



The Newsletter of the Unitarian Fellowship of Fredericton

874 York Street, Fredericton, N.B., E3B 3R8 (506) 451-0919

Sunday Service 11 a.m.

Web Site: <http://www.uff.ca>

Email: office@uff.ca

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Sunday Services

March 7 Andrew Titus *Poetry from the Ground Up*. Trisha Mersereau who was to speak on *OPAL* had to cancel.

March 14 The Reverend Ray Drennan

March 21 Rabbi Josef Goldman *Passover*

March 28 Jo-Anne Elder-Gomes and Nasnan Noqtok *Singing For Strength & Solace* Join us for an early-spring service of music and poetry. Nasnan will share her gifts of music and encourage all to raise their voices in the spirit of beloved community, while Jo-Anne interjects a sampling of poetry.

April 4 Sylvia Hale *Bishop Spong's Concept of Eternal Life*



Women's Pot Luck

The next monthly women's pot luck dinner is planned for Friday, March 26th. at 6 PM (we'll eat at about 6:30). Joan Brewer will host the pot luck at her home, 31 Ridgewell Place. All women are welcome. The topic

for discussion to be announced. We are always open for suggestions. For more information contact Joan Brewer at 455-5169 or jebrewer@rogers.com



Ostara



At 17:32 UTC or 2:32pm ADT on March 20th this year, the sun will be directly over the equator and this will mark the vernal equinox. The pagan tradition celebrates this as the festival of Ostara, the incarnation of the Goddess in the full fertility of the maiden aspect of the trinity.

The "return" of the sun is significant to cultures of the high Northern latitudes and some celebrate their new year near the vernal equinox. Vaisaki is a regional Hindu new year celebrated on the 16th this year. The Zoroastrian new year of Norouz and the Baha'i new year of Naw Ruz are celebrated on the 21st.



Letter from Sharon



Here I am telling the children's story this morning at the All Souls Waccamaw Unitarian Service...five min before I gave the presentation. John found the book *The Empty Pot* that Mei read at TUFF awhile ago. The story went over very well, especially with the adults..John was service

leader. It was a busy morning for both of us. Snowbirds potluck supper takes place this Friday at the church..They keep us busy. My presentation was well received..They even clapped....and asked questions..

The temperatures reached 62°F today...the warmest ever, but cooling down this coming week. John and I finished our Building Your Own Theology work shop .Ten of us met from 1-3pm...on the back deck of the church after the service. The weather was too warm and sparkly to remain inside a minute longer. There is a beach umbrella over the table on the back deck of the church. John donned his baseball cap to avoid sun stroke...a wonderful way to have a discussion while we shared what we had prepared...Our Credo. A very interesting session.. Thinking of all y'all and looking forward to being back at TUFF mid April.....

Best wishes from Sharon and John



Atlantic Maritime UU gathering in Bouctouche

Hello to you all,

The time is approaching for the 4th annual UU Atlantic/Maritime gathering.

DATE: April 23-25th

PLACE: Auberge Le Vieux Presbytère de Bouctouche

COST: \$20.00 per person, per night (+ HST 13%)
\$5 for the week-end for youth

ACCOMMODATION: We are trying to accommodate as many people as possible so we are asking people to share. The configurations are as follows:

- 7 standard rooms (1 queen bed) (2 people each room)
- 1 standard room (1 double bed) 2 people
- 2 standard rooms (2 twin beds) 2 people each room)
- 1 standard room (1 twin and 1 double bed) (3 people)
- 1 suite (2 queen beds (4 people) (ALREADY BOOKED)
- 4 suites (1 queen and 1 double sofa bed (4 people)

Youth in chapel as usual

Find your roommates and get one of them to BOOK YOUR ROOM EARLY! Space is limited. If you are looking for more private accommodations the nearby Dune view Inn has about 6 rooms (506-743-9893).

PROGRAM: As in other years we are working on an open space concept. This means if you have a passion to work on something, discuss something, plan something, complain about something, create something, sing something, share something etc. then bring what you need along and see if there are like-minded people who wish to join with

you. Vegging out is also an option.

FOOD AND DRINK: Ann and Ray will provide breakfast in the morning. The rest of the food and drink is pot-luck. SO imagine what you or a group of you may want to eat and then bring more than you can eat to share with others. Don't forget that there will be lots of hungry youth! There is a local Co-op store in town and an NB Liquor store.

