

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

We freely gather to explore spirituality, truth and meaning in our lives, and to provide a base for our children's spiritual growth. We welcome the free exchange of ideas in an environment of respect for diverse beliefs, backgrounds and theologies. We join together in fellowship to celebrate our uniqueness as individuals and to reach out to our community guided by the principles of Unitarian Universalism.

A QUICK UPDATE FROM THE TREASURER

I hope you had a good Christmas and that you are ready for another year full of goodies.

Pledges For The 2012 Financial Year

Starting off with the positive: Thanks everyone for their generous pledges for this upcoming year!

Then the challenging part: the total amount of pledged donations for this year is lower than it has been in the past 4 years. But the actual donations may still pleasantly surprise us, as it has done in the past. ☺

Tax Receipts For 2011

The planning is to have the tax receipts out the second half of January. Please contact me if you expect a tax receipt and have not received it by early February.

2012 Budget Meeting

We are planning another early Budget meeting in February were the projected income and expenses for 2012 can be approved by the congregation – and then confirmed at our Annual General Meeting (AGM) in April. The final date for the Budget approval meeting will be communicated via the eGroup and announcements during the upcoming services.

Again, thank you for your support so far, and your continued support in the year to come!

- Nardo Kuitert, Treasurer



Sinterklaas in Fergus!!!



Last December our congregation got a surprise visit from Sinterklaas. He came all the way from Holland to see if the children in Canada were behaving well. The children seemed to enjoy his short stop at our church! Sinterklaas is now recuperating from all his travels and is back in Spain with all his

WHO YA GONNA CALL?

President	Leigh Brownhill
Vice President	Ineke Booy
Lay Chaplain	Ellen Papenburg
Secretary	Kelsye Coulter
Treasurer	Nardo Kuitert
Sunday Services	Jim Sannes
Social Action	Terisa Turner
Communications	Louisa Kuitert



UPCOMING POD DUTIES

POD #1 Kelsye* & Paul, Carolyn & Frank
Dates: Jan. 15, Feb. 12, Mar. 11, Apr. 8, May 6, June 3

POD #2 Chris*, Ellen & Jim, Leigh & Terisa
Dates: Jan. 22, Feb. 19, Mar. 18, Apr. 15, May 13

POD #3 Deborah*, Margaret, Ineke, Margie, Janice & Bill
Dates: Jan. 29, Feb. 26, Mar. 25, Apr. 22, May 20

POD #4 Anna* & Don, Louisa & Nardo, Kate
Dates: Jan. 8, Feb. 5, Mar. 4, Apr. 1, Apr. 29, May 27

* denotes contact person for the POD

LIVE MUSIC BY
RELATIVE HARMONY
CALLER: JUDY GREENHILL



ELORA FERGUS CONTRA DANCING



Friday January 27th, 2012
Friday February 24th, 2012
Friday March 30th, 2012
Friday April 27th, 2012
Friday May 25th, 2012
Friday June 22nd, 2012

8:00 to 10:30pm
Highland Rugby Club Field House
150 Albert Street West, Fergus
Admission \$10 per person at the door

Contra is similar to square dancing but not as dorky. It is lots of fun and a good workout for the body and the brain. If you can walk briskly and tell your right hand from your left, you can contra!

No partner or previous experience necessary!

For further information contact Janice Ferri: 519-843-9971
or visit www.efuuc.org and click on contra dance.

*Mark your calendars...
it's Contra Dance time!*

WHAT I'M READING

I became interested in new developments in brain research after reading Norman Doidge's fascinating book, "The Brain That Changes Itself." Brain plasticity is the main theme of the book—how the structure and function of the brain can be altered by mental experience. Doidge describes new treatments for brain, psychiatric, emotional and learning problems. He notes that the discovery of brain plasticity is one of the most important changes in our understanding of the brain in 400 years.

