

nouvelles estrie news



December-January 2010-2011 décembre-janvier

Events this Month

All Sunday services start at 10:00 am unless otherwise specified.
We have an active children's program during our Sunday service, at which all children are warmly welcome

December 5

Ms. Rachel Garber

“Passage to India”

Personal reflections on Carl Jung and the Advaita tradition.

Service Leader: Rachel Garber

Musician: Pat Bird

Coffee Convenor: Mary-Ann McCarron

Flower Convenor: Ann Rothfels

followed by a wonderful turkey potluck supper downstairs in Stoddard Hall, as we do every year.

Friends and friends of friends are more than welcome to this special UU musical presentation of the Spirit of Christmas.

Coordinators: Jane Gowman, Rev. Carole, and others

Music coordinator: Laurent Hubert

Supper Convenor: Gudrun Brand and Lucie Craft

3:00 pm BENEFIT CONCERT for UU Estrie Roof Fund

CHOEUR DES SANGS MÊLÉS returns with a Christmas concert titled *"Joies et Douceurs des Fêtes"*. Suggested donation \$10 per person.

A cornucopia of a cappella songs from around the globe, in celebration of light, peace, life renewed, and the joy of being together! To fully savour this joy, the singers invite you to join them for a festive snack after the concert.

Le Choeur des Sangs Mêlés vous invite à partager "Joies et douceurs des Fêtes", un festin de chansons a cappella du monde entier qui célèbrent la lumière, la paix, la vie renouvelée... et la joie d'être ensemble! Pour savourer ce bonheur pleinement, les chanteuses vous invitent à partager une collation festive après le concert.

December 12, 4:00 pm

“Spirit of the Christmas Tree”

Our annual Christmas Pageant and Turkey Potluck

The intergenerational (i.e., starring the children) pageant presentation upstairs in the sanctuary will be

December 19, 4:30 pm

Rev. Carole Martignacco

“Christmas Carols and Candlelight”

A service of poetry, readings, song and story celebrating the season, followed by a hearty Wassail – with even more singing!

Service Leader: Reine Gagnon

Musician: Jaime Dunton, Jane Gowman

Coffee Convenor: Mary Lynn Ross

Flower Convenor: Ann Rothfels

December 26 – January 2

No Services

UUEstrie will be dark these days, in honour of one of the natural spirits of the season - hibernation. Services will resume on Sunday, January 9, 2011 at 10 am.

January 9

Ms. Sooky Dunton

“Our Moral Landscape”

The first instalment of a three-part series discussing the book of the same title by Sam Harris. Sam Harris' basic thesis is that there is an objective, scientific way to evaluate and compare different moralities, and that moral relativism is bunk. A short presentation will lead

into active round table discussions among all present.

Flower Convenor: Ann Rothfels

January 16

Ann Rothfels

“Mini Festival of Stories”

An annual tradition at UUEstrie. On this Sunday each year we take our spiritual nourishment entirely in the form of Story, featuring tellers from the Townships Tellers.

Nothing takes us close to truth in quite the way story does--close to the truth and close to the heart.

Le conte dévoile l'essence de l'être-humain.

Service Leader: Keith Baxter

Flower Convenor: Ann Rothfels

January 23

Rev. Carole Martignacco

“Whose Are We?”

There is a thread that runs through everything, informing and h\shaping who we are and what we reach toward. We will share our faith by taking a deeper look at what calls us to live a life of meaning and purpose.

Flower Convenor: Ann Rothfels

January 30

To be Anounced

February 6

Dr. Harvey White

“God Is Not ...”

"God" suffers a lot of doubt and criticism, especially, but not only, by Unitarian Universalists. Attempts to describe what one means by 'God', or the existence and nature of something called 'God', are fraught with argument and contradiction. Can some of the venerables of theological thought help us out?

Harvey White, professor of religion at Bishop's University, returns to our pulpit to reflect on so-called negative theology's contribution to the discussion.

Service Leader: Keith Baxter

Flower Convenor: Ann Rothfels



My perception/view of my experience of the Montreal UU church

When I went to church in Montreal, I was filled with curiosity. There were more Unitarian Universalists? And upon entering the building I learned there were MANY more, I was in disbelief. Though I still had curiosity, I was also amazed at all the new things. For instance, the seven principles had colours? who would have guessed? not me. I also learned that there was an item representing each colour, the colours representing the principles and then the principles representing other things. And one of the other things I learned was that Unitarian-Universalism is derived from many sources, and two of the larger ideas or religions that UU takes from today is Judaism and Christianity. All these items, colours, principles and interesting information of the UU is just the beginning of the things there. I myself have never really believed in anything strongly, only that being peaceful is the ultimate goal in life. And so I joined Unitarian Universalism because it was a group of people, not many, just having fun and eating food. To have others sharing the idea of peace of mind and fun times all the time is not only boiling my curiosity of what's different there, but also that we live in a small world, and I am very glad to be in this part of our universe...

