



The Newsletter of the Unitarian Fellowship of Fredericton

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## Up-coming Sunday Services

We will continue to provide Sunday Services by ZOOM each Sunday. Watch for the ZOOM information each week which will be sent to the congregational email list. Contact the chair of the membership committee, [Membership@UFF.ca](mailto:Membership@UFF.ca), to be added to the mailing list.

### January 31<sup>th</sup> Myron Hedderson “Effective Altruism”

Doing the most good at the least effort/expense, or making effort or expense you can afford, do the most good.

*Service Leader:* Haifa Miller

### February 7<sup>th</sup> “Sharing Our Faith Sunday”

Sharing Our Faith Sunday is an opportunity to reflect on the wider Unitarian and Universalist family across Canada and the Canadian Unitarian Council that serves to unite us. The CUC has worked overtime to help congregations get through the COVID pandemic and offers services year round to inspire and enlighten. You will be asked to make a donation to the Sharing Our Faith grant program that assists congregations to carry out important projects to enrich lives spiritually and encourage growth.

*Service Leader* – Glenna Hanley, CUC Board Member

*Tech assistant* – Myron Hedderson

### February 14<sup>th</sup> “Music and Poetry”

“qui entend sa plainte  
une aile repliée  
sans adresse de retour”  
(*L’Avenir À Qui* - Émilie Turmel)

Who can name the absence  
music is, who draw that space,  
the cold breath, sudden and empty  
that will own you the rest of your life?  
(*Music and Silence: Seven Variations* – Jan Zwicky)

Music and poetry are intimately and inextricably intertwined, connected. Music is poetry and poetry often takes the form of music: e.g. ABA

This Sunday we will explore the connectivity between poetry and music: we will hear and see the beats, the rhythms, the words and sounds.

*Service Leader* – Jane Loughborough

### February 21<sup>st</sup> “Hike to Freedom”

Hike the final miles of the Maine / New Brunswick branch of the Underground Railroad, with amateur historian extraordinaire Joe Gee.

*Video presentation* by Joe Gee

*Service Leader* - Robin Stanley

### February 28<sup>th</sup> “Extraordinary Times”

The form of our faith communities is not the same today as it was a year ago. We’ve had to reimagine the ways we sustain our sense of connection and community. What does it mean to be a faith community during these extraordinary times? Who are we? How do we define ourselves? What’s the work we need to do now?

UU minister Rev. Linda Thompson from Burlington, Ontario will lead us in our Sunday worship.



## We have a new friend!

Joni Magee joins the Unitarian Fellowship of Fredericton (UFF) through online worship services from Franklin, Massachusetts. Her Acadian grandparents immigrated to the U.S.A. from New Brunswick, and the Maritime provinces hold a very special place in her heart. She has been a Unitarian Universalist for over thirty years with initial membership with the First Church in Jamaica

Plain (Boston) <https://www.firstchurchjp.org>, and now with the First Universalist Society of Franklin (FUSF) <https://fusf.org>. FUSF is an active and engaged suburban congregation of nearly 235 members led by Minister Eric Cherry, former Director of the UUA's International Office. FUSF has a strong focus on climate awareness, social justice, music making and community relations. Prior to COVID, FUSF hosted a notable folk music scene known as the Circle of Friends Coffeehouse <http://circlefolk.org/about.html>. At FUSF, she was director of religious education and serves on social justice committees. Joni works an educator focused on educational equity, bilingualism, and culturally responsive teaching at K-12 and higher education levels. She founded Franklin Kitchen Table Conversations to engage local community members in civic discourse around social justice issues, "otherness" and community matters, and co-founded the Coalition for Equity, Diversity and Disability (CEDD) an advocacy group for bilingual students with disabilities. Her interests include enjoying jazz music, travel, photography, writing, culinary adventures, and the arts - especially Latin American art through Nichos and Retablos. Joni looks forward to joining UFF in person and connecting with folks during New Brunswick visits once the border reopens. If you would like to contact Joni, her email address is [joni.magee@comcast.net](mailto:joni.magee@comcast.net) and she welcomes connecting with people.

