming video from meetings like UUA General Assembly could prove interesting.

Changes like these have costs. A smart TV would probably cost \$1000. or \$1200. Wifi and phone would cost \$76.95 the first year \$116.95 the following years. We currently pay \$48.47 for phone service.

Another aspect of new technology relates to our rental income. Without wifi we have lost more than one quite lucrative rental. Other locations in the city have the technology that we lack. If we had access to modern technology, and if we promoted it, that might make a difference in our approach to the Fellowship and the way others see us.

Ken Moore



Unitarian Harmonica Club

We have started a Unitarian harmonica club. There are no fees charged for being part of the group. You will need a key of C diatonic harmonica. Please contact me at mmiller23@mac.com So please come out and join a group and have a lot of fun.

Malcolm Miller



CUC Delegates

Jo-Anne Elder-Gomes

Over the years that I have been a member of the Fellowship and a volunteer with the Canadian Unitarian Council, there have been different models for communication between the member congregations and the CUC. As well as the Canadian Unitarian newsletter and e-letters, and a wide variety of yahoo and google groups, Facebook pages and groups, wiki pages, google documents, and other means of communication, the CUC counts on people

to share "denominational" information in their congregations. In the past, for instance, we have had congregational liaisons and representatives for "clusters" of congregations, or the president of each congregation has received regular phone calls from CUC staff members.

At the Annual General Meeting of the CUC in 2013, a set of Resolutions from the Active Democracy Study Group was approved. The Study Group included Board members, the Executive Director, and others active in the CUC: Rev. Karen Fraser Gitlitz & John Hopewell (co-chairs), Mary Anne Parker, Carol Cumming Speirs, Devin Murphy, Rev. John Marsh, Gary Groot, and Vyda Ng. The document can be found here: <http://cuc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2013/06/CUC-Resolution-Approved-2013-Active-Democracy-Resolutions.pdf>

One of the Resolutions addressed communication between the CUC and congregations:

8. That congregational delegates be encouraged to serve one to two year terms, that there would be expectation of ongoing communication between the delegates and the CUC Board and staff during those years, and that there would be suggested roles for the delegates to play in their congregations during those two years.

Further, the CUC encourages congregations to select their delegates early, and to hold discussion and information sharing sessions with their delegates and congregational members so that all are aware of matters going to the CUC AGM. To provide some continuity of experience, the delegate terms should be staggered, eg, one or some delegates serving for one year, and the other one or more serving for two years. Subsequently, each year a new delegate or delegates would be chosen to serve for two years. Congregations are encouraged to budget for delegate expenses to the CUC AGM to make this more financially accessible for those interested in associational matters. As always, those interested in being delegates submit their expression of interest to the congregation's board, and should be selected fairly and democratically, according to the following criteria:

- Demonstration of a keen interest in and familiarity with congregational and associational matters;
- Willingness to become familiar with proposed resolutions for the CUC AGM, other matters pertaining to the AGM, and Annual Meeting Rules of Procedure;
- Ability to facilitate discussion with congregation about matters for the CUC AGM;
- Preparation to report to the congregational membership on the status of resolutions, the CUC's financial situation, and other matters of interest and relevance;
- Previous/current involvement with congregational and/or CUC;

- Ability to travel and attend the resolutions plenary and CUC AGM

This year our Fellowship was not able to select our delegates for the Annual General Meeting early in the year (in fact, George DeMille and I could only confirm our attendance a couple of weeks before the Annual Conference and Meeting, although we discussed the matter with the Board a few months earlier). However, I plan to attend the ACM in Ottawa next year, have joined the discussion group, and I am happy to be able to participate actively in the new role as it is set out in this document and as it will no doubt evolve. Since I have served in and a volunteer in various capacities in the Canadian Unitarian Council, most recently on the ACM Planning Committee, I am in close contact with the staff members and will be happy to be more closely connected with the Board.

At this point, I am not sure what tasks my role as delegate will involve, but I am able to commit to sharing information with the congregation on a regular basis through the Touchstone and to organize an in-person discussion before the 2015 Annual Conference and Meeting.



Resolutions of the CUC

Jo-Anne Elder-Gomes

George DeMille and I were the Fellowship's delegates to the Annual General Meeting (the governance and business meeting held at the CUC's Annual Conference and Meeting). I was unable to attend the Thursday evening discussions on the proposed Resolutions, but did attend the full day of the AGM on Friday. The meeting was one of the most deftly run AGMs I have ever attended. Board Chair Gary Groot provided the relevant policy and procedure information for each decision and item on the Agenda, so that those who had less experience with the Carver model of governance, Robert's Rules, or the bylaws of the CUC could clearly understand the process. Discussion on motions was limited to 3 minutes by each speaker and to 20 minutes on each motion, unless the assembly agreed to extend it. There were microphones for pro, con, and procedural interventions. Most importantly for me, the discussion was respectful and intelligent, even when the issues (in particular the resolution on Palestine) became heated and rather polarized.

