



*Fundy Wave*  
**February 2010**  
 Newsletter of the  
**Unitarian Universalist**  
**Congregation of Saint John**

*Unitarian Universalist religious services take place every Sunday -- except July and August -- at 10.30 a.m. at our building, 545 Sandy Point Road, in the north end of Saint John, New Brunswick.*

*See "Sunday services" in this newsletter for details.*

|                            |                                |                                 |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <b>#1. Services.</b> Pg 1  | <b>#2. Notice.</b> Pg 2        | <b>#3. Contribution.</b>        |
| <b>#4. Work List.</b> Pg 3 | <b>#5. Choir.</b>              | <b>#6. MSC.</b>                 |
| <b>#7. Adult OWL.</b>      | <b>#8. Youth.</b> Pg 4         | <b>#9. Children's RE.</b>       |
| <b>#10. Healthy Congs.</b> | <b>#11. Unicamp.</b> Pg 5      | <b>#12. Irish News.</b>         |
| <b>#13. Books.</b> Pg 6    | <b>#14. UU Joke.</b>           | <b>#15. Bare Walls.</b>         |
| <b>#16. Dance SJ.</b> Pg 7 | <b>#17. President's Notes.</b> | <b>#18. Time of Giving</b> Pg 8 |

**#1. Sunday Services in February - Time 10.30 a.m.**

**Feb. 7<sup>th</sup>.** Coordinator and Leader Carol

**Life's Lessons**

Going through our lives, we hear, we read, we take note and then, unfortunately, often forget. Hopefully this Sunday we can put a face to some of life's lessons so that we might remember.

**Feb. 14<sup>th</sup>.** Coordinators Frank & Jenny. For St. Valentine's Day

**A Celebration of Love in Readings and Songs**

**Feb. 21<sup>st</sup>.** Coordinator Doug. Leader Rev. Maury Landry

**"If You Want Peace, Work For Justice."**

The words of the message title were authored by Pope Paul VI, and delivered in the traditional New Year's Day of Peace address "urbis et orbis", "to the city (Rome) and the world" on Jan 1st, 1972. They are based upon, and are an interpretation of, Isaiah 32:17. Indeed, peace flows from justice. The message for the 21st will reflect upon how the interpersonal flows from the intrapersonal ; how the political flows from the personal, as feminism taught us in the 60's and 70's. Prepare to enter the twilight zone where shades of grey never end, where boundaries are porous, where looking into a mirror allows you to see the universe, and where too much justice leads to violence.

**Feb. 28<sup>th</sup>.** Coordinator: Connie. Leaders: Caroline & Tony. Discussion Sunday  
(Originally scheduled for January 17<sup>th</sup>)

**“Human nature, Mr. Alnutt, is what we are put into this world to rise above.”  
African Queen, the movie.**

Using the **Evensong** text, Tony and Caroline will explore the topic:

**Being Human: What limits do we encounter?**

“Listening is at the core of Evensong. It focuses on paying attention to people. It offers people the opportunity to listen, speak of what matters to them, and be with one another in respectful ways. Listening solidifies relationships and is a foundation for community.”

Come and join in, or just come and listen. Either way, you will enjoy it!

~~~~~  
**#2. Saturday Evening Feb. 20<sup>th</sup>.**

**DON’T MISS THIS ONE!!!!!!**

6pm Saturday at the UU Church. Pot luck, lots of laughter, chatter, off-key singing, story telling and general rabble-rousing. An evening to see the other side of Sunday’s guest speaker, Rev. Maury Landry. Bring whatever you can to add to the fun, a compelling story, out-of-tune guitar, or just food. And this would be a great time to bring a friend or relative to let them see what kind of crowd you have got yourself mixed up with!

No age restrictions  
~~~~~

### **#3. Member Contribution**

Well, it is now February and we enter the last half of the winter. While we did not complain too much about the weather lately, we are now anxiously awaiting Spring. Although this month is shorter than others we are still looking for more positive signs.

