



November 2009

Fundy Wave

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.

**REMEMBER TO PUT YOUR CLOCKS BACK ONE HOUR ON
SATURDAY NIGHT!!**

Daylight savings time ends Sunday November 1st

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#1 Sunday Services in November – 10.30 am

November 1 –Service of Music (Tony Smith & others) Coordinator - Jenny

Music has a profound effect on our emotions. There is always some piece which affects us deeply. It may recall a happy moment or a sad one, a success or a failure, but always some moment in our past which stays with us. During this service some of us will play music which is important, and tell us why this is so.

November 8 - Thanks Mr. Darwin (I think) - (Fred Webster) Coordinator- Kathleen
Fred will explore how Charles Darwin has affected theism.

November 15 – Discussion Sunday - Presenter Loreen Johnson Coordinator Jenny

We are having a discussion service on the subject of Suicide ably led by Loreen Johnson, a nurse in the Mental Health field. She has had a lot of experience in leading discussions on this serious topic. I know it will be helpful to each one of us as we all know someone who has expressed thoughts of suicide, and tips on what to do are invaluable.

November 22 –Coordinator Kathleen
Speaker and Subject – TBA

November 29 – Rev. Maury Landry, Coordinator Doug
The Good, the Bad and the Ugly

Susanna asked "How can we describe this world as good to our children, when there is such stupefying evil? Maury will lead us on a theodicy odyssey, through the morally ambiguous world of "spaghetti westerns" and Zen Samurai warriors, to see if we can discover an answer to this conundrum."

#2 Member Contribution

Autumn is marching on: even scarecrows are wearing dead leaves.

__ Otsuya Nakagawa.

The leaves are turning from green to gold and red and this month they will fall to cover our earth in a golden hue.

November has arrived, a month when Autumn is ending and a festive winter month will be soon at our doorstep. It is a month when we think of Spring and Summer behind us and reflect about what we have achieved and what was not to be. We realize that we have to endure five months of cold weather, but we are looking forward to Spring. For young people these are the months of winter fun, for skating, skiing and other fun ways to enjoy the snow and ice. For others, the snow is a bit of a nuisance, but we know that, in time, the sun of the new season will be back and everybody is ready for another year. Meanwhile these are the months many of our fellow citizens have difficulty staying warm and often are in need of food. But we are ready to help, and with a little help they too are awaiting a better year and a better life. When others talk of the dark days of winter, it is up to us to provide the light and warmth to the people around us, while waiting for a new and, hopefully, a happy year ahead. __JvW

#3The Work List

| Date | Welcomer | Refreshments |
|-------------|-----------------|-----------------------|
| Nov 1 | Connie H. | Judith P. & Joanne B. |
| Nov 8 | Carol M. | Phil & Andrea J. |
| Nov 15 | Joanne B. | Kathleen & Fred W. |
| Nov 22 | George A. | Connie H. & Joan A. |
| Nov 29 | Jack C. | Jenny & Frank L/ |
| Dec 6 | Caroline S. | George L. & Nancy H. |

ROMERO HOUSE – Nov 15:
Judith P., David P., Anne-Marie & Doug B..

#4 Ministerial Search Committee

Thank you to everyone who took the time to complete the congregational survey

*DO YOU KNOW a friend who would ENJOY a great group book study? Why not bring him or her along at 7 PM on November 2nd.

#5 Fall Supper at our church

Mark **Saturday, November 14** on your calendar. Our menu of home cooked food is just too good to pass up. We will have **Ham, Potato Scallop, Baked Beans and Ginger bread topped with whipped cream** for dessert. There will be two sittings at 4:00 and 5:30. Take out will be available if it is booked by November 13. You can contact Andrea and Caroline for tickets. Their numbers are: 832-5153 and 832-4720. Of course, you can pick your tickets up at church as well but we would like to know the numbers in advance, if possible. Tickets are: Adults \$10, Children 6-12 \$5, Preschoolers, no charge. Come and bring your friends and family.

Volunteers are needed for cooking, serving and donations of food and some kitchen items. Sign up sheets are downstairs in the hospitality room. Together we can make it all happen as we did so successfully last year.

#6 Children's Religious Education

The programme chosen for this church year is "We Believe: Learning and Living Our Unitarian Universalist Principles. This excellent curriculum is designed to be both interactive and reflective and, although designed for children, adults who are involved as leaders and helpers will also have an opportunity to learn more about our UU heritage and values. The Sessions will be coordinated by Susanna and led by Susanna, Kathleen, Caroline and Connie in rotation. This month, **the dates for CRE are November 8 and November 22**. The Committee is looking into providing child care but, for this month, there will **not** be child care on November **1, 15 and 29**.

