

September 2012 septembre



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

September 2

Ms. Margot Heyerhoff “Paying It Forward”

Margot Heyerhoff refers to this topic as 'How I Was Kidnapped by Aliens in North Hatley'. Margot, a North Hatley resident and prolific volunteer, has taken on the chairmanship of the Massawippi Foundation and Land Trust. She has also succeeded the Foundation's first Executive Director, David Rittenhouse, in that role. She will speak to how and why a Community Foundation and a Land Trust were established here, why now, and how they function.

Upstairs, in the Sanctuary

Service Leader: Rev. Carole Martignacco
Musician: Mike Matheson

Coffee convenor: Carol McKinley
Flower Convenor: Sooky Dunton

September 9

Mother Nature “Water Communion”

We plan to close our summer season with a traditional hike in the woods, on relatively well-trod trails that do involve some uphill and downhill walking, followed by a simple outdoor water communion ceremony on the lawn, all at the Jensen farm, 16 Bowen Road in the village of Hatley. All welcome.

Meet at 10 am at the Jensen farm. Water communion will follow at 11:30 am, and picnic lunch at noon. If you cannot make the hike, meet us at 11:30 for the water communion and luncheon. Don't forget to bring your picnic lunch, and a frisbee if you like.

Bad weather plan: meet at UUEstrie at 11:30 am for the water communion ceremony and potluck/picnic lunch. Check our website for any last minute changes of plans.

Away from UU Estrie

Service Leader: Kevin Jensen
Flower Convenor: Sooky Dunton

September 16

Rev. Carole Martignacco “Vision of Community: A Laboratory for Democracy”

Drawing on the work of Tom Atlee, The Tao of Democracy, we will explore the spiritual dimension of democracy, beyond its political dimension.

Upstairs, in the Sanctuary

Flower Convenor: Sooky Dunton

September 23

Mr. Jean Rousseau, M.P. “TBA”

Jean Rousseau is the Member of Parliament for the Compton-Stanstead riding, which includes North Hatley. He was first elected in the 'Orange Wave' that swept Quebec in 2011. He has kindly agreed to speak to us before Parliament resumes sitting in early October.

Upstairs, in the Sanctuary

Service Leader: Keith Baxter
Musician: Pat Bird
Flower Convenor: Sooky Dunton

September 30

Reb Sherril Gilbert “Sukkot”

This time in the early fall is an occasion for celebrating the harvest season. In dialogue with Rev. Carole Martignacco, Reb Sherril will share some of the deeper insight and meaning associated with these annual celebrations.

Upstairs, in the Sanctuary

Service Leader: Rev. Carole Martignacco
 Flower Convenor: Sooky Dunton

October 7, 10:30 am
Rev. Carole Martignacco
“Thanksgiving”

Our worship service this Thanksgiving Sunday will be held in the historic Huntingville Universalist Church, Rte 147 in Huntingville. No service in North Hatley this day. Please note the time of the service will be 10:30 am.

Away from UU Estrie

Flower Convenor: Sooky Dunton

Don't miss the Eastern Fall Gathering: “A Time for all Ages”, to be held this fall at First Unitarian in Ottawa, Friday evening, October 12, to Sunday noon, Oct 14. the keynote speaker will be DALE MCGOWAN, editor and co-author of *Parenting Beyond Belief* and *Raising Freethinkers*, two groundbreaking books for nonreligious parents.

The weekend is being planned as an innovative, integrated multigenerational experience. “Our goal is to structure the event so that for the most part families can experience it together,” says Kelly McDowell.

The Gathering program will also include a concurrent **Renaissance Training** module for religious educators on the theme of UU Identity. (Our Jane plans to go to this.),

A new curriculum published by the CUC, called the Wise Elders Circle program, will also be presented at the gathering by Audrey O’Callaghan of Ottawa, one of its co-authors. Wise Elders Circles are a form of small group ministry developed to enable seniors to share their stories and wisdom. Audrey will explain the program structure, and the context and purposes of a Wise Elders’ Circle, and train congregational leaders to be able to organize and lead the circles in their own congregations.

Float in the Hatley parade



The kids in the RE program participated in the Canada Day parade in Hatley this year. It was a Sunday, but they came early to Hatley, helped decorate my old wagon, and then rode on it, holding signs with each of the seven principles.

The parade was watched by thousands -- pretty remarkable for a village of 40 houses!



The float won forth prize in its category. The children voted on how to use the prize money. They decided to treat themselves to some ice cream, and make a donation tho the SPCA. In accord with the fifth principle, “All people need a voice.”

Thanks to Gabriella Brand and Heather Davis for these pictures – more on last page



Minister's Reflection - Carole's Column

September again means summer's winding down. Already, a hint of autumn chills the air, daylight hours are shortening, and the nights are better for sleeping without the drone of a fan. I want to hold onto time – to stop the clock, to pause and enjoy deeply each day before it's gone. What a glorious season it's been – whole weeks of sunshine, long bright days, breakfast on the deck, dinner outdoors and warm conversations under the stars. And yet lots of rain for flowers and vegetables to thrive. A good tomato year, when zucchini and cucumbers swell up fast with all that water.

That chill in the air is a premonition, though, a reminder that the great wheel of the seasons is turning. The beautiful Buddha's truth is that all is changing, and nothing lasts. Heartbreaking, but true. Soon frost will come, leaves now green will burst into flame. Already I pick up a few on my walks that have drifted down and landed on the path, leaves like old hands with their veins standing out, highlighted in blazing colours. Or like pages in summer's book, that will turn faster and faster toward the end. All that flourishes will fade.