#### **St. Valentines Day!**

Shopkeepers are only looking at making more sales, but we are looking at our loved ones. This holiday legend has been derived from both ancient Christian and Roman traditions but the rise of Christianity in Europe saw many pagan holidays being renamed for, and dedicated to, the early Christian martyrs. This one is in honour of St. Valentine, a Roman martyr who lived in the 3<sup>rd</sup> century. A ban on marriage was a great shock to the Romans. But they dared not voice their protest against the emperor Claudius. The kindly Bishop Valentine also realized the injustice of the decree. He saw the trauma of young lovers who gave up all hope of being united in marriage. He planned to counter the monarch’s orders in secrecy. Whenever lovers thought of marrying, they went to Valentine who met them afterwards in a secret place and joined them in the sacrament of matrimony and thus he secretly performed many marriages for young lovers. But such things cannot remain hidden for long. It was only a matter of time before Claudius came to know of this “friend of lovers” and had him arrested. This day is not only for the young ones. The older ones have shared life with a partner for many years in good times and in bad and it is a celebration of devotion and care. We should celebrate this all year ‘round. JvW

#### **#4. FEBRUARY WORK LIST**

| <b>DATE</b>    | <b>WELCOMER</b>  | <b>REFRESHMENTS</b>                  |
|----------------|------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <b>Feb. 07</b> | <b>Frank L.</b>  | <b>Jenny L. &amp; Kathleen W.</b>    |
| <b>Feb. 14</b> | <b>Bob S.</b>    | <b>Kaye S. &amp; Caroline S.</b>     |
| <b>Feb. 21</b> | <b>George A.</b> | <b>Joan A. &amp; Connie H.</b>       |
| <b>Feb. 28</b> | <b>Doug B.</b>   | <b>Anne-Marie B. &amp; Joanne B.</b> |
| <b>Mar. 07</b> | <b>Jack C.</b>   | <b>Carol M. &amp; Nancy H.</b>       |

**ROMERO HOUSE – (Feb 21) Andrea J. only this month**

#### **#5. Choir**

Choir will meet at Wendy and Kevin's on **February 27 at 7:00**. Bring your hymn books and your enthusiastic voices. It is always good to get together and sing.

##### **Looking ahead:**

March practices are: **March 14, 9:30 AM** at the church before the service and **March 27 at Wendy and Kevin's**

April's practices: **April 4, 9:30 AM** at the church and **April 24 at Wendy's**.

#### **# 6. Ministerial Search Committee**

The Congregational Surveys have been well received and we appreciate your time and effort. Preliminary analysis indicates that our church is strong and that we truly live our Covenant . We are preparing to go before the Board in March to present a draft of our initial findings. And we are planning a lunch for the congregation on a Saturday in April followed by small group meetings where we can hear first hand your thoughts about our church, your dreams and hopes for the future and our quest for a minister.

More details will follow in the March and April Newsletters.

#### **#7. Adult Owl Programme**

##### **Dates for Adult O.W.L.:**

February 10 (Wednesday)

February 24 (Wednesday)

March 10 (Wednesday)

March 24 (Wednesday)

The times are 7pm - 9pm at 545 Sandy Pt.

## **#8. Youth**

Youth O.W.L. - The next O.W.L. weekend for youth will be in Halifax from the 12 - 14th of Feb. Permission forms will be going out soon. The Junior Youth program will be starting and the Senior Youth will review the material from the first weekend and then proceed. For more information contact Steve McCavour

Feb 20th will be our regular youth group meeting at our building. Debbie McDonald from the Community Autism Centre will be coming to talk to us about Peer Mentoring Youth with Aspergers Syndrome.

Feb 27th will also be a Youth Group evening.

**If there are any adults willing to be second Adult for the 20th or the 27th please contact Steve.**

Note from Kaleb: First off, Winter Con (youth conference) is Feb 5th - 7th in Bangore, ME. Also, Spring Con is to be held at Ferry Beach, in Saco ME on the weekend of April 9th. The registration is being negotiated but is probably going to be around \$50 USD per person.

I also just came back from a Maine YAC (youth adult commity) retreat in Auburn ME, it was good and we decided that spring con will be held at Ferry Beach.

## **#9. Children's RE**

The children's programme based on the curriculum, "We Believe", is scheduled for February 7 and February 21. We welcome children between the ages of 5 and 12 to learn about our Faith. Beginning with a gathering activity, each session continues with a time for children to explore what they already know about the theme of the lesson. Then follows a story related to the theme and an activity which may be in the form of an art project, a game, a song, a dramatization or a discussion.

