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Sunday Service 11 a.m.

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september 16 Rev. David Hutchinson; Unitarian Society of Houlton "Hippo Eats Scott Alexander: What is the Meaning of Life?" Rev. Scott Alexander (former minister at the Houlton Church) was my room-mate at GA this summer in Portland, Oregon. While there were no hippos in Portland, we did discuss their relevance over breakfast one morning at a pancake house. Come and hear my answer to one of the most frequently asked questions around.

September 23 Nasnan Noqtok "Where the Sidewalk Begins?" An integenerational service inspired by and containing some works of Shel Silverstein.

September 23 Saint John (UUCSJ): Dedication day for their new home, 545 Sandy Point Road, Saint John. At 2 p.m.

We anticipate that a number of Fredericton members will want to join our sister congregation in their celebration and will plan to end on time with a low key social hour so that people may make their way to Saint John in good order if they choose.

Sunday Services

September 2 "Ingathering" Our traditional start of year. Everyone knows that the real new year in our society is the end of the summer vacation period and the start of school. We will have our traditional corn boil following an ingathering service. Please bring water or another token or symbol of a pleasant or significant summer memory and share a few sentences about where and why.

September 9 Angus Hamilton "Global Warming/Climate Change in Perspective" North American [Indian] Proverb: We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors, we borrow it from our children.

If you are expecting a talk on efficient light bulbs and hybrid cars, you're going to be disappointed. What I am going to do is touch lightly on many related things that will, I hope, put global warming and climate change in perspective.

Joyful Noises Director

The Joyful Noises choir is searching for a new director. Is there anyone at the Fellowship who would be interested in this position? If so, please contact either Linda (452-0982) or Margaret (454-5319).

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Women's Pot Luck

The next monthly women's pot luck will be held September 28th. at 6pm. Joan Brewer will host the gathering at her home, 31 Ridgewell Place. The show and tell topic is what song evokes the strongest memories for you. Please tell us about the song or songs and the memories. For more information contact Joan Brewer at jrjeb@nb.sympatico.ca or 455-5169.



Owen Diamond & Janelle Brewer cutting the cake. August 25 at the Fellowship



Sunday Services Committee

The Adult Programme Sunday Services (worship) Committee has met twice over the summer to plan service topics for each week. At both meetings, we also considered various other matters dealing with the Sunday service which is a central part of our spiritual life.

One matter which raised significant discussion in the first meeting but on which, I believe, the committee had reached general concensus by the second meeting is the Joys and Concerns (sometimes Joys and Sorrows). Mary Scott gave a very moving service on August 19, just before the second summer meeting of the committee, and (following discussion with several committee members) anticipated and incorporated much of our thoughts on the matter. Mary's introduction to Joys and Sorrows was careful, considered and well phrased and I am reproducing it with her permission:

At this time, I'll ask us all to shift from our discussion of today's topic, and move our thoughts and feelings towards personal joys or sorrows from the last week or upcoming week. Each of us has joys and sorrows in our lives - some large, many of them small, and yet worth our noting and paying attention to.

As we individually move our focus now to personal joys and sorrows - let us reflect inwardly, and spend a few moments honouring them in the quiet space of our own hearts and minds. (pause) - honour that they shape not just meaning, but in some cases direction and action for us. (pause) Honour that we may not choose how or when such events happen in our lives, and yet we can, with patience and time, exercise some choice in how we fit them into the patterns and context of our lives. (pause) We can exercise some choice in what attention we give these joys and sorrows, what intention we surround them with, and what direction we move in, given their presence in our lives. (longer pause)

In some cases, it may be important and timely for us to let others here know about these joys and sorrows. We may have different reasons for doing this. For example, a brief mention of the joy or sorrow may enable the larger community assembled here to rejoice with us, or recognize our wish for support or consoling. Since communities bond with their hearts more than their heads, this can be an important time of bonding.

To help us individually and as a caring community, benefit from this time of sharing, I suggest we try a number of things today.

I suggest those who speak, do so briefly, so all who wish to speak will have an opportunity to do so.

As individuals, we have different temperaments and different levels of comfort both with sharing, and with hearing about the joys and sorrows of others. If we choose to share, keeping our words brief, can also acknowledge that some of us listening today may be doing the best we can in our lives at this time and are not aware of inner resources to call on now to offer support or respond with joy.

