



874 York Street, Fredericton, N.B., E3B 3R8 (506) 451-0919
 Sunday Service 10:30 a.m. Web Site: <http://www.uff.ca> Email: office@uff.ca
 Newsletter editor: touchstone@uff.ca

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theme. We will be celebrating the goddesses and particularly, Amaterasu, the Shinto Goddess of the Sun.

March 19th Saint Patrick: The Legend, The Man, and a Lesson in Forgiveness

Speaker: Rev. Graci Kenyon-Rudolph

Tech Support: Wyatt Elliott

March 26th Fredericton Hospice House

Speaker: Cindy Sheppard

Service Leader: Heather Lunergan

Tech Support: Wyatt Elliott

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.
- **Life Happens:** Details on most of the services were not available in time for publication in Touchstone. They will be posted in the weekly email for the following Sunday and on the [website](#) when they are available.

March 5th Love and Art - a video sermon and music by Rev Lynn Harrison

Service Leader: Heather Lunergan

Tech Support: Wyatt Elliott

March 12th International Women's Day Service: Celebrating the Goddesses

Service Leaders: Najat Abdou-McFarland and

Joan McFarland

Tech Support: Myron Hedderson

Joan and Najat are the Atlantic Representatives on the Council of the Canadian UU Women's Association (CU-UWA). This year our theme for International's Women's Day is Empowerment with the Goddesses. Using CU-UWA resources, Najat and Joan will present on this

What's UP With the CUC

Feb 25 1 pm AT.- Leaders' Roundtable Uncolonizing Democratic Processes – We are probably not even aware of the way we organize our congregations and make decisions, that these are inherited from our colonial past. If we want to be more inclusive we need to reconsider these long term practices. For more information and to register visit cuc.ca and look for the calendar of events.

May 19 – 21 National Symposium, Algonquin College in Ottawa or on Zoom. Explore our new 8th principle on dismantling racism. The symposium replaces the bi-annual conference and is being called a symposium because the weekend will focus on this one subject.

May 21 11:30 am AT.- National Sunday Service- *Bringing Promises to Life*. The service will be led by Rev. Eric Meter of the First Unitarian Congregation of Ottawa alongside Rev. Diane Rollert of the Unitarian Church of Montreal and others. This will be a celebration of the work done to bring us to adopt our 8th principle.

Other upcoming events:

Youth (14-19) and Emerging Adults (18-24) of Colour;

Gathered Here (youth and young adults aged 18-35)

UU Connecting-led by young adults but all ages are invited

Inclusivity Action Groups – Moving Through Hurt, April 5.

Find all of these events, details and links at cuc.ca Look for Calendar of Events.

Glenna Hanley



Unitarian Women's Potluck Gathering

Women's potluck Friday, March 17th 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.

Topic: What do you know about how you come to have the name you have? Are you named after someone else? Do you like your name / feel like your name?

For more Information

Joan Brewer
jebrewer@rogers.com
(506) 455-5169



Valentines Luncheon a Hit

Not meaning to boast but we of the hospitality and membership committees are declaring the Valentine lunch and party a big hit.

The party was held after the service on Sunday, Feb. 12.



Mugs of delicious carrot soup, sandwiches and biscuits filled everybody up. The cinnamon biscuits were especially popular. When I went to get one there was only one left. I cut it in half. I don't know who got the other half.

Lilli, our second youngest member, passed out valentines to everyone and later tiny heart-shaped cookies.

The games were great to get people talking and the chatter was flowing quite well at the three tables that were all full. Joan B, Sheila M and I had to squeeze in to find places to sit.

A highlight of the day was a birthday cake for our youngest member Zoë who has just turned one. She blew out the candle with help from Lilli and mom Amber. We all sang Happy Birthday, Deby N sang a French version and I sang the Norwegian version (so glad no one there speaks Norwegian).

Both Valentines games were won by the same table which included Sheila A, Deby N, Tessa, a visitor, Tessa's mom Shannon, Joan M and Ken L. They named 27 songs with



the word "love" in them. Their prize- getting their names in the Touchstone newsletter.

The funniest moment was when Joan B asked Amber to draw the winning name for the 50/50 draw. She drew her own name. She wanted to draw another name but we all insisted she was the winner. The draw total was \$122.50.



