

nouvelles news

November 2011 novembre



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

November 4 **"Works in Progress VI"**

Our annual series of coffeehouse concerts called Works in Progress, resumes on this Friday night with another session, this time featuring younger musicians from the Eastern Townships. Proceeds from food sales and a silent auction will go to Jeunes Musiciens du Monde, a non-profit organization devoted to providing an avenue for young persons from a variety of backgrounds and life experiences, to learn to create and find beauty, joy, and personal fulfillment through music. Free-will donation at the door. The concert will be held upstairs in the Sanctuary of the UUEstrie meetinghouse.

Leader: Debra Fougère

November 6 **Rev. Carole Martignacco** **"Samhain: Honouring our Ancestors"**

Samhain in the Pagan tradition refers to the time of the year when the 'veil' between the world of the living and the world of those who have passed on is at its thinnest. A time to pause and reflect as the season of growth draws to an end for another year, and the season of winter begins to take over.

Coffee Convenor: Jane Gowman
Flower Convenor: Sooky Dunton

November 13, 4 pm **Mr. Bruce Knotts** **"A Faith to Change the World"**

Bruce Knotts is a former diplomat in the U.S. foreign service and now serves as Executive Director of the UU United Nations Office in New York City. He will discuss the various contributions of that office to the UN mission. The UUUNO is part of what has been

called the faith-based NGO caucus at the UN, and has taken a leadership role in a number of UN initiatives, including the founding of the International Criminal Court, the UN Humanitarian Commission, and, more recently, the extension of LGBT rights throughout the world.

Service Leader: Sooky Dunton
Coffee Convenor: Mary Lynn Ross
Flower Convenor: Sooky Dunton

November 20 **Mr. Ted Lender** **"Dying with Dignity"**

The end of a human life can sometimes be gruesome, painful, and undignified. There is ample evidence that it need not be so, that competent people should have choice, and their choices honoured, in how and when they are allowed to die. And society will not fall apart, and human rights will be enhanced and respected in the process.

Service Leader: Keith Baxter
Flower Convenor: Sooky Dunton

November 27 **Rev. Carole Martignacco** **"A Blue Christmas"**

We are approaching the season of peace, joy and jolly goodwill - when holiday plans can sometimes fall short of the ideal. For some, it may be family issues, job loss or health concerns over the past year. We may be financially, spiritually, relationally or theologically challenged, or may find ourselves unable to meet the demands of gift-giving and partying.

Celebrate by sharing your stories; come find common ground with those who would prepare for the season with realistic expectations, a balance of humour and compassion, perhaps even a subdued sense of peace?

Works In Progress VI Jeunes Musiciens du Monde

Mark your calanders for FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 4 AT 7:00 P.M. to be sure not to miss this event. Come at 6:00 to enjoy hot home made soup, delicious sweet confections and an assortment of beverages and also check out the silent auction which will be open for bids throughout the evening. Our M.C. this year will be the cool beat master, D.J. Alex Gomez who will be armed with his 'cow pad' and 'spinning' out acts like: 2 Gars et Une Fille, Willow Moller on guitar, Choral 8ieme Annee, the Juggling King- Michael Jenson, danse troupe Milles et Une Passions, and of course the 'band' of talented Jeunes Musiciens du Monde as well as a few other surprizes. So come on out to da 'club', bring your friends and get ready to PARTY!!

Admission is a free will donation and will be shared with U.U. Estrie and other monies raised will go to Jeunes Musicians du Monde, a music school offering free music and danse lessons for children in Sherbrooke. All performers this evening are under 25 years of age (at least in spirit) but people of all ages are welcome to attend and show your support and encouragement for these developing artists.

*Debra**

Eastern Fall Gathering

Congratulations are in order to the Fredericton congregation for their excellent organization of this annual event. UU Estrie had done this a few years ago, so we know how much work and anxieties this involves, with little expertise in small congregations such as theirs and ours. The Sunday service was masterfully planned and executed with a unique order of service which thanked everyone for their specific input for the celebration. and each taking a turn at the podium. I loved the humour involved with thanking the chair of committees which stated " we do have more than one, you know" A template for us all Thank you.

Elizabeth May on Libya and the Responsibility to Protect

In an article In the Oct-Dec 2011 issue of Peace Magazine, Green MP Elizabeth May

expresses her dismay that she was the only member of Parliament to vote against continuation of the bombing of Libya once it went beyond what might have been effective to protect civilians and implicitly targeted Gadhafi, for whose removal Prime Minister Harper promptly expressed hope. Her point is that the Responsibility to Protect, a principle approved by the UN in 2005, does not encompass the political goal of regime change. Nor would it imply the privilege of other countries to say who legitimately represents the Libyan people.