The context of a service like this also places some constraints on how we, as listeners, can respond to others' joys and sorrows. I have tried, as an experiment this week, placing this part of the service near the end, so people can use the social gathering time after the service, if they wish, to expand on their joy or sorrow, or take the initiative to approach others who have shared and follow up with them in ways they feel would be appropriate.

Are there personal joys or sorrows anyone wishes to share at this time.

The concensus which the committee has reached is that we do not want to significantly alter the Joys and Sorrows/Concerns segment of the service. We are a small congregation and the number of people who typically speak during Joys and Concerns is not so excessive that we have to curtail the segment as has happened in larger congregations. We will strongly recommend that the Joys segment be placed near the end of the service so that it does not interfere with the flow of the service and so that joys and concerns expressed may remain fresh in the minds of others so that they may seek out the individuals who spoke so as to share in the joy more fully or offer a sympathetic shoulder to those who need during our socializing after

service. The committee also feels that while this will be our recommendation, the final order of service is the decision of the service leader who should organize the service taking into account whatever special speaker or event is to be the centre of the service.

Mary's introduction was very well considered, however, it is likely too lengthy to become a standard introduction. We hope that people who have a joy that must be shared or a concern that cannot be contained will learn to be brief and to respect that others also have joys and concerns. We also ask that as a lay led congregation, we all share in the ministry. If someone was in obvious joy, offer congratulations during the socializing or sympathy for those in need. Remember the "Dear Abby" advice that expressions of joy or sympathy should be only that and few of us are qualified to give advice and anyone so qualified would not give advice in a social setting.

To change the tone somewhat, I will point out that the duty of the Sunday Service Committee is to plan our Sunday services. There is no requirement that one be on the committee in order to speak or to be a service leader. If you are nervous about speaking in public, then I can attest from experience, that the Fellowship is an excellent venue for building public speaking confidence. Anyone with service suggestions or who would like to lead a service should approach any of the committee members: Haifa Miller, Patricia desChamps, Jo-Anne Elder-Gomes, Janet Crawford, Anne-Louise Brookes, Betsy Epperly, Al Sharp, or the chair.

In fellowship
Tony Fitzgerald
Chair, Adult Programme Sunday worship



TUFF Ride Registry Players and Rules

Drivers:

- Offer a vehicle with room for a passenger or two.
- Deliver a rider(s) to 874 York for Sunday service, and take them home after the service.
- Enjoy the privilege of being a taxi driver.

Riders:

- Call the dispatcher (459-1436) on Saturday (or before) to arrange the drive for Sunday morning.
- Are ready to leave as soon as the driver appears.
- Enjoy the privilege of being part of our tUFF community.

Dispatcher:

- Compiles and maintains the Drivers and Riders lists.
- Enjoys the privilege of working with such great people.

The Ride Registry at tUFF addresses two needs. It provides friends and members with transportation to Sunday service. It gives friends and members the chance to help out. Whether you are a driver or a rider, call the dispatcher, allison calvern, 459-1436. Thanks!!



Grace House Emergency Shelter

Marcia Tanner, the manager of Grace House Emergency Shelter for Women needs personal care products for the residents. Marcia is comfortable accepting 'partly used bottles' from the Fellowship. So if you no longer want something you used to use, please put it in the green hamper in the foyer (under the table where our song books are stored).



"On the steps" shows, left to right, Peter Diamond's Austrian friend Lisa, the late Elizabeth Diamond's brother John (behind, in red shirt), Dorothy's son Matthew McFarlane, and Dorothy Diamond.



Kate Green of USC OTtawa to Visit

Kate Green of USC Ottawa will be speaking after the service on September 16th. For those who can stay, there will be an informal potluck with Kate immediately after the service and a presentation starting at 12.45. Her topic will be the USC Seeds of Survival program and the general issue of food security. Kate has worked in India, Nepal and Ethiopia. More information about USC programs is available on their website.

Joan McFarland Co-chair, Social Responsibility



Bridge

It's almost time for bridge again. We will start the season on September 12. If you like to play bridge JUST FOR FUN, please join us at the Fellowship each second and fourth Wednesday of the month at 1:30. (We usually finish up before 4:00). For more information call Nancy B at 459-8004 or email beltrand@rogers.com.



