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Upcoming services

The theme for February is Interdependence. February is also Black History Month and our last service, as well as our Third Thursday presentation will honour that.

February 4 Service Leader: Jo-Anne Elder Gomes *Sun and Shadow*. To mark Imbolc and Groundhog's Day, Jo-Anne will look at the idea of the interdependence of our unconscious and conscious lives. When we delve into the deeper meanings of our personal joy and our pain, we find connections that are profoundly human, a "mystery at the heart of what holds us together, expressed in shared symbols, stories and experiences." This is a multigenerational service; children and adults may choose to make a shadow puppet theatre together upstairs.

February 11 Guest Speaker: Cathy Holtmann *Towards Cultural Competency: Whither Religion?* Religious diversity is a Canadian social fact. Although Christianity remains the majority religion, the number of people affiliated with Islam, Hinduism, Sikhism, and Buddhism continues to increase. Within each of these religious traditions there is tremendous diversity of beliefs and practices. Public service provision (education, health care, domestic violence, and criminal justice) maintains a stance of naïve secularism. Religion is considered a private matter even though religious beliefs and practices play an important role in identity construction and agency of many Canadians. This talk will explore how religion might be

included in what is commonly referred to cultural competency training.

February 18 Service Leader: Jo-Anne Elder Gomes *The Wood Wide Web*. In nature, trees operate less like individuals and more as social or communal beings. Working together in networks and sharing resources, they increase their resilience, heal each other, send alerts by electrical signals across a fungal network known as the "Wood Wide Web," and keep ancient stumps alive by feeding them a sugar solution through their roots. What can we learn about our interdependent web and about human beings from trees? This is a multigenerational service, with an extended Time for All Ages and crafts available throughout the service.

February 25 Service Leader: Heather Lunergan *Sharing Our Faith Sunday – Radical Hospitality & Racial Justice*. The Sharing Our Faith program provides funds for congregational initiatives which enhance ministry, aid projects and outreach for the congregation, and enhance the Unitarian Universalist movement in Canada. Once a year, congregations are encouraged to hold a "Sharing Our Faith" worship service focused on the UU faith in Canada, with a special collection for the Sharing Our Faith fund. The fund consists of these monies, and from a Foundation Fund administered by the First Unitarian Congregation of Toronto. The funds are allocated in the form of grants to congregations for growth projects and initiatives. Fredericton has benefitted from SOF grants over the history of our congregation.



Annual Budget Meeting

In keeping with the Bylaws of The Unitarian Fellowship of Fredericton, the Annual Budget Meeting has been called for February 4, 2018, at the Fellowship. The meeting will start following the Sunday service at 874 York Street. Please plan to attend to ensure our business can be completed by having a quorum of members in attendance. All are welcome to attend. The proposed budget will be

emailed to members and posted on the bulletin board at 874 York Street.

The regular monthly meeting of the Board will follow the Annual Budget Meeting. All are welcome to attend the Board meeting.



Second Thursday

Chris Hedges talk “Fascism in a time of Trump” will be viewed and discussed at the Unitarian Fellowship at 7pm on February 8th. Hedges explains western society’s recent past and likely near future. The moral, social, and economic implications of his talk will be the focus of ‘talk back’ over coffee... All are welcome



Third Thursday

On February 18th, at 7 pm, join Deby Nash for a short film and discussion about inter-racial families in New Brunswick. All are welcome and there is no fee.



A Canadian UU Quiz

Thanks to
Sheila Moore

Answers are on the last page of the newsletter.

1. Who was the first president of the CUC Board?
2. Where did the founding meeting of the CUC take place?
3. Another “big event” took place the same year as the CUC was founded. What was that?
4. Where were the three Canadian Universalist congregations when the CUC was founded?
5. Who was the first woman president of the CUC?
6. Who was the first administrator of the CUC?
7. What is the significance of “56 Sparks Street” to Unitarians?
8. Name one of Phillip Hewett’s books.
9. Who was the first openly gay minister to be called to a Canadian congregation?
10. Which congregation called him?
11. What Canadian Unitarian Universalist couple was awarded the Order of Canada? What had they done to deserve it?

12. Who were the two brothers who were instrumental in starting the Unitarian congregations in Montreal and Toronto in the middle of the 19th century? From what country had they immigrated?
13. Who was Monroe Husbands, and what did he do for Canadian Unitarianism?
14. Who was the first Executive Director of the CUC?