Sheila Moore  
Chair, Membership Committee



## New Member... Jane Loughborough

The Membership Committee is delighted to welcome Jane Loughborough as a new member of our Fellowship. Many of you have met Jane Loughborough – but some of you have not had the pleasure yet. To help you get acquainted with Jane, I have asked her to share some information about herself.

### Jane Loughborough

The year 2013 was pivotal for me; hip replacement surgery in March and retirement in August from my 35+ year career as a School Social Worker at the Toronto District School Board. I thoroughly enjoyed my school social work at the TDSB in schools across the city, probably because one day was never the same as the next and I really appreciated and learned so much from the students and their families, not to mention all the colleagues, the teaching staff and educators with whom I collaborated. For many years I had a home-based private practice as a psychotherapist. This work brought a variety of people with different kinds of problems and issues to my office. I closed the practice in 2016.

My two sons were born in Toronto: Sean (graphic designer and personal trainer) still lives and works in Toronto, Graham (French Immersion teacher) came to UNB and stayed

on in Fredericton to marry a STU grad and they have two daughters, now 6 and 4. When it was time for me to leave Toronto, it was my son Graham's location here in Fredericton that was an appealing destination for me. As I am a permanent resident of Ontario and have both my parents (age 97) living in the Veterans Section at Sunnybrook Hospital, I decided when moving out of Toronto in 2016 that I would split each calendar year between my summer residence in Ontario and a winter residence here in Fredericton. I have been renting here but just recently bought a condo at Regency Landing so will be moving, again, at the end of February. My 'summer' residence is a cottage on a large island in Georgian Bay. Our family has had this property for a long time and some of the wood in my main building is over 100 years old.

Sheila Moore  
Chair, Membership Committee



## Book Review Service Summary

Here is the list of books and presenters discussed during the Zoom Sunday Service of January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2021:

### *The Cello Suites* by Eric Soblin

Heather Lunergan

### *Ducks Newburyport* by Lucy Ellmann

Lorna Drew

### *Voyage of the Northern Magic* by Diane Stuemer

John van Abbema

### *My Teacher is an Alien* by Bruce Coville

Myron Hedderson

### *All the Light We Cannot See* by Anthony Doerr

Jane Loughborough

A more detailed summary of some of the reviews were submitted and may be found elsewhere in this issue of Touchstone.



## About Black History Month

During Black History Month, Canadians celebrate the many achievements and contributions of Black Canadians who, throughout history, have done so much to make Canada the culturally diverse, compassionate and prosperous nation it is today.

People of African descent have been a part of shaping Canada's heritage and identity since the arrival of Mathieu DaCosta, a navigator and interpreter, whose presence in Canada dates back to the early 1600's.

The role of people of African descent in Canada has not always been viewed as a key feature in Canada's historic landscape. There is little mention that some of the Loyalists who came here after the American Revolution and

settled in the Maritimes were people of African descent, or of the many sacrifices made in wartime by soldiers of African descent as far back as the War of 1812.

Black History Month is a time to learn more about these Canadian stories and the many other important contribution of Black Canadians to the settlement, growth and development of Canada, and about the diversity of Black communities in Canada and their importance to the history of this country.

The commemoration of Black History Month dates back to 1926, when Harvard-educated African American historian Carter G. Woodson proposed setting aside a time devoted to honour the accomplishments of African Americans and to heighten awareness of Black history in the United States. This led to the establishment of Negro History Week in 1926. Celebrations of Black history began in Canada also shortly thereafter. During the early 1970's the week became known as Black History Week. It was expanded into Black History Month in 1976.

In December 1995, the House of Commons officially recognized February as Black History Month in Canada following a motion introduced by the first Black Canadian woman elected to Parliament, the Honourable Jean Augustine. The motion was carried unanimously by the House of Commons.