Sam Savage

Ed.note: Sam is 11 years old and a regular participant in our Children's Religious Exploration at UUEstrie. He already has his part picked out in our upcoming Christmas pageant. He attended the Sunday Service/Sunday School at the ERG in Montreal on November 7, 2010



Migration

Lorsque j'assiste au regroupement des outardes et des oies blanches sur le lac de Martinville à l'automne, il me semble être témoin d'un phénomène grandiose et d'une intense harmonie.

Toutes ces oies (des centaines? des milliers?) si bien ensemble qui pataugent, discutent, jacassent en un doux et calme tintamarre. Que dire aussi de ces voiliers qui décollent et amerrissent dans un ballet qui ne cessent qu'au coucher du soleil. Comme autant d'essais pour tester et ajuster la collaboration de chacun en temps de vol.

Le mystère de cette harmonie sonore et du mouvement me transporte toujours dans un état d'admiration et de profonde méditation.

Bon voyage, gens ailés
Le vent du nord s'est réveillé
Envolez-vous vers d'autres saisons
La neige se prépare à débarquer

Aider de vos amis, Accepter du soutien
Ramer l'air en accord pour aller plus plus loin
Un pour tous, tous pour un à la conquête du vent
Un pour tous, tous pour un à la conquête du vent

Vous voir si nombreux si bien ensemble
Réchauffe mon coeur, le remplit de bonheur
Vous voir si nombreux, si bien ensemble
Je plonge dans mon âme, songe à vos valeurs

De l'aube au crépuscule au-dessus des têtes
Grands voiliers qui clament à tue-tête
Un pour tous, tous pour un à la conquête du vent
Un pour tous, tous pour un à la conquête du vent

Bon courage, gens ailés
Le vent du nord s'est réveillé
Allez vers vos amours, votre vie
Et à votre retour, j'y serai, pardi !

Laurent

Words from well known people

Aime la vérité mais pardonne à l'erreur.
Voltaire, Discours en vers sur l'homme, De la liberté

Il n'importe guère qu'un être soit croyant ou non:
il est beaucoup plus important qu'il soit bon.
Dalai-Lama, "Sagesse ancienne, monde moderne"

Ce n'est pas en regardant la lumière qu'on devient lumineux, mais en plongeant dans son obscurité.
Gustav Jung

(Il y a) un certain respect qui nous attache, et un général devoir d'humanité, non aux bêtes seulement qui ont vie et sentiment, mais aux arbres et aux plantes.

Montaigne, Essais, II, 11

(contributed by Laurant)

Gifts that Grow

From the Unitarian Service Committee comes a suggestion you might want to consider this holiday season. Through the USC you can offer a 'Gift that Grows' to family and friends while helping people in the global south. Through USC projects you can also help support farmers' rights and biodiversity. For information on this, go to www.usc-canada.org/giftsthatgrow.

Adele Ernstrom

Further perspectives on "Golf Is Life".

A recent study found the average golfer walks about 900 miles a year.

Another study found golfers drink, on average, 22 gallons of alcohol a Year.

That means, on average, golfers get about 41 miles to the gallon.

Kind of makes you proud. Almost feel like a hybrid.

- KB

Like Water for Spices:

A UU Journey to SOUTH INDIA

Sitting quietly amid temples, spices, & backwaters -

from the Bay of Bengal to the Arabian Sea

March 11 27, 2011

For details: www.nuuc.ca



Minister's Reflection - Carole's Column

*"In the quiet spaces of
my mind a thought lies
still, but ready to spring.*

*It begs me to open the
door so it can walk
about.*

*The poets speak in
obscure terms pointing madly at the unsayable.*

*The sages say nothing, but walk ahead patting
their thigh calling for us to follow.*

*The monk sits pen in hand poised to explain the
cloud of unknowing.*

*The seeker seeks, just around the corner from
the truth.*

If she stands still it will catch up with her.

Pause with us here a while.

Put your ear to the wall of your heart."

Excerpt from "What's In The
Temple?" – a poem by Tom Barrett

We sang, we walked, we talked, we played, shared meals, ideas, and resources, we laughed and cried, we were silent and alone, together. We spoke of our lives, personal and professional, celebrating accomplishments, exploring with each other the challenges, looking for the growing or transformative edges. We inspired, counseled, and affirmed each other, listened, offered comfort and support, listened again and heard more deeply. We spoke of our own needs in the places we serve, and we considered the needs of the many and the work of our UU movement as a whole. We shared greetings and news of colleagues not present. We studied new national programs and policies, and reviewed professional guidelines and ethical standards for our work together. We took turns leading worship and blessing each other, being blessed.

We arrived out of many separate lives and ministries, as does any congregation on a Sunday morning anywhere, a congregation of ministers, gathering the spirit and power. We left knowing each other more deeply inter-connected, holding each other's lives as part of our own.

A brief glimpse inside a ministers' retreat would offer a few strong clues about what keeps this diverse group of UU spiritual leaders going. We met at a spacious and beautiful retreat centre in the rolling hills of Northumbrian Heights east of Toronto, in Cobourg, Ontario – 18 ministers from the Central and Eastern regions of the CUC world. Literature available at the centre, and activities scheduled, gave evidence of an interfaith focus, and we felt immediately at home.

