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Sunday Service 11 a.m.

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## Sunday+ Services

Child care is available and all are welcome.

**November 29** Heather Lunergan: *"The Story of a House, with a Mouse."* Returning "home" is always a journey, but Heather's "return" was to an actual "house." Come hear how a childhood dream became part of the Lunergan family story. The Seeker: Heather Lunergan will discuss her ongoing journey through educational and spiritual awakening.

December: Our theme is Music and Inspiration

**December 5-6** This weekend, we will host a regional Young Adult Con (for members and friends aged 18-35-ish throughout the Maritimes) at our Fellowship; some of them will be joining us for the service.

**December 6** Service Leader Joan McFarland, Speaker Cathy Holtmann. Canadian Immigrant Women dealing with Family Violence. Cathy Holtmann is the newly appointed Director of the Muriel McQueen Family Violence Research Centre. She was formerly the university chaplain and, later, teacher at St. Thomas University. She recently completed a PhD in Sociology at the University of New Brunswick. She has presented a number of times at the Fellowship. For Dec. 6, the anniversary of the Montreal Massacre, Cathy will be speaking about her thesis work

on the role of social networks among Canadian immigrant women from various ethno-religious groups in dealing with family violence. As a wonderful singer and musician, Cathy has also agreed to lead us in some songs during the service. To mark the Montreal Massacre and Human Rights Day, Cathy Holtmann will speak on her research, which focuses on the issue of violence towards women.

**December 6** Children will begin their Music theme with Linda Sprague joining them in the RE room upstairs. Please spread the word!

**December 13** Theme Sunday: Music and Inspiration. Service Leader Tony Fitzgerald, Presenters Pat Daley and Margaret Fitzgerald.

**December 13** Coffee Hour Conversation: Myron will share information on webcasts and podcasts on topics of interest to the Fellowship.

**December 16 at 7PM** Blue Christmas service. Service Leader: Najat. The theme is "Finding refuge inside and out." It weaves together the current global situation of refugees with the idea of running away and finding a safe space, whoever one might be. Participants are invited to bring a reading or develop a reflection related to the theme.

**December 20** Winter Holiday Music: Sarah and Margaret will lead those attending in a singing of carols and holiday songs.

**December 27** Talking Circle: Carlos will be leading the congregation in a Talking Circle to reflect on the past year and the year to come.

January: Our theme is Growth and Ageing

**January 3** Reflections on Growth and Ageing: Jo-Anne will lead an informal service about Stages of Life. Participants are invited to read a poem or share a reflection about the stage of life they are in.

**January 10** Theme Sunday: Growth and Ageing. Multi-generational Service. Service Leader: Jo-Anne Elder-Gomes



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## Annual UFF Canvass

November is our traditional month to canvass our members and friends and ask you to support the operational costs of the Fellowship. Our fiscal year follows the calendar year, so the Board and the Finance committee are preparing the 2016 budget of our expected revenues and expenses. We hope to receive your pledge form by December 15, and the budget requests from committees shortly thereafter. This information will serve to develop a budget which will be presented to members at a special meeting in January.

Our membership numbers have declined in recent years, and although this is a situation many congregations and other denominations are facing, our members know the UFF plays an important role in our community. For this reason, the Board has decided to set numerical growth as its priority for the 2015-2016 year. We hope all committees will think of ways to address growth in their activities. We want our Fellowship to be a place where our current members and people in the community who don't yet know about us can feel at home. We want to grow in both numbers and depth during Sunday services and during a variety of events and activities throughout the week. We want people to feel a deep sense of belonging, to know that when they are together they can celebrate, learn and be challenged, and help and support each other's personal and spiritual growth.

Our building, our services, our activities, our decisions, belong to all of us. We are called to give generously of ourselves. We value each other and value everyone's contributions, their time, talents and treasures.

If you are on our email list, you will have received a message from Najat Abdou-McFarland, a member of the Finance Committee, with a letter from Glenna Hanley and a pledge form to fill out. A hard copy of the letter and pledge form are available on Sunday mornings, as well. Commitments to give a certain amount, especially through post-dated cheques or a one-time donation for the year, help us in our planning. Please consider your personal means and the needs of the Fellowship and the community, and give according to the place where they meet.

Jo-Anne Elder-Gomes  
Secretary, UFF Board of Directors



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## Women's Pot Luck

We will not be having a women's pot luck dinner in December but may have one in early January. The date and place is not fixed at this time, but will be circulated by email and in the Sunday bulletin when more

is known. For further information contact Joan Brewer at [jebrewer@rogers.com](mailto:jebrewer@rogers.com)



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## Being Part of Our Youths' UU Experience

Some of our youth are eager to go to Vancouver for CanU-Udle (the national youth gathering held at the same time as the CUC Conference in May). Can you help?

We have a dynamic and engaged youth group at the Fellowship. Last year, for the first time in many years, we held regular meetings of the YAYAJ (Youth and Young Adults Justice-seeking) group, and learned about social justice and humanitarian issues. We also offered a monthly Popcorn Theology series and invited youth to attend our adult religious education classes. A total of ten young people aged between 14 and 22 attended various activities, 8 of them were eligible to attend CanUUdle, and 3 of them went to Ottawa, along with Najat as their youth advisor.