Several matters of policy and governance, including Board priorities, were adopted; according to the Carver model the priorities are deliberately broad and take shape as the Executive Director, Vyda Ng, and her staff implement them. The process for articulating the mission and vision of the CUC / UU movement in Canada (some clarification is needed as to which entity some of the statements concerned) was discussed but a statement was not formu-

lated; it is expected to be around the ideas of love and justice. The Board members were installed and recessed to determine their executive:

Two resolutions were presented. The first was The Pervasive Surveillance Resolution, and was an "Urgent Resolution," which means that the matter arose too late for a resolution to follow the normal procedure (which usually involves it being presented as a motion for study one year and for action at the following AGM), but is deemed important enough to warrant attention and action by the delegates at the Annual General Meeting. The complete text of the resolution, as it was presented at the AGM, can be found here:

http://cuc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/Urgent_PervasiveSurveillance.Apr3.2014.pdf

Since it was amended at the AGM, I hope to share the final text with you soon. The resolution encourages us to call on the Canadian government to provide to its citizens a comprehensive and forthright account of all the pervasive surveillance programs that have been carried out by government agencies over the past five years; assign the authority to oversee surveillance activities undertaken by the government to an agency that is responsible directly to Parliament, not to the Cabinet; bring forward legislation that would make it unlawful for the government to engage in pervasive surveillance, including the routine mass collection or storage of its citizens communications, movements, or metadata; and that our member congregations invite their individual members to write their elected representatives to express concern about pervasive surveillance and their support for the changes outlined above. This Urgent Resolution passed easily as amended.

The second Resolution, that The CUC establish a Study Group Human Rights in Palestine and Israel to collect and share information about the history of the conflict in Palestine and Israel and conditions in the occupied territories of Gaza and the West Bank and that member congregations be encouraged to undertake this study during 2015, can be found here:

<http://cuc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/CUC-Proposed-Resolution-Human-Rights-In-Palestine-Israel-2014.pdf>

After discussion, this Resolution was defeated, not because of any sense that it wasn't important, but that more work needed to be done and clearer information provided before presenting a modified Resolution on the subject.

I encourage our members and friends to look at the CUC's web pages on Resolutions and on monitoring groups, to learn about other positions our national council has taken and is considering.



Publication

I am being published in an anthology put together by EGALE and Breakwater Press titled “*OUT PROUD*”. It is the story of finding someone to marry us. The Unitarians figure prominently and positively in the essay.

Sassimint Grace



Healthy Congregations

The Healthy Congregations workshop which was held in Kitchener last year is being offered again in Kingston this year from 8 am July 11 through 5 pm July 12. Sheila Thompson and I found it very useful and I would recommend it highly. The “early bird” deadline (June 1st) is probably already past as you read this, but if you’re interested, information is at:

<http://cuc.ca/event/healthy-congregations>

In fellowship
Tony Fitzgerald



Sample Festivals

Just a very small sampling of some of the festivals over the next few months.

Pentecost: June 8 is the seventh Sunday (fifty days, thus from the Greek pentekoste) after Easter and the gift of the Holy Spirit is celebrated. Some regard this as the birthday

of the Christian church.

Litha: The Wiccan Sabbat which celebrates the Summer Solstice is on June 21 although some covens use the alternative fixed calendar date of June 25 (Old Litha). On this longest day of the year, light and life are abundant. At mid-summer, the Sun God has reached the moment of his greatest strength. Seated on his greenwood throne, he is also lord of the forests, and his face is seen in church architecture peering from countless foliate masks. Midsummer Night’s Eve is also special for adherents of the Faerie faith. This, of course, is for the Northern hemisphere. In the Southern hemisphere, practitioners are observing the Yule.

Ramadan: This year the Muslim month of fasting begins on June 28 and ends with the Eid-Ul-Fitr on July 28. The Muslim calendar is purely lunar so their festivals tend to move through the Gregorian calendar. Some practitioners consider it “haram” or forbidden to calculate the date of the start of the month and the month begins only when the new crescent moon is first observed at sunset.

Lughnasadh: The Gaelic festival marking the beginning of the harvest season is observed on August 1, however, the Celtic Pagan day ends/begins at sunset so the festival begins at sunset on July 31. The date is approximately halfway between the summer solstice and the autumn equinox.

Birthday of Marcus Garvey: Marcus Mosiah Garvey was born on August 17, 1887. His teachings of black self empowerment became the philosophy and the sources upon which the Rastafari movement was founded. Garvey believed that all black people should return to their rightful homeland of Africa and was heavily involved in promoting the Universal Negro Improvement Association. In the 1920s he organised the black nationalist movement in America and had almost a million followers within a year.

In fellowship
Tony Fitzgerald

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Please send articles to touchstone@uff.ca