And beyond any differences, that's what we are when we are together – immediately at home, recognized by our colleagues, whoever is present welcoming those retired or new to the group – students or newly arrived in Canada, recently installed in new ministries. We represented a wide range of commitment – from those still in training to those reflecting upon a lifetime of service, serving congregations or community agencies. We are at home with each other, we who share a calling.

The theme for this fall's gathering was "Whose Are We?" A question we might all ask ourselves, not just those in ministry. To what do you belong - what calls you forth, to do your work in the world, how are you called, in what ways has the meaning and sense of what you do become known to you throughout the details of your lives. As ministers, we shared our stories of how we were called to this faith, and to this movement, a lifetime of service. This is soul-changing, spirited work. We speak of shared ministry, how we gather together the gifts of our religious community, to serve each other and to reach beyond, extending outward toward the needs of the community and our world.

And I believe it helps us all to know what we are in service to. Not just those of us called to the ministry as a life's work, but all who minister throughout their lives in whatever path they've chosen. What larger vision or energy or source of meaning has drawn us forward, upheld us in times of trial, through the noise and busy-ness of our lives, in and with us when alone, through the silent, unwitnessed moments of deep challenge and faithful commitment. Together, we will explore our own answers to this question. You are invited to do this – Jan. 23rd in the new year.

May you be blessed – Rev. Carole

Denominational affairs

If you are a member, you get the Canadian Unitarian newsletter. On-line readers can access current and past issues at <http://www.cuc.ca/newsletter/canu.htm>

February 4

“Mid-winter Retreat”

UUs from the Greater Toronto Area plus friends from all over are invited to a weekend of pleasant reflection on a variety of topics, at a retreat centre outside Toronto, from Feb 4 - 6. Details available in January.

People, Get Ready for December 12

Hello everybody,

Sunday the 21st of November we had our first meeting as the UUestrie Christmas Choir 2010. Song materials based on "Spirit of the Christmas Tree" by Joyce Poley was visited and rehearsal started.

Concert will occur the 12 of December.

It is still time to join the choir. Rehearsals will follow the coffee hour for the next two Sundays at the basement of the church. That means around 11h45~12h up to 13h.

Also we are looking for a very strong singer who is willing to sing "Sing Glory Allelu" as a very solid Black spiritual.

Children will play as actors and may sing, while most of the songs will be sung by adults.

For more info: laurent.r.hubert@gmail.com

Thanks

Laurent

The Unitarian Universalist United Nations Office invites you to the 2011 **Intergenerational Spring Seminar on Women's Rights.**

Save the date:

April 28-30, 2011 (Youth arrival on April 27)

Presumably in New York.

For information: www.uu-uno.org

Congregational Meeting

All members and friends of UUEstrie are hereby called to a brief special General Meeting of the Congregation, to be held at 11:30 am on Sunday, January 30, 2011.

The agenda includes :

1. Ratification of France Thibault's appointment as lay chaplain.
2. A report on the extensive capital expenditures involved in the parsonage renovations and improved drainage systems between the church building and the parsonage.
A resolution is sought authorizing these expenditures.
3. Possibly, the adoption of a new logo.

Visitors and friends welcome to this meeting, membership is required to vote. Membership has no age limit, but you must be 14 to vote.

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Minister's Office Hours
Tuesday & Thursday, 2:30 – 4:30 pm
Please respect the Minister's sabbath, Sunday
afternoon and Monday.
For emergency pastoral care, phone:
1. Rev. Carole
2. Sooky Dunton
3. Joyce Booth



Calendar and Schedule

SUN	5	10:00AM	SERVICE: RACHEL GARBER
		11:30AM	LOGO SURVEY
TUES	7	9:30AM	GRANNIES WORKSHOP
		9:00AM	PROGRAMME COMTE.
		7:00PM	BOARD MEETING
SAT	11	1-4 PM	PAGEANT REHERSAL, SETUP
SUN	12	4:00PM	PAGEANT & POTLUCK
SUN	19	4:30PM	CAROLE'S CAROL SERVICE
JANUARY			
TUES	4	7:00PM	NAMELESS ONES GROUP
SUN	9	10:00AM	SERVICE: SOOKY DUNTON
SUN	16	10:00AM	STORY TELLING
FRI	21	9:30AM	NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE
SUN	23	10:00AM	SERVICE: REV. CAROLE
SUN	30	10:00AM	SERVICE: TBA
		11:30AM	GENERAL MEETING

Board of Trustees

You have elected this board to take care of business, please discuss your hopes and concerns with any member:

Keith Baxter	President
Adele Ernstrom	Vice-President
Mary-Ann McCarron	Secretary
Rachel Garber	Treasurer
Howard Hale	Member at large
Lin Jensen	Member at large

This is your newsletter !!!

Next issue of Newsletter is February 2011

Deadline: **January 20.**

*Please send photos, or write your contribution on paper, parchment, or computer. Send to the newsletter committee in person or **by upload** through the church directory. If you must use email, send to newsletter@uuestrie.ca.*