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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.

November 26th The Bahá'í Religion

Speaker: John Ball

Service Leader: Janet Crawford

Tech Support TBA

Please join us for a brief overview of the Bahá'í Faith and a discussion around the establishment of World Peace from a Bahá'í perspective.

World Peace - Is it a chimera or inevitable? The Bahá'í teachings hold that it is inevitable but the path is fraught with difficulties. The teachings also identify prerequisites that need to be in place to allow the goal to be achieved.

A statement from the World Center of the Faith on world peace released in October 1985 will be forwarded before the meeting.

December 3rd Climate Change Update

Speaker: Myron Hedderson

Service Leader: Heather Lunergan

Tech Support Wyatt Elliott

In December of 2021, right after the Glasgow Climate Conference (COP 26) Myron made a presentation about where we stood in terms of climate change, and where we needed to go in the next 9 years. Now, to mark the Dubai conference, which ends on December 12, Myron will update you with what progress was made. In 2021, there was reason for optimism because of battery and solar panel prices plunging 90% in a decade, with no end in sight, and EV sales nearly doubling every year. How did it go from there, and in what ways are we on or off the track we need to be on, to hold global warming to below 2 degrees C? Join Myron on Sunday to find out!

December 10th The Pilgrims walk and Spiritual Lessons

Speaker: Janice Ryan

Service Leader: Heather Lunergan

The Santiago de Compostela walk, all 780 km is indeed a feat, an achievement and a significant accomplishment for pilgrims. The walk takes much will and resilience, much like life..

My sharing with the Unitarian community is how the walk elicits spiritual awakenings. What were its challenges, what were the gifts and joys of the Camino in a deeply transformative way? What does the pilgrims experience teach us about walking life? What are stones we leave behind and the promises we walk towards.

December 17th Carol Singing with Linda Sprague

Service Leader: Janet Crawford

Tech Support Tony Fitzgerald

Christmas Carol singing with Linda on the piano will be interspersed with tales of Christmases from our members.

December 24th No Service

The Fellowship will be closed. Enjoy the Yule in your tradition of choice or not, as the case may be.

December 31st Talking Circle with Carlos Gomez

Service Leader: Janet Crawford

January 7th Let's Endorse the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty Initiative..

Service Leader: Janet Crawford

Joan McFarland, co-chair of the Social Responsibility Committee, will share a video of an inspiring talk by Claudia Campero of Mexico about the global Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty Initiative. At the February

UFF budget meeting, the Social Responsibility Committee will be putting forward a motion for UFF to become one of the over 2000 endorsers of the Initiative.



New “U” Program

The Membership Committee will be hosting a New “U” program in the new year for those who are new to our Fellowship and are thinking of becoming members.

Becoming a member of the Fellowship means that you can vote at congregation meetings, serve as a chairperson of one of the committees and serve on the Board as well as feeling more connected to our community.

The 3-part program will offer an opportunity to share our individual religious/spiritual backgrounds, learn the history of Unitarianism in Europe and our roots in North America, and the story of the Unitarian Fellowship of Fredericton.

If you are interested in participating in this program please speak to Sheila Moore and/or Joan Brewer

eMail: Membership@UFF.ca

Sheila Moore
Co-chair Membership Committee



Third Thursday Film Series

The Social Responsibility Committee invites you to a Third Thursday of the month film series, at 874 York Street, beginning December 21st at 6:30 pm and ending Thursday March 21st.

These four evenings will give you just a taste of the prolific, powerful, poetic, 60 year career of Wabanaki film-maker **Alanis Obomsawin**.

Join us at Winter Solstice on **December 21st at 6:30** for warm apple cider and the story-telling magic of Alanis. We will watch her delightful **2021 CBC Radio interview with Tom Power**, as an introduction to the series. This interview is about 45 minutes long.

AND we will watch the sweet documentary Alanis made in the early 1970s with James Bay Cree children who were attending residential school in Moose Factory Ontario, ***Christmas at Moose Factory***, fifteen minutes long.