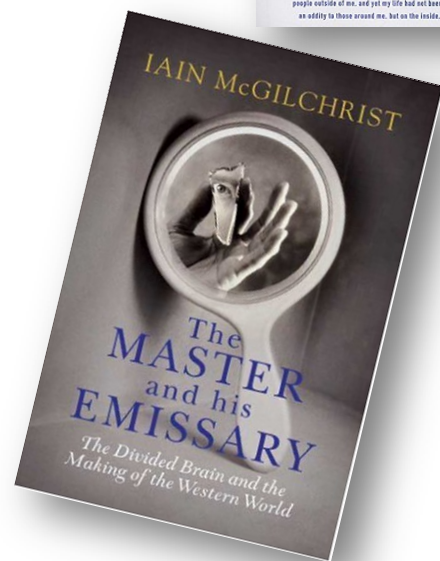
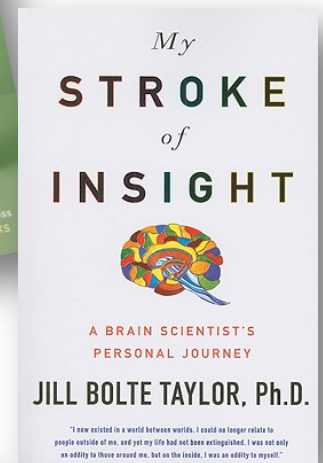
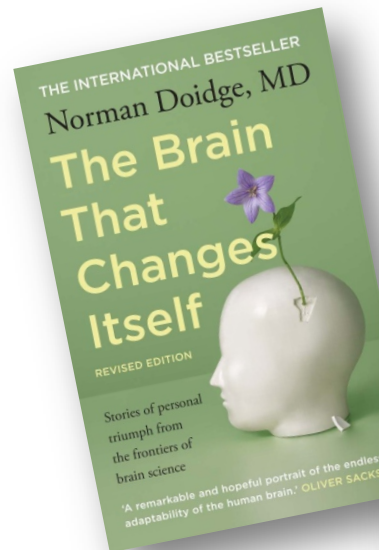
Next I read Jill Bolte Taylor's book, "My Stroke of Insight." This book describes her massive stroke in her left brain at age 37 and her 8 year recovery. What is unique about this book is that Jill Bolte Taylor was a brain researcher who could merge her vast knowledge of the brain with her personal experience. One of the points she makes is that our health system gives up on people too soon after a stroke, but for me, one of the best features of this book is her description of living almost solely out of her right brain due to massive damage in the left brain. "My right mind is open to the eternal flow whereby I exist at one with the universe. It is the seat of the divine mind, the knower, the wise woman and the observer. It is my intuition and my higher consciousness."

On my list to read in 2012 is "The Master and his Emissary: The Divided Brain and the Making of the Western World" by Iain McGilchrist. The author examines how each brain hemisphere has a different point of view about the world. The right brain, experiencing the world more directly and as a seamless whole, is actually the Master.

The left brain is its Emissary, meant to serve the Master by problem solving in a concrete way and developing maps of the world. Individuals and society as a whole benefit, when there is a

balance between the two sides of the brain. Unfortunately, in our time, the left brain, the Emissary, has become too dominant, inhibits the right brain and thinks itself the Master. Thus creativity, spontaneity and feelings of connection with each other and with the natural world are stifled while society and our culture become more and more mechanized.

- Janice Ferri



SIEBREN'S BOOK REVIEW

Hi, my name is Siebren and I will be writing about one of my favorite books. It is called Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief and it is the first book of a series of five. The author is Rick Riordan.

In this book the main character (Percy Jackson) finds out his father is an ancient Greek god. At Camp Half-Blood, a camp for demi-gods, he finds himself in between a two God battle. One, the great King God Zeus, demands that his master bolt must be returned from Poseidon, which he thinks stole it from him. But since Poseidon said he did not steel it, and since gods cannot intervene with other gods, Zeus eventually came to the conclusion that a demi-god must have stolen it. He now suspects Percy is the thief. Percy only has three days until the summer solstice to prove his innocence, or else Zeus and Poseidon will go to war, destroying humanity in the process.

This book is a suspenseful, exiting, emotion filled and adventurous action packed book that keeps readers wanting more of. It is also perfectly

paced with many electrifying moments and in the meantime teaches you a lot about Greek and Roman mythology.

