



Fundy Wave
**Newsletter of the
Unitarian Universalist
Congregation of Saint John**

Unitarian Universalist religious services take place every Sunday at 10.30 a.m. at our building, 545 Sandy Point Road, in the north end of Saint John, New Brunswick. See "Sunday activities" in this monthly newsletter for details.

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1 -- APRIL SUNDAY SERVICES – 10.30 A.M.

April 5 -- CELEBRATION IN SONG with Martha Vowles and Wendy Smith. Come to be inspired by singing or listening!

April 12 – (EASTER SUNDAY) “ LO THE EARTH AWAKES AGAIN!”
 A celebration of Spring. How can we keep from singing? Service leader: Doug Devine
Potluck lunch and spring hike following the service.

BRING ALONG YOUR VISITORS TO THE EASTER SERVICE!

Easter Sunday has been the REAL celebration of the coming of Spring in our northern climes since long before the Roman Emperor Constantine tried to rebrand it in the 4th Century CE as essentially Christian. It’s always been the day when finally the hours of daylight start to exceed those of darkness, a universal cause for celebration as our igloos finally are melting away and our earth awakes again. Bring some low-scented flowers etc to decorate the sanctuary if you wish!

*****EASTER POTLUCK LUNCH FOLLOWING THE SERVICE*****
 Bring something to share if you can.

*****EASTER DAY HIKE*****

You are invited to hike with the UU walkers at the Irving Nature Park on Tailors Island after the Easter potluck. Conditions and interest will dictate the route and length of the walk.

**April 18 –19 (Sat. & Sun.) THIRD ANNUAL MARITIME UU SPRING GATHERING
AT BOUCTOUCHE ([Further details? Bottom of this page](#))**

Sunday Service 12 noon at Bouctouche .

NO SERVICE at UUCSJ in Saint John this weekend.

April 26 – “BE IGNITED, OR BE GONE.” Service leader, Rev. Kitsy Winthrop

It was suggested when last I was with you that I devote this Sunday's reflection to the subject of stewardship - the commitment of one's talent, time and treasure to "matters of consequence" which, of course, includes this beloved community. I agreed, being one of those rare UUs who actually thinks it a privilege as well as a pleasure to speak about such things. I "stole" my title from the last line of a poem by Mary Oliver titled "What I Have Learned So Far". In these very challenging economic times, I myself have been doing a lot of research and soul-searching on this subject; I'll tell you "what I have learned so far."

As always, I welcome your thoughts and suggestions about this service.
revkitsy@hotmail.com or (207) 773-7738 (I'll call you back.)

2 -- April 18-19, UU SPRING GATHERING AT BOUCTOUCHE

Last year's gathering was an outstanding success with every Maritime congregation participating. The gathering site is again Ray Drennan's Auberge Le Vieux Presbytère de Bouctouche at 157, Chemin du Couvent.

HOW TO GET THERE

From Saint John take Route #1 East to #2 East past Moncton, then Route #15 east to #11 northbound as far as Bouctouche (exit #32).

In Bouctouche, Exit to Route #475 (the main street) and head east through town on #475. You can't miss the Auberge, right at seaside on a sharp curve. Car pooling recommended!

ACCOMODATION

If you're coming for both days there are four inns and about 12 Bed and Breakfasts in the area. Unfortunately Ray and Ann's Inn is already fully booked for April 18th. (\$20 per person, double occupancy including a big breakfast!) If you are very lucky you might get a cancellation directly at mraymond@nb.aibn.com or 1-506-743-5568.

ACTIVITIES

This year's organizers are Ray Drennan and the Fredericton Unitarian Fellowship. To take in everything, plan to arrive early Saturday afternoon. Expect lots of informal workshop sessions and socializing. Any potluck treats that you bring will be welcomed.

SUNDAY SERVICE

The Sunday service will take place in the beautiful chapel on site. If you can't come for Saturday, consider bringing a car load for the Sunday service. It's less than two hours from Saint John and potluck lunch will follow the service.

3 -- COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE**Travelling around**

It is always interesting to travel to different UU Churches and experience a new way of doing worship. Since leaving home, Fred and I have attended two Unitarian Churches. The first was in Rutland, Vermont . Remember the church that bought a Jehovah's Witness building and doubled the size of their congregation, yep, that's the one! They have a full time minister and the only part of the service she did was the sermon and it was 10 minutes.

The rest of the worship was conducted by a church member. They also had one speaker talk for about 5 minutes on what the church community meant to her. I thought this was a very nice touch.