Thanks to everyone who helped out and to those who stayed and made it a fun event.

By Glenna Hanley
on behalf of committee members:
Joan Brewer
Haifa Miller
Sheila Moore
and self



In honour of St. Patrick's Day

Caution, Humour Alert! For those inclined to take offense at ethnic stereotype humour, please stop here. Your humble compositor (whose name is Fitzgerald) and should be the one to complain, if anyone has an inclination, shrugs and takes no offense.

An Irish farmer was walking along the boundary between his and his neighbours fields when he spotted his neighbour carrying 2 sheep in his arms. "Tony" he called "Are you going to shear those sheep?" "I am not", the neighbour replied. "They're both for me!"

Q - What is Irish and sits outside all day and night?

A - Paddy O'Furniture

Contributed by
Sheila Moore



The Caring Circle

Joys, Concerns, and Sorrows

Thanks to the Hospitality Committee for a fun Valentine party and celebration of Zoë's first birthday.

Congratulations to Jared Scratch who started a new job at Greener Village in February.

Several members of our congregation are currently sick or have recently been sick with the Covid virus.

Glenna Hanley has had cataract surgery.

We are thinking of members and friends of our Fellowship whose parent has recently died.

The Caring Circle is available to help in any way we can with a phone call or virtual visit or delivery of any items. Please get in touch with Janet Crawford janetcra@gmail.com or (506) 454-0441 or with Robin Stanley stanleyr@nb.sympatico.ca or (506) 650-2670. The caring circle has a Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/groups/247416469728195>

If you have any postings for Joys and Concerns in Touchstone, send to stanleyr@nb.sympatico.ca.

WANTED: Please let Janet or Robin know if you can help with driving or delivering food or flowers. We need people to drive others to the Fellowship on Sundays.

Robin Stanley

Getting to Know U's

Glenna Hanley

Glenna first started showing up at UFF for Sunday morning services in 2008, shortly after she moved to Fredericton. It was pure coincidence that she bought a house on Palmer St and lives closer to the Fellowship than anyone.

Glenna began making the coffee and volunteering with the hospitality committee before she was even a member. She likes to tell the story of how she became a member. She and her friend Betty Lou Daye (now deceased) were cleaning up the kitchen and the annual budget meeting was taking place in the sanctuary. They were short two people for a quorum so Betty Lou and Glenna were asked to join them. But they weren't members and couldn't vote. Someone hastily retrieved the membership book from the office upstairs and they both signed.

Born and raised in Sussex, her family was known in that small town for their size, 10 kids, and that they had two last names, Hanley and Branscombe. An original blended family, Glenna's father married her mom when she was a widow with six small children. And then four little Hanleys were added to the bunch.

Glenna first worked as a teacher. She took a year off when her son was born and never went back. She likes to say she fired herself because she didn't think she was a great teacher. She worked for the NS government for six years and then went to Journalism School. There she found her true calling and remained in that field until she semi-retired in 2007.

The light of her life is her son Neil. He is married and lives in Norway along with his Norwegian wife and two precious

grandchildren.

Glenna has lived in five different provinces but happy that she returned home to NB for her retirement years.

She served as president of the UFF for three years and served on the board another four years. She also served on the board of the Canadian Unitarian Council for three years. She continues to serve on several committees.

After leaving her childhood religion in her early twenty's Glenna lived a secular life for many years. Her work was her religion she says. But in later years she felt the need to explore her spiritual side. She is glad to have discovered UFF where she has found companionship, friendship and time to explore life from a more spiritual perspective. The latter is a work in progress.

Submitted by
Sheila Moore
Chair, Membership

The Engagement Ring

When I was in second year University, I volunteered to mentor a special needs young man named Danny. We were about the same age.

Danny was physically normal, but his mental development seemed to have stalled at about the level of a nine-year-old.

We travelled on public transit, and I routinely helped him shop for clothing and groceries. One day he brought his girlfriend along with us. She was a delightful young woman who unfortunately had Down's syndrome. They made a cute couple and they truly enjoyed each other's company.

Not long after that encounter, Danny asked me if I would help him pick out an engagement ring.

This really rattled me to the core!

