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Sunday Service 10:30 a.m.

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Up-coming Sunday Services

We will continue to provide Sunday Services by ZOOM and the Sunday Services Committee is so grateful for the wonderful guest speakers from both inside and outside our Fellowship during this difficult time. 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, to be added to the mailing list.

May 2nd “Sanctuary”

Speaker: Artist Ann Manuel

Anne Manuel’s practice focuses on themes of identity, relationships and community with the most recent work examining our ideas of sanctuary. Ann’s talk will focus on her Sanctuary series which spans over a decade of work in a variety of media. She will discuss the inspiration and evolution of an idea, the parallels of this body of work that can be found in nature and created her problem-solving process.

Service Leader: Linda Sprague

May 9th “Things My Mother Taught Me”

Janet Crawford, Lorna Drew, Myron Hedderson and others will share what they learned from their mothers.

Service Leader: Haifa Miller

May 16rd “CUC National Multi-generational Worship Service”

NOTE: 2 p.m. Atlantic Time

Now more than ever we need to be grounded in connection, in hope, and in love. As the cycles of the seasons teach us the gifts of the dark as well as the light, we still need energy – a spark – to fuel living into our aspirations and values no matter the season, the struggle, or the celebration. This Sunday service will celebrate how our UU faith and our connections are crucial to sustaining and amplifying that spark.

All are welcome to join in this live-streamed Sunday Worship Service. <http://bit.ly/NationalWorshipMay16>
Meeting ID: 885 0018 9706 Passcode: 595025 and will be closed captioned, and on the CUC’s YouTube Channel.

May 23th “Learning and Touring in China”

Speaker: Sheila Andrew

This talk shares what I have learned from six months teaching at the University of Wenzhou in southern China and touring some of the major sites before term started. This was from August 2004 to January 2005. Current news suggests it is still valid.

Service Leader: Haifa Miller

May 30th “A Chinese Immigrant in New Brunswick”

Speaker: Ben Hong

Last September we heard the first part of Ben’s amazing story. We are so pleased that he will share more chapters of his unique experiences as an immigrant.

Service Leader: Linda Sprague

June 27th “Annual General Meeting”

Preceded by a short opening service.



Membership News

We have welcomed several new members since the new year began. Unfortunately, we have not had the pleasure of getting to know our new members in the way we are accustomed to ...like conversations over coffee, our monthly Women’s Pot Lucks, and get-togethers. Amanda Duffie, one of our new members, has sent us the following information so we can get to know her. Please welcome Amanda!

Amanda Duffie lives in Jewetts Mills, near Mactaquac Provincial Park, and works for the University of New Brunswick Libraries as the Manager of Technical Services, specializing in Acquisitions. She grew up in Marysville and graduated from the University of New Brunswick in 1994, receiving her Bachelor of Arts, honours in Psychology. And because she was learning to multi-task, she also decided to get married that same Spring.

Amanda and Chris have been married for 27 years. Chris is the owner of Terra Consultants and is an Information Technology (IT) Specialist (as well as a generalist in just about everything else). They have two children; Jacob who is 25 and is working in IT in Fredericton, and Brooklyn, who is 23 and is a classically trained pianist living in London, ON. Before Amanda joined the libraries in 2012, she worked alongside Chris at Terra Consultants as an office administrator for 17 years.

Amanda and Chris spent the early years of their marriage getting a fledgling IT and graphics company off the ground. While raising two children, Amanda assisted Chris with the business first by keeping the books and answering phones, and then later, as the company grew and a second location in Halifax was added, by looking after all aspects of office management for both locations. Running a business was exhausting, but also exhilarating. After many successful years, Chris began downsizing the company so that he could pursue other goals, and Amanda decided to see if she could transfer her business skills to her love of academics. She was delighted to be hired by the Harriet Irving Library at UNB and after 8 years of working in two different gymnasiums on campus, was pleased this past year to have her department moved, at last, to the Harriet Irving Library itself. Finally, at home among the stacks.