## **#10. Healthy Congregations Part 3**

CHURCHWORKS A Well Body Book for Congregations: Anne Odin Heller

Last month I wrote that Anne Odin Heller uses the brain as the metaphor for the Board of Trustees . This month let's have a close look the circulatory system which is "US", the congregation. We are the red blood cells, healthy and happy running around the church doing our work and having fun.

Some examples of a healthy congregation are:

- (1) regular contact with members and friends, especially those who cannot get to church often.
- (2) Joys and Sorrows are kept personal
- (3) Life Span Learning and affinity groups are full and prosper.
- (4) Canvass makes or exceeds goal.

Odin Heller really encourages the full use of the church building with activities going seven nights a week. That may be a stretch for our small congregation but we could accommodate more activity for sure. She says, "Every congregation has subcultures and affinity groups. Affinity groups become a bridge to intimacy as a congregation grows larger." She suggest such groups as, Spiritual direction, Singles, Couples, Cooking and eating groups, Choir, Dancing, Men's, Women's, Pagan etc.

We have one affinity group going which is Women At The Well; I see the possibility for more, one being a writers group, the other painters. Anyone interested?

You can borrow a copy of Odin Heller's book at the Church library. It's a very interesting read and a great reference book filled with great ideas for growing community together.

Kathleen

## #11.



UNICAMP Day is February 7, 2010.

It's the middle of winter and it's a good time to think about Unicamp. Hiking the trails, swimming in the pond, star gazing, walking the labyrinth. Spring and Unicamp are not far away.

Please take a minute on February 7<sup>th</sup>, during your Joys and Concerns time to mention Unicamp and briefly share your experience.

Unicamp's 2010 brochure is available at your Welcome Table. If you don't receive one by mail, please pick one up and see what your Unitarian Universalist Camp and Conference Centre has to offer you in 2010.

## #12. Irish News

### LONDON –

#### **Atheists in Ireland are risking possible prosecution with an online challenge to the country's new blasphemy law.**

Under a law which went into effect Jan. 1<sup>st</sup> a person can be found guilty of blasphemy if "he or she publishes or utters matter that is grossly abusive or insulting in relation to matters held sacred by any religion, thereby causing outrage among a substantial number of the adherents of that religion." The penalty is a fine of up to 25,000 euros, more than \$37,000 Cdn.

In a bid to demonstrate that the law is outdated and unenforceable, the group Atheist Ireland published on its Web site on Jan. 1<sup>st</sup> 25 potentially blasphemous quotations from figures such as Jesus, Muhammad, George Carlin, Pope Benedict XVI and Mark Twain.

"Two days earlier, there was no question over whether these quotes were legal." Michael Nugent, the group's chairman, said in an interview.

Blasphemy was already a criminal offense in Ireland under the constitution. But until now, the language had been too murky to make prosecutions feasible. In 1999, the Supreme Court dismissed the last test case because blasphemy was not clearly defined. By clarifying the term and imposing a hefty fine, the government has angered critics, who say the law undermines Ireland's increasing independence from the Catholic Church.

When Ireland's constitution was drafted in 1937, church and state were tightly entwined. But the close link between church and state has waned in recent years -- the "special position" of the Catholic Church was removed from the constitution by referendum in 1972, and the ban on divorce was repealed in 1995. ( --*Washington Post*)

### **#13. BOOKS**

Our library, located in the small office at the top of the stairs, now holds more than 200 different books, as well as a few duplicate copies. Any member of the congregation can pick out a book and take it home for a reasonable time. All that needs to be done is to write the title, date and your name on the last page of the library catalogue. The catalogue is attached to a chain. When you return the book, just make a notation on the back page, and replace the book on the shelf in the correct numerical order.

In the last few months of 2009, several people have given books which are now on the shelves. Some of these donors are George Allen, Theresa Koppert, Joost von Weiler, Fred and Kathleen Webster, and Jack Crammond.

If you wish to look at the book list, go to our web site [www.cusj.org](http://www.cusj.org) . On the opening page in the column on the left-hand side, scroll down to OUR LIBRARY.