Children's Program Committee

Following the practice of previous years there have been no formal RE classes offered during the summer months. Child care has been available during the adult service with Elisabeth Elder-Gomes taking the children under her very capable wing.

The Children's Program Committee has met three times (on August 8, 15 and 29) to discuss plans for the coming season. A subcommittee (Haifa Miller, Heidi O'Donnell and Stephanie Yorke) met after service on August 12 to develop a course outline for the fall term.

The committee plans to launch a new religious education program this fall. The main goal of the new program is to provide a liberal religious environment where the young people in our congregation may develop socially and spiritually, guided by the seven principles of Unitarian-Universalism. A secondary, but nonetheless important, goal is to ensure that the children have fun on their Sunday mornings with us. Each month the focus will be on one of those UU principles. For September it is the inherent worth and dignity of every person, or, in language more appropriate for children, the belief that each and every person is important.

The sequence of classes each month will be similar. The first Sunday of the month will emphasize music – singing

songs and hymns pertaining to the chosen principle. The recently published UU song book Now Let Us Sing provides a very useful resource for this. The second Sunday will feature stories and discussion relevant to the principle. The third Sunday will be a consideration of an appropriate environmental topic and the forth will focus on one of the major world religions. Here is the breakdown for next two months (September being an exception to the above because of a fifth Sunday):

Theme: Principle #1 "? We Believe That Each And Every Person Is Important."

September 2: Corn Boil (child care only)

September 9: Music & Singing (songs relating to Principle #1)

September 16: Principle #1 Stories and discussion

September 23: Environmental Topic: "Food"

September 30: World Religion: Islam Theme: Principle "We Believe That All People Should Be Treated Fairly and Kindly."

October 7: Music & Singing (songs relating to Principle #2)

October 14: Principle #2 Stories and discussion

October 21: Environmental Topic: "Saving a Tree"

October 28: World Religion: Buddhism

One of the concerns considered by the committee in its deliberations is the small number of children attending on a given Sunday. We are planning steps which we hope will address this situation. A letter has been sent to parents who have had children in the program in the past but who have dropped out for one reason or another. We are inviting them to take another look at what we have to offer for children. We also plan to advertise to the general public. Wilfred Langmaid has agreed to do a brief item on the religion page of the September 8 issue of The Gleaner. The best advertising remains, of course, word of mouth. We ask all members of TUFF to invite their liberal minded friends and their children to come and see what the Unitarian Fellowship of Fredericton is all about.

Also, it should be noted that a grant from the West Bequest has been received to cover a portion (approximately half) of the cost of our having hired a children's program facilitator.

Mary Scott, who agreed to serve on the Children's Program Committee when I assumed the role of chair in November 2006, has retired from the committee. I would like again to acknowledge the contribution that she made to the committee during her time of service. Her wise

counsel will be missed. Haifa Miller has consented to continue on the committee and is joined by a number of parents of children in the program. For the coming year the committee members are:

George DeMille	Kate Manuel	Allan Walls
Mei Huang	Haifa Miller	Stephanie Yorke
Gary Manuel	Heidi O'Donnell	(Children's Program
		Facilitator)

The following is taken from an ad placed in the Gleaner(?) when the fellowship was in its very early years and was meeting in "the new YM-YWCA building on Saunders Street."

We have Christmas trees and Hanukkah lights. We read from the Bible and the story of evolution; we hear about Mohamed, Buddha, Jesus, Confucius and other religious figures. We try to learn as much as we can about all faiths and about what people everywhere think is good.

We talk about all kinds of things and wonder a lot. When we are very little we paint pictures and play house. We listen to stories and act them out. When we are big children we go on field trips and visit other churches and temples. We are the children of the Unitarian Fellowship of Fredericton. Would you like to join us?

George DeMille August 29, 2007



Wanted to buy: Slippers

For an elderly lady at Ste Anne's Crt, 2 pair of knitted slippers (size 7), like the slippers we wear at the Fellowship. She will pay for the yarn and something for making them. (It might be another way of raising money for something we want at the Fellowship) If you are willing and able to knit them, please call Nancy B at 459-8004



Scarves for International Students

A note from Judy Coates at Saint Thomas U.