In February 2008, Senator Donald Oliver, the first Black man appointed to the Senate, introduced the Motion to Recognize Contributions of Black Canadians and February as Black History Month. It received unanimous approval and was adopted on March 4, 2008. The adoption of this motion completed Canada's parliamentary position on Black History Month.

From the Government of Canada  
-Canadian Heritage site  
*submitted by Sheila Moore*

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## BLMF Announces New Bursary for Two Black University Students

Black Lives Matter Fredericton has announced a bursary of \$500 per year for each of two Black students, one at UNB and one at STU, to encourage more Black students to complete university such that they are then able to contribute to society in various ways. Husoni Raymond (who spoke at our UFF service in the fall) said in the news release on Tuesday January 19th said "We know that there are several barriers to accessing a post-secondary education for Black students in particular, because of historical exclusion from academic institutions, but also the income gap between Black students and their white counterparts". The bursaries are being funded by donations recently received by BLMF so there is a very good chance that the donation made by UFF to BLMF to recognize

Husoni Raymond's contribution to our service is part of that funding. This is GOOD news.

Jane Loughborough

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## CUC responds to attack on the US Capitol

*(In response to the Jan 6 riot and insidious attack on the iconic Capitol building in Washington, DC by a mob of Trump supporters and extremists the Canadian Unitarian Council and its executive director Vida Ng issued the statement and letter below.)*

The events of January 6, 2021 in the US, and the anticipated challenges to democracy over the next few days and weeks have left many of us unsettled to say the least. In times like this we are grateful to be able to lean on our faith, and one another for strength and support. Rev. Anne Barker, President of the Unitarian Universalist Ministers of Canada, generously crafted this message for all of us. If you are feeling the need for additional support, please reach out to your congregational leaders, to resources in your community, or call the Canadian Mental Health Association, or Here 24/7 (1-844-437-3247).

Be well friends.

Vyda Ng

Executive Director

January 7, 2021

We write, as Unitarian Universalists, concerned by the frightful political uprising and events occurring in the US this week. Our spirits are with all who are impacted, and we share anger, frustration, and fear around these threats.

Many Canadian Unitarian Universalists have roots in, or close ties to, the US, and many Americans live among us. We appreciate how alarming this must be, to see a rogue militia storm the Capitol building while the senate meets to confirm the electoral college vote. To have these events fuelled and interfered with by a sitting president is not something we recognize as democracy. And, unfortunately, we are not entirely surprised, given the unchecked rise of extremism, in the US and throughout the world.

Unitarian Universalists are committed to principles of justice and equity, believing in a freedom that comes from honesty, respect, and fair government. We recognize our interdependence and acknowledge that this kind of behaviour could occur anywhere – is occurring in many places – and will require responsible leadership and courageous responses to establish and maintain safe and fair cultures and nations going forward.

As people who are learning about, and bear witness to, the power imbalances within our own country, we recognize the privilege that allowed such an action to take place with so few casualties or arrests. Had the attackers been people of colour or Indigenous, the outcome would likely have been very different.

As people who care about democracy, who respect the hard work and dedication that brought a change in US political representation, we adamantly reject the idea that a defeated government would be held in power by an armed militia of extremists.

These shocking events, and the concerns we hold for the coming days, remind us of our vulnerabilities, and also our responsibilities. The Reverend Susan Frederick-Gray, president of the Unitarian Universalist Association, reassured people in her video on January 6, 2021 that “... even when we are afraid, we are strong ...”, and reinforced that “This is long haul work.”

As Unitarian Universalists, we are guided by our connections to purpose, find strength in the dream of beloved community for all, and are determined to be of meaningful service. It is hard to know, in this moment, how we are called to respond – but we are listening, learning, and eager to support a healthy, transformative justice.

United in love, we offer expressions of solidarity, compassion, care, and concern to all and most especially to those who have close ties to the United States. May all that nurtures and sustains you be plentiful in this time. May we be a source of support and strength, in any way possible. May the wisdom and grace of our better natures rise up to meet this occasion – and to whatever follows next. May a better, stronger democracy prevail.

