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Sunday Service 11 a.m.

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Sunday Services

Child care is available and all are welcome.

February 28 *Sharing Our Faith service.* Heather Luner-gan will lead this service, which is part of a CUC program to encourage greater associational awareness in our congregations, the fostering of relationships, and a sense of community and connection among and between our member congregations and communities. Each year, the CUC encourages all congregations to hold a Sharing Our Faith service, and to take up a special collection, if possible during the month of February for CUC Month. The collection is administered by the CUC and given directly back in the form of grants to congregations applying for projects they may otherwise not afford to undertake, and which enhance ministry, growth and/or outreach for that congregation and for the Unitarian and Universalist movement. The theme for Sharing Our Faith this year is Truth, Healing, and Reconciliation.

March: Our theme is Self-Awareness

March 6 *For International Women's Day,* Jo-Anne and Anneke will share the work of the Canadian UU Women's Association in a worship service focused on our foremothers and nurturers.

March 13 Dr Rodger Wilkie, who teaches English and Great Books at STU, will be our guest speaker. He will discuss the concept of self-awareness as explored in early Hindu and Buddhist writings.

March 20 UN Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination is March 21 as well as World Poetry Day. Sophie Lavoie, a professor and activist, will talk about translating the poetry of Rita Joe, a Mikm'aq poet from Nova Scotia, and the work of Nela Rio's annual Multilingual Poetry celebration.

March 27 *Easter Sunday.* Jo-Anne will coordinate a multigenerational service on transcendence and transformation.

April: Our theme is Stewardship

April 3 *Theme Sunday: Stewardship / Taking Care of the Earth*

April 10 EagleSpirit will be our speaker and Najat will lead the service.



Youth Fundraising for CanUUdle

Would you support our youth members in their fundraising activities?

Maybe you would like to know more about it.

CanUUdle is the annual Unitarian Universalist youth conference of the Canadian Unitarian Council. It is a three-day-long social and business conference that runs in parallel with the CUC's Annual Conference & Meeting each May. This year, CanUUdle takes place May 20-23 in Vancouver. It is for youth aged 14-18 (up to 20 years).

The cost to attend is \$100 (until Mar 31); All CanUUdle registrations include meals and accommodation. Youth will sleep in sleeping bags at the Unitarian Church of Vancouver.

Before registering, youth fill out a Congregational Involvement Form and have it signed by someone who can vouch for their involvement in youth activities at the Fellowship. To be eligible to attend, all youth participants must have

attended at least 3 of our youth group meetings within the last six months. In each of the past two years, we have had close to ten youths who are eligible to attend! Six of them are currently planning to attend CanUUdle in Vancouver and have started fundraising projects. There are four senior youth who are going to bridge to the young adult program this year and two youth who are right in the middle of the CanUUdle age group.

You might also want to know about the financial arrangements we are making.

First, each youth is making a contribution of \$250 from their own funds, their parents' contributions and/or fundraising outside the Fellowship. The first \$100 is for registration (before March 16, preferably before March 2), and is a deposit for the costs and fundraising for the trip. The remaining \$150 will go towards the travel of all youth attending CanUUdle. A personal (not charitable) receipt will be given if requested, but this is not an eligible charitable donation.

The second amount is congregational fundraising. Our greatest need is for Aeroplan points. Points donated by Fellowship members and others will be transferred to as many youth attending CanUUdle as possible. Priority will be given to youth most actively involved in the youth group, the UFF, and fundraising activities.

Our other need is for contributions to the UFF's Youth Fund. Members of the UFF and others can donate to the fund directly or through the many fundraisers organized by the youth group. Cheques should be made to UFF / The Unitarian Fellowship of Fredericton and indicate "Youth Fund." These donations are eligible for charitable receipts from the UFF. In the case of fundraisers, the amount donated minus the "fair market value" of the meal or item sold is eligible for a charitable receipt. For example, the FMV of the spaghetti dinner has been estimated to be \$2 pp, so a charitable receipt for \$8 will be given for a \$10 ticket. In the case of straight donations, the entire amount is eligible.

Did we forget to tell you what the Youth Fund is?

The Board passed a motion to set up a youth fund to support registration, travel, and other expenses for youth attending UU gatherings. This fund is part of the Adult Program Committee budget, because Adult Programs include the youth group and youth activities. Jo-Anne and Anneke are currently the chairs of the Adult Program Committee, and Anneke and Orianna are the leaders of the youth group.

What else should you know about the youth group?

Our youth group is called YaYAS-Be. That stands for Youth and Young Adult Spiritual Beings. Last year YaYAJ was focused on social justice, and this year we are exploring small group ministry. Anneke and Orianna learned how to facilitate SGM sessions at the Atlantic

Cluster Gathering, and lead the group meetings. Session topics follow the monthly theme chosen by the Fellowship. This month we have also been working on a covenant.

