

# nouvelles news

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November 2012 novembre

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## 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

#### Mr. Joe Weber

##### “Escape from Hungary in 1956”

in 1956, at the age of 17, Joe escaped from the totalitarian state that was Hungary, and came to Canada. Why? How? What did he live and learn through that experience? Joe is now retired from a career as a Professor at the University of Sherbrooke. He and wife Janet live in Lennoxville, when they are not at their cottage on the water, or travelling to Hungary or Argentina, or other places on the planet. Janet spoke at UUEstrie this past winter about their experience visiting Cuba last year.

Upstairs, in the Sanctuary

Service Leader: Keith Baxter

Musician: Pat Bird

Coffee Convenor: Mary Lynn Ross

Flower Convenor: Sooky Dunton

### November 11

#### Ms. Allison Calvern and Mr. Edson Warner

##### “Take This Cup”

Allison Calvern, visiting from Fredericton NB, will be our guest speaker this Sunday. Her theme is drawn from the wisdom of the Oglala Sioux. The Oglala Sioux have studied human suffering; they are experts on loneliness. This reflection will focus on how a Unitarian Universalist might apply Oglala Sioux wisdom to our own burdens: displacement, bullying, suicide, and the work of community.

This Sunday is also Remembrance Day, on which Canadians honour and remember their war dead. (Major) Edson Warner will give a short testimonial on this important occasion, before heading off to represent UUEstrie at the remembrance service at the North Hatley cenotaph. Edson will also participate in

several other remembrance day services in several neighbouring rural municipalities on this day.

Upstairs, in the Sanctuary

Service Leader: George deMille

Coffee Convenor: Sooky Dunton

Flower Convenor: Sooky Dunton

### November 18

#### Mr. Brian Creelman

##### “Seeds for Survival”

Agriculture feeds us, but agriculture depends on a number of things, starting with healthy seeds for planting. Where do the seeds come from?

Brian Creelman is a Townshippier active in growing and saving heritage seeds, and is a strong supporter of USC Canada's Seeds for Survival programme.

Upstairs, in the Sanctuary

Service Leader: Gudrun Brand

Flower Convenor: Sooky Dunton

### November 24, 8 pm

#### Le Choeur des sangs mêlés

##### “A Christmas Concert”

Another concert in our sanctuary by our favorite local choir. 10 joyful women, joined by 3 male voices on several numbers, celebrating the winter solstice and the advent of the Christmas Season. Free-will donation (\$10 per person suggested) will be shared among the UUEstrie Roof Fund, and 2 other charities. More info will be posted as soon as available. Save the date: Saturday Nov. 24, 2012. Don't miss it!

Upstairs, in the Sanctuary

### November 25 "Amnesty Sunday"

We shall hear from several members of the congregation about several current campaigns of Amnesty International and CUSJ, ranging from the imprisonment of the "pussy rioters" to the Keystone Excel pipeline project. We will then have organized groups writing letters on our views on these issues.

Downstairs, in Stoddard Hall

Service Leader: Kevin Jensen

Flower Convenor: Sooky Dunton

Here's a photo from my current project: Knit toys! I'm excited to be a vendor at the Elora craft show on October 20th. The contest is just fun!

## WHO IS ALEX THE DOLPHIN NAMED AFTER?



E-mail your guess to [dontpanic@gmail.com](mailto:dontpanic@gmail.com) for your chance to win your very own Christmas pig ornament:



*Sarah Baxter*

### School in Haiti

*Yannick Daoudi spoke to us last fall about his dream of a small project for this school. He writes:*



The dream has become a reality. In the community of Savane Blonde in Croix-des-Bouquets, Haïti, 65 children attended classes for the first time at the "Institution Mixte La Philanthropie". Thanks to you these kids now have an opportunity which they never had before: access to quality education in their own community and with that, hope for a better future. So THANK YOU all.

