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## Sunday Services

Child care is available and all are welcome.

### March 27 *Easter Service. Transformation: A Heart Broken Wide Open*

Parker Palmer, a Quaker writer, writes “Heartbreak is an inevitable and painful part of life. But there are at least two ways for the heart to break: it can break open into new life, or break apart into shards of sharper and more widespread pain. A brittle heart will explode into a thousand pieces. But a supple heart will break open into a greater capacity to hold life’s suffering and its joy.”

A heart that is broken by the loss of someone we love, either through death, distance, or differences, will make us feel that life is hardly worth living. Through our mourning, however, we learn that our hearts have become wide open, not only more compassionate and embracing new opportunities to love ourselves, others, and the universe, but also stronger and better able to welcome the changes and challenges life will bring us. We are transformed by our pain.

At this multigenerational service, children and adults can choose between reflect on readings on compassion, healing, and transformation to joining the children and youth to make a mosaic sun-catcher heart.

April Theme: Stewardship / Caring for our Earth

**April 3 *Theme Service.*** While youth and adults think about what it means to commit to caring for the interconnected web, children will take part in a treasure hunt with a spring theme. (Please have children dress appropriately for the cold or mud; the treasures will be hidden outside if the weather is good.)

**April 10** Najat will host our guest speaker, EagleSpirit. For over 15 years EagleSpirit, a Contemporary Shaman, has empowered hundreds to learn to live each moment from their deepest truth and as their most authentic Self. She is often referred to as a “Healer’s Healer,” sought out by other health and wellness professionals who work with her to remain centred and balanced as they help others.

**April 17** Service Leader: Joan McFarland. Speaker: Dr. Susan Machum. Dr. Machum, who is completing her term in the Canada Research Chair for Rural Social Justice, will speak on “*Mirroring policies and practices: The case of rural landscapes.*” It is common practice to think of cities as ‘man-made’ or built environments, while rural landscapes are portrayed as ‘natural’. Yet the rural spaces we traverse are also built. Cleared fields, rock and barb wired fences, grazing cattle and hedges are evidence of past and present farm practices. Human activity is responsible for the hydroelectric dams and open pit mines, and the list goes on. Drawing on Aguiar, Tomic and Trumper’s (2005) work on econoscapes, this presentation explores the impact on New Brunswick’s rural landscape of promoting and pursuing particular economic and energy agendas. The talk raises questions about the long-term implications of adopting particular ‘energyscapes’ for local populations and resources at St. Thomas University, will reflect on energyscapes and econoscapes in New Brunswick. What kind of rural vistas are current social and economic policies creating?

**April 24** In celebration of Mother Earth Day (April 22), Najat Abdou-McFarland and Myron Hedderson will talk about the different models a garden on our grounds could take: reaching out to different sections of the wider community, selling for market, growing for ourselves, a small- or large-scale project, a children’s garden, and other options.

May Theme: Happiness

**May 1** *Theme Service.* Heidi O'Donnell will lead an interactive service. Join us in conversations about how our ideas of happiness evolve throughout our lives.



## Reflections on our April Theme:

### Stewardship, Caring for the Earth and the Interdependent Web.

“The Peace of Wild Things

When despair for the world grows in me  
and I wake in the night at the least sound  
in fear of what my life and my children's lives may be,  
I go and lie down where the wood drake  
rests in his beauty on the water, and the great heron feeds.  
I come into the peace of wild things  
who do not tax their lives with forethought  
of grief. I come into the presence of still water.  
And I feel above me the day-blind stars  
waiting with their light. For a time  
I rest in the grace of the world, and am free.”

– Wendell Berry, *The Selected Poems of Wendell Berry*

“...the care of the earth is our most ancient and most worthy and, after all, our most pleasing responsibility. To cherish what remains of it, and to foster its renewal, is our only legitimate hope.”