There are usually between four and seven people at our meetings, which are held approximately twice a month. Three of the core members were raised UU and their families are active in the Fellowship. Another one attended RE when he was young. The other three are newer to UU community: one joined the group two years ago, another one year ago, and the third six months ago.

The large number of members who are between 18 and 20 mean that we also have a good core group for young adult gatherings. There are also several young adults in their 20s who used to attend the youth group in Saint John and other youth leadership activities. The CUC young adult age range goes from 18 to 35, and we have the potential to have a thriving regional young adult community. They have already had one YA con, and we plan to have another one this spring.

If you want to know anything else about us, please ask!

Anneke and Orianna
YaYAS-Be Group Leaders



NEW UU Program

There will be a New Unitarian Universalist program for 4 Wednesdays, starting March 16th at 7 – 9 pm. We will get to know each other better and explore the history of the Fredericton Fellowship, the history, traditions and beliefs of Unitarian Universalists, the structure and organization of the Fredericton Fellowship and how to get more involved. The program will be facilitated by members of the congregation.

To register, contact Janet Crawford janetcra@nbnet.nb.ca 454-0441 or 474-3445



MARCH MOVIE NIGHT

THURSDAY, MARCH 24th – 7pm

"MIDNIGHT IN PARIS" – written and directed by Woody Allen. Released in 2011, the film received an Academy Award for Best Original Screenplay. Cast: Owen Wilson, Rachel McAdams, Kathy Bates.

While on a trip to Paris with his fiancé's parents, a nostalgic screenwriter finds himself mysteriously going back to the 1920's every day at midnight.

Bring your friends! Refreshments available, free-will donation appreciated.



Notes from the president

“A nickel ain’t worth a dime anymore” ... Yogi Berra

January is the month we wrestle with our annual budget and the Jan. 17th board meeting was largely taken up with addressing that issue.

Treasurer Myron Hedderson and board member Najat Abdou-McFarland presented a draft budget for 2016 and board members had a go at it until we came up with what we felt was a sound plan to present to members at the annual budget meeting on Jan 31.

Members who attended that meeting voted in favour of a budget of \$24,055 in revenue and \$26,763 in expenditures. That leaves us with a projected deficit of \$2,683.

Just to put this in perspective in 2007 the board of the day had projected a deficit of \$15,940 but ended the year with a surplus of \$314.

I feel confident in saying we have a very frugal board and we will do our best to come as close as possible to a balanced budget before our term ends in June.

Fundraising Events Coming Up

The board has moved quickly to address the potential shortfall and established a fundraising committee, chaired by Sheila Moore. Sheila held a meeting in early February and eight people showed up and shared a plethora of ideas for raising money. Sheila and Ken Moore have already begun hosting a once-a-month movie night.

We don’t want to only raise money. These activities are an opportunity for members of the congregation to engage, to strengthen our faith community, to introduce others to the fellowship and to have some fun. You will soon be receiving information about other events and I hope everyone who can will take part.

One of the ways we can gain additional revenues is by allowing non-member individuals, groups and organizations to use space in our building. New lower rates, or suggested donations, are in the works. When rates were increased a few years back the requests, and the subsequent revenues, dropped off considerably. Let any of your contacts know we have space available for small group meetings, weddings, other events, and are equipped with a wide screen TV and wifi.

A Community Garden

Buildings and Grounds and Social Responsibility committees have been asked to explore creating a community garden on our grounds. This idea grew from a Sunday service presentation in October by Edee Klee, co-chair of NB Community Harvest Gardens.

The youth group, YaYas-Be, are looking for donations of

Aeroplan or Air Miles to supplement the fundraising they are doing for the trip to the CUC national conference May 20-22 in Vancouver. Contact Jo-Anne or Haifa if you have miles to donate. (All our contact info is on our web site).

That’s it for now.
Glenna Hanley



Goods and Services Auction

Calling for donations to the largest fund raiser of days gone by.

I can’t remember how long it has been since we had the last Goods and Services Auction, but I would guess it has been at least 6 years, perhaps even 8. For anyone who wasn’t here then, I will try to explain what it is.

The GOODS part is any tangible item that we can bid on. The items of better quality, such as a painting, will be on display in the sanctuary, and become part of the live auction. The items of lesser value or size will be part of the silent auction, laid out for all to see and bid on in the library.

The SERVICES part is any service that you can offer that someone else might need or want and bid on in the live auction. Some examples of a service might be 2 or 3 hours of gardening, a week end at your cottage, a dinner for 6 or 8, an afternoon of sailing or canoeing, a homemade cheese cake, walking the dog, almost anything you can think of and do that someone else might want.

The event is a mixture of live auction, laughs, silent auction, fun, refreshments, socializing, and money, money, money.

