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Sunday Services

Child care is available and all are welcome.

September 7 *Ingathering and Corn Boil/Pot luck Picnic*
 an informal start to our fall and winter Sundays.

Congregational Conversation (ConCon) to follow service.

September 14 The Reverend David Hutchinson *The Four Agreements* David is the UU minister in Houlton Me. He will be discussing *The Four Agreements*, a book by Don Miguel Ruiz. (Malcolm Miller is coordinator.)

September 21 Heather Lunergan *The Seeker* A story about finding my way to education and spirituality.

September 28 The Reverend Linda Thomson is from the CUC. This will be a weekend event with a workshop on Saturday and other events to be announced. (Jo-Anne Elder-Gomes is coordinator.)

A Note from the Board

The 2014-15 Board is planning to do things differently this year.

In the past, Board meetings have been open and members invited to come, but usually nobody outside the formal Board turned up. People find Board meetings somewhat boring, tedious affairs. One reason for adopting our current structure of AVPs and VPs back in 2000, was that Committee Chairs did not want to have to attend Board meetings. Instead, Committee Chairs reported monthly to VPs who then reported on the reports at Board meetings. The result was that only Board members got to hear the full range of what was going on, and much of that was second hand information.

Congregational Conversations offer an Alternative.

The plan is to hold Congregational Conversations or ConCons on the first Sunday of each month from 12:30 to 1:30, with the first meeting September 7th, following the corn boil. There will be no formal agenda. Anyone can raise anything they want. The hope is that Board members will come to the ConCons mostly to listen to the Congregation. Members can share comments and observations, raise issues, give suggestions, ideas, direction to the Board, propose formal motions, as they choose. The Board can also raise issues and concerns with members. Our hope is that someone will come to the ConCons from each of our committees - adult program, caring, children's program, hospitality, lay chaplaincy, Sunday services, buildings and grounds, finance, membership, public awareness, and social responsibility. This could be the committee Chairs - or anyone involved with a committee who agrees to come and share information on how things are going along in their committee, and bring back responses, comments and suggestions for future committee plans.

And, we can just talk - about the serious, the social, the intimate, and the funny. What more do we want to do about the bird garden, bird boxes, bees, butterflies? Any interest in group trips to Boston, to Israel? Any good films for a UU film night on the new telly? Anything we might do for someone we care about who is having a hard time or celebrating something special?

Formal Board meetings, when the business stuff gets done, will happen at another time. We plan to hold them on the third Sunday of each month, from 12:30 to 1:30, with the first meeting September 21st. These will also be open to all members.

We hope to regularly circulate summaries of Conversations and Board meetings by email .

We hope you like the sound of these new arrangements. Let us know what you think at the next ConCon.

Hope to see you September 7 - all full of corn and butter.
Sylvia Hale



Adult and Youth Programs

Jo-Anne Elder-Gomes

The Adult Programs Committee (which is also responsible for Youth programs) is planning a year of exciting activities. In September, members and friends are invited to workshops by Reverend David Hutchinson, of Houlton, Maine, and Reverend Linda Thomson (see the article on the "*Visit by the Rev. Linda Thomson*" elsewhere in this issue for information on her visit).

Also starting in September will be a monthly film and discussion series. Based on the UUA Popcorn Theology curriculum, the program will be facilitated by Gabe Elder-Gomes. We are extending a special invitation to Youth and Young Adults in the Fredericton area to join us. We will meet on the third Sunday of each month for pizza at 4:30 and then to watch a movie and discuss the issues it presents until about 8:00pm. We'll be sending out an announcement about the first movie (September 21) soon. You can learn more about Popcorn Theology at

<http://shancarpublishations.com/Popcorn.Theology.html>
or

<https://www.facebook.com/PopcornTheology?fref=ts>

Later this year, Adult Programs will be presenting two workshop series for adults and youths, one exploring the Big Questions and another on religious diversity. The Membership committee is also planning to offer a New U program. Please contact Janet Crawford, chair of membership, for details. Janet also coordinates a Small Ministry Group and can provide more information about it.