#7 Choir Practice

There are 2 practices this month.

Thursday, November 19- Practice at the church at 7 PM

Saturday, November 28- Practice at Wendy's home at 7 PM

Not only will be practicing the hymns for up and coming Sunday services but we will also be preparing for our traditional Candle Light Carol service in December. If you love to sing for the pure joy of it, come and join a great group of enthusiastic songsters.

#8 Book Study

HAVE WE GOT

ANOTHER DOOM AND GLOOM BOOK

TO MUTUALLY MOAN AND GROAN OVER AT THE UPCOMING UU BOOK STUDY?

.....*OR IS THERE HONEST CAUSE HERE TO ENVISION LIGHT AND HUMAN HAPPINESS AT THE END OF OUR WORLD'S LATEST DARK TUNNEL?* Chosen author, Jeff Rubin, has been a resident of Toronto and Chief Economist at CIBC World Markets for many years. He was one of the first economists to accurately predict soaring oil prices back in 2000 and today he's one of the world's most sought-after energy experts. Mr. Rubin's book at first look might appear to be exclusively secular but this judgment may underestimate the UU reader's ability to find profoundly religious themes in every aspect of the human adventure.

You can get the book "WHY YOUR WORLD IS ABOUT TO GET A WHOLE LOT SMALLER" from most book stores or by calling 832-4720 for a special deal. The book is published by RANDOM HOUSE CANADA, Toronto, 2009.

#9 "Women at the Well"

will meet **Monday November 09** from 6:00pm - 8:00pm.

Location: 66 Queen Street Apt 102 (home of Joanne Britton)

Potluck supper followed by a discussion of the format we will adopt this year AND if we have time, a suggested topic. Everyone welcome.

#10 Member Contribution

MY TRIP OF A LIFETIME. (Sep. 3 - Sep. 16 2009)

I am no stranger to traveling long distances but this one was special. From home to home it took almost twice as long as when I travel to Amsterdam and I was still in Canada! My nephew Rob was waiting at the airport in Whitehorse and drove me to his home, "Bob's Chalet" (he goes by that name now but to the family he is still Rob.) Later that day, my brother Piet and his wife Lorelie flew in from Winnipeg but by then I was fast asleep.

Next day was Rob's birthday and after showing me some landmarks - a salmon ladder and interpretation centre, a small historical nature museum and an overview of the town from a nearby low mountain range, we went out for dinner. Whitehorse is a small town, strung along the snaky, dark green Yukon river, mostly cement and unpretentious, low and without character.

Next day we drove to Haines, Alaska, through a valley surrounded by orange (low scrubbery) mountains which were long flat ridges on top. After a night in a hotel, we took the ferry to Skagway, Alaska. There we wandered by car along one of the many narrow bays

connected with the Pacific Ocean. We saw many eagles, spawning salmon and a mountain goat far up a mountain.

Next afternoon Piet, Lorelie and I flew back to Winnipeg and after a two hour drive WSW arrived in Glenboro, a small prairie hamlet, where I was a guest for another week. We watched flying squirrels, a few deer, and at night heard the coyotes howl. Piet and Lorelie are avid birdwatchers so I was made aware of the many birds that visited their yard. One afternoon I was introduced to playing bridge with some other town ladies, another new activity. I didn't do too well, but it was great to be made to feel part of the community.

I tasted Saskatoon berries and a Saskatoon pie for the first time - the sweetest berries I ever tasted- with another set of ladies while we watched slides from our hostess who had gone to Alaska before me, so I saw more of that State.

Another day we drove 30 km. through Sprucewood Park, a semi desert area in the middle of the prairies where I had walked on an earlier visit as part of my 75 km challenge at that time. A lot easier by car! The first time the water in the Assiniboine was so low, I could walk on its bed but this time it looked like a real river.

Another treat was the night sky. I slept in a cabin away from the main house, and in the middle of the night I would sit outside for a while watching stars -millions of them, a great difference from the measly dozen or so I see from my apartment window on a clear night. I told my brother not to hoard them so selfishly. He told me I could come back any time.

The trip back to the airport came all too soon but it was good to be home.