We are planning to hold this event on Saturday evening, May 28. It is not limited to members only, so please plan to invite your friends and neighbours. The more the merrier, and of course more money, money, money.

Please. Mark your calendar and be thinking of what you can donate. If you have any questions, please contact me. nahbeltrandi@gmail.com

Nancy Beltrandi
Janet Crawford
Tony Fitzgerald
Goods and Services Committee

P.S. We may give some thought to a yard sale at a later date, so don’t think that your treasure is no good. Let us decide.



CUC National Conference

Registration for the CUC National Conference, the “Conference” part of what used to be the Annual Conference and Meeting, is now open. This is the last year the Conference will take place on an annual basis. Arrangements are being made for voting for the AGM to take place online (for instance with Zoom and a voting platform) and for CanUdle to be held on a smaller scale each year. However, the intensive conference experience (2 days packed with Worship, social, learning and networking experiences) will not happen again until 2018.

You can find out more about the Conference at <http://cuc.ca/conference-2016/> or from Jo-Anne Elder-Gomes, the CUC Conference Convenor, at conference@cuc.ca.



Celebration of Faith in Diversity

The religious studies class of Dr. Alexandra Bain is again planning a Celebration of Faith and Diversity at St. Thomas University. There are four students from the class who are working with us as “Faith Partners”, you may have met a couple of them at recent services.

This year, the event is scheduled for 5pm on Tuesday, March 29, and is expected to run no later than 9pm including the pot-luck. It will again take place in the Kinsella Auditorium and Lobby of the Margaret Norrie McCain Hall. Classes normally end and the parking lot begins to clear around 4pm, so there is the hour from 4pm to 5pm for arrival and set up.

The theme chosen this year is “home.” Rather than individual talks, they are going to try a “panel discussion” format. The class is working to put together a set of specific questions and allow each of the faith groups to speak to each question in turn. The final set of questions should be distributed soon and I would propose that those who are interested meet with me after service on the Sunday before the celebration to contribute to responses to the questions.

A new item this year will be information tables. We should bring our information brochures and have a volunteer willing to “staff” the table to answer questions.

Once more, STU will reimburse up to \$50 (I believe) for out of pocket expenses in the pot-luck item(s).

Tony Fitzgerald



“Volunteers improve the lives of others while enhancing their own”

Meals on Wheels of Fredericton is in need of volunteer drivers to deliver meals between 11:00 a.m. and 12:00 noon.

We need drivers for both sides of the river, to deliver any day of the week (including weekends), and to deliver as often as it is convenient for the volunteer. Meals are picked up at the hospital (DECRH), and York Care Center.

We need drivers that deliver on a regular basis; that is, the same day of the week every week (eg. every Monday or every Wednesday) or the same day of the month (eg. the second Tuesday).

We also need drivers that make themselves available on a flexible basis. We call those our Substitute Volunteers when Regular Volunteers have to cancel. When we call a Substitute Volunteer they have the opportunity to deliver if they are available or pass if they are not.

We are also looking for volunteers to help at various fundraising events, serve on our board of Directors and help with our weekly Wheels to Meals Senior’s dine-out luncheon program!

For more information our telephone number is 458-9482 and our email address is info@frederictonmealsonwheels.ca.

Seniors Dine-out Luncheon Program

Lunch is served every **Tuesday** on the North side.

The program runs from September to May.

Doors open at **11:00 a.m.**

Coffee, tea, main course and dessert served at 11:45 a.m.

Entertainment is included and finishes by 1:00 p.m.

Cost: **\$7.50**

Transportation is provided if required.

If school is cancelled due to bad weather, so is Wheels to Meals

Please call 458-9482 by 10 a.m. on Mondays to reserve a spot!



GFAW Open Meet & Greet

On the evening of Saturday March 12th the Greater Fredericton Area Witches (GFAW) will be hosting an open meet & greet to which all are welcome.

We'll share snacks and conversation for an hour or so after which members of GFAW will offer a casual and brief information session about GFAW. Various members will be available for Q&A.

We're making a point of inviting members of the Unitarian Fellowship as you've been so kind about providing us with a place to gather for our rituals and workshops. We're thinking this would be an easy opportunity for anyone who has been wondering what we're about to learn more in a relaxed atmosphere.

Please email gfawgfaw@gmail.com to let us know if you'll be attending and if you'll be bringing others with you so we'll have a sense of how many to expect. We'll then reply with details such as the exact time. There is no rsvp cut-off date for this event.

Things to bring include a donation of \$3-\$5 as able and snack food to share. Vegan and gluten free dishes are always appreciated but not mandatory.



Public Book Reading and Discussion

Atlantic Canada Studies Seminar Series
Faculty of Arts, UNBF

The Lightless Sky:

A Twelve-Year-Old Refugee's Harrowing Escape from Afghanistan and His Extraordinary Journey Across Half the World

By Gulwali Passarlay

"A Powerful account of a yearlong journey. . ."