She goes on comment: "Stephen Harper is trying to remake Canada's sense of itself as a warrior nation. This isn't in our DNA, but we can't be complacent about this. . . . Nowadays they have someone from the military speak at every citizenship ceremony. . . . We'd prided ourselves on the legacy of Lester B. Pearson and the peace prize. . . . As Canadians we want to work as a force for good in the world. There's two places in the Hebrew Testament where you can find swords and ploughshares in the same sentence. In one we beat our swords into ploughshares [Isaiah 2:4], and in the other we beat our ploughshares into swords [Joel 3:10]. We have a government now that likes the latter interpretation." - Adele M. Ernststrom

From: Bono, ONE co-founder

Sent: Oct 4, 2011

Subject: Obscene

Dear Reverend,

I've been known to drop the occasional expletive, but the most offensive F word to me is not the one that goes f****. It's F***** - the *famine* happening in the Horn of Africa, mainly Somalia.

I hope you'll take a few minutes to watch ONE's new video "The F Word: Famine is the Real Obscenity" and in doing so sign the petition....

<http://act.one.org/go/133?akid=2663.1934926.K3GiAp&t=5>

Bono

The information we received also mentioned that this film had been banned in the UK.

Blue Ribbon Congregation

I have been our envoy to the UU-UNO for a bunch of years, ever since first visiting there for a spring seminar, of which have been to two. Some people may feel that the UN is not very effective, but it's the only thing we have. When you visit, it's very impressive; they are involved in many things the public never hears about. It would seem to me to be desirable that our church join the UU-UNO as a blue ribbon congregation. The text that follows explains the criteria for this status. Please see me if you are interested.

- Sooky Dunton

You have a great opportunity to strengthen support for the UU-UNO by helping your congregation achieve blue ribbon status. In order to do this, your congregation needs to:

1. Have an Envoy, Youth Envoy, or Envoy Team. Envoys serve as the link between their congregation, the UU-UNO, and the United Nations. They promote UU-UNO education and advocacy in their congregations and bring local concerns to the international stage through the UU-UNO.

2. Hold an annual UN Sunday service. In celebration of the founding of the United Nations on October 24th, 1945, the UU-UNO invites congregations to deepen their understanding of the United Nations by devoting one service in October to highlighting the work of the UU-UNO and reaffirming the connections between UU principles and vital issues dealt with at the UN.

3. Have 15 members or 5% of your congregation be contributing members to the

UU-UNO. UU-UNO membership is \$50 (\$40 for ministers and seniors)

4. Give the UU-UNO an annual budget line or collection plate. In return, your congregation will be recognized for its steadfast dedication to international human rights and be presented with:

- a blue ribbon at UUA General Assembly or the CUC Annual Conference and Meeting.

- formal recognition on the UU-UNO website.

- a special plaque to be displayed at your congregation.

Do U know about the UU-UNO?

It's the Unitarian Universalist United Nations Office, based in New York.

It's vision? A peaceful, just and sustainable world community as called for in the UN Charter.

It's mission? Just two points: To engage in the work of the UN to advance a peaceful, just, sustainable and pluralistic world community that promotes human rights, and to engage and inspire Unitarian Universalists and others to support and participate in this work.

What does it do? The UU-UNO has consultative status, which permits it to help influence UN policy by participating on committees concerned with human rights, sustainable development, children's advocacy, and disarmament. It led the faith-based coalition for the establishment of the International Criminal Court in the 1990s.

What else? Lots, really lots. To read some really interesting stuff, visit www.uu-uno.org, and be sure to come hear Bruce Knotts speak at our the November 13th Sunday service at the exceptional time of 4 p.m. Knotts is the dynamic director of the UU-UNO.

Blue Ribbon Unawares?

At a recent meeting, the Board of Trustees took a good look at Blue Ribbon status for UUEstrie. If we report our support for the UU-UNO, we could join an illustrious group of congregations upon which the UU-UNO has conferred Blue Ribbon Status. This group already includes six Canadian congregations.

When we looked at the criteria for Blue Ribbon status (see Sooky's article), our reaction was Wow – we're really almost there! See this:

Have a UU-UNO envoy. Yes, we do (thanks, Sooky!).

Offer an annual UN service. Yes, we do (thanks, Jane for this year's UN Sunday service on October 23!).

Have 5% of our members be contributing members to the UU-UNO. The UU-UNO membership fee is only \$50/year, or \$40 for seniors and ministers. Yes, we can – and indeed, we may already do! Our membership list has 61 names on it, including people who have moved away or no longer attend for other reasons. So with even the most generous of interpretations, 5% equals only 3.05 persons.