This year we are doing something new. The youth group (now focused on 14 to 20 year olds) has been reincarnated as YAYAS-Bee (which is to be sung to the tune of "Let it Be"). The name means Youth and Young Adult Spiritual Beings, and they are "buzzing" with spiritual and social justice energy. Youth hosted a mini-con during the Atlantic Gathering, and some of the senior youth are involved in planning a Young Adult Con in December (for 18 to 35 year olds throughout the Maritimes). YAYAS-Bee will be using a small group ministry format, using SGM plans following the monthly theme and led by Anneke and Orianna, who completed SGM facilitator training in October.

We are hoping that some of our youth will be able to attend the CanUUdle in Vancouver in May, and are asking for your help to do so. Four of our youth are planning to attend. You are invited to participate in their UU experience by contributing to the costs of their travel and registration. Our biggest need at this point is Aeroplan miles. If you can donate miles to sponsor one of the youth, please contact Haifa at [hmiller@nbnet.nb.ca](mailto:hmiller@nbnet.nb.ca) or 472-1509. You may also donate directly to the Fellowship by marking your envelope "Youth Fund." The youth fund was established in September as part of the budget of the Adult Program committee, which coordinates youth and adult religious education activities. The fund was set up in order to receive donations from members of the congregation so that youth can attend UU events such as the Eastern Regional Gathering and the Vancouver National Conference. Finally, the YAYAS-Bee group plans to organize fundraisers (a bake sale and a spaghetti dinner) in the new year to cover their registration fees.

We hope that you will be able to make it possible for our youth to take part in this life-changing experience.

Thank you from the YAYAS-Bee Group and their adult support people.



## Supporting Syrian Refugees

The Unitarian Fellowship of Fredericton has begun efforts to support Syrian refugees coming to the Maritimes. Myron Hedderson, chair of Social Responsibility, has been leading these efforts by collecting information, attending local sessions, and letting Fellowship members and friends know about the various options we have. Myron led a Coffee Hour Conversation on the subject a few weeks ago. There was general agreement that, although the Fellowship is not in a financial position to sponsor a refugee, many people would like to be informed of different possibilities for supporting refugee sponsorship, including financial and in-kind donations and contributions of time.

At the Board meeting in November, two motions were passed. An ad hoc Refugee Support committee was established (as a subcommittee of Social Responsibility) for the purpose of keeping Fellowship members informed about local projects and about the Universalist Unitarian Church project to support refugees, and about various opportunities to donate time, money and materials to these projects. Charitable receipts are available from virtually all of the local organizations sponsoring refugees, and appeals for particular in-kind donations will be passed along to interested Fellowship members and friends. The second motion was for a Refugee Fund to be established, under the auspices of the Social Responsibility committee, to provide financial support to the Universalist Unitarian Church of Halifax for their refugee sponsorship program.

The Halifax church has already raised about half of the money they need for their sponsorship project, and has received information about the family. They are using the Private Sponsorship Process and working through the Canadian Unitarian Council which is a Sponsorship Agreement Holder, and have heard that they might expect their family to arrive in 2-4 months. We would like to send a donation to them, as a group, before the end of this calendar year, and are asking you to consider making a special one-time donation in addition to your annual pledge.

If you would like to be informed of opportunities to help refugees coming to Canada, please contact Myron and ask that your name be put on his email list. We also need members for the Refugee Support committee and for the Social Responsibility committee in general. The role of the ad hoc committee members would be to coordinate information, financial contributions, and donations of materials, and to promote efforts to support Syrian refugees.

the ad hoc committee on Refugee Support



## Regional Young Adult Mini-Con

Young Adult Unitarian \* Universalists, aged 18 to 35-ish, are invited to the Unitarian Fellowship for a mini-con, from December 5 at 6:30 pm until December 6 in the morning. We hope you can stay for the service, which deals with feminist research on violence towards women. Young adults in congregations throughout the Maritimes, as well as friends who may be interested in Unitarian Universalism are welcome. Please RSVP by November 30 so we can make arrangements for food and space.

Like a youth con, you will be sleeping on the floor, so bring your sleeping bag, pillow, blanket etc. Some of the Youth Con practices (covenant, consent and boundaries, respect, no drugs or alcohol (even if you are of age), sharing the work etc.) will apply.

Unlike a youth con, you will be bringing and making your own food. Pizza crusts and tomato sauce will be supplied, and we are asking you to bring a topping for the pizza, as well as a side dish or snack.

The Fellowship is providing the space, so we ask you to make a donation to the UFF or the UFF Youth Fund (suggested amount \$10+). The Fellowship is located at 874 York Street, Fredericton. More information about the UFF is available here: [www.uff.ca](http://www.uff.ca) or here:

<https://www.facebook.com/unitarianfellowshipfredericton/>

We are planning to make and eat supper together, do a check-in and covenant, have an informal discussion, and organize a late-night worship. If you want to offer to lead an activity or help in other ways, please let us know. We would be happy to get materials for you if we know by November 30.

