

nouvelles news

March 2011 mars



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

March 6

Mr. Keith Baxter

“The Restoration of Religion”

Religion wants to be a force for Good in the World.
And it succeeds sometimes, but fails a lot, too. What
is needed to restore Religion to its real purpose in
life?

Service Leader: Keith Baxter

Coffee Convenor: Hélène Cunningham

Flower Convenor: Ann Rothfels

March 13

Lindsay-Jane Gowman

“The Spirit of Play”

An intergenerational service! We shall remember how
to play, and how beautiful and important play is, by
interacting with all the children in our spiritual
community in various forms of play. Getting to know
each child, and their getting to know each of the
adults, will be a lovely blessing on the side.

Lindsay-Jane Gowman is the Coordinator of
Children's Religious and Spiritual Exploration at
UUEstrie.

Service Leader: Keith Baxter

Coffee Convenor: Howard Hale

Flower Convenor: Ann Rothfels

March 20

Ms. Sooky Dunton

“Our Moral Landscape”

The concluding episode in this three-part mini-series
of discussions of the ideas of Mr. Sam Harris, as
described in his book of the same title. A short

presentation followed by active round-table discussion
by all those present. Join us. (Part one took place on
January 23rd, Part 2 on Feb. 20.)

Carole returns today to active service at UUEstrie,
from 4 weeks of light duties, known as her study
month.

Service Leader: Carole Martignacco

Coffee Convenor: Joyce Booth

Flower Convenor: Ann Rothfels

March 25, 5:30 pm

“Pledge Dinner”

Our annual Pledge Dinner. Food supplied to all
members and friends of UUEstrie by your loyal Board
of Trustees. Vegetarian and gluten-free dishes
available. Children welcome. Come on out, the supper
is free and the entertainment is always worth the price
of admission.

More info on pledging \$ to the church, and budgets for
the new fiscal year that begins May 1, will be available
closer to the date.

Service Leader: Finance Committee

March 27

Ms. Sue Montgomery

“Update on Haiti”

Sue Montgomery, journalist for the Montreal Gazette,
returns to UU Estrie to give us her impressions of post-
election changes in Haiti, and will share a slide show
from all three of her trips there last year. A special
collection will be taken to help support the orphanage
Maison enfants d'espoir and other Haitian projects.

Service Leader: Carole Martignacco
 Coffee Convenor: Lucie Craft
 Flower Convenor: Ann Rothfels

April 3

Ms. Kelly McDowell **“Stuck in the Mud?”**

2011 marks the 50th anniversary of the Canadian Unitarian Council, the national association of Unitarian and Universalist Congregations in Canada. It is also a decade into a new millennium.

How we frame our UU story is critical to our character, attitude, and effectiveness. Kelly will reflect on our Canadian UU movement, the insights and engagement needed to keep it unstuck and moving. (If a movement gets stuck can it still be called a movement?)

Kelly is Congregational Services Coordinator for CUC Eastern Region. She met several from North Hatley at the Eastern Fall Gathering in Montreal November 2010. She will meet with us today for a Visioning Workshop.

UU Estrie Visioning Workshop -Noon to 2:30 p.m. All members and friends are encouraged to meet with Kelly McDowell, of the CUC who will vision with us, and help us imagine a future for our dynamic spiritual community. A beans and salad luncheon follows the service. All are welcome.

Service Leader: Keith Baxter
 Coffee Convenor: Kevin Jensen
 Flower Convenor: Ann Rothfels

Where were you on **Snow Day**? Snow day? Yes Snow Day; it happens about once every 3 years, typically a Sunday in Winter. (No Snow Days in summer.) Apologies to France and Hubert who were unreachable on the road to church before the Sunday service was officially called off about 8:15 am. My friend Harvey White, the scheduled speaker, understood, and took a Snow Day too. He will be back on April 17. But Snow Day discombobulated my day somewhat, I must admit.

(Meanwhile, Crazy Carole drove like a demon to Montreal *in the storm to do the service up there.*)

Keith

Free Friday Night Supper

All members and friends of UUEstrie, you are invited to sup together on **Friday, 25 March, 5:30 pm, in Stoddard Hall**. You bring nothing but your good hearts and voices (well, maybe a wallet or a completed pledge form, too, if you like). Your Board will feed you and your family. For free. For it is our annual spring Pledge Dinner. Entertainment by Fincle. More information to follow, nearer the date.

Building a Vocal Community

Unitarian Church of Montreal is hosting a wonderful singing workshop on the weekend of April 1-3. Cost is \$110 and includes lunch on Saturday and Sunday. This will be a dynamite experience for all who treat themselves to it. Registration materials are not available. -- Keith

Workshop Schedule: Friday, April 1, 7-10 p.m.; Saturday, April 2, 10 am - 1 pm and 2 - 5 pm; Sunday, April 3: 9:30 am Vocal warm-up, 10:30 am Sunday service with workshop participants, 12:30 pm - 2 pm workshop.

