



The Newsletter of the Unitarian Fellowship of Fredericton

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## Sunday Services

**August 29** Sylvia Hale *Christianizing Israel*

**September 5** Anne Leslie *Ingathering and Water Ceremony*

**September 12** The Reverend Charles Eddis *tUFF's Fiftieth Anniversary Service of Celebration*

**September 19** Lorna Drew *The Best Unit (York Manor Alzheimer's unit)*

**September 26** Joan Doyle *The Oneness Movement* Joan will give a brief presentation about her experience with the Oneness Blessing and her journey to the Oneness University in South India.

Joan grew up in Fredericton, New Brunswick, Canada and received a Bachelor of Arts and a Bachelor of Education degree from Saint Thomas University. She received a Master of Education degree in counseling psychology from the University of New Brunswick. She is a registered social worker in NB and possesses a certificate VI teacher's license. She presently works for her day job at the provincial department of Post Secondary Education, Training and Labour as a career consultant and has a private practice in individual counselling. Joan's lifelong passion for spiritual awakening has led her to participate in numerous training programs, workshops and retreats. She participated in the EST training

in the early 80s and studied psychosynthesis psychotherapy in Montreal in the early 90s. She is a reiki practitioner and sound healer. She has traveled frequently to Kripalu yoga and meditation centre in Massachusetts, and to the Omega Institute of holistic studies in Rhinebeck, New York. In 2007, again in 2008, and most recently in February 2010, she traveled to the Oneness University in south India, a spiritual growth education centre, to become a principal Oneness Blessing giver and a Oneness Trainer. Joan is mother to four grown children.

**October 3** Josephine Savarese *The Tale of Bisclavret and the Cases of R. v. A. (2005) and R. v. B. (2008)*

**October 10** Charles Leblanc - local activist and blogger will speak about his background and activities.



## Women's Pot Luck

I have no doubt that there will be a women's pot luck dinner in September, probably Friday, September 24th. We gather at 6 PM and eat at 6:30 PM. Presently we do not have a host or a topic, but I have faith that it will all come together before September 24th and a notice will be put in the Sunday bulletin and send around the email circuit. For more information contact Joan Brewer 455-5169 or [jebrewer@rogers.com](mailto:jebrewer@rogers.com)



## Reminiscing on the 50th Anniversary

One of the advantages of volunteering in a project for the Fellowship is that one gets an early peek at everyone's story. This Fellowship began with great hopes and filled a need in Fredericton's religious community. I have been fortunate to meet some of the early members of the Unitarian Fellowship of Fredericton and to hear their stories.

The late 50's and the early 60's were the days of hippies and free thinkers who saw life in different ways than their forebears. This was the beginning of women's liberation, the charter of rights and multiculturalism. Trudeau's new

sense of justice changed our outlook on human rights. Rachel Carson's book, the environmental classic "Silent Spring", made us more aware of the interconnectedness of all beings. This was a time of collective, mind-altering philosophies. New movements, questioning traditional thinking, were exploding at us from all directions.

Some Frederictonians saw a need to break away from main-line church orthodoxy, especially in the area of religious education for their children. Unitarianism gave these early members an opportunity to practice their liberal thinking and to develop their individual spirituality in an accepting environment.

The founding of a new church in Fredericton was a courageous move for this diverse group. Their struggles made them a strong community with friendships that have lasted to this day. Their stories put me in mind of the title of the popular 70's song, "May The Circle Be Unbroken".

Come and join us for the Gala Dinner on Saturday, September 11th, at Ste Anne's Court, starting at 7:00 pm. Hear all the wonderful reminiscences that people will want to share with you. Join us in our celebration.

You can help us keep the Unitarian circle in Fredericton "unbroken" by coming together to strengthen the bonds of friendship between us.

John van Abbema, Chair,  
50th Anniversary Planning Committee

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## Challenges

Is life as hard for the young today as it is for those of us of a certain age? Do they sail through technological challenges or are they, like me, lying awake nights wondering how to program their thermostat.

Last week I spend an hour on the phone with an Aliant technician. After some territorial jousting, her mouse occupied my screen and ascertained that yes, I had indeed successfully included myself in my "Block Sender" messages which explained, with embarrassing clarity, why I couldn't send anything out. She was a wonderful technician, and I praised her highly to her supervisor after our session. I always begin these session (and there have been many) with a request to "speak slowly please, I am old" and she did that for which I was grateful.

But for me, anxiety is a much greater factor than age at retarding the learning process. I'm not so dodderly that I can't learn; I just can't do it where computers are concerned. When I first got my computer, I was nonplussed at discovering that I couldn't insert my A-drive disc into the slot. I think it was Haifa who turned my tower right side up, just as I was set to call Aliant one more time.