–Hendrien

***EVERYONE IS WELCOME AT THE BOOK STUDY BEGINNING MONDAY, NOVEMBER 2 AT 7 PM AT UUCSJ.....WITH BOOK OR WITHOUT.....TO DISCUSS OR JUST TO LISTEN!**

#11 Getting to Know You by Betty Tattersall

JOOST VON WEILER
ONVERWACHTE REIS

If we all stepped back and took a real good look at our past, there would so many highlights that would bring smiles and an equal amount of challenges that would cause us to pause and bow our heads. Our Joost's story has seen its share of joys, intrigues and sadness.

Joost can trace his family back to the 1100s. One descendant was married to a famous topographer who later became Minister of Defense when Napoleon invaded Holland. How cool is that!

Joost was the third of four children in the von Weiler family. Living in the Netherlands during WW II, under the German occupation, was very difficult for Joost and his family. There was always the fear that he and his younger brother would be picked up by the German patrols. Joost even had his own hiding place in the family home to avoid Nazi detection. One visit by German soldiers nearly cost him his life! He and his countrymen were so hungry during the war that many survived on tulip bulbs.

After the war, Joost did some traveling before he was conscripted in the Dutch army and shipped off to the Netherlands-Indies where he walked for three years constantly in tropical heat. Upon his return

home, he finished his studies at the Amsterdam Typographical School and decided to immigrate to Canada. His first night in his new homeland was a memorable experience. Jail is not the best way to introduce a new citizen to our country!!!

Joost's first years in Canada were difficult. Employment was hard to come by. However, he was most fortunate that the love of his life and he would cross paths six months after he arrived in Canada. Lydie, who was coming to Canada from the Netherlands to look after her brother's children, was asked to deliver a parcel to Joost on behalf of his father. And... as they say, the rest is history! Ontario was home for this young family. Joost was employed with various Canadian magazine companies. There were sons born, first Alan, then Brian, then Glenn.

We are very fortunate that Joost and Lydie decided to take a look at New Brunswick as their choice of where to live in Canada. The Maritimes represented their homeland with its beaches and the sea

There is so much about Joost that could not be squeezed in this short story of his life. If you want to know the "rest of the story", please read his recently published book, UNEXPECTED JOURNEY. You will understand why this title is so appropriate!

#12 Member Contribution

THE LOOMERS VISIT MAINE

Frank and I headed down by car toward Portland, Maine, in the late fall colour of gold and brown oak trees and tamaracks on the weekend of October 18th.

It was the 200th Anniversary of the oldest church in Portland and Kitsy was presiding as Minister in her dignified and fiery style. She and two parishioners, Bill Dill and Herb Adams went back to Rev. Ichabod Nichols (the first Unitarian Minister called to First Parish) in 1809, acting and speaking with the language and thoughts of the time. It was done with humour and respect of the old UU Thinkers.

Lunch from Kitsy's lunch box, for Frank and me, was like the sharing of the loaves and fishes with stimulating conversation, in a corner among the busts and statues of the church.

In the afternoon, the church came alive with the excitement of a protest rally, filled to the rafters. Every denomination, with many dressed in regalia, clergy and people of all ages were there with colourful banners, even drumming. Quakers, Catholics, Baptists, Episcopalians, Presbyterians, Jews and Unitarians, maybe a Muslim and Hindu, I didn't ask them! They took part in an interfaith rally for the vote on Nov. 3rd **NOT** to rescind the law passed in the spring by the Maine legislature, to allow legal Gay and Lesbian Marriages. Almost 600 people were there. Good and inspiring speeches, and a beautiful Gay and Lesbian choir behind a Mother's solo of her straight son's marriage and her Lesbian daughter's marriage.

With plenty of hugs, we left Kitsy and the old church of The First Parish Meeting House, still very much alive, with good feelings.

--- Jennifer A. Loomer

#13 Relevant Newsclip

U.S. CONGRESS APPROVES LAW PROTECTING GAYS

On October 23rd, the senate in Washington approved a hate-crime bill which sets new penalties for attacks on gays and lesbians. The bill was the result of a long struggle by US civil rights groups. The measure would extend the definition of federal hate crimes - covering attacks motivated by race, colour, religion and national origin - to attacks based on sex, sexual orientation or gender identity.

The bill passed in the senate by a vote of 68 to 29 with the majority of Republicans voting against. The bill got approval in the lower house two weeks earlier. The law will be effective when President Obama signs it.

14 Building Committee

Building Committee

We are sure that most of you will have noticed the work done recently. The downstairs separating walls have been removed and the area open for easy access and use greatly increased. The walls have all been repainted where the work had been done. Replacement carpet has been ordered for the work area, and will be installed as soon as it arrives. New floors have been installed in the kitchen and the bathroom. A VERY BIG thank you to the volunteers who did all the painting and clean-up.

