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Sunday Service 11 a.m.

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Sunday Services

- Jan 8** Janet Crawford *Spirituality in Photography.*
- Jan 15** Joan McFarland and Najat *Guatemala.*
- Jan 22** Gail Wylie *Access to Justice.*
- Jan 29** Najat Abdou-McFarland *Sierra Club Atlantic.*
- Feb 5** Sheila McPhee *Eco Art.*
- Feb 12** The Rev. John Baros Johnson (retired of Halifax).



Women’s Pot Luck

The next monthly women’s pot luck dinner will be held January 27th. We gather at 6 PM and eat at 6:30 PM. Sharon van Abbema will host the evening at her new home, 143 Morning Gate Drive (in behind the Shannex Retirement development). Discussion topic is ‘relativity’. Who are the people you call relatives? Are there many or few? Where do they live? How often do you visit with them? Do you connect with them during holidays? For more information contact Joan Brewer at 455-5169 or jebrewer@rogers.com



Next Board Meeting

The next Board of Director’s meeting will be held in the

Board Room after Sunday Service on January 8, 2012.

Sheila Thompson



Budget General Meeting

There will be a Special Congregational Meeting after Sunday Service January 29, 2012, with the Budget for 2012 as the main item on the Agenda.

Sheila Thompson



Charlie Ponder

With sadness, Betty Ponder announces that her husband, Charlie Ponder has died after undergoing heart surgery in December at the DECH. Michael Camp will be writing Charlie’s obituary which will be published in The Gleaner in the near future, along with details for the funeral.



A Growing List of Questions

About Natural Gas and Fracking

Editorial Note: This article had been submitted for the December newsletter and was inadvertently omitted. The editor apologizes for the omission.

On November 6th I conducted a service at tUFF that centered on our seventh principle (respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part) and the technique of “fracking” used in the extraction of natural gas from shale rock. That service concluded with the distribution of and discussion around a list of 10 questions related to concerns over the use of the fracking technique. The discussion resulted in a few more questions to be added to the list.

The Sunday service was followed up by an invitation to attend a meeting at Unitarian House on the evening of November 17th to view the documentary “Gasland”. This gathering also concluded with a discussion of questions related to concerns over fracking, but now the list of questions had grown to 14. I informed those in attendance that I intended to write to the Premier with our list of

questions and invited anyone who wished to do so to add their names to mine for the covering letter. Eight people accepted the invitation to add their names.

The next day, before I finished composing the letter to the Premier, two more questions were submitted to me and added to the list. Hence, as a group of concerned citizens we submitted a list of 16 questions to the Premier and asked to have these questions answered as soon as possible. Below find our questions – perhaps you have others.

Some Questions Regarding Fracking

1. Does the distance the wells are drilled from people's houses make a difference?
2. Where will the huge amounts of water needed for fracking come from?
3. Who will pay for the additional wear and tear on the roads resulting from the truck traffic necessary to support hydraulic fracking, such as hauling water, chemicals, equipment, etc?
4. Will the waste water (flow back) be stored in ponds or in tanks?
5. Who will provide and pay for drinking water for those in New Brunswick whose water becomes contaminated as a result of hydraulic fracturing?
6. How many wells might be drilled in NB?
7. What have been the affects of fracking on the health of people and animals in other jurisdictions?
8. How will the Health Department prepare for and accommodate any increases in health issues for New Brunswick residents that may result from contamination of the air and/or water?
9. Why was this industry exempted from the Clean Air Act, Safe Drinking Water Act, etc in the USA?
10. What mixture of the 596 fracking fluid chemicals will be used in NB? Which of these are toxic?
11. Will individual land owners in NB benefit financially from wells drilled on their property?
12. How many times have the companies licensed to operate in NB been fined in other jurisdictions for failing to follow regulations?
13. Will the provincial government hire more regulators to enforce the proposed "strict regulations"?
14. Will the "non-disclosure" agreements used by the industry in the USA be a feature of the business in New Brunswick?