I picked up the scarves... they are beautiful! What colours and diversity! The students will love them. I'll try to get some pictures.

I'll drop off a Thank you card for you to pass on to the Unitarian Knitters!!

have a great day, Judy



Wheelchair campaigns

There are two separate efforts to provide wheelchairs which members of the congregation should find it easy to support.

Patricia is wondering if we could start a bin at the Fellowship to collect 'tabs from cans' for an effort to raise money for wheelchairs. She would be pleased to deliver our 'tabs from cans' to George Derrah. George Derrah is a member of Epsilon Y's Men, the service club of the Fredericton YMCA.

Margaret Fitzgerald is collecting Sobey's sales tapes to be handed in at Pinegrove Nursing Home. When enough tapes are accumulated, they will be redeemed for wheelchairs. If you want more details, please contact Margaret at 454-5319.



Church of the Larger Fellowship

Identify yourself as a UU! UU lapel pins of all shapes and sizes can be purchased through the Church of the Larger Fellowship (CLF). Proceeds of these purchases help support the CLF's many UU ministries all over the world. Feel free to copy and paste an excerpt, or the entire document, into your newsletter.

Flaming Chalice Lapel Pins \$5-\$29 (Double circles, Ovals) sterling silver, Gold-Plated, Pewter

1" sizes $\frac{3}{4}$ " sizes

To purchase lapel pins, and other UU jewelry,

go to www.clfuu.org Click on "CLF Shop" or call 617-948-6150

CLF brings Unitarian Universalism to religious liberals throughout the world.

Learn more about CLF at www.clfuu.org

The Church of the Larger Fellowship's mission is to provide a ministry to isolated religious liberals, promote the understanding and growth of Unitarian Universalism and institute programs to that end.



UUCSJ Gets National Coverage

Editor's note: this from Mary Bennett

I love to see these cross-Canada connections!

То

see a photo of Saint John's new building go to: http://www.uucsj.org/

It was great to read about Saint John's new building and that BC Unitarians were there to lend a hand! Thanks.

Building Committee Update

Our new home is looking better and better! The carpets were installed July 23-25, and installation of the new windows began in the last two days of July. Landscape work will take place in August.

A vast amount of work was needed to get ready for these things to happen. Virtually all painting is complete. Walls were repaired in preparation for the paint. One dividing wall was removed entirely, and we now have one good-sized room instead of two small ones on the ground floor near the kitchen. Fixtures have been replaced and/or repaired, and, in some cases, removed. (For instance, we no longer have a toilet on the stage!)

The downstairs back windows, so vulnerable to break-in or vandalism, have been closed off entirely, and, in the bathrooms, fans installed through the closed-off spaces. The library has been set up in the office area of the sanctuary. And on and on goes the list.

A massive Thank You goes to the dedicated volunteer team that has put in so much time and effort to get us to this point. A truly magnificent team effort!

There is still much detail and trim work needed, and the kitchen, and the bathroom next to the kitchen are still to be done. But this will all happen, and everyone involved can feel justifiably proud of how much has been achieved in so short a time.

P.S. A special mention of Al & Liz Earl of Kelowna, BC, summer visitors who worked several times!



Spirituality Book Club at STU

With the encouragement of our president, Dr. Michael W. Higgins, we have initiated a new book club at St.Thomas University, for people who enjoy reading books that deal with spirituality, either as the central theme or as a background. We hope to have attendees from many faith groups and extend an invitation to all.

It is to be called The Merton Club, and will meet five times a year. Our first meeting is on September 19 at 7:30 p.m. - the book selected is The Intimate Merton: His Life from His Journals by Thomas Merton. The following meeting will be on November 21, and the selection will be Davita's Harp by Chaim Potok.

For more information, please call Heather MacDonald-Bossé at 506-452-0521 or email alumni@stu.ca

Editors note: a word document with additional details accompanied this announcement. Contact the editor if you wish a copy sent by email



CUC Presidents InfoTopics - August

Editor's note: this item had a PDF attachment which was unsuitable for inclusion in the newsletter. The editor will email it to anyone who wishes.

