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Sunday Service 11 a.m.

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Sunday Services

May Theme: *Compassion*

May 28: Some Notes on Compassion. Note: We will not be streaming the service from Halifax on May 28; here is the new description. Jo-Anne will be sharing some thoughts on compassion, our theme for May, including excerpts from a sermon by Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray about “cultivating humility and compassion in our own lives” and “invoking reverence and respect for humanity and creation in the larger world.”

June Theme: *Growth and Transitions*

June 4: Growth and Transitions. Please contact me if you have marked a milestone in your life (special anniversary or birthday, move, new job, retirement, birth, death of a loved one) over the past year so we can recognize the occasion. We will honour members of the Fellowship and others close to us, recognize new members and friends, and have a bridging ceremony.

June 11: Flower Communion. A flower ceremony is a service held annually in many UU congregations around the world to celebrate uniqueness, diversity, and community, and to express our commitment to our Sixth Principle: We covenant to affirm and promote the goal of world community with peace, liberty and justice for all. Originally created in 1923 by Unitarian minister Norbert Capek of Prague, Czechoslovakia, the Flower Ceremony was introduced to the

United States by Rev. Maya Capek, Norbert’s widow.

June 17-18: Visiting Speaker: J.D. Stillwater will be doing a workshop and a Sunday service. Find out more about J.D. and his mission at sevencandles.org.

Seven Candles: Science for a Deeper Spirituality is a non-profit mission:

- to share spiritual revelations from mainstream science,
- to promote science as an interfaith source of spiritual inspiration,
- to offer that Mystery is integral to both reality and spirituality.

Workshop at the Fellowship on Saturday, June 17 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. This workshop is suitable for youth and older, and will include a dessert potluck. Description by J.D.: “Seven Candles (finally) comes to Canada! Join us for the full presentation on Saturday evening, followed by a Seven Candles spin-off sermon the following morning. Saturday’s event includes a dessert potluck, so bring something scrumptious! It promises to be both great fun and highly thought-provoking.”

Sunday Service, June 18, 10:30 a.m. Speaker: J.D. Stillwater. Service Leader: Heather Lunergan. “Taker Guilt and the Exorcism of Anthropocene Angst.” “A Seven Candles spinoff sermon: That humans are having major impacts on the planet is now quite clear, and some of those impacts may be evident millions of years from now. Are we a cancer on the biosphere, a plague? Would it be better if we had remained blissfully in the stone age? Our angst about such matters may be no more helpful to building sustainable systems than is white guilt in forging racial justice. JD will somehow relate all of this to romantic relationships, parenting teenagers, and Joni Mitchell.”

More information about the workshop and service from Heather Lunergan.

June 25: The Unitarian Fellowship of Fredericton will hold its Annual General Meeting, beginning at 10:30 a.m., followed by a potluck picnic.

For information on Sunday Services or to make suggestions, please write to us at Sunday_Services@UFF.ca

Joys and Concerns

Congratulations to Naomi and Anneke

Naomi Frooman will be graduating from École Saint-Anne this June. She is off to Queen's University where she'll take Film Studies, spending her first year in the UK at the Bader International Study Centre in Herstmonceux Castle, East Sussex.

Anneke Elder-Gomes will be attending the NB College of Craft and Design in the fall. Thinking of you Jo-Anne Elder Gomes and family. Jo-Anne's eldest brother has been diagnosed with Cancer. Keep him in your thoughts. His son's wedding plans have been adjusted and Jo-Anne and Carlos plan to see him in Ottawa.

TUFF will miss Naomi and her dedication to the children and religious education over the last few years.

Sympathy to Haifa on the loss of her dear friend, Nafla Anderson. Many of us will remember her warm presence at our Spring Fling Art and Craft Sales and also her delightful biscuits and pickles.

Nafla Terry Anderson

1934-2017

It is with heavy hearts we announce the death of Nafla Terry Anderson. She died at Fredericton Hospice on Friday, May 19th, 2017. Born in Lebanon she was the daughter of Joseph and Meladi Saad.



Survived by her children:

Mary Patterson (Terry) of Fredericton, Victoria Mizner of Fredericton, NB, Daniel Anderson of Fredericton, NB, George Anderson (Kathy) of Keswick Ridge, NB and Barbara Eldridge of Rusagonis, NB; nine grandchildren and six great – grandchildren; her siblings: John Saad, Ben Saad, and Theresa Phillips all of Fredericton, NB; as well as many nieces and nephews.

She was predeceased by her parents; three brothers: George, Peter and Paul.

Please send joys and concerns that you would like to share to Janet Crawford. janetcra@nbnet.nb.ca

Book and Bake Sale

On Saturday June 24th from 8am-2pm the Fellowship will be holding a Book and Bake Sale! We are asking for book and baked item (regular & gluten free) donations to make this sale a success. Any member of the congregation can drop off books in the entryway of the Fellowship building until the 22nd of June. If you require the books to be picked up please contact Meg Hadley (m.hadley@live.com). Baked goods can be dropped off at the fellowship on Friday June 23rd between 12-8pm or you can contact Sheila Moore (smoore@nbnet.nb.ca) for different arrangements. And if you can make it to the sale we would love to see you there!