We are in this together. We see you. You are not alone.

In faith and solidarity,  
Rev. Anne Barker  
On behalf of  
the Unitarian Universalist Ministers of Canada  
and the Canadian Unitarian Council  
*Submitted by Glenna Hanley,  
CUC board member and liaison for UFF*



## Black History Month Celebrations

The UNB Art Centre will celebrate Black History Month with a few special projects. Thanks to a partnership between the City of Fredericton and UNB’s Bi-Campus Standing Committee on Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Human Rights, banners featuring several notable Black New Brunswickers will be displayed on Queen Street throughout the month of February, a way to recognize the achievements and experiences of these citizens and their contributions to shaping this province. As well, several artists from the New Brunswick Black Artists Alliance, including Chevelle Malcom, Thandiwe McCarthy, and Emmanuelle Jackson, will perform original works, and material from other black writers. This online exhibition will also include a presentation by activist, author and educator Dr. Mary McCarthy, who will read and discuss the letter written by Mary Matilda Winslow, the first black

woman to graduate from UNB in 1905, to her classmates in 1954 for their 50th class reunion. The letter chronicles her experience of racism as a black educator.

In addition, a number of films, lectures and events to highlight the historical and contemporary presence of Black Canadians in New Brunswick will roll out throughout the month. More information can be found at [unb.ca](http://unb.ca)

From the Daily Gleaner  
*submitted by Sheila Moore*



## Lupercalia

Originally I started out to do something on Valentine’s Day then thought: armed Cherubs shooting arrows into people’s hearts; the whole festival of love and eating chocolate? It all has something Pagan about it. The internet is replete with deep holes, go looking for something simple and before you know it hours gone! Angels, for example, three levels or spheres and each sphere has three flavours and Cherubs rank just below the top.



But the Pagan aspect got really interesting. Lupercalia was an ancient, possibly pre-Roman, pastoral annual festival celebrated from the 13<sup>th</sup> to the 15<sup>th</sup> of February. So the dates pretty much center on Valentine’s day. The Christians had a habit of appropriating pagan festivals, taming the wilder aspects and cleaning things up in general. There is evidence that Lupercus was the Roman equivalent of the Greek Pan and at one time Lupercalia was a wolf festival (from the Latin *lupus* for wolf). Instruments of purification used in the festival were called *februum* and eventually the month gained its name from the purification and purging from sweating that took place.

At some time the rites of the festival were intertwined with the foundation myth of Rome where the brothers Romulus and Remus were brought to a mother wolf to be suckled, the goddess of breastfeeding, Rumina, was also mixed into the festival and the pendulus fruit of the “goat fig” tree (or *caprificus*) which exudes a milky sap when cut. All of which lends itself to a cult of breastfeeding.

Part of the rites involved youths of the nobles and magistrates running naked through the streets striking those they met with shaggy thongs. Moreover, women of rank would purposely get in their way to be struck believing that the pregnant would be thus helped in delivery and the barren to pregnancy.

It’s not that difficult to see how such shenanigans could morph into naked cherubs with arrows of love. Especially since after the banning of all non-Christian cults and festivals in 391CE Lupercalia continued to be celebrated with



some dispute between the Roman Senate who claimed the festival was essential to Rome's safety and well-being and Pope Gelasius who denounced it as being celebrated by "vile rabble". And so it went...

Tony Fitzgerald



## Mardi Gras

Mardi Gras or Fat Tuesday is an alternate name for Shrove Tuesday as is Pancake Day or Pancake Tuesday. By any name, it is the last day of the pre-Lenten season called Shrove tide. The day following is Ash Wednesday, the start of Lent. Lent commemorates the 40 day fast by Jesus in the desert. Following the fast, there was a rapid succession of events: the triumphal entry to Jerusalem, celebrated as Palm Sunday; the last supper, a Passover Seder; the arrest, trial and crucifixion (the passion); and the Resurrection, celebrated as Easter in English speaking countries. Interestingly, Easter is known by names derived from the Hebrew Pesach (Passover) in most European languages from Páscoa in Portugal to paskalya in Turkey.