Monthly Women’s Pot Luck

The next Unitarian Fellowship women’s pot luck will be held Friday, February 23rd. Joan Brewer will host the gathering at her home, 31 Ridgewell Place. We gather at 6 PM and eat at 6:30 PM. The topic for discussion will be circulated closer to the date. For further information, contact Joan Brewer at jebrewer@rogers.com.



The Lay Chaplaincy Program

Unitarian Lay Chaplains prepare for and officiate at rites of passage (weddings, funerals, memorials, and child dedication services) for the general public and for members of Unitarian congregations without ministers.

Lay Chaplaincy is an important outreach program for our congregation and our Lay Chaplains are representatives of our congregation in the wider community. They are expected to perform rites of passage in a manner that celebrates and dignifies those special occasions in human life, adding spiritual depth to the lives of individuals and communities.

Tony Fitzgerald, who has been one of our Lay Chaplains for nearly 6 years, will be stepping down from his duties next June. Our Lay Chaplaincy Committee has a procedure in place for choosing a new Lay Chaplain and is looking for members who may wish to explore this opportunity to serve their spiritual community.

The contracts between the Unitarian Fellowship and the lay chaplain are for a three year period, with congregational renewal on an annual basis. Deby Nash is in her second year as a Lay Chaplain.

If you would like some information about this amazing opportunity please contact Sheila Moore 450-9021. Speak to Tony or Deby about their experiences!

Sheila Moore, Chair
Lay Chaplaincy Committee



Community Imbolc / Brigid Ritual

GFAW will be offering an open community ritual for the sabbat of Imbolc, also known as Brigid, on the evening of Monday February 5th and would love for interested or curious members of the Unitarian Fellowship to join us.

This ritual has not been planned by members of GFAW, rather we'll be using a recording of the online ritual offered by Starhawk and attended live by at least one member of GFAW. Please email gfawgfaw@gmail.com for details (time and location).

For anyone who would like to join the live online ritual, it will take place at 10:00 pm (6:00 pm PST) on Thursday February 1st. The link to be notified of details and registration opening is <http://starhawk.org/wheel-of-the-year/>.

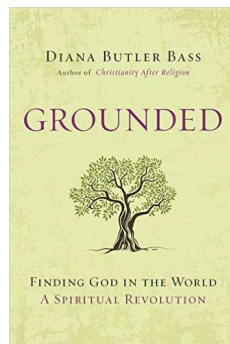
Blessings of the Returning Light to you all!



Grounded

by **Diana Butler Bass**

This is a fascinating book on the state of Christian thinking in America, post 9/11. Her overall theme is that America is on the verge of a major revolution in Christian thinking, already in progress, wherein those holding onto the old jingoisms (she categorizes them as 'Fundamentalists') are being dragged forward into the change of a new world, kicking and screaming, to no avail.



Her book is peppered with numerous quotable observations, mostly her own with support from other scholars and influential theological thinkers, i.e.

“Spirituality is about personal experience...the deep realization that dirt is good, water is holy, the sky holds wonder; that we are part of a great web of life, our home is in God, and our moral life is entwined with that of our neighbour. But none of this is for the sake of feeling good, individual prosperity, or guaranteeing a blessed after-life. It is about tracing the threads of the interconnected universe, about finding God in nature and community...and...

in finding God, discovering that we really are one.”

“Work for justice. Know that your life is in communion with all life. The spiritual revolution, finding God in the world, is an invitation to new birth, most especially for religion. There is no better place to start than in your synagogue, mosque, temple, or church. There is nothing worse than sleeping through a revolution.”

submitted by
John van Abbema



Answers: Canadian UU Quiz

Answers to quiz on page 2.

1. Charles Eddis
2. Boston
3. Merger between the American Unitarian Association and the Universalist Church of America.
4. Halifax, North Hatley (Quebec), Olinda (Ontario)
5. Mary Lu MacDonald
6. Barbara Arnott
7. It is the address of USC Canada, which was originally known as the Unitarian Service Committee
8. An Unfettered Faith, On Being a Unitarian, The Unitarian Way, Unitarians In Canada, Racovia
9. Mark DeWolfe
10. Unitarian Congregation of Mississauga (formerly South Peel)
11. Fred and Bonnie Cappuccino. They run the Canadian charity Child Haven International. They adopted 19 children from around the world. They also formed Families for Children, an adoption agency that brought many hundreds of children from war torn countries to Canadian homes.
12. Benjamin and Joseph Workman. Ireland
13. He was a “circuit rider” or missionary in the 1960’s who travelled around Canada and the U.S. encouraging the establishment of Unitarian fellowships. Unitarian Fellowship of Fredericton was one of them.
14. Kathleen Hunter

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