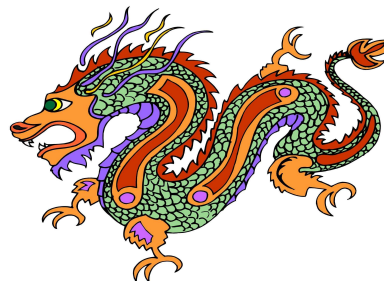
15. Are there any other techniques besides "fracking" that can be used to extract natural gas from shale?

16. Are there any identifiable persons (not companies) who will take responsibility if something goes wrong 'i.e. personal liability'?

Tom Hanley



Chinese New Year



Chinese New Year also known as Lunar New Year or Spring Festival is the first day of the Chinese (Lunar) calendar. Celebrated by Chinese people around the world, it is a major holiday where friends and family gather for a reunion dinner and celebration. Red clothing is worn to ward away evil spirits and bad fortune and new clothing symbolizes starting the year anew.

January 23rd this year begins the year of the Dragon, 4709.

Every 19 years has 228 solar months and 235 lunar months. Therefore, the Chinese Lunar Calendar needs an extra 7 lunar months in 19 years in order to match up solar and lunar cycles. That means every three years, or so, there is an extra lunar month. That extra month is called the Leap (intercalary) month.



Avaaz

Editorial Note: This article was received from the Saint John church and is included for your interest.

Democracy is on the march across the world, and our community is at the heart of the struggle, but to win we're going to need to choose our course wisely. Click below to take the annual Avaaz all-member poll, and let's decide together where to focus our energies in 2012.

The poll takes a few minutes to complete, but the more of us take it, the wiser our course will be:

<http://www.avaaz.org/en/>

Select the January poll link from this page.

Last year we ran hundreds of campaigns and played a key role in dozens of victories, including:

- Putting a wrench in Media-Mogul Rupert Murdoch's march to world domination
- Breaking the Syria media blackout and supporting courageous democracy movements across the Middle East
- Taking on Italy's Silvio Berlusconi at every turn until his corrupt regime fell
- Blocking the Gay Death Penalty Bill in Uganda
- Stopping a mega highway that sliced right through indigenous protected lands in Bolivia
- Building a massive anti corruption movement in India that has repeatedly forced the government to back down
- Building a global movement for Palestinian independence
- Saving the Kyoto Protocol and UN climate process from polluting powers determined to wreck it

..and much, much more.

With the world undergoing profound change, and our community twice the size it was last January, imagine what this year's list could look like. The challenges may be coming thick and fast, but when we stick together, we can transform them into opportunities to build the world we all dream of. Here's to building dreams in 2012.

With hope,

Ricken, Alice, Benjamin, Diego, Emma, and the whole Avaaz team

Avaaz.org is a 10-million-person global campaign network that works to ensure that the views and values of the world's people shape global decision-making. ("Avaaz" means "voice" or "song" in many languages.) Avaaz members live in every nation of the world; our team is spread across 13 countries on 4 continents and operates in 14 languages. Learn about some of Avaaz's biggest campaigns here, or follow us on Facebook or Twitter.



Toronto First, March Music

Save the Date!

On the afternoon of Saturday, March 31, 2012, the choir from Toronto First Unitarian Congregation, talented musicians from their congregation, and performers from the Regent Park School of Music will be putting on a concert

as a fundraiser for RPSM.

The Regent Park School of Music provides high quality, affordable music education to youth-in-need in Regent Park and other high priority areas in the City of Toronto. Right now they have more than 600 students enrolled in both private and group lessons.

The concert will take place at Toronto First Unitarian Congregation. The exact time and costs are yet to be determined, but there will be a sliding scale for music lovers in need.



From the Church of the Larger Fellowship

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For assistance, and to reach a real person: ldennis@clfu.org, 617-948-6166



Editor's Note

Contact info in the fine print:

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This space wants your material!