The second service we attended was in Charleston, South Carolina, also with a full-time minister. He did the service but had a guest speaker in for the sermon (talk). They were also into their pledge campaign, and one member took about 5 minutes to speak on why she pledged to keep the church going.

And Oh, that church in Vermont - well they have now outgrown it and have a beautiful new one almost complete.

--Kathleen Webster (Worship Committee)

Sunday service on March 22nd

From: "Carol MacDonald" <carolbayswater@gmail.com>

To: "George Legris" <geoleg@nbnet.nb.ca> Sent: Monday, March 23, 2009 8:29 AM

Subject: Sunday's Service

George, very nice to see you back. I am sure you give us all a feeling of connectedness for the job you do here with the UU news.

Yesterday's service (March 22) was wonderful, the children did amazingly well. They are stupendous little singers and performers. And Frank's photos...no words for them really...marvelous!!!!

It was all great! So thanks go out to Children, Frank, Connie, Gerry and all who worked to make the service what it was. C.M.

A workshop in Connecticut

On March 15th, I attended the Sunday UU service in Danbury, Connecticut, that was to be followed by a workshop about finding a new minister. The two facilitators, a woman and a man visiting the city, performed the service, saying little about the workshop. The workshop began in the afternoon, and in the first hour achieved little except to indicate the variety of backgrounds of the 25 people in attendance. By that time, I had to leave to go elsewhere. – *George Legris*

4 --YARD SALE NOTICE – MAY 2nd (Saturday)
8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

If you have any items you no longer need or want, please do not get rid of them. We would appreciate it if you would keep them for the yard sale. If you need the space, you can call or e-mail Andrea or Caroline and we pick them up and store them until May.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

5 -- LIFESPAN LEARNING

Reverend Kitsy met with members of the Lifespan Learning Committee (Heidi, George A, Bob, Susanna, plus Joanne B as interested observer) on Feb. 21 to consider ideas on disseminating spiritual and ontological, i.e., "ways-of-being" knowledge to UUs and to the public at large. She suggested methods like:

- a series on journaling;
- adult OWL (Our Whole Lives Program);
- End of Life Program;
- a frequent Evensong;
- a UU column in the local newspaper's Faith section;
- and, especially, a highly recommended "Owning Your Religious Past" program.

Kitsy has learned in her ministry that many UU converts have buried or severed even the nourishing elements of a previous overall unsatisfactory religious practice to their great distress. This program encourages their sweet baby back into the holy waters. Susanna and Heidi agreed to take on this project.

Heidi suggested, too, that we offer, somehow, a naming of our UU symbols to the public that visits, or sees us in the world. For example, she points out our dining area sign NAMASTE. Many would be unfamiliar and unsure about the word's significance. *--Susanna Flagel*

6 -- WHAT THE YOUTH ARE DOING -- Details from Steve McCavour**SpiritUUality Conference In Maine**

At the start of the March Break, six youths (Andrew, David, Stephen, Rosalie, Kaleb and Elizabeth) and I travelled to the SpiritUUality Northern New England youth conference in Bangor thanks to the generosity of the congregation. It was an excellent con. There were a lot of interesting workshops including Yoga, Qi Gong, Meditative Mandala Drawing, craft workshops, Shamanistic Journeying, and music.

The UU Society of Bangor have a beautiful old church and building complex, and were fantastic hosts. Saturday evening there was a coffee house with a wide range of interesting performances. I'm awaiting a CD of that which I will be able to share with you all later. The driving was excellent (until we hit St. Stephen on the way home). We all had a great time and continue to build closer relations with our UU neighbours in Maine. Thanks again for all your support.

Youth Activity for April

- April 17 - 19 – Bouctouche -- As of now, it looks like we will not be able to get a trainer for an official Youth Spirituality Development Conference because it's just when University exams are starting. However we are still planning a full fledged con-style get-together and we will plan for that in the coming weeks.
- April 25th -- Usual Youth group night at 545 Sandy Point Road.

7 -- APRIL BIRTHDAYS

JACK CRAMMOND, APRIL 5th
DOUG BREEN, APRIL 5th 1939
HENDRIEN KIPPERS, APRIL 18th

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU ALL!!!

8 -- GETTING TO KNOW YOU!**SUSANNA FLAGEL**

Susanna Lorraine Flagel was born May 30, 1958, in Fort William, Ontario, now Thunder Bay. She is the eldest of three children, all girls! Her dad is a retired auto-parts salesman, and electronic panel assembler. He is of Irish, British, and Dutch/German descent. Her mom is a retired RNA, and is of Scot and Ojibwa heritage. Susanna was the first grandchild on both sides of the family.