Ash Wednesday is set at 46 days before Easter. Ash Wednesday is so named because in many Christian Churches the fronds collected from the previous years Palm Sunday have been burned and the ash used by the priest to make the sign of the cross on the forehead of the observant.

Because the events of the life of Jesus were tied to the lunar Hebrew calendar, they tend to move around in the Solar based Gregorian calendar. Shrove Tuesday, then, can occur as early as February 3<sup>rd</sup> to as late as March 9<sup>th</sup> all depending on when the first Sunday falls after the first Full moon following the vernal equinox.

Enjoy your pancakes.

Tony Fitzgerald



## Peace by Chocolate

### The Hadhad's remarkable journey from Syria to Canada

by Jon Tattrie

Tattrie was finishing this book in March 2020 and it could not have come out at a better time to cheer us up! As a journalist he had the contacts and experience to talk with the family, their sponsors, friends and allies as well as doing some solid background research on the history of chocolate, of problems in Syria and traditions in Antigonish, Nova Scotia and Canada that favoured the family.

The father Isam had run a successful chocolate business in Damascus before he and his wife and four of his seven children were forced to flee the country and get refugee

status in Lebanon. The eldest son Tareq was only one year away from finishing medical school and the daughter Batoul was devastated at leaving her friends and school. Some family members could not get refugee status, so the family was split.

Canada came to the rescue for Isam, his wife and the four children when a sponsor group in Antigonish was able to bring them over. This symbolises the main theme of the book. Yes, Canada gets some things right! The family gets a welcome at the airport like the Al Kaliefs did here in Fredericton and the community gives positive support. Even arriving in January does not depress the family too much!

Tattrie sets their eventual success in the entrepreneurial initiatives that have been part of Nova Scotia from early European settlement to Moses Coady and the cooperative movement through to Sobeys and other current firms. It is more than a financial success as the Hadhads are able to give money to others in need, including those hurt by the Fort McMurray tragedy in Alberta. Peace by Chocolate became a very successful business spreading far beyond Antigonish.

Tareq became a spokesman for refugee achievements, addressing the U.N national leaders, hugging Obama and developing friendship with Justin Trudeau.

Other members of their family were able to join them in Canada, though the process was sadly slow and some had to remain in Lebanon or even Syria.

As Tattrie's conclusion notes, it was not easy for him to talk with the women of the family and they may have had more stories. Batoul found friends in her school and among the increasing Syrian community in the area. This book is probably not the whole story but I am not going to spoil the positive story by suggesting anything else!

Sheila Andrew



## My Teacher is an Alien

*Book Review that was delivered by Myron Hedderson on Book Sunday zoom meeting, January 24, 2021.*

I'd like to tell you about a book that I read 30 years ago, that honestly, has shaped my life. Except, it's not a single book, it is a 4 book series, aimed at people around age 10, which is how old I was when I read it. The "My Teacher is an Alien" series, by Bruce Coville. I re-read them yesterday - altogether they only took 4 hours, which is approximately how long a medium sized adult book might take. I recommend them for both children and adults.

What really impacted me about these books was that they spoke truthfully about some hard things. The basic plot is this: Humanity is not that far from achieving a technological level that would allow us to expand beyond our solar