Any questions call

Ray Drennan or Ann Vickers
Auberge Le Vieux Presbytère de Bouctouche (1880)
157 Chemin du Couvent
Bouctouche, New Brunswick, E4S 3B8
www.vieuxpresbytere.nb.ca
1-506-743-5568 (Auberge)
1-506-743-3406 (cell)



A Wish Too Soon

Young people are often overlooked in the presence adults. The other day, I went to the local library to find a book for Sharon. I had no library card, but I had the number written on the back of an envelope. It was 5:00PM; I was third in line and the library closed at six.

The stern faced blue-rinse type behind the counter quickly dealt with the first customer. The next person in line was a ten-year old girl. She had lost her library card, she did not have the \$2 to replace it, her Internet was down at home, and she had a school project to finish. The blue-rinse ogre's tone of voice became more reprimanding with each question. The young girl's voice became more timid and tremulous with each response.

"You will have to wait." said the domineering woman. "I will wait on this gentleman behind you first."

"No!" I spoke up. You help this young girl first. She was ahead of me and her needs are more urgent than mine. I am retired and I have lots of time."

Stern-face reluctantly turned back to the girl and started to punch her information into the computer. The girl studied me for a few seconds, sighed and exclaimed, "I wish I was retired."

This comment brought a hint of a smile to the librarian's face, as I replied to the girl,

"Oh no, you don't want to retire yet. You have your whole life ahead of you. You will have a chance to travel, you will have many friends, you may have a wonderful family and you will probably have an interesting job ahead of you."

She studied me a bit longer and then asked, "What did you do in your job?"

"I was an office manager" I replied. "I worked with many good people and we tried to help other people with our work".

"Oh", she commented wistfully, "I wish I could get a job like that." Her voice was growing stronger and more self-assured as we talked.

"Well," I said, "if you want a good job later on, you will need to keep coming to the library, read many books, and stay in school for as long as you can. The more education you get, the better your chance of finding a job you will enjoy. If you quit too soon, other people will be telling you what you have to do, so hang in there."

At this point, the librarian had typed all the girl's information into the computer, and called over a supervisor to OK the override on the fees for the issue of a new card. She left the young girl with the supervisor and called me over to another computer and asked, "Now, can I help you, sir?"

This newly agreeable and accommodating woman was all smiles. She turned the computer around, showed me that the book had arrived, and then turned to me and said, "Do you have your library card, sir?" I said, "No, but I have the number written on this envelope."

The dark cloud of sternness reappeared on her face. She quickly turned the computer away from me, and said, "You need a library card to take out a book. I should not even have told you the book was here without a proper library card."

I looked at her with some astonishment. I smiled and teased, "But you have already told me, haven't you?" She acknowledged she had but insisted the rules didn't allow it.

Her smile was gone, she was all business and I left the library without the book in hand. Still, for a few moments in the cosmos of that library, I have the satisfaction that I may have had a positive influence on the life of a young girl. Let's hope it lasts.

John van Abbema



March Update

Featured program for 2010: every Friday in August, there will be a weekly drum circle followed either

by story-telling or dancing! 2010 brochures are available at your congregation's Welcome Table.

Looking for somewhere to have your church picnic or board retreat? Why not at Unicamp?

In July, Unicamp offers week-long camps for children ages 7-13 and youth 13-15, as well as a Counselor in Training and Leader in Training program. In August, there are 3

weeks for families to come to camp as well as weekend programs such as Sacred Circle Dance and the Magic of Music.

If you've never been to Unicamp, 2010 is the year you to discover and experience the magic yourself. Contact admin@unicampofontario.ca or telephone 519-822-6353 to make your reservation. Or find out more at www.unicampofontario.ca



Annual Spring Fling Art and Craft Sale

At the Fellowship will be held April 22, 23 and/or 24th. dates will be confirmed soon. Your help is needed,

- 1 Donations of food for the bake table, the kitchen and lunch for the vendors
- 2 Volunteers to help with parking.
- 3 Volunteers to help in the kitchen.
- 4 Volunteers to help spread the word (posters will be available).
- 5 Volunteers to greet people and explain about the fellowship if asked.
- 6 Volunteers to set up tables, organize garage area and clean up after.

