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 Sunday Service 10:30 a.m. Web Site: <http://www.uff.ca> Email: office@uff.ca
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Up-coming Sunday Services

10:30 am in person and via zoom

The Unitarian Fellowship of Fredericton
 Our Plan for Living with COVID and Influenza

Objective: Keeping in mind that many of our Fellowship members are seniors, and people who are immunocompromised and therefore at a higher risk of contracting viruses, we ask that people experiencing flu and/or cold symptoms join the Sunday service by ZOOM.

- **MASKS:** are optional but we ask that you respect those who may wish you to wear a mask in their presence.

May 28th AI: Where we are, where we're headed, and what it might mean

Service Leader: Myron Hedderson
Tech Support: Wyatt Elliott

Myron explained his title thus: During the fall, and even more so in the spring, new developments in artificial intelligence have been announced in rapid succession, much faster than even AI researchers expected a year or two ago. The Effective Altruist community which Myron has presented on before believes that making sure AI goes well, which they call "AI Alignment" is likely one of the most important things a person can do with their career, and if it goes badly, that could be very very bad.

Myron will discuss the developments that have happened recently, what it means in terms of where things may be headed, what efforts are underway to make sure where things are headed is someplace good, and what we know so far in answer to some of the "big questions" we will have to answer if we create a machine intelligence as capable as humans in the near future.

How will he fit all of that into half an hour? Even he does not know... Given how fast things are moving,

the focus of this service may change between when this is published in Touchstone and when the service occurs, but if you're interested in the current state of play when it comes to creating artificial intelligence, this is the talk for you.

- June 4th TBA**
descriptive text
- June 11th TBA**
descriptive text
- June 18th TBA**
descriptive text
- June 25th TBA**
descriptive text



The Day the World Stops Shopping

How ending consumerism gives us
 a better world and a greener life

J.B. MacKinon

I was hoping the book would get to the point of a world that permanently stopped shopping, but it doesn't get that far. However there are plenty of examples of problems created by shopping, creating guilt in the author and no doubt in many of us. As we know, underpaid workers, garbage from deliberately short-lived products, pollution from importation and increasing inequality among humans are just a few of the results.

He does cover the value of shoppingless Sundays: time for family, spiritual growth, relaxation, community activities, helping others etc. As we know Sundays have lost this value almost everywhere and he has no suggestions of how to bring this back.

Considering what increases shopping beyond basic needs could limit the negative effects and he considers the desire to equal or surpass others to be a major problem, so is self-indulgence and the power of advertisements to make us see the unessential as necessary or pleasurable.

He has done a lot of interesting research into the economies of other countries and communities showing how sharing and minimalization of needs can lessen shopping. Hunter-gatherers who only collect what they need for that day and

share what they have on return to the community are the only ones avoiding shopping entirely. He does not explain how clothing needs, one of the main shopping problems, are filled there.

The conclusion suggests we can at least cut back on shopping by changing our attitudes and controlling those who profit most from manufacturing. For the moment he finds himself spending more to buy items he needs that will last longer!

Sheila Andrew



Full Moon Ceremonies

Carlos Gomes and his friend Wendy Kennedy have begun holding full-moon ceremonies at the Fellowship. They begin at 7 pm on Wednesday evenings each month. Upcoming dates are May 31 and June 28. These ceremonies include words and rhythms for celebration and healing. Hand-drummers, pagans, members and friends of the Fellowship, and interested community members are all invited. A donation to the Fellowship will be gratefully accepted. For more information, write to Jo-Anne and Carlos at eldergomesfamily@gmail.com.

Carlos also leads drum-making and spiritual teachings workshops in New Brunswick. If you are interested in joining a class, please write to us at the same [email address](#).



CUC Events Coming Up

June 7- Inclusivity Action Groups: Managing Resistance 8 pm AT

June 10- Decision Making Exploration Team: Practicing Together, Sociocracy Decision Making 2 pm AT

June 12- Gathered Here: A Monthly Check-in for UU Young Adults (18-35) 9pm AT

June 18- UU Connecting 8 pm AT

June 28- Rising Together: UU Youth and Emerging Adults of Colour 8:30 pm AT.

July 16- UU Connecting 8 pm AT

To find the links to these events go to cuc.ca, click on Events, click on the Month at a Glance, and find the date of the event and click on the link.

Glenna Hanley

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