We have started a Facebook page for our Fellowship. You'll find it at:

<https://www.facebook.com/unitarianfellowshipfredericton>
Please post any news and notices pertaining to the life of the Fellowship on the page, or send them to me at eldergomes@yahoo.com to do so.



Book Sale / Yard Sale

Friday, Sept. 19th 12 - 6

Saturday, Sept. 20th 8 - 4

We need:

1. donation of good quality yard sale items (may be left in the entry way)
2. volunteers to take shifts during the two days of the sale
3. members to tell their friends and to come and purchase at least one item!!

Please contact Nancy Beltrandi 459-8004 nah-beltrandi@gmail.com or Sheila Moore 363-2480 smoore@nbnet.nb.ca to volunteer.



Long Strange Journey

During the summer there were two DVDs shown in the series "Long Strange Journey" which continued our exploration of the historical roots of Unitarianism and Universalism. On Friday September 19 at 7pm there will be a pot luck dessert, followed by the final episode called "The Hundred Year Waltz." This documents the century-long courtship between Unitarianism and Universalism that culminated in their merger in 1961. It shows Unitarian Universalism through its first half-century, and discusses where it may go from here. Everyone is invited to attend.



Women's Pot Luck

The next women's pot luck will be held Friday, September 26th. Sheila Thompson will host the gathering at her home, 764 Prince Street. We gather at 6 PM and eat at 6:30 PM. The topic for discussion is 'kindness' - what does it look like, who has done you a kindness that really touched you, what do you think of when you say someone is 'kind'. For further information contact Joan Brewer at jebrewer@rogers.com



Minutes of August Board Meeting

20 August 2014

Present: Sylvia Hale, Malcolm Miller, Ken Moore, Sheila Moore, Jo-Anne Elder-Gomes, Darcie Dunbar. A Quorum of six Board members were present.

Main Item: Approval of contract to re-roof Fellowship

main building and garage. Three estimates were received: J.B. Roofing, Butler's roofing and Don McPherson Two estimates were itemized in detail, including metal drip edge, ice and water shields, new ridge vents. A third estimate was significantly lower than the other two. This estimate included basic re-shingling for entire roof, including garage, but without installing new roof vents. It also included taking down the leaky chimney over the library fireplace and roofing over it. A separate estimate was received from a mason to fix leaky chimney over the library fireplace for \$3,200 + tax. The Board decided to go with the more basic estimate, and to remove and roof over the chimney.

MOTION: To approve the contract with Don McPherson to remove and roof over the chimney, and re-shingle entire roof for total \$8640. Ken Moore/ Darcie Dunbar. Carried. It was noted that Don McPherson is a competent general handyman who has done very satisfactory work for the Fellowship in the recent past, including flooring the sanctuary, repairing flood damage in basement, and trimming + removal of trees. All his work has been of high quality and reasonably priced. Ken Moore (Buildings and Grounds Chair) noted that since down spouts from the eavestroughs have been cut and angled to drain away from the house, rather than into the basement weeping tile, there has been no water seeping into the basement - despite hurricane Arthur and other periods of heavy rain. Hence we do not seem to need ditches dug around the house.

Wifi access will be installed Friday 21 August. It should serve both the television in the sanctuary and the office upstairs.

Jo-Anne Elder-Gomes already has plans for popcorn theology, and film nights with pizza oriented to teenagers, with all ages welcome.

There are plans to hold a series of discussions meetings on "The Big Questions"

We are also thinking of having fun film-nights for Fellowship members.

Other Business: We have received no applications to date for the position of second chaplain for the Fellowship. Deadline for applications is September 15. The Canadian Unitarian Council requires that a Unitarian Chaplain be a member of the Unitarian Fellowship, and participate in the life of the Fellowship. A chaplain represents the Fellowship in the broader community.

We noted that we can manage well for the time being with one chaplain. A chaplain is required legally only for officiating at a marriage. Other Fellowship members can conduct other rites of passage. We can limit the number of marriage services offered to non-members.

There was a scheduling problem around the upcoming book and yard sale. The date previously suggested of Sept.

26-7 would coincide with the planned visit by CUC Rev. Linda Thompson.