– Wendell Berry, *The Art of the Commonplace: The Agrarian Essays*

“People need wild places. Whether or not we think we do, we do. We need to be able to taste grace and know again that we desire it. We need to experience a landscape that is timeless, whose agenda moves at the pace of speciation and glaciers. To be surrounded by a singing, mating, howling commotion of other species, all of which love their lives as much as we do ours, and none of which could possibly care less about us in our place. It reminds us that our plans are small and somewhat absurd. It reminds us why, in those cases in which our plans might influence many future generations, we ought to choose carefully. Looking out on a clean plank of planet earth, we can get shaken right down to the bone by the bronze-eyed possibility of lives that are not our own.”

– Barbara Kingsolver

“Animals are more than ever a test of our character, of mankind's capacity for empathy and for decent, honorable conduct and faithful stewardship. We are called to treat them with kindness, not because they have rights or power or some claim to equality, but in a sense because they don't; because they all stand unequal and powerless before us.”

– Matthew Scully, *Dominion: The Power of Man, the Suf-*

*fering of Animals, and the Call to Mercy*

“I believe in God, only I spell it Nature.”

– Frank Lloyd Wright, *Truth Against the World: Frank Lloyd Wright Speaks for an Organic Architecture*

“When one tugs at a single thing in nature, he finds it attached to the rest of the world.”

– John Muir

“The individual cannot exist outside of the many spheres of the deeply interconnected webs of life.”

– Bryant McGill, *Voice of Reason*

“What we are doing to the forests of the world is but a mirror reflection of what we are doing to ourselves and to one another.”

– Chris Maser, *Forest Primeval: The Natural History of an Ancient Forest*

“The universe is one being. Everything and everyone is interconnected through an invisible web of stories. Whether we are aware of it or not, we are all in a silent conversation. Do no harm. Practise compassion. And do not gossip behind anyone's back - not even seemingly innocent remark! The words that come out of our mouth do not vanish but are perpetually stored in infinite space, and they will come back to us in due time. One man's pain will hurt us all. One man's joy will make everyone smile.”

– Elif Shafak, *The Forty Rules of Love*

“Nature is interconnected; when we do damage to one fraction of the web of life, we do damage to the entire web. Everything that we do affects everything else, including ourselves. We cannot ignore the constant pollution and assume it won't interfere with our lives down the road. We need to understand the interconnectedness of Nature and act accordingly if we wish to heal our current situation here on Earth. We need to start treating things in relation to every other thing, especially when it involves life, health, and the use of natural resources.”

– Joseph P. Kauffman, *Conscious Collective: An Aim for Awareness*

“HELPED are those who find the courage to do at least one small thing each day to help the existence of another—plant, animal, river, or human being. They shall be joined by a multitude of the timid.

HELPED are those who lose their fear of death; theirs is the power to envision the future in a blade of grass. HELPED are those who love and actively support the diversity of life; they shall be secure in their differences. HELPED are those who KNOW.”

– Alice Walker

“Holism (...) is a way of viewing the universe as a web of interactions and relationships. Whole systems (and the universe can be seen as an overarching system of systems) have properties beyond those of their parts. All things are, in some sense, alive, or a part of a living system; the real world of mind and matter, body and consciousness,

cannot be understood by reducing it to pieces and parts.”

– David Zindell

“How inappropriate to call this planet ”Earth,” when it is clearly ”Ocean.”

– Arthur C. Clarke

“Find your place on the planet. Dig in, and take responsibility from there.”

– Gary Snyder

“Because we all share this planet earth, we have to learn to live in harmony and peace with each other and with nature. This is not just a dream, but a necessity.”

– Dalai Lama XIV

“Far out in the uncharted backwaters of the unfashionable end of the western spiral arm of the Galaxy lies a small unregarded yellow sun. Orbiting this at a distance of roughly ninety-two million miles is an utterly insignificant little blue green planet whose ape-descended life forms are so amazingly primitive that they still think digital watches are a pretty neat idea.”

– Douglas Adams, *The Hitchhiker’s Guide to the Galaxy*

“Here we are, the most clever species ever to have lived. So how is it we can destroy the only planet we have?”