Susanna was born with club feet and wore thigh casts for the first year of her life. She wore orthopaedic shoes until the age of 8 or 9. She started dance lessons in tap and jazz at age 4 and went on to compete at 13. Her dreams of career dance performance ended soon after when further orthopaedic problems surfaced. She was ordered to cease dancing immediately, and underwent surgery. Her paternal grandmother had also been born with this very same congenital condition, and in 1913 at the age of 2, Grandma Foster was one of the first children in the UK to have been operated on to try and straighten her legs. The Scottish surgeon said payment would be "if the gairrl walked." Grandma did -- into his office two years later. Poor Grandma told Susanna that when she saw newborn Susanna's legs and feet in the hospital nursery, she fled home in hysterics blaming herself. Great-grandma, a no-nonsense woman from 19th century Lancashire, and who lived with Grandma said, good God, Gwenny, it's not your fault. Come now. Let's have tea.

As young as 9 months old, it was evident that Susanna was gifted intellectually -- on her own, she knew to roll/drag off for her nap when the 1 p.m. radio obituaries came on, and at the age of three, she would read-and-discuss the newspaper *to* Mom and Dad. She was a very good student while both at Redwood Elementary School, and during her time at Sir Winston Churchill High School where she competed in speed swimming, and became president of the student council during her senior year.

Susanna's parents divorced when she turned 13. Her mother had months earlier left her three girls, home, and husband one night to establish another life and had next to no contact with her daughters. Susanna, as the eldest child, took over the chores.

From 1978 until 1991, Susanna worked for the Canadian Grain Commission in Thunder Bay. She began as a grain sampler -- retrieving samples of grain from emptying box-cars and delivering them to government grain inspectors. Eventually, she successfully wrote exams and navigated competition processes to become a third level grain inspector herself. Along the way, she also became a union shop steward. In 1987, while continuing to work full-time, she "set out on her heart's path", began three solid years of evening, spring, and summer session university classes at Lakehead University in Thunder Bay where she received a B.A. First Class Standing, English Major, Fall 1990. Best three years of my adult life at that point, Susanna says, run ragged but resolute. She was encouraged to publish her poetry, bequeath a small book on family violence she'd prepared to the university's Social Work department, to continue to write, to go on. Susanna continued her studies at the University of Windsor and obtained a B. Education, Primary-Junior, April 1991; and, in August 1991, she left for Saint John, and while working full-time (again) completed her M.A. in English Literature at UNB, 2000.

She supply taught in School District #8 (Saint John) for the 1992-93 school year and has been with the Canada Revenue Agency since 1993. She is now on leave for health reasons, and the CRA is currently reviewing positions that can accommodate her health issues. To this end, Susanna is looking, laterally, at other federal and provincial agencies, and, externally, to the private sector.

Susanna has been married to Dr. David Flagel since 1993. They met while she was a student in his philosophy class at Lakehead University. They have a home by the sea in Pocologan where they have lived since 2000. They have two cats, Gaffer, who is 15 and, Griffin, age 11. Susanna and David are both cat lovers -- at one time, they had four kitties and a beautiful Great White Pyrenees poochee named Ceilegh, off whom the kittens would bounce as she napped, when on their wild kitty tears through the house. Susanna would like to get finches one day, and another doggie.

Susanna is an avid reader -- her home is filled with books. She likes to sing. While in elementary school, she sang in the school choir and she is a member of the UUCSJ choir. She loves to decorate which is quite evident to anyone who visits 129 Pocologan Road. She likes to knit and crochet and wants to become more skillful at these crafts. When it comes to music, she loves bluegrass (especially Lucinda Williams), and alternative rock (especially Nine Inch Nails). She's a big fan of Vivaldi's Four Seasons, and opera. Susanna would like to learn how to belly dance, do hip-hop, play the autoharp, and speak Arabic!!

Susanna loves eating Sobey's roast chicken and a special macaroni and tomato dish that her sisters Janny, who is one year younger and Vicki, who is two years younger, also appreciate. She suntans wisely, loves shopping in the U.S. with her sisters, and loves interacting with the good people of Saint John and New Brunswick. Her car, a recent acquisition, has the unique name of Meegwich, meaning "thank you" in Ojibwa.

In terms of volunteering, canvassing or "stumping" for the Canadian Heart and Stroke Foundation, in the Pocologan area, has been both a new and enjoyable experience for her. She has just begun writing her first play, and first novel. She has eyes on a PhD., and a weight-machine. She meets with a personal trainer soon, and a voice coach is to be lined up.

