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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.

April 28th Unitarians and Universalists in Canada

Speaker: Sheila Moore

Service Leader: Ken Moore

Tech Support: Tony Fitzgerald

Where did the Unitarians and Universalists come from? This Sunday we will hear some of the history of these people and the congregations they founded in this country.

May 5th Lay Chaplaincy Sunday

Speakers: Jenn Carpenter and Decima Mitchell

Service Leader: Tony Fitzgerald

News from and information about the Lay Chaplaincy within the CUC in general and the UFF in particular.

May 12th Mother's Day Service

Speaker: Jane Loughborough

Service Leader: Sheila Moore

🌍 Mother Earth, Planet Earth, Mother Nature, and Mother's Day. On Sunday May 12th we will celebrate

mothering, motherhood, maternal bonds and the influence of mothers in society with abundant transparency. Modern Mother's Day is steeped in Hallmark commercialism despite the fact that the day was started by a peace activist, Ann Reeves Jarvis, in West Virginia in 1907, who created Mothers' Day Work Clubs to address public health issues. We all had/have a person who took on the role of mother/father/parental unit in our growing up: that person may have been a parent, grandparent, a friend, an adult assigned the role of supervisor, a surrogate mother. Some of us now have no connection with that significant person, may have never known that significant person, have just had a mother die at a younger or very old age, or have words we desperately would like to share with the person in our life who used to be, or still is, a "mother". Nurturance, respect and love ground our daily lives, no matter who actually provides these necessities. Let's celebrate the lives of special people who deserve recognition on Mother's Day. 🌱

May 19th Topic Paradise

Speaker: Decima Mitchell

Service Leader: Decima Mitchell

Tech Support: Myron Hedderson

Decima will be reading an abbreviated version of an article appearing in UU World Magazine in 2008. The authors of the article believe the early Christian Church emphasized paradise, not crucifixion.

May 26th Who are the People in your Neighbourhood?

Speaker: Jordan Trethewey

Service Leader: Decima Mitchell

Tech Support: Tony Fitzgerald

Here is a review of Jordan's book:

These Are the People in Your Neighbourhood is the legacy project of Fredericton, New Brunswick, Canada's Poet Laureate Jordan Trethewey. Trethewey spent two years collecting personal stories from willing participants, then turned his notes and thoughts into personalized poems for roughly 80 citizens. What emerges are universal stories of love, loss, longing, work, leisure, birth, death, near-death, and even pets. The result is a book that captures the diversity and spirit of any small city, not just Fredericton. Also included are Trethewey's poems written specifically for Fredericton City Council. They express the concerns of a growing multicultural metropolis, and subjects everyone loves, like Christ-

mas. These Are the People in Your Neighbourhood, also includes beautiful ink and watercolour cityscapes by Fredericton artist Eva Christensen.

June 2nd Finances. Stay Out of Fraud's Reach

Speaker: Lisa Legere

Service Leader: Decima Mitchell

Frauds and scams come in many different forms, so they can sometimes be difficult to spot. Tailored to older adults, attendees will be able to protect themselves by learning about:

- Common types of frauds and scams
- Who's at risk
- Spotting the red flags of fraud
- Recognizing signs of financial abuse
- Reporting frauds and scams



Summer Sundays

The Fellowship, normally, does not offer Sunday Services during the summer.

We would sure miss seeing you during the two months of summer! Think of the great discussions we could have, share ideas, have a cuppa. Two months is too long! Let's get together.

Who would like to organize a Sunday discussion or talk? Do you have an interesting topic, idea, or readings to share? What about a nice, relaxed, informal, stimulating time together for an hour?

If you would like to volunteer for a Summer Sunday please let us know.

Janet Crawford
Decima Mitchell
Sheila Moore



Unitarian Women's Potluck Gathering

Women's potluck Friday, May 24th will be held at TUFF, 874 York Street.

Gather at 6 pm and eat at 6:30.

No planning for the food. We give thanks for whatever is offered. If you don't have time to make something, come anyway and we will share.

Topic is 'Habits' – what strange habit do you have?