system, and other, older species look upon us with concern. These peoples' development proceeded in a much more healthy way than ours has done, and a lot of the mistakes we are making, they did not make. To quote the book, we humans are the only species on 10,000 planets that's smart enough to figure out interstellar travel, but dumb enough to have wars. And so, to understand better what to do about this difficult species, they send researchers down to figure us out, which only further confuses them. Implausibly, but necessarily for the plot, the alien races end up allowing the three main human characters, at age 9 or 10, to make the case that earth ought not to be destroyed or quarantined. But first, they take those children around the planet to see and understand why they are concerned. In the words of one of the aliens, "You're going to see some things that aren't pretty. Some things that some adults would say are unsuitable for children to know about. An odd attitude, since many of these things are happening to children." And then they flew to a war zone, and a paragraph got a little graphic about what it is like to watch people kill each other – much different than on TV, it says. And they went to a deliberately-burned section of amazon rainforest, and described that in graphic detail as well, and polluted industrial sites. And in the chapter that impacted me most, called "the forty thousand", it started with "The sun was hot, the land was dry, and the people were dying. Not rapidly, as they had in the war zone. Slowly. Very slowly." And they described a refugee camp, and a scene where a starving woman tried to nurse a baby who had died. And one of the main characters, Susan, asks in tears, "why did you take us there?", and the response is "because we want you to explain it to us." "Forget explaining it" she responds. "Fix it!" The person to whom she's speaking, named Broxholm, says "but why should we? You can do it yourselves." And Susan says, to paraphrase, "but we can't, we don't have enough food. . . . do we?" And they are taken a few miles away, where there are piles of food sitting unused. And Susan says "but it's not that many, is it?" in desperation. And the answer that comes is, to quote from the book: "Forty thousand. That's how many kids die every day from things that could be changed if we, the people of earth, decided they should be. Forty thousand a day. That's a quarter of a million a week. Over a million in a month. Nearly 15 million in a year. They die from not having vaccinations that cost less than a dollar apiece. They die from dirty wells and lack of food. They die from the fact that people don't care, at least not enough to change it. . . . I don't know what it all means, but I know the numbers. I know that one day's worth of the money our world spends on guns and bombs and soldiers could save 50 million children over the next 10 years."

When I was a bullied kid, the fact that the world was that bad made sense to me. The fact that we as human beings were, on the whole and in general, sufficiently messed up not to care about 40,000 children dying per day, seemed

about right. And the reason this series had such an impact on me was because it was the only one I could find that told the truth about people and society clearly. In the end of the story, it turned out happily for the children, but that ending was clearly a storybook ending, and it left the reader struggling with the questions the series posed – why are we this way, why are things this bad, and what might be done about it? And honestly, from an outside perspective, is our continued existence OK?

In the middle of the last book, one of the aliens says, "All we're really looking for is hope; a reason to believe that things aren't as bad as they look. Maybe even an explanation for how things got this way. If we can figure that out, maybe we can find a cure."

And it's that that I wanted to do, once I had read that series, and want to still today. I now know that people are better than I thought they were, and even our systems are better than I thought they were. That book was written in 1990, and since then things have gotten measurably better – the 40,000 figure was down to 17,000 people who are dying for stupid and senseless reasons related to extreme poverty as of 2015, according to a TED talk from Bono. But still, that's 17,000 people per day. The fact that in 30 years we've gotten half way to where we should be, that after a human history filled with thousands of years of wars and suffering, in 2015 we were basically able to meet the UN's many and at the time seemingly ambitious Millennium Development Goals, says there is reason for hope. But the situation is still grim, and we still have a lot of work to do. So when someone says the world is good as-is, or seems complacent, I sometimes quote from these books. And when someone says our situation is hopeless, I give them these children's books, and tell them what happened since 1990. But in any case, hopefully you can now understand how these were and remain very important books to me.

Myron Hedderson



## Family Day

For such a short month (yes, I know, it seems like the longest with the cold and bleak), February has a lot go-



ing on in it. This year, Valentines Day is immediately followed by Family Day (in New Brunswick and several other provinces), then Shrove Tuesday and Ash Wednesday. That's a pretty busy middle of the month. As covered in the January issue of Touchstone, the month begins with Imbolc and ends with a Leap Day in Leap Years. Just look at some of the other articles in this issue for the celebrations of Black History and culture

New Brunswick celebrated its first Family Day on February 19, 2018, so it's still a relatively new and novel hol-

iday here. Family Day is designated as the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday in February and is also celebrated in Alberta, Manitoba, Ontario, Saskatchewan and in British Columbia. Other provinces celebrate different themes for the day: PEI Islander Day is celebrated on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday in February and in Manitoba the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday in February is the Louis Riel Day holiday. In Nova Scotia this day is called Heritage Day.

