

May 2011 mai



## 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



**May 1**  
**Howard Hale**  
**“Beltane ”**

A traditional 'earth-centered' May Day celebration of the turning of the year. Bring appropriate clothing (it's hard to predict the weather two weeks in advance) for our annual outdoor Maypole dance.

Service Leader: Lin Jensen  
Musicians: France Thibault, Laurent Hubert

**May 8**  
**Rev. Carole Martignacco**  
**“The Family as a System”**

Mothers will be in some families acclaimed, in others blamed. Here we celebrate them with real love and

affection, knowing that the entire family system is what shapes our lives.

Service Leader: One of the mothers among us  
Musician: Mike Matheson

**May 10, 19h30**  
**“Le Cercle Gaulois”**

This is a small group attached to UUEstrie, which meets monthly to discuss religious questions in French. Meetings are held at the International Center at Bishop's University. Contact person: Katherine Pérusse.

**May 15**  
**Mr. Keith Baxter**

**“The Evolution of Universalist Thinking”**

The Universalist idea dates from the very early beginnings of Christianity, 2000 years ago. Strongly progressive thought entered Universalism 200 years ago. Why do some of these beautiful and evolving ideas of loving kindness still seem so radical today?

**May 22**  
**“Baraka”**

This service will be a silent meditation, based on viewing a very spiritual film called "Baraka." The film will run for 97 minutes. "The Thread that Weaves Life Together. A transcendent global experience of sights and sounds of the human condition."

Service Leader: Rachel Garber

**May 29**  
**Ms. Rachel Garber**  
**“India in My Heart”**

Rachel has recently returned from two months in India. A personal testimony of her experience and spiritual growth during that time. Rachel reports: 'As the dog bit

my leg, my mind exclaimed, "This isn't what I came to India for!"

Service Leader:

Musician: Jaime Dunton

#### 4 pm, SOUL Fundraising benefit concert

**June 3, 6:30 pm**

#### "Community Supper"

Gala Community Dinner, with music, Friday, June 3, at 6:30 p.m. Fundraising Event. Bring family and friends for fine food, congenial company and mellow music. Tickets: \$20; \$10/child.. BYOB.

**June 4, 9 am to 5 pm**

**Rev. Allison Barrett**

#### "The WOW of Worship"

A one-day workshop on the art of worship: How to make UU worship beautiful and effective, every time. For worship leaders, worship committees, lay leaders, and anyone interested in deepening understanding and skill in creating good worship services that touch the soul and keep 'em coming back for more. Special guest facilitator: the Reverend Allison Barrett, Hamilton Ontario. Lunch provided.

Child care provided. This event is sponsored by UUEstrie and the Canadian Unitarian Council.

Registration:

Rachel Garber: [rachel@uuestrie.ca](mailto:rachel@uuestrie.ca)

Billets: Mary Lynn Ross: 819-842-4177

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Our annual **picnic Sunday**, on Sunday, **July 10, 2011**. You are all invited to join us on that day. Sunshine guaranteed. (We do have a rain plan.)

Coffee and snacks 9:30 am at UUEstrie. Worship service at 10 am, featuring the Reverend Ken MacLean, minister emeritus of Cedar Lane Unitarian Church in suburban Washington DC, current minister at the Unitarian Church of the Desert in California. Ken is a regular and well-loved North Hatley summer minister since 1965!! Special music is planned for this service.

Picnic lunch with intergenerational games and music at a member's farm, to follow the worship service, 11:30 am till 4 pm. Bring your own picnic lunch, or something to share.

#### GOD/DESS

When I use the term God/dess in my Artwork I am referring to the mysterious PRESENCE and underlying sense of perfection, that is felt and witnessed as the path of life unfolds, revealing the lessons and evolution of consciousness that rises out of our suffering and trials, opens our hearts and minds to WISDOM, LOVE and COMPASSION, and begins to reflect in our interactions with the Earth, each other and ourselves.