For more Information contact

Joan Brewer
at 506-455-5169



UFF at PAUSE, UNB

Thursday April 18



Several members of UFF provided snacks and drinks for students (and anyone else in the building) taking a pause from exams, work or any other activity in Marshall d'Avray Hall from 10 am - 2 pm on April 18th. Some snacks were made by UFF members, others purchased (for example, bagels and cream cheese from Great Canadian Bagel at a considerable reduction in cost due to the cause) and even more provided by UNB as part of this special student services program. Coffee, tea and other drinks were available as well as food for students to take home. Approximately 76 students stopped by. We chatted with some of the students about how the exams were going, their programs at UNB etc. A wonderful outreach, caring and social responsibility opportunity.



Janet,
Cherie,
A.,
Glenna, and
Jane



Joys and concerns

Sheila and Ken Moore celebrated their 55th wedding anniversary in April.

Sheila Andrew and Linda Sprague have both had falls but are recovering well.

Thinking of all the people whose joys and concerns are too Personal to share here.

Would you like to talk, need a drive, have something to share, please be in touch with UFF Caring Circle. Robin Stanley (506) 650-2670 stanleyr@nb.sympatico.ca. or Janet Crawford (506) 454-0441 janetcra@gmail.com and we can help or put you in touch with other members of the caring circle.



Recruiting for Peace: Make Art, Not Bombs



Depart Halifax May 25, Arrive Ottawa May 28

As part of the Canada Wide Peace Caravan, members of Nova Scotia Voices of Women for Peace and World Beyond War will present workshops en route to CANSEC, the largest weapons trade show in Canada. We will share several art pieces that connect the disaster of civilian suffering to the profit of an unsustainable industry. The Peace Protector Uniform was included in Nocturne, Halifax 2023 and our 'Peace Knot Bombs' sewing project has been displayed at galleries in Nova Scotia. A film short by filmmaker Anne Verrall will also be shown.

Please join us at
Conserver House,
180 St. John St, Fredericton
on Saturday, May 25, 2024
from 7 to 8 pm

Protest CANSEC, North America's largest weapons fair May 29 & 30



Walk, bike, carpool or take the train...



For more information and to endorse,
Contact wilpfcanada@gmail.com

Please note: the group travelling from Nova Scotia is looking for accommodations to billet three women. If you are willing to accommodate one or more of them, please contact Ann McAllister at (506) 898-1821 or annmcallister72@gmail.com. Thank-you.



A History of the Middle East

Peter Mansfield and Nicholas Pelham
5th Edition 2015 Part One

This is a giant topic on many countries and gives us important background on current problems. Even the name shows European influence. India has suggested it should be their Middle West. The countries currently in this area are Libya, Egypt, Sudan, Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Oman, Jordan, Syria, Turkey, Iraq and Iran, with vital links to the Mediterranean, Red Sea, Black Sea, Caspian Sea, Persian Gulf, Arabian Sea and the Indian Ocean. The Suez Canal between the Mediterranean and the Red Sea has been a major trade route since 1869.

The book is a useful reminder of the earliest civilisations known that were developed in this area and the many powerful empires there. The "Fertile Crescent" of land round the eastern Mediterranean attracted settlers of many races and rulers of many origins. However there were, and are, serious divisions between the rulers, races and religions. For example, the Jews moved in from Egypt to Canaan and Jericho, did not intermarry with those already there or proselytize their religion. Many Arabs moved in over the years. The Assyrians set up their empire in the 9th century BC and the Persians took over in 559 BC. By 330 AD there had been Roman, Christian, Hellenic (I expect you know about Alexander the Great) and Byzantine Empires, with Sassanid Persians as the major threat.

The division between Shia and Sunni Muslims began in AD 656 when the third leader who represented all Muslims was assassinated and those who became Shia wanted Ali, Mohammed's son-in-law, to take over, but General Muawiya defeated him and declared himself the leader. Those who recognised him and his successors founded the Sunni. The Shia chose their own leader. As Islamic religion includes political and military power, this is a serious issue, especially in the relationship between Sunni majority Iraq and Shia majority Iran. However it did not stop Arab Islamic power sweeping as far as North Africa and Spain, establishing an Arab Sunni Empire lasting more than two centuries and described as The Golden Age of Islam. Egypt maintained independence for most of this time and took over some neighbouring countries, but Western powers were particularly interfering there. Other empires came and went. Crusaders came to try and save the Christian Byzantines and the Ottoman Turks took over until the early 19th century.