Please let one of us know if you can volunteer

Janet Crawford	454-0441	janetcra@nbnet.nb.ca
Nancy Beltrandi	459-8004	beltrand@rogers.com
Carol Ann Hanley	459-8550	thanley@nbnet.nb.ca
Betty Lou Daye	357-8256	daye@nb.sympatico.ca
Glenna Hanley	472-8431	ghanley@nb.sympatico.ca



Art for New Spaces Competition

Editor's note: The following appeared in the UNB "eDaily" publication on Feb 24th.

The Art for New Spaces Committee, established last year by President John McLaughlin, is responsible for purchasing or commissioning works of art for newly constructed or renovated spaces frequented by students.

The committee, chaired by Bernie Riordan of the Beaverbrook Art Gallery, has selected the foyer of the C.C. Jones Student Services Centre as the site for 2010. Professional artists living in New Brunswick are invited to submit Expressions of Interest, including a biography and photos of up to 25 examples of previous work, to UNB's Associate Vice-President Capital Planning & Property Devel-

opment. The deadline is March 30.

Three artists will be chosen to submit a final proposal. The committee will then choose one to be developed for the space. The artwork will be unveiled in October.

For more information, contact the secretary of the committee, Susan Montague, at montague@unb.ca



CUC February Mailout

Editor's note: these are some extracts from the February Mailout

Building A Beloved Community

Martin Luther King Jr., whose birthday we recently celebrated, articulated a vision of a Beloved Community. His was a radical vision: that all people would live together peacefully. King knew his goal was challenging and that it would require changes to the social, economic and institutional systems of the world. A Beloved Community wouldn't mean that we were free from all conflict and difference of opinion, but rather we were able to consider and honour difference and that debate need not mean division. I believe that one of the marks of a Beloved Community would be honest and challenging engagement with our differences.

How would it look if our congregations were places where we could do the hard

work of talking about our differences; of colour, class and theology? It seems that many of us are challenged to find ways to manage difficult decisions and conversations with love and respect. As I write this, the stores are filled with hearts and chocolates; Valentine's Day is not too far away. This year, in honour of the Day of Love, I'm going to reflect on how we might honour King's memory by considering how the ways I work in community and how my actions might contribute to his vision.

King's vision is hard work and not easily achieved. How do we begin to effect significant changes on our whole culture? One of the things I believe we can do is to consider our congregations as laboratories for larger community. What we are able to do in congregational life may provide us with templates for how we can live in the world. King said, "Our goal is to create a beloved community and this will require

change in our souls as well as a quantitative change in our lives."

What quantitative changes in our congregations would the road to a Beloved Community require? Would we be better able to deal with the theological differences that we often bump into? What changes in your soul would be required? Would we be able to do the soul growing work

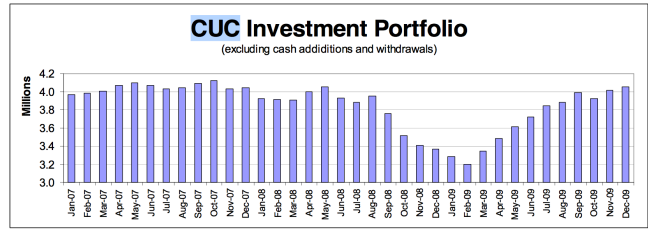
of looking beyond our life circumstances to see the realities of another's life? Would we be able to challenge ourselves so that we could look beyond our own assumptions?

The vision of a Beloved Community is a tall order, it would be very hard work to get there but in the end, what else is there for us to do in this world?

In faith and with affection,
Linda

CUC Investments Back On Track

The CUC's investment portfolio has recovered to the value it was at in May of 2008, shortly before the major corrections in the stock market.



The minimal return on our investments in 2007 and the significant loss in 2008 caused problems for the 2008 and 2009 budgets, since about 1/3 of our expenditures were funded by investment income. Having the budget tied so closely to the variability of the markets has made it difficult to plan for the longer term.

Recently, to eliminate this problem, the CUC board passed a motion which changes the way we apply investment revenue to the annual budget. We will now use a percentage of our unrestricted fund instead of the investment revenue. This will provide a more stable and predictable basis for our budgets and plans.

Of the approximately \$4M in our portfolio, about \$2M is in the CUC's "unrestricted fund"; the rest is in endowment funds, trust funds and other dedicated funds*. The board approved an initial policy of including 7% of our unrestricted fund roughly \$150,000 for 2010 in the annual budget. This percentage is similar to other non-profit organizations which use this method.