*Sahara*

#### WATER ON THE TABLE

By Rachel Garber

The intrepid 18 who braved driving snow to see the documentary Water On The Table last Saturday had a lively discussion about the many threats to our limited fresh water resources, and how to gain recognition for potable water as a human right. The North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) considerably constrains Canada's potential to create policies that protect our water from bulk exportation, but the Council of Canadians, and now the Liberal Party, are proposing another approach: Create policies that prevent water flow being moved from one watershed (basin) to another. Where there's a will, there's a way.

Another concern is Hydro-Québec's extensive exploitation of our waterways right here in Quebec. "Hydro Power's Dirty Side" in the Montreal Gazette (April 9) explored this in depth. "From the Ontario border to the Gulf of St. Lawrence, only three major or mid-size rivers have not been harnessed for their electric power. Once Hydro-Québec finishes damming the Romaine, it plans giant hydro dams for the neighbouring Petit Mécatina and Magpie Rivers. After that everything dammable will have been dammed."

The article goes on to describe the major impact this is having on our environment. Google the article, if you'd like to read it, or look for the new film, *Chercher le courant*, which captures the Romaine River's last moments before the machines moved in.

This website contains some references that will help answer the burning question: What can we do about it?

[http://www.canadians.org/water/issues/Unbottle\\_It/](http://www.canadians.org/water/issues/Unbottle_It/)



**Minister's Reflection**  
*Principles into promises.*

*"Democracy flourishes when people come together as equals to deliberate over their common affairs, make decisions about public priorities, and influence the social and economic*

*arrangements that shape their lives."* - Kristina Smock, Democracy in Action

This morning the world outside my window is yet again "white-washed" by late April snow. How to protect the fragile daffodils and hyacinths, whose green stems have already so bravely pierced through the surface, reaching toward light? Imagining what spring would look like after such a long winter, I know it's all based upon hope, belief in all that is yet unseen. Experiences over the past week now merge into a common theme.

Last month's calendar at UU Estrie featured an all-candidates pre-election debate in our historic Universalist sanctuary. An impressive turn-out! Those up for election spoke in turn. People lined up at the microphone for their turn to speak on issues that concern them. The passion in the dialogue was palpable. Opening our sanctuary to democracy in action, as the candidates themselves pointed out, modeled our religious principles. We were all on "holy ground"!

Two days later on Saturday we held our community showing of the film, *Water On the Table*, celebrating Maude Barlow's advocacy for water as a universal human right. Then on Sunday, I was up in Montreal, graciously invited to participate in launching a new Spirit Play lesson based upon my book The Everything Seed. As a former RE Director, it was Sunday morning *deja-vu* sitting on the floor engaged in "ground level" conversations with spirit-filled young minds.

What do spring, public events celebrating democracy in action, and children's RE all have in common? Only when a conflict arose about decision-making in our everyday life as a congregation, did the events of one week in the life of ministry coalesce into a related, belated

awareness. Perennial as spring – the season of persistent hope – is our work of practicing our democratic principles. Not just on a national public scale, but in all the myriad leadership decisions that shape our daily dealings with each other. As a liberal religious community, we are each and together called to practice democracy like a musician practices the melodic scales. Exploring the intervals backwards and forwards, upside and down, inverted and in countless variations, somehow we learn the modulations by heart. The smallest acts are often the most powerful – creating either unity or division.

While in Montreal I stayed for the luncheon and Spirit Play workshop. We exchanged ideas about the morning program, Around the children's chapel, vibrant with postings on the wall, youthful artwork claimed the space as their own, in their own terms. Our workshop leader reminded us to relate all we do to the Seven Principles and Promises. Oh! I get it! - I thought. As long as they remain Principles, the tenets of our social contract remain ethereal, idealist, unreachable. Our task is to transform from principle to promise!

Too easy to say we believe IN them, our challenge is to LIVE them. When we say we "covenant to promote" our seven principles, we are using promise language. And we must mean not just in the world at large, but here at home. Each one in our own heart of hearts promising a new world in the making to those closest to us, creating a religious community that models democracy in action, radical inclusiveness, reaching toward the unseen possibility, into the light and air of total fairness. Whatever our particular task of the moment, most important is the principled process that calls us all to growth, within the safety of promises that protect the often fragile inherent dignity of each one.