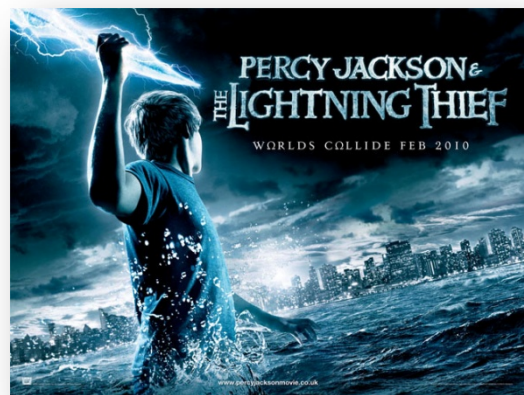
I hope you will start reading the Percy Jackson book series and enjoy it as much as I did.

Other books by Rick Riordan:

Percy Jackson and the Olympians
The Heroes of Olympus
The Kane Chronicles

For more information about the author, go to www.rickriordan.com.

- *Siebren Kuitert*



Some funny jokes:

Why can't UUs sing very well in choirs? Because they're always reading ahead to see if they agree with the next verse.

A Unitarian is just a Quaker with Attention Deficit Disorder.

You might be a UU if...

- ★ when you dress for a formal evening out you wear a little black dress, pearls—and Birkenstocks (and your wife thinks you look great!)
- ★ you get mail from committees you didn't know you were on.
- ★ you think the Holy Trinity is "reduce, reuse and recycle."



YOUNG CHILDREN'S LITERATURE

Why are some children's books truly excellent, hugely popular and as time and decades pass, endure? There are several factors but one over-riding reason is that these books were most often written and were illustrated by individuals of **real** literary and **artistic capability** and achievement.

There is a huge body of evidence of the benefits to children language development in the simple act of being read to regularly by a caring and loved adult. Perhaps best of all these books awaken a memory of having someone all to ourselves, being held and together entering a beautiful fantasy.

Our Book List

Suggested ages are just a *very* general guide. Thanks to the Unitarians who added favourite titles to this list. Many more books could be added to this list but here's a great start:

Orange Pear Apple Bear text and illustrations by Emily Gravett---- infant – 2 yrs
Goodnight Moon by Margaret Wise Brown; illustrations by Clement Hurd---- infant – 3 yrs
Yellow Moon Apple Moon by Pamela Porter; illustrations by Matt James---- infant – 3 yrs
Big Red Barn by Margaret Wise Brown---- infant – 3 yrs
Stick Man by Julia Donaldson; illustrations by Axel Scheffler---- 2 yrs – 5 yrs
Something From Nothing text and illustrations by Phoebe Gilman---- 2 yrs – 5 yrs
The Paper Bag Princess by Robert Munsch; illustrations by M. Martchenko---- 2 yrs – 6 yrs
Wherever You Are text and illustrations by Nancy Tillman---- 2 yrs – 6 yrs
A Peacock on the Roof text & illustrations by Paul Adshhead---- 2 yrs – 6 yrs
The Snail and the Whale by Julia Donaldson; illustrated by Axel Scheffler---- 3 yrs – 6 yrs
Edward the Emu by Sheena Knowles, illustrations by Rod Clement---- 3 yrs – 6 yrs
Mrs Katz and Tush text & illustrations by Patricia Polacco---- 3 yrs – 9 yrs
Owl Lake text and illustrations by Keizaburo Tejima---- 3 yrs – 9 yrs
The Three Questions written & illustrated by Jon Muth---- 4 yrs – 9 yrs
Frederick text & illustrations by Leo Lionni---- 4 yrs – 9 yrs
Thidwick the Big-Hearted Moose by Dr Seuss---- 5 yrs and up
M is for Moose text & illustrations by Charles Pachter---- 5 yrs and up
Where the Wild Things Are by Maurice Sendack---- 4 yrs and up
Brundibar retold by Tony Kushner; illustrations by Maurice Sendack---- 4 yrs and up
The Cremation of Sam McGee by Robert Service; illustrated by Ted Harrison---- 5 yrs and up
The Hockey Sweater by Roch Carrier; illustrations by Sheldon Cohen---- 6 yrs and up
Sami and the Time of Troubles by Florence Parry Heide; illustrated by Lewin---- 6 yrs and up
Wind in the Willows by Kenneth Graham (published in 1908!)---- 9 yrs and up
To Everything There is a Season by Alistair MacLeod--- 9 yrs – 93 yrs!
Paulus de Boskabouter & De Eikelmanneltjes text & illustrations by Jean Dulieu--- 10 yrs and up

Maybe we can keep adding to this list each year!

- Carolyn Crozier