Since this is a provincial holiday, federal workers including postal workers do not get the day off.

The holiday was established primarily because people wanted an official holiday somewhere in the middle of the long stretch between New Years Day and Good Friday which can vary between just under three months to almost four. The choice in the six provinces that celebrate it as Family Day was to provide a day to celebrate with family activities in the middle of winter. Build a snowman, go sliding or skiing or snowshoeing then come in for hot chocolate and Crokinole or Rummoli and, this year, tomorrow is pancake day.

Tony Fitzgerald



## CUC Online Events for Feb, March

*Editor's Note: all times given are Atlantic Standard Time. Each item gives a link for more information, just click through if reading online. Sorry if you are reading the paper copy and have to type into your browser, the links are hideous with long strings of numbers... that's the CUC!*

### Caring for One Another: Together and Apart – CUC Roundtable

Saturday, February 6, 2021 at 1:30pm  
<https://cuc.ca/events/cuc-roundtable-caring/>  
[1612614600/1612621800/](https://cuc.ca/events/cuc-roundtable-caring/)

### Sharing Our Faith National Service

Sunday, February 7, 2021 at 2pm  
<https://cuc.ca/events/sharing-our-faith-national-service/>  
[1612702800/1612710000/](https://cuc.ca/events/sharing-our-faith-national-service/)

### Rising Together: UU Youth and Emerging Adults of Colour

Saturday, February 13, 2021 at 5:30pm for 90 minutes  
<https://cuc.ca/events/rising-together-feb-2021/>  
[1613233800/1613239200/](https://cuc.ca/events/rising-together-feb-2021/)

### AGM Motions Roundtable

Saturday, February 20 at 1pm  
<https://cuc.ca/events/motions-roundtable/>  
[1613822400/1613829600/](https://cuc.ca/events/motions-roundtable/)

### The Power of Dialogue With David Camp

Monday, February 22, 2021 at 8pm  
<https://cuc.ca/events/power-of-dialogue-david-camp/>  
[1614020400/1614025800/](https://cuc.ca/events/power-of-dialogue-david-camp/)

### Elder's Circle With Stephen Paquette

Wednesday, February 24, 2021 at 8pm  
<https://cuc.ca/events/elders-circle-stephen-paquette/>  
[1614193200/1614198600/](https://cuc.ca/events/elders-circle-stephen-paquette/)

### THR – Reconciliation Through Film: Six Miles Deep

Saturday, February 27 at 1:30pm  
<https://cuc.ca/events/thr-film2-2021/>  
[1614429000/1614434400/](https://cuc.ca/events/thr-film2-2021/)

### David Camp Workshop Part I

Saturday, March 6 at 3pm  
<https://cuc.ca/events/workshop1-david-camp/>  
[1615039200/1615046400/](https://cuc.ca/events/workshop1-david-camp/)

## Our Regular Events:

### Connect and Deepen

Sundays, February 14 and 28 at 5 pm  
<https://cuc.ca/events/connect-deepen/>  
[1611504000/1611502200/](https://cuc.ca/events/connect-deepen/)

### Leaders Roundtable

Saturdays, January 30 and February 27 at 4pm  
<https://cuc.ca/events/leaders-roundtables-2021/>  
[1612008000/1612013400/](https://cuc.ca/events/leaders-roundtables-2021/)

### Gathered Here

Thursday, February 11 at 3 pm and  
Monday, March 8 at 9 pm  
<https://cuc.ca/events/gathered-here-february-and-april-2021/>  
[1613052000/1613057400/](https://cuc.ca/events/gathered-here-february-and-april-2021/)