As for hobbies, Amanda has just recently discovered that she now has time for such things and is in the exciting stages of exploring new options and revisiting some previous pastimes. She has always enjoyed reading, and often has both a novel and a work of non-fiction within arm's reach. On most weekends (unless it is winter), you can find Amanda working in her gardens, or under the gazebo with book in hand. She has also recently remembered how to use her sewing machine, and is trying to teach herself some new stitches. She is relatively good at repurposing items and during the early months of the pandemic, was pleased to discover that the elastic that was needed to make masks for the entire family could be found in the corners of the old, torn fitted sheets that she had refused to discard. She likes to hike, but doesn't do it as much as she would like. Her favourite places usually have giant hemlocks, which she first fell in love with at Kejimikujik National Park. Most of all, though, there is music. For Amanda, it is one of the greatest joys. She enjoys many different genres, and has one of those unsettling playlists that can jump from one style to the next, often confusing

and sometimes alarming her husband. But she's okay with that.

Sheila Moore
Chair, Membership Committee



The Caring Circle

Joys and Concerns

Thoughts for us all as CoViD vaccines become available here in Fredericton.

Sincere sympathy to Michelle Swan for the death of her brother, Adam Little

Thinking of Sheila Andrew, whose husband, Tim has been unwell but is recovering.

Here is a note with Pat Mason's reflections about her friend, Betty Ponder.

When I was speaking to Pat Mason, she had many memories of Betty. First of all, Betty was a ball of energy, always ready to go. She was very giving and Pat remembers Betty driving a couple from out in the country in to the fellowship many times and also driving Pat to Saint John for radiation even in December, close to Christmas. Pat said Betty was a legend in her own time, being a founder of Crabbe Mountain and also skiing well into her 70's. As Pat noted, "We will always miss Betty." Janet Crawford

Tea and Conversation is Tuesdays at 1:30. It helps us feel less isolated in this difficult time And gives us a chance to get together. They will resume on March 30th.

The Caring Circle is available to help in any way we can with a phone call or virtual visit or delivery of any items. Please get in touch with Janet Crawford janetcra@nbnet.nb.ca or 454-0441. We haven't had a lot of requests for help, but we could use more volunteers or committee members.



Harvey Milk Day

Harvey Milk Day is organized by the Harvey Milk Foundation and celebrated each year on May 22 in memory of Harvey Milk, a gay rights activist assassinated in 1978. Harvey Milk was a prominent gay activist during the twentieth century. He ran for office three times before becoming the first openly gay person elected into California public office, where he acted as a city supervisor. Harvey Milk Day came about as a day to remember and teach about Milk's life and his work to stop the discrimination against gays and lesbians.

From Wikipedia
the free encyclopedia



From Betty Ponder's Brother

Editor's note: Betty's brother, Robert Park, has been in correspondence with the UFF office and has also provided some remembrances which many will find interesting. Robert has made available an excerpt from his last message to Betty. Robert references a visit to Betty's cottage in August of 2019 during which the photo below was taken. Robert also pointed out that the obituary on the McAdams Funeral Home website misspelled their father's name: he was Wilford, not Wilfred.

Thank you so much for providing the link to your April newsletter with its remembrances of my sister. You may wish to include the following in your next newsletter from my last message to Betty, which was read to her by her daughter the day before she died:

"Betty,

...

Do you remember the interview we did with you at the cottage in August 2019? ... The audio recording was an hour and 15 min. long. ... It is one of the things we will treasure and be able to share with younger family members in the years ahead.

Your contributions to the poetry and recollections sections of the family website will also be treasured. And of course we have the photos of the wonderful family reunion you hosted at the cottage in 1996.

Thank you for everything."



Left to right: Robert, Betty and Kerwin

During the 2019 visit, we drove to Parrsboro and Betty directed us to a lot with an old London taxi and other items of historical interest. The 86 year old lot owner, Kerwin Davis, was across the street and came over to talk to Betty. He offered us a free ride in his late 1920's Nash, which was parked nearby on the street. The ride came with a fascinating local history lesson. He said the car had been stored for years in a barn before he bought and

restored it. He found bullet shells in the car and evidence that it had been hit by gunfire, leading him to suspect it had been used by rum runners. He said such cars were favoured by rum runners because they could reach speeds of up to 65 mph, outrunning the revenuers.