Are you a UU-UNO contributing member? If so, please let me know at Rachel@uuestrie.ca or 819-889-2520. If you'd like to be, go to www.uu-uno.org and click on the big red button in the upper right corner of the page.

Give the UU-UNO an annual collection plate. Until now, we haven't, but yes, we can – in fact, at its September 6th meeting, the board of trustees passed a resolution to make an annual donation of a collection plate. Our first is planned for November 13th.

– Rachel Garber, Secretary

The following is carved in stone at the United Nations Headquarters (a photograph thereof hangs in the church):

THEY SHALL BEAT THEIR SWORDS INTO
PLOWSHARES, AND THEIR SPEARS INTO
PRUNING HOOKS: NATION SHALL NOT
LIFT UP SWORD AGAINST NATION,
NEITHER SHALL THEY LEARN WAR ANY
MORE

ISAIAH

The flag of the United Nations has been hanging in our sanctuary since before I ever entered the church, and impressed me very clearly on that first occasion. At one time a summer minister had it taken down, "To see if anybody noticed." Somebody did, there was an outcry, and the flag was brought sheepishly back. In retrospect, we realized that the flag happened to be blocking this minister's view of the clock. I moved the clock.

Lin

Bringing Canadian voices to the UN

October 7

Dear friends,

We just met with Guy Saint-Jacques, Canadian Ambassador for Climate Change, here at the UN climate negotiations in Panama. We showed him the photos from Moving Planet actions across Canada, and he expressed that he had been following all this hard work.

Our message to him was simple: exploiting the tar sands means "game over" for the climate, and building the Keystone XL pipeline from Alberta to the Gulf of Mexico would be disastrous.

It's clear that the decision about this pipeline is receiving maximum attention on both sides of the border, and that people power--your actions--are forcing political leaders to actually make the decision between people and polluters. Your work continues to push that balance our way.

Today is the final day of the US State Department hearings on the Keystone pipeline. Hundreds are gathering in DC to rally outside the hearings as I write.

From our hometowns, to Washington, DC to Ottawa, all the way to UN, we're letting our politicians know they can't hide from taking serious action on climate change, and making the tough decisions to leave fossil fuels in the ground.

Thanks for all the work you do - from Panama, in solidarity,

-Kelly Blynn, for 350.org



Minister's Reflection - Carole's Column

"The central task of the religious community is to unveil the bonds that bind each to all. There is a connectedness, a relationship discovered amid the particulars of our own lives and the

lives of others. Once felt, it inspires us to act for justice."

– Rev. Mark Morrison-Reed, #580 SLT

These visionary words above function for me as a kind of default ideal for parish ministry. On first reading them, I memorized and learned them by heart – so they could play in the background of everything I do and help keep me on track. Short enough to draw on wherever I found myself, in the midst of whatever challenge to my calling. Sometimes only a phrase arises – like “unveil the bonds” in the midst of a conflict – and I am reminded of the “central task.” These are not the only words I live by; I’ve memorized volumes of poetry in my day. But they are the ones that help steer my ship, and they come with the wise face of a colleague whose ministry I can believe in. I offer them to you as one example of the important work we have before us.

November is visioning month at UU Estrie. Our second session on shaping a vision statement for our unique religious community is scheduled for the Sunday, 13 November. Scheduled as it is midway through the month, we are reminded how pivotal a vision statement is. To help us know who we are, and from that, point us toward where we are going. As important to a religious community as having a solid personal identity, so you can find, take or make your place in the world. Building on the work many of us began last spring, Kelly McDowell, our CUC Eastern Regional Congregational Services Consultant, returns to help us form a concise statement of UU Estrie’s “raison d’être”.

Concise is key. In a book I’m reading about How Not To Write A Novel, the author quotes the disclaimer of a young writer, “I wrote you such a long letter, because I did not have time to

write a short one.” Precision is careful work, and it takes time to do well. First we get all the possible visions out on the table – and then we look for common themes. What’s the essence, where does it come together, on what do we agree? That’s the messy part, because in accordance with our democratic principles, it needs all voices. Not everyone was present for the first stage, but it was lively, passionate, and at times, quite eloquent. With a full congregation present, who knows what would have been said?