#15 Member Contribution –Poem (Based on an ol Welsh poetic form.)

Fickle Wind..... by Ceridwen

An autumn wind can be so cruel
Adding fire to its dark fuel
Yesterday it sang with joy
Around itself a mocking toy

In summertime, the soft wind purred
On sand and sea its voice was heard
As children played within the surf
Knowing only a kind of mirth

How is it that, as seasons change?
The wind can muster all the rage
Of snow and ice and bitter cold
And sometimes in a contrite mode
It stops to check on my abode.

#16 Youth RE

There will be Youth RE every Sunday except the first Sunday of every month'

#17 Newsclip

Pope Benedict XVI has offered dissatisfied Anglicans the opportunity to come over to Roman Catholicism en masse. Such an arrangement already exists in the United States. Anglicans (Episcopalians in the US) who dislike the way they see things going in their own church (female bishops, gay bishops, gay female bishops) are allowed to regroup within the Church of Rome.

Although their priests will need to be re-ordained, they will be able to continue to use their traditional rites and Prayer Books, and to stay together as congregations. In addition, the Catholic Church will accept married clergy among the Anglicans.

#18 Report on the CUC Board Meeting

Board Meeting Highlights

From September 23 – 27, 2009 meeting held near Orilla, Ontario

At our recent meeting at a YMCA lodge on Lake Couchiching, Ontario, the Board was delighted to review the many ways in which our new Executive Director, Jennifer Dickson, has hit the ground running:

- Over 300 Canadian UUs have completed her survey seeking input on CUC priorities. If you haven't yet completed it, the survey is available at: http://cuc.ca/whats_new/new.htm
The end date is October 16.
- Your priorities for programming and staffing will be reflected in options for the budget that she and her staff will prepare for discussion at the December Board teleconference.
- Jenn is continuing her congregational visits across the country, heading out to the west coast in October, and looking forward to meeting our members. Be sure to come out to meet her when she visits a congregation near you!
- In the area of communications, Jenn has begun rethinking how we use tools such as e-lists, the website, and wikis, and is planning for an issue of *The Canadian Unitarian* by year's end. As well, new Western Region Board member, Rev. Anne Barker, has agreed to take on the role of Communications Liaison for the Board.
- Jenn has also been working with the Board's Social Responsibility Liaison, Jan Greenwood (BC Region), and the chairs of our Social Responsibility Monitoring Groups on new strategies for issuing letters and engaging in social action.
- Recognizing the needs of our youth for supportive regional and national structures, Jenn is taking immediate measures to staff up and rebuild in the wake of UUA changes to continental services and our own staffing deficit.

The re-engagement of youth is a top priority for the Board. Given our concerns, we were pleased to hear from Sean Barron (Youth Observer) that GoldMine, the youth leadership training held for the first time in Canada (in Mississauga, Ontario) this summer, proved to be "an incredible experience" for the attending youth.

The National Identity Task Force will be approaching congregations later in the year regarding the next step in this project that is a major strategic concern to our movement in Canada. Those interested can keep up-to-date with the detailed work of the Task Force at <http://canadianunitarian-council.pbworks.com/Our-National-Identity>.

We were also excited to discuss the possibility of a Canadian “chalice lighters” program (“Northern Lights”) with representatives from the UU Ministers of Canada (UUMOC). The ministers also plan to propose a conference stream in adaptive leadership for the 2010 ACM. The planning for the ACM, to be held in Victoria, BC, as well as for our CUC 50th anniversary celebration at the ACM in Toronto in 2011, are both well underway.

CUC President, Calvin Drake, reported that representatives of UU Ministers of Canada (UUMOC) and Canadian Unitarians for Social Justice (CUSJ) have expressed interest in coming together with the CUC Board to consider the potential for developing further our “community of UU communities” in Canada and to explore our respective roles in the stewardship of Canadian UUism. The Board asked Calvin to explore further with these other UU groups, and our youth and other interested groups, how such a conversation might take place.

This weekend the Board focused on financial and investment policies, potential fundraising strategies, and the monitoring of its newly revised policies. We recognize that more work needs to be done to enable congregations and other UU communities to feel heard nationally and to be involved in national dialogue.

Ron Bulmer – CUC Vice-President

The Fundy Wave

hits the shore every month but July and August

Deadline for December – Friday November 20th

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