Susanna first learned about Unitarian Universalism through a childhood friend and it was by browsing in the local newspaper a long time ago that she found, met, and chose us as her spiritual home. She feels good about being in the meeting room at 545 Sandy Point Road because she feels she is with loving intellectuals all, but is rather shy about expressing her affiliation with UUism with the world at large. "It's been my experience that to be a free and independent thinker and doer is not welcomed nor appreciated in the everyday world unless it falls within what the everyday world considers to be free and independent thinking and doing."

Besides acting upon her lifelong desire to get a post secondary education, becoming a UU member has been her second best decision. Her life has broadened and deepened wonderfully! Meegwich Nanabozho. Thank you, Creator.

9 -- THE WORK LIST

<u>Date</u>	<u>Welcomer</u>	<u>Refreshments</u>
April 5 /09	Walter Henry	Caroline Smith & Doug Devine
April 12	George Allen	Fred Webster & Kathleen Webster
April 19	BOUCTOUCHE WEEKEND	
April 26	Joanne Britton	George Legris & Heidi Bundschuh
May 3	Jack Crammond	Bob Smith & Kaye Smith
		(#1- cream & snacks #2- extras & clean up)

ROMERO HOUSE

April 19 Not needed at Romero House

10 -- IMAGININGS - *A periodic column by the Reverend Kitsy Winthrop*

Early in April, I will be attending a 5-day conference at (UU) Rowe Camp & Conference Centre in western Massachusetts. (By the way, this is yet another fabulous UU resource. This one operates year-round. (Check out their website www.rowecenter.org/) I am a card-carrying member of the organization which is sponsoring this conference: **UUs for a Just Economic Community (UUJEC)**.

I was present at UUJEC's "birth" 20 years ago - also at Rowe - so this is our 20th reunion! Previously, this group of economically progressive UUs had the word "socialist" (gasp!) in our name. So many other UUs complained about this that we came together to consider what to do and, in so doing, reinvented ourselves - AND changed our name. "A New Story for a New Economy" is the title of this conference. David Korten, one of my current heroes, will be there. He is the author of "When Corporations Rule the World; "The Great Turning: From Empire to Earth Community" (I've spoken to you about that book); and, hot off the press, "Agenda for a New Economy: From Phantom Wealth to Real Wealth".

We who attend the conference will not be figuring out ways to "fix" Wall Street; we'll be figuring out ways to bring into being a NEW economy - locally based, community oriented, and devoted to creating a better life for all living beings. I can't wait! With love, --*Kitsy*

Kitsy's April dates in Saint John will be: Saturday late afternoon through Tuesday early afternoon, April 25-28. Feel free to phone or e-mail her in advance if you want to get a spot on her "dance-card". Phone: (207) 773-7738 or revkitsy@hotmail.com

11 -- PAGAN GROUP

The Pagan Group celebrated an Ostara ritual on March 22nd and then decorated eggs afterwards. We had some excitement when all these flashing lights showed up outside the windows, but it was just the city workmen informing us that there had been a break in the water mains and they would be turning the water off!

The next get-together will probably be the 3rd of May for Beltane (Mayday) but nothing is set in stone yet. All are welcome. – *Steve*

12 -- BOOK CORNER

If you're reading a book that inspires you in your own quest and you think it might interest other UU's why not tell the newsletter editor about it.

APRIL'S BOOK: *RATIONAL MYSTICISM* (*subtitled: SPIRITUALITY MEETS SCIENCE IN THE SEARCH FOR ENLIGHTENMENT*) The Los Angeles Times calls this book "eminently readable... JOHN HORGAN pairs the skepticism of the scientist with the heart of one who wants to believe... acclaimed journalist John Horgan investigates the ways in which scientists, theologians and philosophers are attempting to formulate an empirical explanation of spiritual enlightenment. He visits well-known experts including theologian Huston Smith, Andrew Newberg of 'god module' fame, Ken Wilber transpersonal psychologist and Buddhist, psychedelic pharmacologist Alexander Shulgin, Susan Blackmore psychologist and Zen practitioner, and post modern shaman Terence McKenna. The effects of reputed enlightenment-inducing techniques such as fasting, meditation, prayer, sensory deprivation and drugs are explored. Horgan finds surprising connections among seemingly disparate disciplines, not the least of which is a shared awareness at the nature of the universe. Publisher Houghton Mifflin, New York, (2003), ISBN 0-618-06027-8 .

13 -- BRIEF REMINDERS

- Anyone needing a ride to church functions, please contact Betty T.
- Anyone needing a new name tag, contact Joanne B. or George L.
- There are lots of books to borrow in both the church library and the CUC district library. Check with George L. or Andrea J. for further information.

We are all greeters at Sunday services. Please feel free to introduce yourself to visitors to help make them feel welcome. Also, if there is anything the Membership Committee should be aware of, please do not hesitate to let us know.