A year ago, none of this existed. Around that time, I arrived in the community for the first time with Sr. Nelcame, the school's principal, to visit an overgrown piece of land that didn't look like much. In the following year, we managed to launch the InspirAction Foundation with Audrey Gagnon-Mc Mahon (Vice-President), acquire the piece of land, build close ties with the community, receive official approval from the Haitian Ministry of Education, clear the land, collect the necessary school supplies, involve over a thousand primary school children from Quebec in fundraising activities, build a metal gate, three semi-permanent classrooms, one temporary classroom and one compostable dry toilet, offer a 2-week summer camp to the kids in the community with the help of a group of volunteers from Sherbrooke, provide backpacks and uniforms to the future students, furnish the classrooms, hire a caretaker, an assistant and four local teachers, and start a new school year!

Our goal for the coming year is to build another semi-permanent classroom, an artesian well, an administration office and a small room for the caretaker, for a total of about 10 000\$.

We ask you to help us continue what we started. Details of how on our website, <http://www.isnspiractionfoundation.org>.





### Minister's Reflection - Carole's Column

*Did you know, there are elephants in the nation's capital?* Imagine the surprise of those who made the pilgrimage to this year's Eastern Fall Gathering when greeted with an amazing sight at

the Friday ingathering. A large grey elephant in the First Unitarian sanctuary, front and centre, staring out at the congregation, trunk swinging, enormous ears catching all the excited greetings.



We were welcomed by Ottawa's minister, Rev. John Marsh, who began by retelling an ancient Greek myth. Atlas, according to legend, so boasted of his strength and power, he was rewarded with the task of carrying the entire world on his shoulders. Can any of us relate, who shoulder the burden of keeping our congregations, families, workplaces going? The more you take on, the more you're allowed, encouraged, asked, expected to take on, till somewhere things shift – from volunteering for a piece of the action to managing the whole show! Carrying the ball is one thing – but the whole world, every last detail? It was too much for even the god Atlas, who ended up with a severe case, we might say, of “burn-out.” Applications to congregational life were obvious. One comment overheard as the service ended: *“Those who take on everything get bent out of proportion - and it isn't just their backs!”*

There was great fun throughout the weekend in Ottawa, with the program carrying important – if not heavy - themes with a light-hearted, playful intergenerational tone. Not surprisingly, since Ottawa First's Rev. Marsh was a religious

educator before taking on parish ministry, he and DRE Susan McEwen made a dynamic and creative team. The Open Hand Puppet Theatre from Syracuse, New York were our “artists in residence” for the weekend, supplying the elephants and various other fascinating larger than life characters, who returned to the Ottawa First “stage” for the Sunday service. The entire service itself was an enactment of the classic Sufi tale, “The Blind Men and the Elephant,” with the congregation being led in rounds of singing by a well-rehearsed choir. Before the service, huge brightly coloured balloons were released among the assembled and these were batted from person to person, old and young – the implicit goal, to keep things flying! The Opening hymn “Spirit of Life” was not only sung, but sung to each other, as one half of the congregation turned to face the other half and all joined hands. Scanning the shining faces, looking into each other's eyes while singing, I felt a profound sense of solidarity and connection! Of course it worked as a gathering song because we'd actually gathered. *(Sadly, it occurred to me this might not work at home. Unless at UU Estrie we made it the Closing Song, by which time all the latecomers who arrived halfway or at least by the end of the service could be included! Something to think about.)*

Saturday I attended with Sooky Dunton the day-long Wise Elders training, where we previewed a curriculum by that name sponsored by the CUC, told jokes about growing older, and were given resources which may be adapted for this winter's programming. I later attended a discussion on the CUC Active Democracy task force study and recommendations, a rich experience made richer by the presence of youthful faces in the circle; youth or young adults comprised about one third of those gathered. Following the conference, Moose Creek (ministers of the Eastern region) held an amazingly brief but rich 24-hour retreat in which we connected as colleagues by sharing individual stories, debriefed the weekend and several issues related to our ministry locally and nationally. We welcomed the new minister from Halifax into our fold and were treated by Rev. Norm Horofker to the gentle strains of his UU ukulele. Again I was profoundly moved, this time by this small but brave band of colleagues who all go the extra mile, each taking on tasks that support so