Nancy Beltrandi to suggest that the sale be moved forward to Sept 19-20. Sale price will be "a buck a book". We need people to help sort the books and set up on Wednesday and Thursday 17-18th Sept. We also welcome additional used books for the sale. Please contact Nancy with offers to help and to contribute.

Plans are actively under way to develop a Facebook page for the Fellowship. Jo-Anne Elder-Gomes is willing to work on this, and also Tori Kirkby. The idea is that this will be an active, continually updated page, with links to other Unitarian activities and interests. Any one else who is interested in working on the Facebook page is warmly invited to get involved.

We feel the need to get our membership directory updated. We need to do this with due concern and attention to privacy - to ensure that anyone listed in the Directory has agreed to have their information published therein.

An important event is to happen September 6th - the wedding of two of our members Victoria Kirkby and Danny Mathias. We are planning a dessert pot-luck party to celebrate their wedding - scheduled for early October, after they return from honeymoon.

Congregational Conversations and Board Meetings:

The new Board wants to hold regular discussion meetings or Congregational Conversations in which all members are active and equal participants, hearing about and sharing in all aspects of the life of the Fellowship and its various committees. The suggestion is that we hold Congregational Conversations (Con-Cons) on the first Sunday of every month from 12:30 - 1:30, with the first meeting scheduled for September 7.

Members will be able to bring up any and all issues and concerns with the Board during these Conversational Conversations, and give directions to the Board, while the Board in turn can share issues with the Fellowship before business meetings.

Board business meeting will be held the third Sunday of every month, from 12:30 - 1:30, also open to everyone, with the first business meeting scheduled for September 21. Minutes and notes prepared by Sylvia Hale.

Hoping to see and hear from you all at our Congregational Conversation Sept. 7.



Pagan Information Night

On Wednesday October 8th GFAW (Greater Fredericton Area Witches) will be hosting a Pagan info night. This event is open to the public and is a great opportunity

for those who are interested in becoming involved with GFAW to come meet and be met. Doors open at 6:30pm with presentations and discussion to begin at 7pm. Please bring a small donation to help cover costs. RSVP to gfa-w-faw@gmail.com for location.



Visit by the Rev. Linda Thomson

Jo-Anne Elder-Gomes

Reverend Linda Thomson, who is responsible for Congregational Development in our region of the Canadian Unitarian Council, will be coming to the Fellowship from September 26 to 28. While she is here, she will be leading workshops on Saturday and Sunday and giving the Sunday Service.

Here is an outline of the workshops, which are open to all members and friends of tUFF:

Saturday Workshop, September 27, 9:30-3:30
Who Would We Be if We Were Not UFF / us?

Two core questions related to the Fellowship's place in the world:

- 1) How would Fredericton be impoverished if the Fellowship didn't exist? What opportunities for others would be lost if we weren't here?
- 2) How would each of our lives be impoverished if the Fellowship didn't exist? What would I miss / What would I have missed?

Given the answers to these questions, what are our priorities? How can we move towards a structure to organize and govern the work of the Fellowship, and a plan for communicating and working together to accomplish our priorities and fulfill our hopes?

Sunday Workshop / ConCon following the service, September 28, 12:30-2:00

An introductory / refresher workshop on Healthy Congregations (See

<http://cuc.ca/archive/programs/HealthyCongregations.htm> for more information on the CUC's Healthy Congregation program)

For information about the workshops, contact Jo-Anne Elder-Gomes at eldergomes@yahoo.com. Heather Luner-gan will be sending out more information about the Sunday Service when it is finalized.



Poem in the CanU

We're gearing up for the fall of The CanU and are seeking a poem for that issue.

The theme can be completely open. Because it's the fall issue a seasonal theme, or harvest theme might apply—but

only if it helps inspire. Also, we will have a spread on the Israel-Palestine question, so if someone has any poetry on that subject, that would also be of interest.

The deadline for this issue is October 3rd.

Hope your summer has inspired more poems for you.

best

Janet Vickers
Poetry Editor, Canadian Unitarian
poetry@cuc.ca



Eastern Region Fall Gathering

**Frightened of the Future?
Congregations adapting to Change**

A detailed description of the Gathering may be found at
<http://cuc.ca/event/eastern-regional-fall-gathering>

Early registration in September will save \$40 per adult.