A Faculty of Arts Collaboration
March 29, 2016, at 7:00 PM
Location: Unitarian Fellowship of Fredericton
874 York St.

Refreshments will be served.

For more information, please contact:

Elizabeth Mancke Sharon Weaver
emancke@unb.ca s.weaver@unb.ca

This book is available for loan at the Harriet Irving Library at UNB & the Fredericton Public Library. It can also be purchased at Westminster books.



Book Review

A Book That Might Interest You: *Sikhism: Its Ideals and Institutions*

Canada's Minister of Defence is a Sikh, so Teja Singh's book gives some interesting ideas on how his background might influence his decisions, as well as some ideas that Unitarians might consider.

Singh tells us Sikhs try to achieve union with a spirit greater than themselves. This is to be done as part of a group, using prayers written by the Gurus: the ten spiritual leaders who were considered the voice of that spirit until the last Guru declared that the group itself was now that voice. After the formal prayers for each part of the day, anyone, woman, man or child can read a formal prayer of their choice and follow it with a prayer in their own words.

The unity of the group is expressed by symbols in Sikh outfits, uncut hair pulled back from the face with a comb and a turban symbolising a simple but disciplined soldier, the wide trousers brought in below the knee symbolising briskness of movement and relaxation, the iron ring on the right arm, symbolising strength and constraint, the kirpan or dagger symbolising self-respect and readiness for defence or offence.

He explains Sikhs are ready to fight for the Five Freedoms: control of their own environment, liberty of thought, the right to share their own views with others for possible conversion and the right to take part in politics. Bitterness and revenge are to be avoided.

The aim of the struggle is to maintain the right to search for the spirit of God through their community and the service of others through that community. As someone frustrated by the limitations of what I can still do to serve others, I was comforted by the Sikh idea of economy of service. The phrase isn't entirely clear but I interpreted it as the individual does what she or he can through the community and the whole community is devoted to providing needed service. For a start, every Sikh community runs free kitchens where all able members of the community are expected to help out.

The book gives details of the development of Sikh religion and the ways of seeking communion with the spirit through many formal ceremonies. The idea of differences based on caste or income is clearly rejected. It mentions the equality of women but they are noticeably absent from the symbolism or development of the religion. The origin of the book in 1938 and this re-written edition being 1951 may have something to do with that. It was presented to our library "With best wishes to members of the Unitarian church. May this bring you happy memories of our nice associations with you during our pleasant stay in Freder-

icton” by Santander and Yashpal Bajaj, March 29th 1967.
Does anyone remember them?

Sheila Andrew



Beyond the Walls of Our Congregation

As Unitarian Universalists, we often find ourselves wishing we could live in a world that more closely reflects our values. We want more of what we share within the walls of our congregation to exist outside the walls. Many of us dedicate our lives to creating small pockets of community that reflect our values.

It can come as a surprise to many Unitarian Universalists that there is already an established network of such communities throughout the United States and Canada. It's our Unitarian Universalist Camp and Conference Centers. And they have formed an alliance to help spread the word, the Unitarian Universalist Alliance of Camp and Conference Centers (UUACCC).

Each center is a unique place, often located in a spectacular natural setting. Most operate year-round or close to it, offering retreats, conferences, and summer camp experiences that reflect our UU values. They offer similar experiences to the summer institutes and assemblies but because they are center based they are able to do so on a continuous basis throughout the year with a great many opportunities for learning and growing in community.

Adults and families are often surprised to learn what a wide range of opportunities for fellowship, self-discovery, and learning Camp and Conference Centers provide throughout the year. And all take place in natural settings of unparalleled beauty.

For those of us with children, the centers that offer summer camp experiences for youth are especially important. It can be challenging for our children to find peers who share their values, and a place to belong where they can live those values. Unitarian Universalist Camp and Conference Centers are often a home away from home for young people.

In the words of a camper from Unirondack, a UU summer camp in the Western Adirondacks of New York State:

"You taught me to seek out the innate goodness in every human being. You taught me that there is no fully good person, and no consummation of evil...that everybody is a rainbow. You just have to pick which colors to see,...You taught me how to love. You taught me that love doesn't have to be between man and woman...that any two people can love each other. Love is holding hands, love is sitting together, reading together, singing together, holding each other up, holding each other back, and letting each other go. Goodbye Unirondack. I love you. And now I'm ready to go love some more."

Transformative UUnique experiences like this young person describes are an everyday occurrence at our Unitarian Universalist Camp and Conference Centers. There is something for everyone: youth, families of all kinds, and adults. Visit the UUACCC website to find links to UU experiences beyond the walls of our congregation.

Our mailing address is:

Unirondack
P.O. Box 7880
New York, NY 10116

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