One children's version of our 5<sup>th</sup> Principle promises: Each of us has a say in what concerns us. We adults in our everyday interactions – through all the worship, programs and events we create and share - have the sacred opportunity to model democracy in action for our children. I see no other way to build the "beloved community" we seek than to BE it, right here and now. Hope springs eternal, and so do we!

- Blessings and love, Rev. Carole

**David Sorensen, 1937-2011**

A memorial celebrating the life and work of David Sorensen was held in premises of the Mexican Consulate in Montreal on April 8. Painter, sculptor, Professor emeritus of Bishop's University and member of the Royal Canadian Academy of Art, David and his wife Bella's long residence in Ayer's Cliff alternated with stays in Mexico and, more recently, Montreal. David has on occasion spoken about his work at our church.

Surrounded in Espacio Mexico by an exhibition of his paintings, David was remembered by professional associates and friends, joined by his sons Marcos and Miguel and by daughter Verona in a programme organized by Bella Sorensen. Janet and Joe Weber, who have been close to the Sorensens for many years, spoke of their long friendship with David and sense of loss. As a colleague since early days in Bishop's Department of Fine Arts, Adele Ernstrom evoked David's dedication to the programme, his students and such initiatives as the founding of an art gallery on campus. Laurier Lacroix of the Department of Art History at UQAM offered an exemplary tribute in characterizing qualities of colour in David's work in their formal and, in a wider sense, spiritual dimension. We offer our sympathy to Bella her family. For the larger community, David's work remains to enrich our lives

Adele Ernstrom.

“You do not need a weatherman  
to know which way the wind blows”

*Bob Dylan*

**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>

During the month of March, the cuc.ca website received 119,684 page views (300,171 hits) from 29,013 visitors, 9,913 of whom were unique. (Little new uuestrie.ca is not equipped to generate such statistics.)

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<p>Minister's Office Hours Tuesday &amp; Thursday, 2:30 – 4:30 pm Please respect the Minister's sabbath, Sunday afternoon and Monday. <i>For emergency pastoral care, phone:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Rev. Carole</li> <li>2. Sooky Dunton</li> <li>3. Joyce Booth</li> </ol>
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### Bishop's Goes Green and Geothermal

A group of Bishop's students, including Lindsay-Jane, planned a green greenhouse project. They submitted the project to a contest, for which they produced a video. Here's the link for the video:

<http://www.tdgogreenchallenge.com/video/id/117/playid/117>

"Blame is...a way to discharge pain and discomfort." - Brene Brown, PhD  
*Submitted by Rachel*

## Calendar and Schedule

SUN 1 10:00AM SERVICE: BELTANE  
 SUN 8 10:00AM SERVICE: REV. CAROLE  
 MON 9 6:30PM BOARD MEETS  
 MARDI 10 19H30 LE CERCLE GAULOIS  
 SUN 15 10:00AM SERVICE: KEITH BAXTER  
 SUN 22 10:00AM SERVICE: BARAKA  
 SUN 29 10:00AM SERVICE: RACHEL GARBER  
 4:00PM SOUL CONCERT

The no-name small group will meet sometime in late May. Call Rev. Carole.

### 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 June 2011

### Deadline: **May 18.**

*Please send photos, or write your contribution on paper, parchment, or computer. Send to the newsletter committee in person or by email, send to **newsletter@uuestrie.ca**.*

*Demos is Greek for "people";  
 Kratos for "power" - therefore, our word  
 democracy means "people power".*

Did you know? That there were early forms of democratic society not only in ancient Greece and Rome, but also among the early Sumerians, and in the sangas and ganas of India, and among African tribes such as the Igbo of Nigeria.

### Comments invited !

Many Sunday services are now documented on the website. Your comments are welcome. *Harvey White's* full talk is the latest to appear.