



Happy 2010 to you all! May it be as fresh and beautiful a time as this untrodden path, photographed just after the year's first snowfall here in Pubnico, on January 3rd. And may you have many great adventures on the way!

Here are the “*check-ins*” I’ve received for this month. Don’t forget you’re encouraged to communicate directly with the senders or, if you prefer, email me a response that I can include in the next newsletter.

from Lloyd Ryan

Sorry I didn't get something in for December's newsletter. So, by way of apology, I am attaching a chapter of one of my novels. You will understand why if you read it. Although the chapter indicates the time as 1917, actually, there was virtually no change in my natal village for another 50 years - that is, 1957. Christmas of 1958 was different, as were subsequent years. This chapter describes my natal village on the north east coast of Newfoundland as I witnessed it up to age 11. I think that you and the rest of the people in this group will be interested in "The New Year's Carol". If you REALLY want to hear the tune, I will sing it and up-load as a MP3. Now, there's a treat for sure!!!

[Lloyd's story Chapter 16.docx](#)

Lloyd

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from Stacey Anne

Wow - that month sure flew! I trust you all had a peaceful holiday season. We had a dawn ritual on the Solstice and Dinner with all the fixin's after Santa came for Christmas. It can be difficult celebrating two holidays at the same time of year, so we discussed the origins of Solstice and found our own way of welcoming back **the Sun**. Then we talked about the origins of Christmas, who was Christ and why we celebrate the return of **the Son**. I find it very busy but wonderful.

I am wrapping up my time with the small boy I watch (I have been running a daycare). I am very sad to see him go, I love all of the children who have come into my care. But I am also relieved to see an end to this part of my life. I look forward to the many changes that will be coming my way. I am not planning on having any more full time children come for care - but there are two families who need temporary care now and again that I will help.

In the New Year I will be learning to play the piano (I have never had lessons before). I am nervous and excited. The move to Nova Scotia has brought me many new skills, and here is one more to learn. I find that steep learning curves are my forte!

As always I am homeschooling our children, learning as much from them as I teach them, I am sure. We will be starting a new math curriculum in January - the seven year old is thrilled, the ten year old is not impressed at all. I am nervous as this is new way of presenting numbers, addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. We will be working with story as a way to present things and I am a novice storyteller.

I wish you well in 2010, with lots of joy and peace.

Stacey Anne

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from Alison Kilpatrick

I am up to my ears in budgeting for a government department on the one hand, and renovating our home out of red shag carpet oblivion on the other! Can I throw these few factoids out about me...it is nearly eleven, and I have to get back to the budget grind tomorrow, but would like to contribute to the connectivity continuum...

Favourite poem, lo! these thirty years after discovering it in my brother's cast-off high school copy of an Oxford Anthology of Poetry: "Look, Stranger" by W.H. Auden

Husband Jim and I live in Clementsport, Nova Scotia...having just moved there from the other end of the Annapolis Valley...am looking forward to making a whole new bunch of gardens...hark! is that a snow storm outside my window? Must be time to break out the annual crop of seed catalogues!

Most immediate goal in life: to get semi-retired, sooner than later, please.

My parents were Ivan and Dorothy Causton, formerly of LaSalle, Ontario, latterly of Nanaimo, B.C. and the UU fellowship there ... just in case any of the subscribers knew either of them. All of us, including Anne, previously of Olinda.

2009 was certainly a year of considerable challenge, specially missing June Gilbertson.

Facebook me, if you wish. In my status line tonight, I was whining about having to pry the rear passenger-side door open, bracing against a snow-and-sleet storm, in order to crawl into my car, over the gear shift, ugh...all of which surely calls for a medicinal shot of Lagavulin.

So, here's raisin' a glass to ye, and all.

Alison

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from kathryn Mcintyre

Hi There,

The CBC had a program about Blake recently. It may have been a re run of one I heard about 25 years ago which motivated me to ask Anne Treadwell to deliver a sermon about Blake. She did; it was grand. I love Blake. Hymn#17 Every Night and Every Morn is one to be sung at my funeral and I choose it for any service I have control over. It speaks to me of reasonable expectations and our need to strive in order to be fulfilled human beings.

Right now I am experiencing such contentment that it makes me a little nervous. I know life will move on. My kids will face challenges, my health won't get any better, and our political and economic obligations will continue to increase. This is not too bad. Life is a balance, a dance, and I am content, blessed and grateful for this New Year.