Strength In Numbers

- an overview of the CUC's Congregational Investment policy

Show Me The Money

- an overview of the CUC's return on investments over the past few years

Other News

- an update on the "Donation" gift-tracking and receipting program $\,$

The entire Congregational Mailing package is available at http://www.cuc.ca/programs/mailings/aug07

Philip Strapp Financial Administrator, Canadian Unitarian Council 416-489-4121 www.cuc.ca



Letter to Prime Minister

The following letter was written by the CUC President with the support of the CUC's Peace Monitoring Group.

August 15, 2007

The Right Honourable Steven Harper Prime Minister of Canada Office of the Prime Minister 80 Wellington Street Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A2

Dear Prime Minister,

Recently there have been allegations that General Rick Hillier is over-stepping his role as Chief of Defence Staff by blocking release of all files on the Afghanistan mission requested under the Access to Information Act and by conducting secret surveillance of the peace work of Steven Staples of the Ottawa-based Rideau Institute on International Affairs (Ottawa Citizen, July 13, 2007: "Military tried to cover up file on outspoken critic").

Canadian Unitarian and Universalist congregations actively affirm and promote the use of democratic process. We believe that it is the role of Parliament, not of non-elected government officials such as General Hillier, to decide policy issues and their implementation. As President of the Canadian Unitarian Council, I urge you to address this alleged breach of democratic process. As a military advisor, General Hillier can and should provide advice directly to the government concerning military needs, but should not contravene existing laws granting citizens access to information, nor intimidate citizens presenting opposing views.

General Hillier's alleged withholding of lawfully-requested information and secret surveillance of citizens are of great concern to the Canadian Unitarian Council. We are looking to you, as Prime Minister of Canada, to maintain legislative authority over our military forces, to ensure that General Hillier's actions are monitored closely, and to ensure that the rights of citizens to hold their own views are not restricted.

We await your response.

Yours sincerely,
Jean Pfleiderer, Ph.D.
President, Board of Trustees



Message from Mary Bennett

As soon as the calendar turns from July to August, we know that September and the coming church-year can't be far behind. We hope you will plan to attend some CUC events or invite us to your congregation to offer a workshop.

Regional Fall Gatherings

CUC staff with volunteers in all four regions are heavily into planning for our four Regional Fall Gatherings. This year, they're truly coast to coast, with the BC gathering in Victoria, BC., and the Eastern one in St. John's, Newfoundland, on the same date (first weekend in November). Western is in Edmonton, October 19-21 and Central at South Peel, Mississauga on November 9-11.

The Regional Gatherings attract an average of 100 participants with kids, youth and multigenerational events planned. There are 3-4 choices for workshops for Saturday morning and/or afternoon (some go all day) and lots of whole community events. They're a great chance to meet with Unitarians and UU's from other congregations and build connections for mutual support and information-sharing through the year. Many of the CUC Regional Network Group volunteers will be at the gatherings and can talk with you about the workshops and consultations they can offer your congregation.

Annual Conference & Meeting

ACM '08 will be in Ottawa at Carleton University May 16-19, 2008. The theme is: The Web of Life - In Our Hands Watch http://cuc.ca/conference/2008/index.htm for details as they come up. A request for concurrent session proposals will be posted in September with a deadline of November 1, 2007. The national ACM Program Planning Committee then selects the sessions to cater to the diversity of interests and needs of those who attend the conference. Questions about the concurrent sessions can be sent to sessions@cuc.ca.

In recent years, the ACM attendance has tripled in size, with a lot of the increased participation coming from the children's and youth programs. A core group of young adults (age 18-35) were at ACM 2007 in Vancouver and are already working with the Noble Birds (the Ottawa Young Adult group) to have a larger young adult presence this coming year.

Canadian Unitarian*Universalist Leadership School

Another yearly event is CUUL School-a three and a half day residential school that is the foundational block of the CUUL Program. In 2008, we are planning, for the first time, to have CUUL school in two locations in Canada, one in the West and one in the East. More details at: http://cuc.ca/programs/leadership.htm or send an email to cuul-west@cuc.ca or cuul-east@cuc.ca. Workshops and Consultations at your location-Just ask! While these three programs are important, our core offerings are those that your congregation wants brought to you. We can offer workshops and consultations in areas including financial stewardship, lifespan learning/religious education, worship, membership growth, mission, vision and long-range planning, transitions and congregational life.