### **#14. Unitarian Joke**

How many Unitarian Universalists does it take to change a light bulb? **300**

---

**12** to sit on the Board which appoints the Nominating and Personnel Committee;

**5** to sit on the Nominating and Personnel Committee which appoints the Buildings & Grounds Committee.

**8** to sit on the Building & Grounds Committee which appoints the Light Bulb Changing Committee.

**4** to sit on this Committee which chooses who will screw in the Light Bulb - those four then give their own opinion of "screwing in methods" while one actually does the installation.

After completion it takes:

**100** individuals to complain about the method of installation,  
another **170** to debate the ecological impact of using the Light Bulb at all,

**1** to say that in their day, the lit chalice was enough, Thank-You-Very-Much.

*--Submitted by George Allen*

### **#15. Bare Walls.**

One of our members remarked that we could get some pictures on the wall downstairs as most of the walls are bare.

Another member named others busy drawing and painting who could conceivably be willing to donate some of their artwork. When hearing those names it was surprising to us that the list of member artists was much longer than we thought. Anyone willing and able to produce one or two wall decorations might contact members of our building committee. Jvw

## **#16. Do You Think You Can Dance ?– Saint John.**

For the past three weeks Gerry Gray has been doing the sound, setting up microphones, and passing out ballots for the votes.”I really enjoy watching the younger contestants dance to the different styles of music, from Hip-Hop to Semi-Classical. One time I had to listen to the same music twelve times!” he said. It’s on every Sunday afternoon at 1p,m. at Market Square.Go down and see all the energy Gerry is enjoying!

## **#17. Notes from the President**

(Fred, not Barack.)

### **1. Mardi Gras/Shrove Tuesday**

By whatever name you call it - February 16th is PANCAKE DAY at UUCSJ! Between 4:30PM and 6:30PM, we'll be serving up pancakes with all the fixing's at the church. No charge, all are welcome! It would be appreciated if you could email or phone Fred by Feb. 15th if you plan to attend,so that we have a rough approximation of how many to expect.If you care to make a donation of maple syrup, blueberries, strawberries, butter or anything else, let me know. Buckwheat pancakes with strawberries and whip cream - MMMM!!

### **2.Money, Money, Money**

No, we are not broke! In fact, our finances are in good shape, but this is just a reminder that we are now more than halfway through the church business year the Board of Trustees is trying to fine tune our disbursements to match income. If you anticipate any change from your pledge, it would be greatly appreciated if you could advise our Treasurer, Frank Loomer, so that we can make any necessary changes.

As well, this year the Stewardship Campaign will begin a month early, because the Annual General Meeting will be held on May 30th, rather than the customary end-of-June. During March and April, the Board of Trustees will be asking for your continued financial commitment for the next business year. If you are like me, you sometimes feel overwhelmed with requests from worthy organizations looking for support and would like to do more; I guess it's a matter of priorities. As a Board of Trustees, it's our job to ensure that this church provides members and friends with 'value for money'.

Personally, I feel UUCSJ is one of the better investments I make, in terms of money, time and energy.

I hope you feel the same way and continue to keep this church viable well into the future.

Fred

## #18. Our Time of Giving

*(Last Sunday, January 24<sup>th</sup>, Rev Leela Sinha was our visiting minister. Her words for the Offertory were particularly moving and with her permission, we include them here)*

What secrets do you have?

What are you hiding?

Why would you choose to cloister your brilliance, your gifts, your abundance?

If we really knew you,

what would we demand of you, because we would know you had it to give,

and we would know how little stood between you and living up to your dreams?

In these days and in these times we give to what we most believe in.

Do you believe in liberal religion,

in personal growth turned to public action, and evolving, inclusive theology?

That's what we do here, in these churches, in these places. And we can only keep doing it if we're doing it together.

That's why we show up.

That's why we volunteer.

That's why we give.

The offering will now be given and received.

### **The Fundy Wave**

**hits the shore every month but July and August**

**Deadline for March – Wednesday February 17th.**

**Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Saint John**

**545 Sandy Point Road, Saint John, New Brunswick E2K 3S1**

**PHONE (506) 650-7223**

**WEB- <http://www.uucsj.org> E-mail- [community@uucsj.org](mailto:community@uucsj.org)**

**Editors – Tony & Caroline Smith (506) 832-4720 [carton@xplornet.com](mailto:carton@xplornet.com)**

**George Legris (506) 652-5141 [geoleg@nbnet.nb.ca](mailto:geoleg@nbnet.nb.ca)**