CUC Board Budget & Program Update:

January, 2010

The Canadian Unitarian Council Board of Trustees had hoped to circulate the 2010 Budget information in December 2009 for your input and consideration but this will happen in late February instead. Additional time has been necessary to respond to the compelling dual needs of the CUC the requirement to provide sustaining services to our member congregations and the need to reorganize our association to ensure fiscal and organizational sustainability. We aim to be both goal-oriented and cost-effective, in line with your stated priorities.

In the meantime our Executive Director, Jennifer Dickson,

and the CUC staff are operating within an interim budget consistent with last year's funding levels. The CUC Board and staff are actively working on a long-term action plan as well as a specific short-term plan and budget for 2010. We are committed to sharing these nationally for your feedback after our February 17-21 Board meeting, and to further discussions regarding planning and budget at the ACM in May.

These plans are intended to guide the CUC (Board, staff and member congregations) in achieving our Mission & Vision (as agreed at the Kelowna ACM in 2002), and in attaining the goals expressed to Board and staff through workshops, meetings, services, calls and communications, and the national survey results.

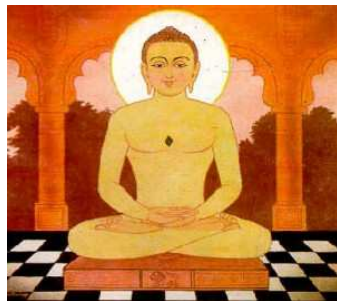
Together, our Canadian Unitarian Universalist communities determine the strength and unity of our national presence. We eagerly anticipate your reflections and responses to the draft plans, following their release in February.

Sincerely,
 The Board of Trustees of
 The Canadian Unitarian Council



Mahavir Jayanti

The 28th of March this year will see the 13th day of the rising moon in the month of Chaitra in the Jain calendar. On this date, Jains celebrate the birth anniversary of Sri Vardhaman Mahavir. He was a great preacher of Jainism and is considered as the last Tirthankara of Jains. It is the main festival of Jains.



He was born near the end of the 7th century BCE to Sidhartha and Trisala who were followers of Parswanatha, the 23rd Teerthankara. There is a legend connected to the birth of Mahavir which says that Mahavir was conceived by Devananada, the wife of Rishabhdeva Brahmin. He was transferred to the womb of Trisala mysteriously by higher powers. While in womb Trisala had several auspicious dreams and astrologers declared that the child would be Teerthankara (Jain Prophet) in future. Mahavir eventually became the 24th Teerthankara, the last one in the galaxy of 24 Teerthankaras.



Our Whole Lives

Our Whole Lives (OWL) is a series of workshops providing an overview of many aspects of human sexuality. It can

provide a time to learn about an extraordinarily rich and complex area of human behaviour, an opportunity to understand better sexuality and self, and a space for growth beyond present limits and concerns.

The OWL program has been developed through the joint efforts of the Unitarian-Universalist Association and the United Church of Christ. There are separate curricula for five different age groups ranging from kindergarten through adult. The program being offered at this time to UU youth in the Maritimes follows closely the OWL curriculum for grades 10-12 students.

OWL PROGRAM VALUES

Self Worth

- Every person is entitled to dignity and self-worth and to his or her own attitudes and beliefs about sexuality

Sexual Health

- Knowledge about human sexuality is helpful, not harmful. Every individual has the right to accurate information about sexuality and to have her or his questions answered.
- Healthy relationships are:
 - Consensual (both people consent)
 - Non-exploitative (equal in terms of power, neither person is pressuring or forcing the other into activities or behaviours)
 - Mutually pleasurable (both receive pleasure)
 - Safe (no or low risk of pregnancy, sexually transmitted infections, and emotional pain)
 - Developmentally appropriate (appropriate to the age and maturity of persons involved)
 - Based on mutual expectations and caring
 - Respectful (including the values of honesty and keeping commitments made to others).
 - Sexual intercourse is only one of many valid ways to express sexual feelings with a partner. It is healthier for young adolescents to postpone sexual intercourse.

Responsibility

- We are called to enrich our lives by expressing sexuality in ways that enhance human wholeness and fulfillment and express love, commitment, delight, and pleasure.

- All persons have the right and obligation to make responsible choices.