CUC Conference has lots to offer

It's been a challenge for our Unitarian Universalist congregations to keep on going through this pandemic, with members unable to meet in person for Sunday services, to run programs, to do fundraising events, to enjoy some social time together.

The CUC itself had to scramble last May and move our 2020 national conference, planned for Halifax, to a completely virtual event. The same for the Annual General Meeting.

Now, the pandemic is still with us, but with the experience of a successful on-line conference last year to build on, the CUC is again offering members a virtual conference May 14 to 16 to sustain our movement through another difficult year.

The theme of the conference is Sustaining Our Light and the hope is to keep the light of our movement alive through offerings both spiritual and practical, to help UUs individually and collectively to persevere through this trying time and sustain their congregations, though from a distance.

There are 11 workshop sessions offering members a rich array of choices. A session on "Lighting up Communities" explores building vitality so members are instilled with a passion that keeps congregations alive and attracts new people. You can learn about the UU UN office in New York City and its connection to the work of the UN on sustainable development. Another session, led by an Indigenous elder, looks at reconciliation with Canada's Indigenous people as a spiritual journey. And if you would like to know more about what the call to Defund the Police means, there is a workshop for that too.

The workshops run concurrently in two different time slots so the difficulty will be which ones to chose. There are also four networking sessions running before and after workshops. Topics include climate justice, refugee sponsorship during a pandemic, and one is a call for UU musicians to join in a gathering. For a chance to feed your soul more deeply you can attend a networking group called Classical Lectio Divina, described as a contemplative practice through reading sacred text. That session is led by Rev. Debra Thorne, currently the Unitarian Universalist Ministers of Canada (UUMOC) observer on the CUC board.

The conference starts on Friday night with opening ceremonies, followed by the Confluence lecture, and on Sat-

urday night after the workshops, a chance to talk to the CUC board members at 7 pm. That will be followed by an open mic comedy hour.

On Sunday beginning at 2 pm there will be a national worship service. Anyone can attend this event even without registering for the conference. This event was popular last year and drew well over 1,000 people. It is on Zoom but also on the CUC You Tube channel.

There are also sessions throughout the weekend for young adults (ages 18 to 35), youth (ages 14 to 19) and a free program for children up to age 13 (However this program required registration by April 1).

For more details about the conference and for registration go to the CUC.ca website, scroll down to find “News and Events” and find the link to the conference web site. The deadline for registration is May 10.

Registration fees are on a sliding scale from \$5 to \$150, or pay what you will. The UFF board is also offering a subsidy. Contact board president Decima Mitchell at president@uff.ca to apply.

Submitted by Glenna Hanley
CUC Board member and UFF liaison



What Is the “Humanist Manifesto”?

Humanism is a progressive philosophy of life that, without supernaturalism, affirms our ability and responsibility to lead ethical lives of personal fulfillment that aspire to the greater good of humanity.

The life stance of Humanism guided by reason, inspired by compassion, and informed by experience, encourages us to live life well and fully. It evolved through the ages and continues to develop through the efforts of thoughtful people who recognize that values and ideals, however carefully wrought, are subject to change as our knowledge and understandings advance.

The first Manifesto, entitled “A Humanist Manifesto”, was written in 1933 with 34 signatories. This first document referred to Humanism as a religious movement to replace previous religions that were based on allegations of supernatural revelation.

The second Manifesto written by Paul Kurtz and Edwin Wilson in 1973 was intended to update and replace the previous one. Among the oft-quoted lines from this 1973 Manifesto are, “No deity will save us; we must save ourselves” and “We are responsible for what we are and for what we will be”.

“Humanism and Its Aspirations” subtitled Humanist Manifesto III, was published in 2003 and was written by a committee. Signatories included 21 Nobel laureates. It

is much shorter and lists 7 primary themes.