At 20 years of age, I couldn't quite get my mind around the idea of me getting married so I quickly thought of a dozen reasons why Danny shouldn't either.

Fortunately, something inside me awakened and I thought "why shouldn't Danny and his true love be together? Who am I to stand in their way?"

I helped him get the ring.

Ken Little

True Reconciliation

How to be a force for change

Jody Wilson-Raybould

It is easy to tell that this book is written by a former Solicitor General and Minister of Justice who was born a member of the We Wai Kai Nation. She has the topic carefully organised and strongly supported by documents

and the texts of oral presentations.

Defining true reconciliation takes a while, but can be seen as the Two Row Wampum used in an early colonist and Indigenous agreement that signified two strings of beads together in peace, equality and cooperation, without control of each other's vessels. Neither group will force their language, customs, laws or traditions on the other, Note that this agreement was made when the British were desperate for Indigenous support against the French!

She starts with "This Moment in Time" describing the continuing problems but the possibility of improvement. Apologies and tears for past wrong-doing are not enough. We must "Learn", "Understand" and "Act" to reach a new goal.

Learning includes finding how the problems developed after early cooperation as European political and religious powers told colonists to take over land and people for "their own good" to make them recognise their "racial and religious inferiority." This includes some alarming attitudes conveniently encouraging greed.

Understanding shows the effects and untruth of the attitudes and gives an approach that will counteract them. Track 1 means closing the gap between indigenous and non-indigenous communities in social and economic issues such as access to clean water, education and the unacceptable rate of murdered and missing women and children taken away into care. Track 2 means the recognition of rights, including those in the U.N. Declaration of Indigenous Rights. Crown control must be removed. The autonomy, authority and jurisdiction of Indigenous people and their governments must be respected. Cooperation and participation of indigenous peoples in federal government should be by the decision of those peoples.

Indigenous decision making, as she explains, is traditionally made by consensus, not by a majority vote. Nunavut's government has no parties or opposition and members must agree on how to achieve a common goal. It is hard to understand how this can work at a national level.

Property is also considered mostly communal by indigenous communities and excessive individual richness is frowned upon. While she gives examples of some successful land claims, this book does not examine the possible extent of future cases.

So the Act section calls upon readers to join the marathon to achieve indigenous rights either as individuals or as part of companies or groups. We should be the "go-betweens"

by getting involved to fulfill the ambitions she describes and make a "revitalised Canada". Let me know if you want to borrow my copy.

Sheila Andrew



Volunteering, A Biblical Reference

***Compositor's Note:** Your humble servant is on a mailing list from Rabbi Yosef Goldman and, coincidentally regarding the Sunday service I gave on the 19th of February, the Torah reading on the 24th deals with volunteering. I am including it for your consideration.*

This week we read Parshat Terumah (Exodus 25:1-27:19)...

This week's Torah portion talks about what the Jewish people were asked to donate to the building of the Tabernacle, and the instructions to help to build the utensils for the Tabernacle. Most people today have lots of money to contribute to many causes, but the Torah is trying to tell us that we need to think about what our priorities in life are, and choose carefully before we agree to donate money to any cause. The Torah also suggests that in case a person doesn't feel like they have money to donate there are many other ways to contribute, especially your time.

Yesterday, I was telling a dear friend of mine that when I cut toilet paper in preparation for Shabbat I know 100% that Hashem doesn't care if I cut the toilet paper on Shabbat (instead), but by me doing this action I am showing that I care about my relationship with Hashem and I am giving Hashem **time** that could otherwise be wasted. Over the years I volunteered with many organizations and most of the time I wasn't able to contribute financially to these very worthy causes, but fundraising, making phone calls, and participating in hikes was a different way to contribute and I believe that that is what **VE'YIKCHOO LI TERUMAH** (they shall take for Me a donation) means, and thus be elevated, which is another interpretation of that word.

Rav Soloveitchik gave an analogy quite a few years ago about all of the tiny little details that are in this week's Torah portion; he compared it to building a space shuttle that nobody in their right mind will ever say "why do you need this tiny little screw"? Unfortunately, this was proven to us in 1986 (according to some theories) that that is the reason that the Challenger blew up; so every single tiny little detail is very important even if we don't fully understand why that is the case.

This space wants your material!
Please send articles to touchstone@uff.ca