Justice and Inclusivity

- We need to avoid double standards. People of all aged, genders, races, backgrounds, income levels, physical and mental abilities, and sexual orientations must have equal value and rights.
- Sexual relationships should never be coercive or exploitative.
- Being romantically and sexually attracted to both genders (bisexual), the same gender (homosexual) or the other gender (heterosexual) are all natural in the range of human sexual experience.

OWL BILL OF RIGHTS

In this program, teens have the right to:

- Ask any questions they have about sexuality.
- Receive full and accurate information about sexuality
- Explore any issues of sexuality that interest them
- Have support in making their own decisions about sexual matters
- Express their sexuality in ways that are healthy and affirming
- Be treated with respect by leaders and participants in this group

OWL PROGRAM ASSUMPTIONS

- All persons are sexual
- Sexuality is a good part of the human experience
- Sexuality includes much more than sexual behaviour
- Human beings are sexual from the time they are born until they die
- It is natural to express sexual feelings in a variety of ways
- People engage in healthy sexual behaviour for a variety of reasons, including to express caring and love, to experience intimacy and connection with another, to share pleasure, to bring new life into the world, and to experience fun and relaxation

- Sexuality in our society is damaged by violence, exploitation, alienation, dishonesty, abuse of power, and the treatment of persons as objects

- It is healthier for young adolescents to postpone sexual intercourse.



Our Whole Lives at tUFF

an amazing program for U*Us and the world

Friday March 12 to Sunday March 14, 2010

Hello Everybody, George and allison here; beware the Ides of March, perhaps?

George and i are facilitating a series of weekend workshops involving the Maritime contingent of U*U youth, in order to present Our Whole Lives (OWL), a Unitarian program promoting healthy relationships and sexuality. OWL is a credit to our denomination, and a blessing for our larger community. Ensnconced in the context of youth conferences (youth-cons), thanks to Steve McCavour, Saint John youth coordinator, this series of workshops also strengthens the connections made by our youth—to one another and to Unitarian Universalism. Having begun in Saint John in January, continued in Halifax in February, the OWL weekend series will be hosted by tUFF in March.

On Friday, March 12, at 7pm, between ten and fifteen youth and youth advisors from Nova Scotia and New Brunswick will join tUFF's youth here at the fellowship. George and i, along with the hospitality committee, are now planning how to chaperone, feed, and water this active contingent. We are asking members and friends to consider contributing from the following list of requests, and thanking you in advance for your creativity and generosity:

1. Chaperones—(This is the toughest request; easier ones follow) We need chaperone-pairs, one female, one male for each of two nights, Friday March 12 and Saturday March 13. The job of these chaperones (who by definition are awesome, generous, and all-round heroes) will be to sleep, perchance to dream, overnight at the fellowship—boys and male chaperone in one room; girls and female chaperone in another. (This is the bald, bare-bones request; what is less visible is the reward of getting to know these kids while simultaneously contributing to a wonderful U*U program.)

2. Food and Drink—for about 15 people, no mushrooms, thanks. Closer to the event, we may have a more precise idea of how many participants there will be. While we gently suggest some of the menu, please feel perfectly free to offer other items:

5 sets of Snacks (your choice, thanks)

2 breakfasts suggestion

- i) egg bake (recipe available from allison), and
- ii) pancakes, maybe?

1 lunch perhaps a pasta dish? Salad welcome, but not so much for youth

1 dinner perhaps chili? Salad welcome.
Juice

Donated food and juice can be picked up and delivered to the fellowship.

3. Hospitality —It is a general policy that the facilitators of OWL have a good night's sleep, away from the participating youth. To this end, George and i have offered to host Steve McCavour, Daniel Payne, and Helen Malloch,

the youth advisors from away. However, perhaps a parent or two from either Halifax or Saint John would appreciate a room for Friday and Saturday nights. It would be nice to know that members and friends would be able to provide those rooms, thanks.

And so ends the list, merci! I hope you are not overwhelmed. I can tell you that youth-cons are immensely rewarding for the youth themselves, and for the congregations that support them. As for the OWL program, it is a powerful and tender intersection of practicality and holiness; it makes me proud to be a Unitarian.

Thank you all for your help.

Take care,
allison and George



www.catholiccartoonblog.blogspot.com

O, wad some power the giftie gie us to see oursels as others see us!
Robbie Burns *To a Louse*

This space wants your material!