Diane Rollert, UCM minister, writes: Whether you are a singer or a non-singer, this is an amazing opportunity. Ysaye Barnwell, who is a founding member of Sweet Honey in the Rock, has a magical way of inspiring diverse groups of people to sing in glorious harmony as she introduces the heart, soul and history of African American music and the tradition of creating vocal communities. I can tell you that singing with Ysaye always makes my heart sing!

I am centered from within.

*Approach it and there is no beginning:
 follow it and there is no end.
 You can't know it, but you can be it,
 at ease in your own life.*

Lao Tsu



Minister's Reflection - Carole's Column

"The spirit of playful competition is, as a social impulse, older than culture itself and pervades all life like a veritable ferment.

Ritual grew up in sacred play; poetry

was born in play and nourished on play; music and dancing were pure play....We have to conclude, therefore, that civilization is, in its earliest phases, played. It does not come from play...it arises in and as play, and never leaves it."

- *Johan Huizinga, in Homo Ludens: A Study of the Play-Element in Culture*

Sacred play! The foundation of all ritual and art and culture. How often do we think of play as central to being human?

Typically, it's what we do for leisure, in our "down time". We take time to play when we're not engaged in more important things, such as the real work of the world. Yet as tourist, sports, or toy industries can attest, play in contemporary culture can be important business. We know that a healthy life - mentally, physically, and spiritually - is one that balances stress and achievement with adequate time for recreation. Re-creation, in effect, is one of the significant features of play – we literally create ourselves and restore our balance in the process of being playful – with ideas, within our own spirits, and with each other.

Playing with the idea of play, I discovered the name Huizinga, quoted above, a Dutch linguist and historian (1872-1945) who first coined the phrase "homo ludens" – the playful humans. His premise was that our scientific name for ourselves, "homo sapiens" – the thinking humans - tells only a partial story. Writing during the rise of Nazi Germany before the computer age, he predicted a time when life would largely be taken over by robots and other intelligent machines. What then would distinguish humans from other life forms, he proposed, would be not just our intelligence (which relies more and more upon technology) but our ability to play. Beyond competitive sports or childhood games, at the heart of being

human is our very "spirit of play" - all the many ways in which we inventively engage with life and the world around us. What makes us human, what is distinctive about us, is as much our ability to play as to think. Indeed, the human imagination at play has created entire civilizations and invented the world in which we live.

Play has been called the work of childhood. Children play at reality as a way of experimenting with life, trying on various ways of being, exploring and developing identity and purpose. Yet any true understanding of human nature does not relegate play as childish. Anyone who has ever engaged in the creative or performing arts, or struggled to learn to "play" an instrument, knows the joy and effort we put into play can help reconnect body and spirit, and help us feel whole. There is a sense in which we need to play in order to be real. Diane Ackerman in *Deep Play* tells of the significance of deep play versus simple play. She cites a minister friend of hers who tells his congregation: "To play at something is to fully engage it, to have a role in something much larger than us, to be part of the script, to be part of the play, to be part of the action." Even prayer loses its vitality, he says, when it becomes too proper, serious, and somber (!).

What role do you give play in your life? What role does it play in the life of our church family? In a spirit of fun, how do we celebrate the gift of children among us, who in their play remind us of the joy of being alive. These questions came up in a recent meeting of the committee on Religious Exploration, as we "toyed" with designing opportunities for old and young to mix, to simply enjoy each other. It was, you might imagine, a playful discussion that gave rise to the idea of honouring the gift of children among us with a special service in which we play, as well as "pray" together.

March 13th the UU estrie children's program invites you to join in the fun, and bring a light heart and playful spirit. In a coffeehouse format, with a variety of games - and plenty of cookies and juice for the young and young at heart – we will make time in our lives to celebrate the point at which all ages intersect, and simply enjoy ourselves and being together. Thus elevating play to a joyful sacred activity!

May you be blessed – Rev. Carole

News from the Unitarian Universalist United Nations Office

Extra-Judicial Killing Resolution

Bruce Knotts, Executive Director

On December 21, thanks to your efforts, the UN General Assembly voted to include "sexual orientation" in its resolution against extra-judicial killing among its long list of vulnerable populations that deserve particular protection. UN pundits called the victory the result of "top-down pressure from the United States and bottom-up pressure from civil society." In case you don't recognize yourselves, you are the "bottom-up pressure from civil society" that won the day. The final vote in favor of including "sexual orientation" was 93 in favor, 55 opposed, 27 abstaining and 17 absent. Many of you copied me on the messages you sent to the White House. On December 13th, 2010, the UU-UNO, working together with GLAAD, the MetropolitanCommunity Church, Integrity and Union Theological Seminary formed a coalition of 60 representatives of people of progressive values of faith and our allies. We call ourselves the UN Coalition of Faith. We all went out to our constituencies and called on your to write to the White House. You did and it made a difference. It encouraged the Obama Administration to do the right thing. It also put other nations on notice that civil society was watching and active. Caribbean that want North American tourists and developing nations that want North American investment took notice and switched their votes at the UN in favor of the inclusion of sexual orientation" or they abstained.