Kathryn

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from Elisabeth Michnick

This is Elisabeth signing in. As I probably said last month, my entire family was here for Christmas and we had a great Christmas dinner at my daughter's house. My daughter who lives in Tel Aviv, Israel and works for the UNHCR there was able to stay with me at my retirement home. Her son who attends university in Montreal was with us too. My daughter was very exhausted from her job and was fortunate that one of her friends was able to take her on a short vacation to Niagara-on-the-Lake over the New Year's week-end.

Two days after Christmas my Toronto daughter took the whole family to a great production of "Fiddler on the Roof" The next morning she and her immediate family took off for a holiday in Miami. On the Thursday before New Year's I came down with stomach-flu and am still recovering. I missed our retirement home New Year's celebration but hope this may be a good beginning at losing some excess weight and I have become acquainted with some interesting daytime television. Best wishes to all in 2010

Elisabeth Michnick

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and from me, Anne Treadwell:

John and I had a lovely, quiet Christmas, and the weather was good – enough snow to make it traditionally white, little wind and not too cold. Since then we've had a big snowfall, but were lucky to miss the high winds and flooding which damaged many parts of the province. Here, it was just lots of snow – I'll add a few more photos, below.

The Amnesty International Write-for-Rights in Shelburne went very well on December 10th – Human Rights Day. About 35 people took part and, in addition to sending 130 letters protesting Human Rights abuses, signed 50+ postcards and added 50+ signatures to petitions.



Here's a trio of photos, taken by John at the event.



We're going to Ontario on January 16th for the birth of our seventh grandchild and not coming back till about February 7th, but I'll have my computer there and hope to get the next newsletter out at something like its usual time. Maybe I'll include baby photos! Meanwhile, here are the snowy ones.



Anne

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In closing this issue, I want to keep a resolution I made last year at this time. I decided that (no more than once annually) I would draw your attention to the formal Individual Members Programme of the Canadian Unitarian Council. This newsletter is, as you know, a very informal and non-official network of people who want to make connections with other Unitarian/Universalists who may in some cases not have easy access to a UU congregation. There are no dues and no requirements. Some of you may want to consider, in addition, becoming a recognized Individual Member of the CUC, making contributions as you would to a congregation, and being included among Canada's identified Unitarians*Universalists.

Here's the relevant piece from the CUC website, and I encourage you to consider membership.

“For those who can't be active in a congregation, because of distance or for other reasons, and yet wish to support and identify with the Canadian Unitarian and Universalist community and partake in its activities, there are options available [such as: Become an Individual Member of the CUC]

As an Individual Member, you will receive the quarterly Canadian Unitarian newsletter CanU, receive information about regional and annual meetings, resolutions, etc., have access to the CUC lending library and CUC email lists (including the “IMaUU” newsletter) and enjoy, if you wish, the right to participate in the CUC through meetings, committees and groups, along with possible voting delegate status (1 delegate for every 10 individual members).

Candidates for Individual Membership fill out an application form and make an individual annual donation directly to the CUC. Just as for members of congregations, it is suggested that the annual donation should be at least equal to the per-member Fair Share annual program contribution (2009 = \$ 91.69). In return, members have the satisfaction of knowing that they are a supporting member of Unitarian Universalism in Canada. Membership is official when the Board accepts the application, and is maintained by respecting the covenant of membership and making the annual contribution. The membership 'year' is the calendar year. Membership is normally for life unless the member fails to pay an annual membership contribution, or resigns in writing, or has membership revoked for cause by the Board.

All donations to CUC from individuals receive a charitable donation tax receipt. Donations of a greater amount than the minimum 'fair share' are certainly appropriate and welcome. (For example, some members may give 1% or more of gross family income, as they would to a local congregation.) Such extra donations qualify the member also as a Friend of the CUC, one of a group of several hundred such supporters who make donations directly to the CUC.”

[Application for CUC Individual Membership
http://www.cuc.ca/programs/ind_members_2004.pdf](http://www.cuc.ca/programs/ind_members_2004.pdf)

(Please note: personally, I like being a recognized CUC member, since I can't now be active in a congregation, but it's a completely individual decision and **will not affect your participation in this network.**)

Till next time,

Warmly, Anne