On **Thursday January 18th**, we will watch Alanis’s documentary ***Incident at Restigouche***, released by the National Film Board in 1984. It is 45 minutes long.

On **Thursday February 15th**, we will watch Alanis’s two hour documentary ***Kanesatake 270 Years of Resistance***, released by the National Film Board in 1993.

At the Spring Equinox, on **March 21st at 6:30 pm**, we will watch Alanis Obomsawin’s 2017 documentary ***Our***

People Will Be Healed. It is about an hour and a half long.

Robin Stanley



Mothers’ Night

On the evening of Saturday, December 16th Greater Fredericton Area Witches will be hosting a Mothers’ Night rite held as Yule celebration. This is a Norse tradition in which we honour the goddess Frigg, the Mothers, and the Disir (female ancestors). It will be held at the Unitarian Fellowship and we would like to invite interested members of the congregation to join us for this participatory gathering.

Please email gfangfaw@gmail.com for more information or to RSVP.

Blessèd Be!

Debi Skidmore
on behalf of GFAW



The Problem With Patriarchy

For humankind to survive in the longer term we need to create a world united and at peace. This may not be possible unless we substantially increase the leadership role of women in governments and religions.

For thousands of years, patriarchies have dominated human society.

Religions were started by male prophets whose words were documented by male scribes and later interpreted and codified by male scholars and then promulgated by male rabbis, priests and imams. Even today, few women play any significant role in religious leadership.

Apart from a few notable female monarchs, women have rarely had any significant role in leading governments either until very recently.

There seem to be two main reasons for male dominance throughout history.

Firstly, countries and religions have been constantly at war with each other, and they have needed lots of soldiers to fight the battles. Males being generally larger and stronger than females tended to make better soldiers when it came to hand-to-hand combat. With modern weaponry, and the advent of Artificial Intelligence, people can be killed remotely, and hand-to-hand fighting is no longer essential. Future societies will not need alpha males to fight their battles.

Secondly, males are inherently insecure about their reproductive role and have tended to want to restrict the activities and freedom of their female mates to increase

the likelihood that they in fact will be the father of their children. Governments and religions have been heavily involved in making this possible historically. Any society founded on male jealousy is on shaky ground.

Most importantly, women who become mothers understand unconditional love better than most men. They also tend to be more focused upon the ongoing welfare of their children and their children's children.

Uniting humanity needs this intense focus upon the well-being of others, now and in the future.

In my view, we will never create a world united and at peace without substantial female leadership involvement in all aspects of our societies.

We're Better Than That. Kenneth B. Little

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A Little Wisdom from the Buddha



Thousands of candles can be lit from a single candle, and the life of the candle will not be shortened. Happiness never decreases by being shared.

Attributed to
Siddhartha Gautama
The Buddha
Submitted by
Sheila Moore

❁

American Dirt

by Jeanine Cummins

The author did a lot of research before writing this moving fictional story about the problems faced by immigrants from South America seeking safety, a new home or work in the United States and what forces them to travel there. The main characters are a young boy, his mother and two teenage sisters they meet on their dangerous escape route. The focus is also on the humanity of the immigrants, helpers and even the predators involved in their stories.

Readers get a clear view of the dangers of gang violence in Mexico, male dominance in Honduras and how victims involved can feel guilty themselves. Perhaps the most moving part of the book is how they cope with their memories, as well as the terror of future involvement, but the details of leaping on top of trains, avoiding police and deciding who to trust certainly made me think about the possible background of immigrants here. Even the occasional use of Spanish words and phrases without explanation reminds readers of the complications of settling in a new country.

On the positive side, readers get suggestions of how a child, his mother and the sisters can cope with all this. The mother often needs the mantra "Don't think. Don't

think. Don't think." There are also people who help them, sometimes helping themselves at the same time- not always by making vast amounts of money! This is a powerful book well worth reading.