## All the Light We Cannot See

By Anthony Doerr  
(Pulitzer prize 2015)

*Book Review that was delivered by Jane Loughborough on Book Sunday zoom meeting, January 24, 2021.*

This book is meaningful to me for a few reasons; mainly for the author's very genuine and transparent writing of the children's voices. The two featured children, who are teenagers by the end of the story, an orphan boy in Germany and a blind girl in Paris become so authentic and believable for the reader from the first page. It is through their ears, eyes, minds and hearts that the story is told. Yes, the two protagonists are innocent children but the adults around them fully respect, in truth, nurture, their independence and their need to grow up free of too much adult supervision and intervention.

Marie-Laure lives with her father in Paris near the Museum of Natural History, where he works as the master of its thousands of locks. When she is six, Marie-Laure goes blind and her father build a perfect miniature of

their neighbourhood so she can memorize it by touch and navigate her way home. When Germany invades France in 1940, Marie-Laure and her father flee to the coastal town of Saint-Malo to take refuge with her great-uncle Etienne, a recluse and shellshocked veteran of the Great War who spends his time broadcasting old records of his dead brother across Europe.

In a mining town in Germany, the orphan Werner grows up with his younger sister, enchanted by a crude radio they find. Werner becomes an expert at building and fixing these crucial new instruments, a talent that wins him a place at a brutal academy for Hitler Youth, then a special assignment to track the resistance. More and more aware of the human cost of his intelligence, Werner travels through the heart of the war and, finally, into Saint-Malo, where his story and Marie-Laure's converge.

Anthony Doerr writes of the extraordinary human capacity to transmit stories from generation to generation, and about the stewardship of our environment and of the human heart. He has a new book coming out later this year *CLOUD CUCKOO LAND*, about the power of story and the astonishing survival of physical books when for centuries their fates were so precarious.

Jane Loughborough



## The voyage of The Northern Magic

by Diane Stuermer.

A more detailed summary with photos can be found on the internet at <[Pressreader.com](http://Pressreader.com)>, and search for, "In Her Wake". (*Editor's note: I found the suggested query returned a lot of hits but none appeared to be relevant. Suggest you try a regular [Google search](http://Google search) for the title.*) This is a real life inspirational book about a Canadian family on a four year (1997-2001) round-the-world sailing trip of discovery and exploration. This remarkable book, always well received by readers, has had a strong influence on my later life and my attitude towards mortality. Read it and enjoy.

John van Abbema



## The Cello Suites

by Eric Soblin

(Advisory: This is taken mainly from the Amazon site, since I spoke without many notes.

One autumn evening, shortly after ending a ten-year stint as a pop-music columnist for the Montreal Gazette, Eric Soblin attended a concert at Toronto's Royal Conservatory of Music. There, something unlikely happened: he fell in love with a piece of classical music – Bach's cello suites. Part biography, part music history, and part literary mystery, *The Cello Suites* weaves together three dramatic stories: The first features Johann Sebastian Bach and the missing manuscript of his suites from the eighteenth century; the second is that of Pablo Casals and his incredible discovery of the manuscript in Spain in the early twentieth century; and the third is Eric Soblin's own infatuation with the suites in the twenty-first century.

This love affair leads Soblin to the back streets of Barcelona, a Belgian mansion, and a bombed out German palace; to interviews with cellists Mischa Maisky, Anner Bylsma, and Pieter Wispelwey; to archives, festivals, conferences, and cemeteries; and even to cello lessons – all in pursuit of answers to the mysteries that continue to haunt this piece of music more than 250 years after its composer's death.

*The Cello Suites* is an incomparable, beautifully written, true-life journey of passion, imagination, and discovery, fuelled by the transcendent power of a musical masterpiece. The book is divided into 6 chapters, and I found it interesting to play each of the 6 suites, recorded by Yo Yo Ma, as I read the book. The book, and the music, have been a balm for my heart and brain in the days since my husband died. I have lent the book, but if you wish to read it, please contact me.

Heather Lunergan

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