many aspects of our Canadian movement. Whether it's how to craft a national voice on social justice issues or sitting on the Planning Committee for the 2013 ACM in Calgary, in our work together with UU ministers across Canada and the CUC Board, ED and staff, we share a commitment to strengthen the context within which each of our congregations exists – our own fragile but strong “interdependent web.” And sometimes, as North Hatley remembers from our turn in 2006, we get to throw a party – a.k.a., a RFG, Regional Fall Gathering. Thanks to John and Ottawa First, this one was a blast – you had to be there!

*Yours in good faith - Rev. Carole*

Quotes gleaned from the ERFG in Ottawa:

Fear is that little darkroom where negatives are developed.

*“If you think you're too small to have an impact, try going to bed with a mosquito in the room.” – Anita Roddick*



### **President's message**

A decade or less ago, Jaime and I left our much loved Elm Cottage and moved to North Hatley. This was a downsizing move as all of our children were now begetting children miles away from us and no longer could visit on a regular basis so there was no need for as many bedrooms. As with any move, we were anxious to find a niche, especially since we were both fully retired. We did so in many different and fulfilling ventures, especially with our UU connections and our Knot garden.

This garden came about in many seemingly unrelated ways. Years ago, I read about a couple of Brits who came to Canada to live. They were astounded by all the lawns with every property. All seemed to be so expensive and time-consuming with fertilizers, weekly cuttings and rakings and waterings. And the lawns were never used. They claimed that they were tempted to load up their patio furniture, find a luscious looking lawn, set up their furniture and

have a picnic. As well, I noticed that first summer that most of our neighbours owned a sit-on tractor, (maybe a retirement gift?) and spent countless hours mowing their lawns. This village a quiet enclave on lovely summer days, was not only noisy but filled with gas fumes, supplanting all the fresh and inviting aromas. It seemed to me an expensive lifestyle. So I started a knot garden, an idea gleaned from a gardening book. The initial outlay was quite a lot, what with killing the grass, finding a design and making stone paths to wind around the fertile mounds to support the plantings. I employed a gardener, Wendy Main, to do all this work and she is tops. I have strawberries, black currants, gooseberries, quince, parsley, sweet cicely and a variety of herbs that are edible or medicinal. All this instead of a suburban lawn. And this year, I have made strawberry jam, gooseberry, black current, mint and quince jelly. I have more than recovered my initial expense and it seems to me that it is a small step to saving the planet from pollution, including that of noise..

I often ponder how one is attending to such principles as “respect for the interdependent web of all existence, of which we are a part.” I hope that this environmental project qualifies as an effort in that sense.

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/>



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Minister's Office Hours  
Wednesday & 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

#### A NOTE OF CAUTION - Members and Visitors

In the wake of recent thefts in North Hatley and surrounding villages, you are encouraged on Sundays during the service and Coffee Hour, to be mindful of protecting personal belonging such as purses and wallets. A new locked drop-box in the minister's office is provided for payments of any kind. Please do not leave money or cheques on the minister's desk or in the Board mail slots.

North Hatley is not immune to what happens in the larger world; let's all be alert!

## Calendar and Schedule

SUN 4 10:00AM SERVICE: JOE WEBER  
TUES 6 9:30AM GRANNIES WORKSHOP  
SUN 11 10:00AM SERVICE: TAKE THIS CUP  
SUN 18 10:00AM SV: SEEDS FOR SURVIVAL  
TUES 20 6:30PM BOARD MEETING  
THUR 22 9:30AM NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE  
SAT 24 8:00PM CHOEUR DES SANGS MÊLÉS  
SUN 25 10:00AM SERVICE: LETTER WRITING

### 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  
December 2012 - January 2013

Deadline: **November 20.**

*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**.*