Sheila Andrew

❁

Learning About the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty Initiative

The Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty Initiative is a global initiative which calls for the end to the further development of fossil fuels- basically the "leave it in the ground" call- across the globe. This call is sadly missing from the Paris Agreement and the COP meetings. In fact, fossil fuels are not directly mentioned at all. This is despite the fact that fossil fuels are responsible for 80% of greenhouse gas emissions. It seems that the oil and gas lobby is just too strong.

The Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty Initiative goes back to 2015 and has been gaining momentum ever since. It has been endorsed by 117 countries, 2150 civil society partners, 3000 scientists and 600+ politicians. The Vatican is a recent endorser. In Canada, it has been endorsed by David Suzuki, the cities of Vancouver and Toronto and Kairos which is composed of 10 member churches. Here in Fredericton, it has been endorsed by the Fredericton chapter of the Council of Canadians.

You can find a lot more about the The Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty Initiative- its mission, its history, its endorsers etc.- at its website: www.fossilfueltreaty.org. This *Guardian* article also gives a good explanation of the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty Initiative:

[https://www.theguardian.com/
environment/2022/nov/11/
what-is-the-fossil-fuel-non-proliferation-treaty](https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2022/nov/11/what-is-the-fossil-fuel-non-proliferation-treaty)

As a follow-up to this introduction to the topic, at the Jan. 9 Sunday service, we will watch an inspiring talk originally given at a Kairos webinar, by Claudia Campero of Mexico, one of the organizers of the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty Initiative. Then at the February budget meeting, the Social Responsibility Committee will be putting forward a motion for the Unitarian Fellowship of Fredericton to become an endorser of the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty Initiative.

submitted by
Joan McFarland
for the Social Responsibility Committee



Notes From the Board

You may have noticed we have had a few little people hanging out with us during coffee hour of late.

That has got members and parents talking about some kind of child care program for the little ones.

At the Sunday, Nov. 19 board meeting the board approved a child care program under the direction of one of the moms, Amber Elliott.

At our annual general meeting in June Amber had volunteered to chair the children's Religious Education program. We only have one child old enough for an RE program and three under three. So for now it will be only a babysitting service. Amber, who attended the board meeting, said she was willing to do the babysitting herself and find other volunteers to help out when she is not available.

The topic was first put to the board by Sheila Moore, co-chair of the membership committee. Sheila told us her committee had been looking at the issue from a membership perspective, and from a "whole family" approach. They felt parents should have the option to attend the service fully while knowing their children are safe and being well looked after in the children's room upstairs.

They suggested the service be offered from 10:15 to 11:45 am and that in the upcoming budget deliberations the board set aside money for it in 2024.

(The board applied for a grant from the West Trust Foundation in October for a children's program and was awarded \$1800. Some funds could come from that grant

although the building and grounds committee had also hoped to replace the aging carpet in the children's room. That is unlikely to go ahead until more funds can be found).

The membership committee is planning to have a New U program in January, an opportunity for new comers to learn what it means to be a Unitarian and to perhaps decide to become a signed member.

Another visitor to the board meeting was Jane Loughborough, representing the social responsibility committee. Jane informed board members about a new multi-faith initiative in the city helping asylum seekers.

Toronto and Montreal have been receiving so many asylum seekers, they have reached capacity in their ability to provide needed services. So the federal government has been shipping these people out to other provinces, including New Brunswick. The board gave its permission for social responsibility to join in the multi-faith organization which as yet has no name.

Board member Myron Hedderson made that motion and a second one to start up a funding program to help these newcomers, displaced from their home countries.

Jane said their needs are housing, often in short term home stays, donations of money and food and jobs.

November is stewardship month and treasurer Heather Lunergan said pledges are coming in. The campaign wraps up on Sunday, Dec 3, with a celebratory luncheon.

The board will not meet in December. The next meeting will be in January, 2024.

Submitted by Glenna Hanley
President of the Board of Directors

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