Our vision statement for UU Estrie should have for all of us the ring of truth. A cohesive, unified truth from which everything we do proceeds. A tough order? Precisely! If you missed the first phase, come for the fine-tuning., the honing and sharpening. When it comes to vision statements – and a lot of other things as well – less is always more. Imagine a vision statement as a verbal flag – like the colours that fly from the masthead of a ship, rippling above a parliamentary building, signaling at the entrance that here important decisions are made. More poem than slogan – and just as simple, direct, easily recognizable. It speaks of a strong sense of identity, and from it whatever else is said or done makes obvious sense.

Returning to Mark’s words for a moment: they articulate my own vision of religious community as a “laboratory for social justice” – a living experiment of how people can create a just world, just as a body creates systemic health, one living cell at a time, linked together with others. I’ll be away in Waterloo conducting a Lay Chaplaincy training on Challenging Weddings and Memorials the weekend you gather to craft the vision statement. That works for me, as it’s your congregation – and my covenant is to walk with you where you choose to go! But if I were present to cast my vote, I’d hope it points toward justice. Because I believe that’s at the heart of who we wish to be in the world. Not a club existing merely for our own comfort and support, drawn together simply by shared activities and preferences, or as a haven of safety for the select few. Whether or not social justice exists in our congregation as a formal committee (it doesn’t), I believe it is central to our task. The evidence? Look at the many services we offer to the community that educate on social and

environmental causes, stimulating awareness of local to global justice issues. We hold workshops, take collections dedicated to humanitarian causes, donate space to the SLF Grannies to Grannies for AIDS/Hiv in Africa. And a recent decision of the Fundraising Committee, approved by the Board, designates a percentage of all fundraising proceeds to support the work of agencies that reach out to those beyond our own doors.

It's your religious community. How will YOU name it? Don't give up your chance to have a say in what concerns you. *Et bonne chance - blessings on your work* – Rev. Carole

"...It is the church that assures us that we are not struggling for justice on our own, but as members of a larger community. The religious community is essential, for alone our vision is too narrow to see all that must be seen, and our strength too limited to do all that must be done. Together, our vision widens and our strength is renewed."

– Mark Morrison-Reed #580, SLT cont.

Breaking News from the Board

The Board has agreed to Rev. Carole's application and acceptance of a position replacing Rev. Diane Rollert as minister during her sabbatical from the Unitarian Church of Montreal. Rev. Carole takes up her tasks for a period of three months beginning Jan. 2 and finishing at the end of March. She will return to UUEstrie to conduct the Sunday service and renew pastoral connections on the following dates: Jan. 22, Feb. 12 and March 18.

Adele Ernstrom
for the Board

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>



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Address:	201 rue Main North Hatley QC J0B 2C0, Canada
Telephone:	(819) 842-4146
E-mail address:	info@uuestrie.ca
Church Website:	http://www.uuestrie.ca
Minister:	The Reverend Carole Martignacco revcarole@uuestrie.ca cmartignacco@yahoo.com 819-212-7150 819-842-1387
President:	Keith Baxter keith@uuestrie.ca
Lay Chaplains:	Jane Pankovitch jpankovitch@hotmail.com France Thibault francethibault@gmail.com
Ceremonies Coordinator:	Jaime Dunton ceremonies@uuestrie.ca
Religious Education:	Lindsay-Jane Gowman re@uuestrie.ca
Editor:	Lin Jensen Lin@uuestrie.ca

Minister's Office Hours
Tuesday & Wednesday, 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

New Members Welcome!

If you're interested in becoming a member of our church, please contact Rev. Carole

Calendar and Schedule

TUES 1 9:30AM GRANNIES WORKSHOP
FRI 4 EVENING WORKS IN PROGRESS
SUN 6 10:00AM SERVICE: SAMHAIN
TUES 8 3:00PM PROGRAMME COMM.
6:30PM BOARD MEETING
SUN 13 10:00AM SERVICE: BRUCE KNOTTS
SUN 20 10:00AM SERVICE: TED LENDER
WED 23 7:00PM NO-NAME SMALL GROUP
THUR 24 9:30AM NEWSLETTER COMM.
SUN 27 10:00AM SERVICE: BLUE CHRISTMAS
MARDI 29 19H30 CERCLE GAULOIS

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	Treasurer
Rachel Garber	Secretary
Howard Hale	Member at large
Lin Jensen	Member at large

This is your newsletter !!!

Next issue of Newsletter is December 2011 - January 2012

Deadline: November 20.

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.

Dear Contributors to Newsletter:

The Newsletter Committee frequently receives texts forwarded wholesale from one or another worthy publication or website. As such, they are not useful. When members come across material of interest that they would like to share, they are cordially invited to digest the texts they find valuable, reframing them in succinct form. Websites or links can be cited for those seeking further information.

Your Newsletter Committee