14 -- AROUND THE WORLD**UU at United Nations works on LGBT issues**

The Unitarian Universalist UN Office in New York now has a staffer assigned to deal with the Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender program. She is Diana Sands -- dsands@uu-uno.org. Her post as LGBT Program Associate is financed by a grant from the Arcus Foundation of Kalamazoo, Michigan. The UU office at the United Nations is the only faith-based organization at the UN working on LGBT human rights. Diana is looking for ways to get Unitarians in Canada and the US involved. She is also building a speakers' list, so if you know of anyone who might like to join it please help her to get in touch.

Diana Sands -- LGBT Pgm Associate, Unitarian Universalist UN Office
(212) 986-5165 www.uu-uno.org

Israeli Jews' tolerance of Christianity 'complex' says survey

Jerusalem (ENI) Secular Israelis show greater tolerance towards Christianity than their religious counterparts, according to a recently-published poll. "The survey revealed a very complex picture with a lot of contradictions," said Amnon Ramon of the Jerusalem Institute for Israel Studies, responding to the survey results on 16 March. "Religiosity played a big factor in the way people answered the questions." The survey revealed that young Israeli Jews tend to be less tolerant of Christians than people over 30, said Ramon. It showed that Jews with a higher education level, higher income and from an Ashkenazi, or Western or European background, generally demonstrated more tolerance towards Christians.

15 -- CHILDREN'S SCHEDULE FOR APRIL

April 5: Child care available. (No formal Children's RE--Children may sing upstairs)

April 12: Easter Sunday - Children's RE - Child care available

April 19: No Programming because of Bouctouche gathering

April 26: Children's RE - Child care available

16 -- CANADIAN UNITARIAN COUNCIL ANNUAL MEETING

Coming up during the long weekend in May (Fri.-Mon. May 15-18) Unitarian Universalists from all parts of Canada are getting together in Thunder Bay, Ontario. The Lakehead Unitarian Fellowship, the host group for the annual meeting, celebrates in 2009 its 50th birthday, and now has more than 100 members.

Lakehead University will be the location for most activities. The university also provides rooms of different sizes for individuals and family groups at reasonable rates starting from \$35 a night for singles.

As of the end of March, Susanna Flagel seems to be the only person from the Saint John area who will be going to the annual meeting. Thunder Bay happens to be Susanna's hometown and she looks forward to the event and the trip. More info? Go to <http://www.cuc.ca>

17 -- THE POWER OF MYTH (Bill Moyers & Joseph Campbell)

I have recently started watching this series. I am wondering if anyone would like to get together to watch this series of 6 videotapes (one each week I mean) in the boardroom? If you are interested, please contact me at 693-0035 or by e-mail at samcc@nbnet.nb.ca so we can arrange a time. – *Steve McCavour*

18 --COMMITTEES

- Membership Committee**, Sunday, March 29th at the church after the service.
- Orientation Programme Committee**, Wednesday April 8th 1 p.m. at Kathleen Webster's
- Membership Committee**, Sunday, April 12th at the church after the service
- Worship Committee**, Wednesday, April 15th , 10:30am at Jennie Loomer's

A PERSONAL LAST WORD

Having just completed my income tax return, I want to recommend Ufile.ca - an on-line service which I have used with neither problems nor mistakes for at least three years. Before switching to Ufile.ca, I tried two other programs. One made mistakes in keeping track of simple entries and corrections, the other could not handle foreign currency conversions when dealing with US dollars or British pounds. If you want to use Ufile.ca, you can either buy the software or use it on-line for a fee of about \$15. – *George L*

The Fundy Wave hits the shore every month but July.

DEADLINE FOR MAY – FRIDAY APRIL 24

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APRIL 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3 7-9 pm PFLAG meets @ 116 Coburg St.	4
5 10.30 am CELEBRATE IN SONG Martha Vowles	6	7	8 1pm Orientation cttee @ Webster's	9	10	11
12 10.30 am (Easter) THE EARTH AWAKES! Doug Devine Potluck lunch & hike follow X Member cttee mtg after service	13	14	15 10.30 am Worship cttee @ Loomer's	16	17	18 UU weekend in Bouc touche X
19 Noon in Bouc touche X	20	21	22	23	24 Deadline for Fundy Wave in May	25 Youth nite @ Sandy Pt Rd- ---- Rev Kitsy in SJ til Tues.
26 10.30 am BE IGNITED BE GONE Rev Kitsy W	27	28	29	30 LAST DAY FOR INCOME TAX !		

X means: More details in newsletter

Children's schedule: Page 8