Here's some news from USC-Canada. CUC and USC Canada have had close ties over the past few years. USC have been formally represented at our Annual Conferences with a workshop and an exhibit table. We hope to plan something special this coming year when we're in Ottawa, where Lotta Hitschmanova started it all and USC Canada are still based.

Lotta Hitschmanova Honoured in Museum of Civilization

Ottawa/Gatineau - In the company of the Prime Ministers, writers, and industrialists who shaped Canadian history, is an unlikely character: a young Czech woman whose parents died in a concentration camp, who found refuge in Canada and made it her mission to help those in need around the world. Lotta Hitschmanova, along with 26 other famous Canadians, is featured in Face to Face: The Canadian Personalities Hall, a new permanent exhibit of the Canadian Museum of Civilization that opened June 30. The exhibit brings visitors face to face with the fascinating people whose actions shaped Canada.

Everything about Lotta was intriguing: her name, her

trademark military uniform, and her story. In 1945, she established the Unitarian Service Committee (USC), a small group of humanitarian aid workers sending supplies to war-torn Europe. She became a venerated symbol of how one person can make a difference, making the Unitarian Service Committee a household name through her radio and TV ads. "In many ways, Lotta represents Canada's coming of age on the international scene," - says Susan Walsh, USC Canada's Executive Director. "Lotta spoke passionately about human dignity, and about the hopes and values that connect humanity across borders. Today, her words ring true more than ever, as we tackle the problems of global poverty and injustice, conflict, and climate change." USC Canada works in community-based agriculture with partner organizations in Africa, Asia and Latin America, and is involved in public education and policy work in Canada, and globally. "We've learned over the years that it isn't enough to support communities to carry out development programs," says Walsh. "It's just as important to have active global citizens who can change the policies that keep people poor."

Walsh adds that USC's work is still premised on recognizing the potential in every human being, and helping them achieve that potential with their own knowledge, resources and creativity. "That was Lotta's conviction more than 60 years ago, and it's even more relevant today," she says. For more about Face to Face: Faris Ahmed, USC Canada tel: (613) 234-6827 ext. 223

Take care of yourselves and each other,

Marv

Mary Bennett, Executive Director, mary@cuc.ca



CLF Forums

Editor's note: this arrived in early August but after the August newsletter was complete so we have two Church of the Larger Fellowship fillers this issue

Forums, offered through the Church of the Larger Fellowship, can provide an opportunity for cyberspace UU conversation. Feel free to copy and paste an excerpt, or the entire document, into your newsletter.

The Church of the Larger Fellowship (CLF) offers FO-RUMS at www.clfuu.org/forums. What is a CLF Forum? It's a place for UUs to meet in cyberspace to exchange thoughts, ideas and experiences. The forums are free, have no commitment as to how often you participate, and are open to everyone who would like to engage in respectful conversation.

Once you are registered, you can choose between our Quest Forums, which feature a topic related to the current issue of our worship publication, Quest (www.clfuu.org/quest), or our Discussion Forums, which offer a variety of topics, such as:

Science and Religion

Discussions and information about topics in particular scientific disciplines (e.g., physics, genetics, astrology, evolution, etc.) and about the meaning of findings in these fields for our faith.

God, gods, Goddess, no gods

There have been some interesting discussions on CLF-L about the topic of God within our religious tradition. Here's a place to carry out this discussion in more detail.

Politics and Religion

A place to bring our opinions about politics and religion together.

Unitarian Universalist Theology

Discussion of any aspect of our theology welcome here. If needed, we could also create topics for specific branches of UU theology – e.g., UU Christian Theology, UU Process Theology, UU Pagan Theology, UU Buddhist Theology, etc.

And you're always welcome to open up a new topic for conversation, so if there's something of burning interest to you, please share it with our online community!

You can find out more about participating on our online forums by reading the FAQ sheet which you will find within the Discussion Forums. Or, if you have questions, feel free to contact our minister for lifespan learning, Lynn Ungar, at lungar@clfuu.org.

 $Editor's \ note: \ see \ earlier \ CLF \ article \ for \ contact \ and \ additional \ information \ on \ CLF$

This space wants your material!