Fall is a season for remembering to savour. All summer, it feels as though I've been practicing. In my weekly writing class at the North Hatley Library, we meet and find words together, sharing our lives amidst much laughter and tears, practicing over and over how to get the stuff of our lives out on paper to explore the layeredness of memory and experience. Mining our own hearts for meaning and listening closely to each other's lives, we find so much in common, finding great delight in the delicious differing details. I used to teach creative writing. Taking this course now reminds me of the alternative life I might be living; if ministry were not central, art would be, and in some way always is. Particularly this creating with words. This summer has been a lot about taking time to give myself permission again to write - to write with a purpose beyond Sunday morning, to revel

in the love of language. One of the best exercises for learning to relish diversity, I find, is to join a writers' group, and celebrate the universal spirit by honing the art of description. Moving from the particular to the general and universal. I keep thinking, yes – everyone's story is rich and amazing, each of us is unique – just like everyone else. The words we exchange are like so much currency. Knowing and affirming what is real and true and of infinite worth for each one is all imbedded in the ordinary events of our lives and the fascinating characters who people them. How could I have forgotten the delight of distilling life's "moments of being", as Virginia Woolf named them, into poems, stories, and letters, even recipes from the past. How good to keep, to share, to read again later and live all over again.

However you do it, I hope you find a way to keep the warmth of summer close as we move into fall. You need not take a writing course. For some it's the glorious time on the golf course, for others swimming or gardening, reading outdoors or simply sitting and absorbing the sun. How do you stop time long enough to savour the sacred in the ordinary, everyday? Our lives are one grand theatre of seasons. We cannot stop time, but we can pause long enough to relish and really live the present, harvesting memories through one season to savour in the next. So may all our days be blessed – Rev. Carole

Through Newcomer's Eyes

A recent visitor to our church, having arrived in good time, later expressed some discomfort over confusion as to when the service actually was to start. Apparently there were few on arrival, the service did not begin at 10:00, and was sparsely attended when it did begin. After 15 or 20 minutes with people gradually and sometimes noisily arriving, it looked as though we had a congregation. This practice so common among us makes for ambiguity, and is not conducive to reflection. Without a clear and timely beginning, people tend to spend the waiting time in casual conversation while others long for quiet. Fortunately, this visitor felt comfortable enough to say something. But how many others on a first visit would do so?

President's Message

This is my first column to you as president of our congregation and I thank you for that honour. My hope is that anyone of you will let me know if there are things that I can do to make our community more so.

We have been more than busy the last few weeks with many hands participating. We had our usual summer picnic with Ken Maclean, who was with us for a few days, we provided billets for 30 young girls of the Elm City Choir for their stay of a couple of days and we had a huge Super Summer Sale for three days. Some of the many hands that helped with that were not even members of our congregation, but of our larger community. Along with our usual services, including one from Gordon Fraser, our language commissioner, which drew many from the community, weddings and a memorial service, our summer has been a full one with not a lot of down time..

Recently, we have looked at our committees to see if we can involve more than the stalwart few that are helpful with most things that need to be done. Many of us are responsible for several aspects of the running of the church, with special thanks to Keith Baxter, our past president who has done everything from re-writing almost all of our visions, by-laws and procedures to raking the lawn. I hope that he can have some respite from these tasks and hope that others will take up some of these duties. I do feel that a pre-requisite for joining our church should not be, necessarily, hands on service, as there are often extenuating circumstances, but the fact that many choose to give us this gift makes this community a very special one for me.

With gratitude, Sooky Dunton

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>

As well, the monthly ENews is available at <http://www.cuc.ca/enews/>

Northern Lights

Administered by the U. U. Ministers of Canada and the C.U.C., the Northern Lights programme offers grants that allow Canadian congregations to negotiate critical transitions. The grants may be directed, for example, to enable an emerging congregation; to begin or extend professional religious leadership; or to fund growth as part of a comprehensive development plan. Two awards to congregations are made annually. Congregations become eligible to receive a grant when a minimum of 20% of their membership actively support the programme. To be a supporter, or 'Chalice Lighter', members may enroll by committing to donate, no more than twice a year at a level of their choice (from \$25. to \$75. are suggested, but not mandatory, once or twice annually). Several of our members are presently 'Chalice Lighters' and we hope others may come forward to join them. In supporting the larger UU movement in Canada, we help ensure our own future. Forms are available after the service. For more information, see Rev. Carole or Rachel Garber.

Humour Department

On a recent visit to Montreal, a customer in a Westmount bistro was heard commenting as follows to his companion: "You know, Mitt Romney is a Mormon. They believe in magic underwear."

Religion Beyond Belief

"Religion should be much more about what we love, about what moves us, than about what we think...(more) about the deep human need for community and transcendence. I am convinced of the spiritual hunger for community that respects modern learning, is committed to act with compassion and to advocate for justice, and that transcends the banality and narcissism of consumer culture."

- Peter Morales, current UUA President

Newsletter published by: Unitarian Universalist Church of North Hatley l'eglise unitarienne universaliste de North Hatley	
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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

Calendar and Schedule

SUN 2 10:00AM SER: MARGOT HEYERHOFF
 SUN 9 10:00AM WATER COMMUNION
 SUN 16 10:00AM SERVICE: REV. CAROLE
 SUN 23 10:00AM SERVICE: JEAN ROUSSEAU
 TUES 25 9:30AM NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE
 SUN 30 10:00AM SERVICE: SHERIL GILBERT

Board of Trustees

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

Sooky Dunton	President
Keith Baxter	Past President, acting Treasurer
Adele Ernstrom	Secretary
Mary-Ann McCarron	Vice-President
Heather Lewis	Member at large
Mary-Lynn Ross	Member at large
Lin Jensen	Member at large

This is your newsletter !!!

Next issue of Newsletter is October 2012

Deadline: ***September 23.***

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