– Jane Goodall



## Women’s Pot Luck

The next Unitarian Fellowship women’s potluck will be held Friday, April 1, 2016. Sheila Moore will host the gathering at her home, Fairway Hills Apartments - Apt. #31 - 2 Golf Greens Lane. We gather at 6 PM and eat at 6:30 PM. The discussion topic is *April Fools Day. Do you fool people or do you get fooled.* Share a story about April Fools Days. The apartment is located near top of Hanwell Road hill. When you enter Golf Greens Lane turn left immediately. Lots of parking available. Drive to the end of the parking lot and go in the first door at front of building facing the street. Go through the doors and down the stairs. Any questions about directions please phone Sheila at 450-902.

We will have another women’s potluck on Friday, April 29, 2016. We gather at 6 PM and eat at 6:30 PM. The location and discussion topic will be circulated at a later time. For further information contact Joan Brewer at [jbrewer@rogers.com](mailto:jbrewer@rogers.com)



## Karaoke Party Saturday night

Warm up your vocal chords. We are holding a karaoke party at the fellowship Saturday night, April 2, from 7 to 9 pm.

This is open to the public and to families, the young and the old. Healthy (and some not so healthy) snacks and refreshments will be available.

This is a shared fundraiser for the Syrian refugee family (we are helping the Halifax UU church sponsor) and for the operating costs of the fellowship centre.

This is not a competition. We welcome everyone. If you can’t sing solo bring friends and do a duet, trio or quartet. We want everyone to have a chance to sing so we may do some sing-along tunes as well. If you want to donate to the food/drinks contact Alyssa at [alyssa@sankey.ca](mailto:alyssa@sankey.ca) For any other information contact [ghanley@nb.sympatico.ca](mailto:ghanley@nb.sympatico.ca)



## MOVIE NIGHT

Thursday, April 21<sup>st</sup> 7 pm

“The Mysterious Lady” - A spy thriller from 1928

Stars: Greta Garbo & Conrad Nagle - Director: Fred Niblo

Karl VonRaden (Conrad Nagle) is a dashing young captain in the Austrian Army. He meets the beautiful Tania Federova (Greta Garbo) at the Vienna Opera and the two fall in love. He then receives orders to deliver military plans to Berlin, which the Russian Spy Service, under the command of the exceedingly evil General Boris Alexandroff (Gustave vonSeyfferitz) is desperate to intercept. Intrigue and suspense ensue as vonRaden tries to navigate a tangled web of intrigue and romance.

Refreshments available. Free will offering appreciated.



## Goods and Services Auction

Saturday Evening May 28

Mark your calendar and invite a friend

It promises to be a very exciting evening with wonderful bargains. My initial request for donations has met with a very generous response. Our list is beginning to shape up nicely with the offer of: 2 dinners for 6. One choice of Indian or Salmon & one Vegetarian; lots and lots of brownies; technical support for computer problems; 2 loaves of gluten free Brown Bread; an accompanied day trip and lunch for 2 at New River Beach; several art prints

by such artists as Paul Peel, Molly Lamb Bobak, Bruno Bobak; a 4 day cottage stay with a view in Parrsboro, NS; art work; pottery; crafts; an afternoon or morning of raspberry picking in Prince William with a picnic lunch provided & with the option of having your berries made into jam; set of 6 Davenport China demitasse; matching set of man/woman's watches with diamonds inset on the faces, valued at \$250. each by Spicer Cole; to be continued next month .....

**Again** - Calling for donations for one of our largest fund raisers. The event is a mixture of live auction, laughs, silent auction, fun, refreshments, socializing, and money, money, money. It is not limited to members only, so please plan to invite your friends and neighbors. 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



## Holocaust Memorial Observance

Sunday April 10, 2016, 3:00 pm.  
Sgoolai Israel Synagogue  
168 Westmorland Street, Fredericton

The Annual Holocaust Memorial Observance will take place this year on Sunday April 10, 2016 at 3:00 pm. The keynote speaker is Faigie Schmidt Libman.