Women and Climate Change

We have a tendency to view issues in silos. The world really isn't like that. We all have multiple identities and concerns and we cannot be completely defined by only one of our characteristics. Recently I participated in a very interesting faith-based discussion of women and climate change. We highlighted how climate change impacts women more than men. Over much of the world, it is the duty of women to fund and carry water. As water becomes more scarce, women walk further to find it and carry it home, putting them at greater risk to be targeted by violence. Such stories can be found

in Holy Scripture and the same sad and tragic attacks happen today. We are in the planning stages for our Intergenerational Spring Seminar April 28-30 entitled *Empowering Women for a Better World*. As we examine the rights of women, we will intersect these concerns with other cross-cutting issues such as climate change, race, poverty, women's mortality, health care and others. I encourage you to explore issues as parts of a greater whole. I have often struggled to find word to capture our work in a holistic way. My answer is that we work to provide a safe and dignified life for everyone.

Intergenerational Spring Seminar

Every April, youth and adults from all over North America travel to New York City to attend the [.UU-UNO Intergenerational Spring Seminar](#) The Spring Seminar provides a valuable opportunity for participants to gain a deep understanding on a topic of global concern in a fun intergenerational environment. At this year's seminar **"Empower Women for A Better World"** taking place **April 28-30** participants will engage with crucial issues affecting women throughout the globe.

Sooky Dunton writes:

A few years ago, some of our congregation plus a couple of ladies from CFUW, rented a van and attended the above spring seminar. We all had an interesting time which included a tour of the UN with a peek into the deliberations of some of the meetings. Plus a poverty supper at a UU Church near the UN site. We also got to see some of a very exciting city. Another time we took part in a service in the chapel coordinated by Bruce Knotts, who is our executive director at the U.N. and a very dynamic part of that organization. If anyone is interested in attending this seminar, please contact Sooky Dunton and we can see if a junket can be arranged. It seems that there is a lot of negative feelings about the efforts of the UN, but I feel that it is only as effective as the effort we are willing to give it.

Their web site is www.uu-uno.org for more news.

FOR CANADIANS:

If you would like to represent the UU-UNO at an event in your CUC region [let us know!](#) Mail to: envoycoordinator@uu-uno.org

Have family or friends in southern Ontario you're due to visit? Think about this: the CUC **Small Congregations Workshop** will be held at The Unitarian Congregation of Guelph on **Saturday, March 26, 2011**, from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

You can register online after March 1st. Check the CUC website for a link soon. The fee for the event will be set at \$25, with a pay-what-you-can option, to help ensure participation. The workshop location and directions can be found here:

http://www.guelph-unitarians.com/guelph_unitarians/directions.html

The program includes a keynote presentation by Small Congregation Consultant and Unitarian Universalist Association District Staff Person Jane Dwinell (former minister in Derby Line VT).

April 15-17, 5th Annual UU Bouctouche Spring Gathering, Bouctouche, NB

The weekend is organized using an open space concept. If you have a passion to work on something, discuss, plan, complain about, create, sing, or share something, bring it and find like-minded people to join. For more information call Ray Drennan or Ann Vickers at 506-743-5568.

AMONG THE MULTITUDES

I am who I am.
A coincidence no less unthinkable
than any other.

I could have different
ancestors, after all.
I could have fluttered
from another nest
or crawled bescaled
from under another tree.
Nature's wardrobe
holds a fair

supply of costumes:
Spider, seagull, field mouse.
each fits perfectly right off
and is dutifully worn
into shreds.

I didn't get a choice either,
but I can't complain.
I could have been someone
much less separate.
Someone from an anthill, shoal, or buzzing
swarm,
an inch of landscape tousled by the wind.

Someone much less fortunate,
bred for my fur
or Christmas dinner,
something swimming under a square of glass.

A tree rooted to the ground
as the fire draws near.

A grass blade trampled by a stampede
of incomprehensible events.

A shady type whose darkness
dazzled some.

What if I'd prompted only fear,
loathing,
or pity?

If I'd been born
in the wrong tribe
with all roads closed before me?

Fate has been kind
to me thus far.

I might never have been given
the memory of happy moments.

My yen for comparison
might have been taken away.

I might have been myself minus amazement,
that is,
someone completely different.