- Knowledge of the world is derived by observation, experimentation, and rational analysis
- Humans are an integral part of nature, the result of evolutionary change, an unguided process.
- Ethical values are derived from human need and interest as tested by experience.
- Life’s fulfillment emerges from individual participation in the service of humane ideals.
- Humans are social by nature and find meaning in relationships.
- Working to benefit society maximizes individual happiness.

Some notable Humanists: Isaac Asimov, Julian Huxley, Gloria Steinem, Joyce Carol Oates, Richard Dawkins, Steve Wozniak, Andrei Sakharov, Betty Friedan, Margaret Atwood.

Submitted by
Sheila Moore



Plenary and CUC AGM 2021

The Canadian Unitarian Council Annual General Meeting will take place on a different weekend from the CUC conference this year. The AGM will be held Sat., May 8.

Any fellowship member can attend the conference which is virtual again this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. However only delegates can vote on motions. UFF’s two delegates are board member Myron Hedderson and Jennifer Carpenter-Gleim, one of our lay chaplains.

Two days prior to the AGM the CUC board will host a plenary session where members from across the country are invited to interact with the board on topics of national interest. That event takes place on Thurs. May 6 at 8 pm At.

Finances, board priorities, the future of the CUC and of Canadian UU communities are among topics that may be discussed.

No registration is required. You just have to sign in a few minutes before the 8 pm start time. To find the link go to cuc.ca, click on “Events”, and then “Annual General Meeting and Conference”. Scroll down until you find the heading “Plenary” and the link to sign in.

The AGM will include elections to the board. All eight members of the current board are offering to serve again for 2021-2022. Three members who have completed their first three-year terms are up for re-election to begin their

second three-year terms. Local member Glenna Hanley will be staying on to complete the last year of her three-year term.

Delegates will be voting on two resolutions, one an adjustment to the calculations for the annual programs contribution (APC). After two years' experience with a new method of calculating the funds congregations contribute to the operations of the CUC each year the board financial team, staff and the board feel an adjustment is needed.

The other resolution will be some changes to the goals and strategic priorities for 2021-2022.

To find out more about the AGM and how to attend go to cuc.ca, click on "Events" and then "Annual General Meeting and Conference".

Submitted by Glenna Hanley
CUC board member and UFF liaison



Braiding Sweetgrass

Robin Wall Kimmerer

This beautiful book tells us how braiding sweetgrass is symbolic of the need for humans to work together as part of nature and to maintain its spirit and presence through all stages of existence. The author is one of the Anishnaabe indigenous nation, with an impressive knowledge of its teachings. She is also a biology professor who learns from being part of the natural world and sharing it with students. They also add to her experience.

She shows how respect, gratitude and playing humanity's part in our relationship with nature are vital when we are using it for nourishment or cultivating it. Indigenous teaching shows nature has the same relationship with us. One deer in a group will be willing to die for human consumption as its part in this chain. (Vegan friends might find this more of a convenient fable than a fact.) If we

start expressing this respect and gratitude verbally we will become closer to living with it.

Braiding science and spiritual teaching will be an essential way to deal with the dangerous human attitude that the world is there for our dominance and use. She is not suggesting only the non-indigenous suffer from this attitude. One of the Anishnaabe stories tells of the spirit that howls in the woods and consumes more whenever it has consumed, imposing the same approach to life on others. Science must be communicated to all as spiritual teaching, just as indigenous stories have and will communicate to all.

Indigenous and non-indigenous people must also braid together. Residential schools and killing indigenous languages were not the answer. On the contrary, indigenous language is important for understanding nature and working as part of it.

Much of the beauty in this book comes from her descriptions of time spent with nature, observing the connections within it and learning more. As a biology professor she is able to tell us what she already knows and what she learns. With her Anishnaabe culture she is part of it. Every walk in the woods or by the river will be a deeper experience after reading Braiding Sweetgrass. Contact Haifa Miller if you would like to borrow it.

Sheila Andrew



A Blessèd Beltane

A **blessèd Beltane** to our Pagan friends who celebrate the Celtic calendar. Beltane begins at sundown on the 30th of April and continues through sundown on May 1st. As one of the "fire" festivals, celebrations include bonfires and a Maypole dance is often a center of the celebration.



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