*Faigie Schmidt, an only child, was born into an affluent family in Kaunas, Lithuania in 1934. Her mother Batia was a surgical nurse and her father Faiva owned a successful bookstore. The Nazis invaded Lithuania in the summer of 1941 just before her seventh birthday. They confined the Kaunas Jewish community into a crowded ghetto. In October 1941 Helmut Rauca the SS Master Sergeant of the ghetto ordered everyone to assemble. He divided families into two groups. One group of families was machine-gunned over open pits that became their mass graves. Rauca's killing unit murdered more than 10,500 Lithuanian Jews that day. Miraculously, Faigie and her family were not selected. They survived to live three more years of forced labour, hunger and turmoil in the ghetto. In 1944 as they were losing the war, the Nazis sent the remaining Kaunas Jews to concentration camps. Faigie's father went to Dachau in Germany. She and her mother went to Stutthof in Poland. Children were routinely murdered upon arrival at the camps, but the day Faigie arrived at Stutthof the ovens were not working. This unforeseen event gave Faigie's mother a chance to save her daughter. It would be the second time she deceived the Nazis and saved*

*her daughter's life. Faigie and her mother worked digging trenches at Stutthof and three smaller labour camps. In January 1945 they were forced on a death march where for days faltering meant death. The Soviet army liberated them from the death march near Danzig. They later learned that Faigie's father had been killed during a death march from Dachau. While living in an Austrian displaced persons camp, Faigie's mother located her sister in Montreal. In 1948 they immigrated to a new life in Canada. Faigie married her loving husband Benny Libman in 1952. They had four children and many grandchildren together. Faigie became a kindergarten teacher. Her mother remarried, obtained her Canadian nursing certification and worked in Montreal for many years. In June 1982 Faigie learned that Helmut Rauca had been arrested by the RCMP for the murder of 11,500 Lithuanian Jews. To her horror he had been living a few blocks from her North York home. It was a turning point for Faigie. She resolved to tell her story and teach about the dangers of hatred and intolerance. "I owe my survival to my belief in God, my mother's courage and heroic actions and unforeseen miracles," she said.*

We look forward to your presence on this solemn occasion.

Sincerely,  
Israel Unger  
Chair Holocaust Commemoration Committee



## Conference 2016

May 20 - 22 , Vancouver, BC

**Editor's note:** *The full letter was sent electronically to the congregation and, since it contains many links to the conference web site, is not particularly useful on paper. Please send a note to the editor, Touchstone@UFF.ca, if you would like a copy of the full letter by email.*

Canadian Unitarian Council's Bolder Ways of Being National Conference: May 20-22, 2016 — University of British Columbia. Early Bird deadline ends March 31st

Spring in beautiful British Columbia, spending time with Unitarians and being bold about living our faith – you'll want to be there!

We'll proclaim to the world that "They Will Know We Are UU By Our Love," in a Confluence Lecture by Rev. Melora Lynngood.

Explore and take action on Climate Justice and Indigenous reconciliation. Discover your personal ministry and bolder ways of living our principles. Make connections and network with other UUs. Worship and sing together. Share a meal with new friends. Listen to each other's stories and be inspired by new ideas.

Come, join us.



## Neat Numbers

### - Our Earth as a Village

If we could shrink the Earth's population to a village of precisely 100 people, with all existing human ratios remaining the same, it would look like this:

There would be 60 Asians, 11 Europeans, 14 from the Western Hemisphere (North and South) and 15 Africans. 50 would be female; 50 would be male. 70 would be non-white; 30 white. 70 would be non-Christian; 30 Christian. 50

Thanks to:  
Sheila Moore



**Note:** Kinsella Auditorium is in McCain Hall.

## *Celebration of Faith In Diversity*

March 29<sup>th</sup> 2016  
St. Thomas University  
Kinsella Auditorium 5pm-8pm

We welcome you to this opportunity to learn and come together with several different faith communities of Fredericton, in a "Celebration of Faith in Diversity".

A silent auction will be held in support of the Syrian refugees.

*Food and admission is free,  
Parking will be provided  
All are welcome.*



St. Thomas  
University

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