'Tis the Season of Rhubarb!

Try these delicious recipes.

Rhubarb Cake:

$\frac{3}{4}$ cup brown sugar, $\frac{3}{4}$ cup white sugar, 1 egg, $\frac{1}{2}$ cup margarine, 1 teasp. baking soda in 1 cup of sour milk, $\frac{1}{2}$ teasp. salt, 1 teasp. vanilla, 2 cups flour

Cream together the sugars and the margarine. Mix dry ingredients together in bowl. In separate bowl mix together the egg, vanilla and the sour milk with soda. Alternately add the wet and dry ingredients to the creamed mixture. Fold in 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ cups of chopped rhubarb.

Bake at 350 degrees for about 1 hour in a greased 9 x 13 pan

Mix $\frac{1}{4}$ cup brown sugar, 1 Tabsp. Butter and 1 teaspoon cinnamon. Gently spread on cake while warm.

Rhubarb Muffins

1 cup buttermilk, 1 large egg, 1 teasp. vanilla, $\frac{1}{2}$ cup vegetable oil, 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ cups flour, 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ cups packed brown sugar, 1 cup quick cooking oatmeal, 1 tabsp. Grated orange zest

1 teasp. baking soda, 1 teasp. salt, 2 cups chopped fresh rhubarb.

In medium bowl, whisk the buttermilk, egg, vanilla, and oil. In a large bowl, combine the flour, sugar, oats, orange zest, baking soda, and salt. Make a well in centre; pour in egg mixture and stir just until combined. Stir in rhubarb. Immediately spoon batter into 12 greased muffin pans. Bake in oven 350 degrees for about 30 minutes or until tops are firm to touch. Cool muffins in pan for 5 minutes. Remove to wire rack to cool.

Thanks to...
Sheila Moore



Summer Adult Program

Are You a Humanist?

We are planning discussion evenings in August on the topic of Humanism. Our discussions will deal with:

- Some history of Humanism
- What do Humanists stand for?
- Can we be good people without belief in God?
- Secular and Religious Humanism
- Are Humanists and Unitarians compatible?
- Do Humanists need community?
- Canada's changing religious landscape – can we provide a welcome community to the “nones”

There will be lots of opportunity for sharing thoughts, stories and insights. Bring your friends and join us for stimulating discussions:

7 pm - Thursday evenings August 3, 10, 17, 24

Ken & Sheila Moore



Dreams From My Father

by **Barack Obama**

Obama's father was a Kenyan, also called Barack. Barack senior's father converted to Islam and made enough money as a herbalist to send his son to university in Hawaii where he met his second wife, Ann. Her parents accepted this interracial marriage, young Barack was born and Ann and Barack senior stayed together for two years. Then Barack senior went back to Kenya and his other wife and child. Polygamy was acceptable in Kenya and he went on to marry other women. Barack junior saw him once more when he was ten.

So why did Barack think the dreams came from his father? Perhaps because the stories and his own experiences with the racial and cultural heritage helped Obama shape his life as an intelligent well-educated American, labelled black, with all the complications that involved. The book was written when he was a 33-year-old lawyer who had just finished a very successful graduate degree at Harvard Law School. There is no indication of political ambitions, but it describes his work in Chicago trying to create organisations that would work to improve the life of the poor black residents, a dream, with some success but many problems. The richer blacks lived separately from the poorer ones. The churches tended to be led by individuals rather than community organisations and found cooperation difficult.

Obama saw that religion helped to set up a limit to despair but did not take to any church himself. His own grandfather, who raised him in Hawaii from the age of ten to

university was a Unitarian briefly, till his wife talked him out of it. (No explanation given). Barack himself went to a Muslim school briefly in Jakarta and then to a Catholic school. His mother was determined he should get a good education and that's why she sent him to a secular school in Hawaii while she stayed was to work on linking different races and cultures through secular university education in Jakarta. Barack's paternal grandfather had converted to Islam. Barack explains how he avoided closing his eyes for prayers in either school and got in trouble with the Catholic sister. All this raises the questions on community and how to work together for better conditions for the poor.

So Barack went to Africa to try and understand his father's world and found a large community of his sisters and brothers by his father's many wives, cousins, a grandmother and a host of stories. These told of dreams, like his father's hopes for Kenyan independence from Britain that cost him his government job and his hopes for an enlarged and contented family, including another American wife who also refused to live with the other wives. Barack had already learned stories of his father's confidence, ability to express his opinions fluently and determination to obtain proper respect for the black people.

His African experience raised the question of family as community. Even though geographically divided, they saw their original home in the country as “home squared” and were happy to return to it, much like the experience of many Atlantic Canadian families. Barack enjoyed becoming part of this, made friends with his family and learned much from his time there. However he concluded that if family is your only community you are losing something and returned to the United States where he worked as a lawyer, mostly for the poor.

The book concludes with a more recent epilogue after his marriage to Michelle who came from the richer black area of Chicago. They married in a United Church with many of the African family present. Barack does not appear interested in his father's dream of community by polygamy but seems a devoted family man.