Write Your Very Own Sermon

Editor's note: This is from an email received from the UUA. If anyone is interested send me a note and I will forward the original email which has a link to ordering and additional information.

UUA Bookstore

Your Search for Truth and Meaning Begins Here

As the Rev. Erika Hewitt says, "The life of a congregation rests in its members' hands." And that is why she created The Shared Pulpit, a complete workshop to help lay people gain experience writing and preaching a full-length sermon for their congregation.

This easy-to-use guide for both facilitators and participants provides a step-by-step lesson plan for eight sessions.

You will learn about the theory and theology of preaching, then practice writing and speaking with authenticity, gradually building toward composing quality 20-minute sermons. You will learn to foster a supportive environment in which participants offer one another helpful feedback. Also, watch the video of Rev. Hewitt offering her insight into the vital need for such a powerful resource.



Bridge to Unity

The "Bridge to Unity" gathering organized by STU is scheduled for September 23rd this year at 7 pm on the Green between the Art Gallery and the Robbie Burns statue. The date and time are tentative as I write since

Janice Ryan is still awaiting permission from the city for the gathering. The assembly moves to the walking bridge and, joining hands, sees how far across the bridge the Unity chain can stretch. It's a chance to have a bit of fun and meet people.



Family Quest

For families on a spiritual expedition!

Visit <http://bit.ly/familyquest> for more information about our:

- New website
- YouTube channel
- Pinterest board
- Facebook group
- Online classes
- Free monthly printables

A ministry of the Church of the Larger Fellowship

QuestForMeaning.org / CLFuu.org



Faith and Diversity

Café Loka is a great place to run into people. I usually make it a regular stop on my morning walk and recently encountered Alexandra Bain who said she was looking for a Unitarian and I replied that I might do in a pinch but would try to round up someone with credentials.

Glenna Hanley as chair of Public Relations was able to join me on short notice to meet with Alexandra and representatives of several other faith groups to discuss how we could work with her “*Introduction to Religious Studies*” course. Her class meets at 2:30 pm on Tuesday and Thursday in room 204 of George Martin Hall. Alexandra issued a general invitation to participating faith communities to attend any of the classes which might be of interest and will try to get a schedule of who is speaking when out to us so that we may circulate it.

A lot of the information is tentative, however, I thought I should write this article to make people aware of what is going on since the Fellowship has been a consistent partner in this course in the past and we have welcomed students from the class to our services as part of the programme.

Glenna and I volunteered to take September 30 to visit her class to speak on and be questioned about Unitar-

ian/Universalism. We will probably be looking for one or two others to speak and be questioned as well so that the diversity of the U*U community may be demonstrated.

The highlight of the course is the Faith and Diversity gathering. The tentative date this year is March 29th so that it will be towards the end of classes but avoid the Nineteen-Day Fast of the Bahá'í community. This year, Sunday was chosen so that students and the Rabbi could attend. The gathering will only be a half-day since some people thought the whole day gathering was a bit long and the gathering will be in the afternoon to avoid most Christian (and Unitarian) services.

Tentatively, then, the presentations will be from 1pm to 5pm in the large auditorium in the bottom floor of the Margaret Norrie McCain Hall, the same location as the past couple of years, however, this will depend on another booking of the auditorium for every Sunday giving up this one day, otherwise, a different location will be announced. The community meal will follow the presentations.

The theme this year is “Hospitality”, how each community defines, practices and encourages hospitality.

That's pretty much my notes from the meeting. We'll keep you advised as the year proceeds.

In fellowship
Tony Fitzgerald



Anniversary

Today (September 1st, as I write) is the hundredth anniversary of the death of the last known passenger pigeon. In 1866 a single flock of passenger pigeons in southern Ontario was described as being a mile wide and 300 miles long and estimated to hold in excess of

3.5 billion birds. From this to nothing in less than 50 years. A victim of hunting and habitat destruction. Not the first and most certainly not the last creature whose extinction can be attributed to the hand of mankind.



In fellowship
Tony Fitzgerald

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