Information is available from Anneke on FB or through the family email: [eldergomes@yahoo.com](mailto:eldergomes@yahoo.com).

Please let us know if you can come!

Anneke and Jo-Anne



## Sarah Norcliffe Cleghorn

The things one finds when, inspired by some thought, one takes to one's favourite search engine and looks for something only to be led to one side by an interesting associated item. Curious as to whether the new government has put a stop to the monstrous monuments the former government seemed to be embracing, and appearing to still find controversy and uncertainty at the time, I began a little search that had been on my mind for some time.

It strikes this writer that if one is to construct a monument

to the “victims of Communism”, then to avoid complete hypocrisy, one should also construct with equal prominence, a monument to the “victims of Capitalism”. Something symbolizing child labourers crushed by the gears of the machines that they worked between through to women crushed by collapsing factories which had had additional floors illegally added to the buildings. In between, all sorts of crimes against humanity in the name of returns to the investors.

In the back of my mind, there was a snippet of a poem that I had thought might have been written by Marx, but a search for the lines I could remember found a rather fascinating poet and the poem that I was trying to remember by Sarah Norcliffe Cleghorn:

### The Golf Links

The golf links lie so near the mill  
That almost every day  
The labouring children can look out  
And see the men at play.

Working as I do on occasion at the Community Kitchen, I see a lot of the city homeless and others who have fallen through the holes in our various “safety nets.” The following poem reminds one of comments one hears about the Kitchen Clients such as why don’t they just get a job or hoist themselves by their own bootstraps:

### The Incentive

I SAW a sickly cellar plant  
Droop on its feeble stem, for want  
Of sun and wind and rain and dew –  
Of freedom! – Then a man came through  
The cellar, and I heard him say,  
“Poor, foolish plant, by all means stay  
Contented here; for – know you not? –  
This stagnant dampness, mold and rot  
Are your incentive to grow tall  
And reach that sunbeam on the wall.”  
– Even as he spoke, the sun’s one spark  
Withdrew, and left the dust more dark.

The Wikipedia entry for Cleghorn is brief and simply describes her poetry as largely didactic. I suppose it is an accurate description. Nothing wrong with that.

Back to monuments. If one must build a monument, how about a monument to “The Victims of the Abuse of Power”. It seems to me such a monument would pick up just about everyone deserving of a monument for their suffering. Monuments, of course, are useless unless accompanied by contrition on the part of the abusers and a promise to mend ways and make reparations to the victims.

*In fellowship*  
Tony Fitzgerald



## Emergency Appeal

The Unitarian Church in Burundi, Africa, is under attack from their government. Their minister and members have been jailed and their church ransacked. The International Council of Unitarians and Universalists (ICUU) and other organizations are asking all Unitarians to help Burundi. We can write letters to Foreign Affairs minister Stephane Dion and the Burundi president, sign a petition or make a donation. For more information go to the Canadian Unitarian Council (CUC) website at: [www.cuc.ca](http://www.cuc.ca) You can also visit the Facebook page Standing for UU-Burundi.



## Memorial Tree Lighting

*Editor’s note: The following was taken from a request to distribute received by the office. The original was an image so had to be retyped and has been shortened to just the essentials. Anyone who wishes may request to the editor and I will send the original.*

All those who are remembering a loved one at this holiday season are invited to join one of two annual Memorial Tree Lighting Services:

<b>in Oromocto at</b>	<b>in Fredericton at</b>
7:00 pm, Tuesday, Dec. 8	7:00 pm, Wednesday, Dec. 9
at	at
Oromocto Funeral Home	McAdam’s Funeral Home
108 Winnebago Street	160 York Street

You may also participate by placing your loved one’s name on our Honour Roll and, if you wish, you may join us in supporting the vital efforts of our local foodbanks during the holiday season by bringing a non-perishable food item to either of our services.

Call 357-5100 or 458-9170 for information.



## Fredericton Choral Society

The Fredericton Choral Society, under the direction of Heather Dunham, will present their winter concert, FROSTIANA, on Tuesday, December 1, 2015, 7:00pm at Grace Memorial Baptist Church, Northumberland St., Fredericton. Special guests will be the Priestman Street School Choir, directed by Susan Hayward. Music will include Randall Thompson’s FROSTIANA (settings of poetry by Robert Frost), Haydn’s TE DEUM, and the world premiere of a new work by local composer, Michael Miller, called A WISER WAY. Tickets are available from choir

members, Read's Newstand and Cafe, King St. and at the door. Adults- \$20, Seniors - \$15, Students - \$10 and children 12 and under, Free.



## Advent Carol Festival

The Annual Advent Carol Festival held each year at St. Paul's United Church (corner George and York) will be held on Wednesday, December 2 at 7:30 p.m. More than a dozen local church and community choirs will present a program of new, as well as familiar, Christmas music. This is a fundraiser for the Fredericton Food Bank; a freewill offering will be received. The event has raised more than \$100,000 over the past 25 years.

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