The book is very interesting with intriguing insights into Kenyan life and the background of a future United States President. The focus on “dreams”, with passing reference to events such as the Jakarta schools and his teenage arrest for car theft just popping up, keeps the reader on the go.. Anyone who reads Janny Scotts' “*A Singular Woman*” on Obama's mother will also wonder why some of the dreams did not come from her life. However it is no surprise that after some failures similar to those of his father and grandfathers Obama plans to follow his dreams and now work for youth.

The book is in the N.B. library system and Haifa has a copy of “*The Singular Woman*”.

Sheila Andrew



Power Notes

Editor's Note: *Betsy and her partner, Anne-Louise, attended the Fellowship while they lived in Fredericton and remain on our mailing list to receive updates about old friends. The following has been extracted from a correspondence from Betsy Epperly in the hopes that some of our readers will find it of interest.*

I wonder if people will be interested to know that this week my book, *Power Notes: Leadership by Analogy*, has been published by Rock's Mill's Press in Ontario?

It is a creative memoir about my three years as (the first woman) president of UPEI, but it is also about a practice of power-to-do rather than power-over, inspired by my reading of Lao Tzu. It is not a how-to book but it is more of a story about trying to use and perceive power differently – something that may be of interest to our unitarian friends.

Anne-Louise's daughter, Jessica, insisted that I needed a web site because of the book (and then created one for me), and so that has information about the press, too. www.elizabettepperly.com

I will understand fully, Tony, if you do not want to use the newsletter as a way to advertise someone's book! But I was thinking more that it is hard to let people know about it, in case they are interested.

All the best,
Betsy



Unitarians in Dublin

Ireland, as we know, is predominately a Catholic country. But on a recent visit there I was pleased to find the country has made room for Unitarians, and for a very long time.

Many of you know that I regularly visit Norway where my son and his family live. On my way home from my most recent trip in April, I stopped off in Dublin, Ireland for four days.

On Sunday morning, April 30, I attended the 11 am Sunday service at the Dublin Unitarian Church.

Unlike our gathering place in a house there is no mistaking that this is a church. Lovely old stone structure in the Gothic Revival architectural style, with a steep steeple,



high peaked roofs and large stained glass windows.

Its location is on St. Stephen's Green, a very large public park right in the heart of Dublin. You can't miss it - although I almost did because when I got off the bus and walked over to the Green I turned left instead of right. I walked almost half way round the park (and it's huge) before I stopped and asked someone where the church was. I managed to get there just three minutes before the service started.

This church opened for business in 1863 - so just about 100 years before our fellowship was started here in Fredericton. A brochure I found advertised the Unitarian Church in Cork is celebrating 300 years.

Inside it is fairly typical of a church of its vintage. Dark wooden seats, enormous pipe organ (in need of repairs I learned later) and, at the front, marble slabs bearing the beatitudes - "Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth". Some of you might remember them.

The service order was quite similar to ours, although there were no joys and sorrows. They have the same song book, *Singing the Living Tradition*, but I didn't know any of the hymns they sang.

The minister, Rev. Bridget Spain, did all of the service, including the story for the children, with just one reading from a church member.

High up in the rafters was a choir loft with 10 to 15 people there. I was not sure if that was an actual choir. There was no director. They were so far removed from the congregation though that it didn't seem like we were all part of the same singing.

Like us, they also had an excellent pianist (but could she play everything that Margaret can play, from Chopin to the Sting? I doubt it.)

The church seems much more God-oriented than our congregation although during the coffee hour later a man told me it varies from Sunday to Sunday. I did notice the minister mention the big bang theory in her sermon (I hope she wasn't referring to the TV show.) It was an excellent sermon entitled *Growing the Soul*. It was quite critical of some "religious" people. She said the soul has nothing to do with religious creeds but "it is how we live". I could live with that.

On their web site they describe their religion as one without dogma or a set creed. But the church's motto ends with, "This we do in covenant with each other and with God".

One thing that was a marked departure from us was the minister offered communion to those that wanted it after the service.

It was a bank holiday weekend - as they call it there in Ireland - so attendance was lower than normal I was told. I sat near the front so I could hear and I didn't want to

be too obvious by turning around and counting the people that were there.

There were a number of seniors, quite a few people who appeared to be in their 40's and 50's. Not many in their 20's and 30's. There were eight children in a range of ages, who went up front for the story. And then they were taken downstairs by one of the members.

I stayed for the coffee hour. A lot of people did not. There was no decaf coffee on offer and the cookies were store-bought. We fare much better here I would say with our coffee hour.

So Unitarianism is alive and well in Ireland. If you go there you should check it out.

Glenna Hanley



In association with

Frantically Atlantic

Don Rigley & Michelle Daigle play traditional and original songs, Celtic, Acadian, and beyond. Call to reserve your seat for a homemade meal and join us for some great kitchen party style music all for \$7.50!

Reservations: 458-9482



May 30th @ St. Mary's Anglican Church Hall (770 McEvoy St).

Doors open at 11 am and everything wraps up around 1pm. All proceeds support Meals on Wheels
Transportation Available

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