Currently I am unable to operate my DVD. My newly acquired cable comes with three remotes. One operates the TV, one the DVD, and one is untouchable because it unscrambles everything else. I know, I know, small children can do this, but I'm too demoralized to do anything but gaze hopelessly at the equipment, sigh and take up my book. High class problem, right? Still, I'm hoping that a technologically savvy knight or lady in shining armour will hack their way through the rose hip hedge bordering the lawn and wave a wand in my general direction. That's 25 Chippin Court, if anyone's listening.

Lorna Drew

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## Unitarians march in Fredericton's first Pride Parade

Fredericton, New Brunswick, August 8, 2010



Carrying a sign, Unitarians for Justice, congregants from the Unitarian Fellowship of Fredericton comprised the largest entry in Fredericton's first ever Pride Parade. From babies to the elderly, bedecked in t-shirts, ribbons, and general giddiness, over twenty Unitarians celebrated our GLBTQI communities. In marching in this historic event, we affirmed the Unitarian principles of respect and justice for all.

Allison Brewer (former NDP leader of NB; keynote speaker with her son Will Brewer at the CUC-ACM in Ottawa 2008; and member of TUFF) was parade marshal, and many Unitarians lined the parade route.

While some of the big-city parades — such as Toronto, and San Francisco — may have burlesque elements, and blatantly over-the-top theatre, the Fredericton parade leaned more towards small-town conformity, displaying only bland decency and community strength (which are also found in abundance in the big city events).

In a small but satisfying way, the pride parade allowed Fredericton Unitarians to stand up for something, giving us the opportunity to reinforce our Unitarian history of advocacy for equal rights, and to know ourselves as people concerned with social justice.



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## Seasons Greetings

This year, to our Jewish friends, from sundown Sept 9 to sundown Sept 10: Rosh Hashanah and the holiest day of the year, Yom Kippur, begins at sundown Sept 18. Meanwhile, the followers of the Prophet (peace be upon him) observe the end of Ramadan with the Eid al Fitr beginning at sundown on Sept 10. We will also note that our Pagan neighbours celebrate Mabon at the equinox.



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## Chocolate Ice Cream

One day I had lunch with some friends. Jim, a short, balding golfer type about 80 years old, came along with them—all in all, a pleasant bunch.

When the menus were presented, we ordered salads, sandwiches, and soups, except for Jim who said, “Ice Cream, please. Two scoops, chocolate.”

I wasn’t sure my ears heard right, and the others were aghast. “Along with heated apple pie,” Jim added, completely unabashed.

We tried to act quite nonchalant, as if people did this all the time.....But when our orders were brought out, I didn’t enjoy mine.

I couldn’t take my eyes off Jim as his pie a-la-mode went down. The other guys couldn’t believe it. They ate their lunches silently and grinned.

The next time I went out to eat, I called and invited Jim. I lunched on white meat tuna. He ordered a parfait.

I smiled. He asked if he amused me. I answered, “Yes, you do, but also you confuse me. How come you order rich desserts, while I feel I must be sensible?”

He laughed and said “I’m tasting all that is Possible. I try to eat the food I need, and do the things I should.

But life’s so short, my friend, I hate missing out on something good. This year I realized how old I was.”

(He grinned) “I haven’t been this old before.”

“So, before I die, I’ve got to try those things that for years I had ignored. I haven’t smelled all the flowers yet. There are too many trout streams I haven’t fished. There’s more fudge sundaes to wolf down and kites to be flown overhead. There are too many golf courses I haven’t played. I’ve not laughed at all the jokes. I’ve missed a lot of sporting events and potato chips and cokes. I want to wade again in water and feel ocean spray on my face. I want to sit in a church once more and be thankful. I want peanut butter every day spread on my morning toast. I want un-timed long

distance calls to the folks I love the most. I haven’t cried at all the movies yet, or walked in the morning rain. I need to feel wind on my face. I want to be in love again. So, if I choose to have dessert, instead of having dinner, then should I die before night fall, I’d say I died a winner, because I missed out on nothing. I filled my heart’s desire. I had that final chocolate mousse before my life expired.....”

With that, I called the waitress over.....“I’ve changed my mind,” I said. “I want what he is having, only add some more whipped cream!”

*Editor’s note: The editor much prefers the complex interactions of tastes from peppers, garlic and healthy oils that go into a good stir fry, but chacun à son goût!*



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## Michaelmas Day

Michaelmas, the feast of Saint Michael the Archangel (also known as the Feast of Michael and All Angels) is a day in the Western Christian calendar which occurs on 29 September. Because it falls near the equinox, it is associated in the northern hemisphere with the beginning of autumn and the shortening of days. Michael is the greatest of all the archangels and is honored for his defeat of Lucifer in the battle for the heavens in the Bible (Revelations 12:7-9).