~ Wislawa Szymborska ~

(Poems New and Collected 1957-1997,
trans. by Stanislaw Baranczak and Clare Cavanagh)

L'amour moteur d'évolution

(Texte préparatoire de l'homélie offert le 13 février 2011 par Laurent Hubert)

Bonjour à tous. Merci d'être présent à cette première célébration unitarienne-universaliste en français à North-Hatley. Nous sommes le 13 février, à la veille de la Saint-Valentin. Il est donc naturel de prendre comme sujet l'amour. Je me suis porter volontaire pour faire cette première homélie en français dans notre église. Bien que je ne me considère pas vraiment un spécialiste des relations amoureuses, j'aimerais vous partager quelques idées sur ce sujet.

L'amour tantôt force tranquille, tantôt nourrit du feu de la passion qui souvent nous saisi au moment où nous l'avions abandonner. L'amour qui parfois s'empare de notre coeur, de notre esprit et de notre corps. L'amour qui met à l'épreuve notre discernement, et prend sa place dans nos choix de vie et dans nos engagements.

Mon expérience de vie comprend près d'une demi douzaines de relations amoureuses. Au début de ces relations, j'ai souvent eu l'impression que moi et ma partenaire formions le couple parfait. Il était facile d'identifier tout ce qui nous convenait chez l'autre. La compréhension et la complicité semblait la pluspart du temps ce qui avait de plus harmonieux. Toutefois, la situation changeait diamétralement lorsqu'arrivait des situations de stress.

Si dans les moments harmonieux, nos objectifs se coordonnent et nous avons l'impression de parler le même language. Dans les moments difficiles, tout peut aller de travers, les mots n'ont plus le même sens, les objectifs semblent divergent, les intérêts incompatibles, la tolérance est à fleur de peau. Tout comme si notre partenaire devenait tout d'un coup un être venu d'une autre planète. Comment une telle chose peut bien se produire?

D'une part, l'état de félicité initiale est probablement généré par une bonne dose d'hormones associées à l'état amoureux et que l'effet de ces hormones s'estompe à mesure que la relation passe dans une phase de maturation. D'autre part, il semble que la nature prend souvent plaisir à unir des partenaires qui utilisent des méthodes parfaitement contraire pour percevoir le réel. Ces différences de perceptions

se démarqueraient de façons plus évidente justement en période de stress.

La programmation neurolinguistique nous aide à comprendre ce phénomène de différence de perception. L'explication de base serait que notre mécanisme principale de perception de la réalité est différent de notre partenaire et qu'en période de stress c'est le seul mécanisme qui opère. Les principaux modes de perceptions que nous aborderons ici sont : le visuel, l'auditif, le kinesthésique et le logique.

Chacun de ces modes de perception a un impact sur

- comment nous precevons votre environnement
- comment nous nous percevons l'un et l'autre
- comment nous pensons
- comment nous vivons nos sentiments
- comment nous combattons
- comment nous aimons et désirons être aimé

En temps normal, nous opérons dans la vie suivant un mélange de ces modes de perceptions. Ceci nous permet d'appréhender notre environnement de manière équilibré. Par contre, sous période de stress, l'énergie est concentrée dans les tensions musculaires et les mouvements cardiaques par suite de notre réaction instinctive fondamentale de survie: « combattre ou fuir ». Le sang et l'énergie qui reste disponible au cerveau ne peut alors alimenter que notre mode de perception principale.

C'est alors sur ce mode de perception incomplet que nous baserons notre compréhension de la réalité et défierons notre partenaire. Dans le même temps, sous le stress, notre partenaire aura un biais similaire, mais, suivant son propre mode de perception principale. C'est ainsi qu'on se retrouve avec un dialogue de sourd et que les émotions peuvent littéralement faire de la haute voltige. Ce, jusqu'à parfois faire déclencher tous les boutons sensibles de l'un et de l'autre en quelques échanges seulement.

Lire tout à www.uuestrie.ca

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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

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

Calendar and Schedule

TUES	1	2:00PM	RITES OF PASSAGE TEAM
WED	2	10:00AM	RECORDS REVIEW COMM.
SUN	6	10:00AM	SERVICE: KEITH BAXTER
TUES	8	9:30AM	GRANNIES WORKSHOP
WED	9	9:00AM	PROGRAMME COMMITTEE
SUN	13	10:00AM	SERVICE: SPIRIT OF PLAY
MARDI	15	19H30	CERCLE GAULOIS
THUR	17	6:45PM	BOARD MEETING
SUN	20	10:00AM	SERV: MORAL LANDSCAPE
MON	21	9:00AM	NEWSLETTER FINISHED
TUES	22	7:00PM	NAMELESS ONES SM. GRP
FRI	25	5:30PM	PLEDGE DINNER
SUN	27	10:00AM	SERV.: SUE MONTGOMERY

This is your newsletter !!!

Next issue of Newsletter is April 2011

Deadline: *March 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.