The sheer complexity of the first part of this book gives us

insights into current divisions and the difference between Canadian, British and American history's legacy and that of the Middle East, unless there's a similar untold Indigenous history of the past. The second part brings us almost to the present and gives interesting background on names we have heard and events we remember.

Sheila Andrew



Notes from the Board

Plans for a child care program are moving along with a child minder hired to be present each Sunday.

Michelle Swan has taken on the role of chair of the children's program committee and has hired Naomi Larmer of Harvey to be present every Sunday to look after the children.

Michelle has been working on fixing up the children's room to make it more appealing to kids and is also working on providing an enriched program beyond just child minding.

The new website is moving along slowly. Past president Decima Mitchell is revising content from the existing web site with plans to forward it to the web designer. Heather Lunergan's brother Bruce Berry, FPPOC (a Fellow of the Professional Photographers of Canada) from Nova Scotia, was here on a visit and did some excellent photographs of the Fellowship for use on the website.

Board VP Myron Hedderson and myself were approved to be delegates to the Canadian Unitarian Council annual general meeting on May 25. The AGM will be entirely on line this year.

I put forward a dissolution bylaw to be put to the congregation for approval at our June annual general meeting. The board asked that I first have it reviewed by Rev. Linda Thomson, CUC Congregational Life leader. The bylaw, which is required by the CUC but has been overlooked for some time, states what will happen to our property and assets in the event the Fellowship is ever dissolved as an active congregation.

VP Tracy Gleim had an inquiry about renting the main meeting room by a group that entertains children with live animals. The board decided our building was not suitable for such a show.

And finally past president Decima reported that the nomination committee, chaired by Sheila Moore, and including Jo-anne Elder-Gomes and herself, have gotten underway looking for members to fill any vacant roles on the board or for committee chairs. Their recommendations will be ready for voting at the AGM, slated for Jun 23.

Submitted by Glenna Hanley
President of the Board of Governors



CUC AGM and National Sunday Service

May is the month the Canadian Unitarian Council holds its Annual General Meeting and a Canada-wide Sunday service.

The AGM this year will take place on Sat, May 25. The board has appointed Myron Hedderson, VP of finance, and myself as delegates to vote on resolutions on the congregation's behalf.

The entire AGM is on line this year and anyone can observe. You can find the zoom link on the website cuc.ca. Look for "Events" and scroll down to find the calendar and the link to the conference. It begins at 1:30 pm Atlantic time and lasts for three and a half hours.

The national Sunday service which connects Unitarian Universalists from all parts of the country will also be available on line May 19, 2 pm AT. Titled My Muzungce Eyes Are Improving and featuring Liz James of Saskatchewan, there are sure to be some good laughs. Liz is the founder of the Unitarian Universalist Hysterical Society.

A significant resolution put forward this year by the First Toronto congregation calls for adding Terra Nullius (nobody's land) to a resolution passed last year's AGM calling for repudiation of the Doctrine of Discovery.

Both documents provided Europeans with justification for occupying and claiming sovereignty over Indigenous lands in North America and elsewhere. There was no recognition that Indigenous peoples had lived on these land for thousands of years.

There will also be a resolution, put forward by Vancouver Unitarians, on defunding fossil fuels.

Submitted by Glenna Hanley
President of the Board of Governors



Lay Chaplaincy LATE BREAKING

The congregational Lay Chaplaincy Committee (LCC) had made an application to the CUC LCC for permission to appoint a third Lay Chaplain for our congregation. Long story, short, I learned early this morning (Saturday, Apr 27th) that our request had been approved. See the article "Position Available: Lay Chaplain" in the [April issue of Touchstone](#) for details, however, the congregational LCC is now actively recruiting a third Lay Chaplain.

Tony Fitzgerald