The archangel Michael is one of the principal angelic warriors, seen as a protector against the dark of night, and the administrator of cosmic intelligence. Michaelmas has also delineated time and seasons for secular purposes as well, particularly in the United Kingdom and Ireland.

The Eastern Orthodox Churches do not observe Michaelmas. The Greek Orthodox honor the archangels on 8 November instead.



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## Church of the Larger Fellowship

The Church of the Larger Fellowship offers online UU courses. Some courses are free and some cost \$40. The courses are available to anyone! Unitarian Universalism is available 24/7.





Full details and a complete calendar at  
<http://clf.uua.org/learn/>

**Welcome In:** *An Introduction to Unitarian Universalism and the Church of the Larger Fellowship*

Welcome to this program for new Unitarian Universalists. You can move through the sessions at your own pace.

This online class is intended for people who would like to learn more about Unitarian Universalism, the CLF, and how their own spiritual journey might connect with our organization and faith tradition. For each session there are readings, as well as a variety of other resources such as links to relevant web sites. Once you have explored the readings and resources you will be able to answer the questions which will guide our discussion. Free!

### **In Our Mothers' Footsteps**

This ongoing course shares information about important women from our Unitarian and/or Universalist heritage, but more than that, it offers the opportunity for modern women and men to reflect on how our own lives connect with those of our foremothers, and what we might have to learn from their struggles and successes. The course is divided into five sessions: Suffragists, Abolitionists, Writers, Educators and Ministers. This free course is made possible by the CLF through a generous grant from the UU Womens Federation. Free!



## **In Memoriam: Mary Ann Hennen**

I would like to share the sorrow in the loss of such a dear person as Mary Ann Hennen who died very suddenly, from a heart attack, on July 2, 2010.

Mary Anne was a most avid supporter of others in their spiritual growth and tried to bring peace into our lives and the world, a giver of everything she had, a photographer, an advocate in search for truth, peace and justice, and my newest friend who freely passed out compliments to everyone whom she felt deserved them, expecting nothing in return. I see her as a truly altruistic person and, I believe, there are not many in this world. Mary Ann wanted more than anything a just society. She did not accept things if she felt they could be changed for the better. She stood up for what was fair and right and had the best quality of all and that was being a good listener. She listened and showed such interest of and compassion for others and their woes.

Mary Ann honoured the inherent worth and dignity of every person and looked deeper than most people to find the good in them. As my mother used to say, there is bad in the best of us and good in the worst of us, but if you always search for the good in others and find it, it will reflect back on you. I truly believe those words and they help me as I live my life.

When we try to understand people and help to bring out the good in them, it makes for a safer world for us all. Understanding vs. Misunderstanding is very important to achieve. I believe Mary Ann was very good at that and did it with such grace, patience, and tolerance.

Mary Ann wrote words and did deeds that if we read them or listened to her, it would challenge all of us to confront evil, injustices and cruelty with conviction and transform that negative energy in this world to love and kindness.

Mary Ann acted with compassion, generosity and integrity, giving of herself whenever there was a worthy cause or need. I know she has helped me when I was advocating for a victim of injustice in Newfoundland last year. I have learned a great deal from knowing her such a short while, especially her infinite patience and her ability to attend or listen to others, a quality that I am trying to develop.

I have learned now that People will forget eventually what you say and what you did for them, but the one thing they wont forget is how you make them feel and the best way to do that is listen to them as, with most people, it is all they want from you anyway.

I will miss Mary Anne. I will think of her as I learn to listen to others as that is the quality that sticks in my mind most, her wonderful ability to listen and be supportive of others. Rest in Peace, my friend.

New friends are like silver, old friends are like gold, but Mary Ann was my platinum friend and she has etched a place in my mind forever.

Judi Day  
July 6, 2010



## **Krishna Janmashtami**

This year in the Western calendar, September 2nd marks Krishna Janmashtami. Janmashtami is the appearance day celebration of Lord Shri Krishna, the Supreme Personality of Godhead according to the Vedas, the ultimate authority on all matters of religion and life. The Lord came to this earth around five thousand years ago, towards the end of the Dvapara Yuga, in Mathura, India. Born as the eighth son of Mother Devaki, the Lord specially came to deliver His devotees. Technically, the Lord doesn't take birth since He is eternal. Therefore, the birthday of Krishna is referred to as His appearance day.

