

nouvelles news

December - January 2012-2013 décembre - janvier



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

December 2

Rev. Carole Martignacco

“Loving the Darkness, Welcoming the Light”

Come celebrate the Winter Solstice with poetry, stories, song, candlelight and silence, honouring the “great-grandmother” of winter holidays and the natural beauty of this holy season.

Downstairs, in Stoddard Hall

Service Leader: Rev. Carole Martignacco

Coffee Convenor: Joey Marosi

Flower Convenor: Sooky Dunton

December 8, 2:00 pm

Mr. Jim Scott

“In Concert”

Jim Scott is a musician and composer, perhaps most famous for a song in the UU hymnbook called Gather the Spirit. He will be with us to share once again his entertaining and accessible style of folk music for guitar and voice, for the whole family, in a benefit concert for the UUEstrie Roof Fund. Suggested donation: \$10 /person or \$20/family.

Artifacts and gift items made in Bali will be for sale to support the Eaton Corner Museum, a project dear to the hearts of Dick Nolet and Richard Faubert, who selected and brought these items back from Bali.

Upstairs, in the Sanctuary

December 9, 10:30 am

Memorial Service - Richard Faubert

At Estrimont Suites and Spas, Canton d'Orford

December 9, 4 pm

Ms. Clara Bird and Mr. Mahicans Diamond

“Leave No Trace”

In May 2012, Mahicans Diamond & Clara Bird biked & kayaked through the west fjords of Iceland. They

will be showing a movie of their adventures with the extended goal of encouraging responsible, participatory travel that benefits the host environment and culture. Breathtaking scenery unfolds as we follow this young couple's journey through unique and wild lands. Two short movies will be shown on Dec 9th at 4pm at the UU Church. Refreshments & snacks will be served.

To preview, go to www.wewentnorth.wordpress.com

Downstairs, in Stoddard Hall

Service Leader: Kevin Jensen

Coffee Convenor: Kevin Jensen

Flower Convenor: Sooky Dunton

December 16, 4 p.m.

“Would You Like to Hold the Baby?”

A Religious Exploration Intergenerational Program

Our live creche scene features child performers and an “animal” choir singing the simple, poignant melodies of UU singer/songwriter Joyce Poley. A key figure in this humble version of the Nativity story is the innkeeper's daughter, who is irresistibly drawn to the miraculous drama unfolding in the stable. Narration in English and French. Musician: Mike Matheson

Upstairs, in the Sanctuary

Our Annual Turkey Potluck Supper follows the play; you are invited to bring something to contribute to the meal, plus there will be a donation basket to defray the cost of the turkeys. All are welcome!

Downstairs, in Stoddard Hall

**December 23, 4 p.m.
Rev. Carole Martignacco
“Carols and Candlelight”**

Christmas brings together the traditions of many lands and cultures. Join us for a unique ceremony of stories, readings and carols celebrating the light and joy of this holy season, and a few prayers of hope for the coming year.

Fellowship time following will feature a Wassail for all.

Upstairs, in the Sanctuary

Service Leader: Rev. Carole Martignacco

Musician: Mike Matheson

Yule decorations: Sooky Dunton, Gudrun Brand

**December 30
January 6, 2013**

No service this Sunday. *We wish you a Happy and Blessed New Year!*

January 13

**Ms. Ann Rothfels and Townships Tellers
“Stories, Stories, Stories”**

A worship service consisting entirely of stories, told by the Townships Tellers, supplemented by members and friends of UUEstrie.

Storytelling to be followed by a Potluck Lunch with the tellers. Just bring a dish of any kind. All are welcome!

Downstairs, in Stoddard Hall

Service Leader: Keith Baxter

Flower Convenor: Sooky Dunton

**January 20
Prison Chaplaincy
Rev. Abigail Stockman**

A UU Community minister from Irasburg, Vermont will speak about experiences in multi-faith prison ministry in the US; attention will be given to recent funding cuts for Canadian prison chaplaincy.

**January 27
Wisdom Ways – Wise Elders I
Rev. Carole Martignacco**

A hands-on worship workshop on mining our lived experience for wisdom and the importance of leaving a spiritual legacy.

Greetings to all from Janet and Joe



Janet Cowan Weber writes from Ecuador of her four hour bus ride with Joe from Guayaquil to Cuenca. In Cuenca, a UNESCO historic city, they have admired colonial buildings, a river rushing through the city with paths on both sides and, on the streets, Indigenous women from the Highlands in colourful skirts and bowler hats, often with children tied with shawls on their backs. At an altitude of 8500 feet Janet says she has yet to go swimming! They look forward to the arrival of Michael Grayson and Chantal Michaud next week. Meanwhile, Janet has joined a knitting group and Joe is singing in a choir.





Minister's Reflection - Carole's Column

I've always been fascinated by the origins of cultural festivals – as most of the annual celebrations on our contemporary calendars have long roots in history or even prehistoric times.

One exception is Black Friday. The first time I heard the term, I assumed it had something to do with the plague of death in Medieval times that decimated much of the population of Europe. Or did Friday mark the day back in the Dark Ages when some great massacre occurred in the endless religious wars that continue right up to the present day? Whence comes this holiday? “How did such a depressing-sounding nickname become the kickoff to the bonanza of holiday shopping season? It turns out, the term Black Friday didn't always have such merry origins,” writes Ethan Trex, for *Mental Floss*.

Back in the previous century retailers began sponsoring big parades on the day after Thanksgiving, ending with the appearance of that jolly elf, Santa Claus, who officially ushered in the great year-end shopping season. Right on cue, shopping began early and in earnest the Friday after Thanksgiving. The term Black Friday originated in the 1960's as a protest to the consumer trend. Today, Black Friday is the capitalist holiday when retailers start turning a profit - the average retailer as much as 40 percent of annual sales between Thanksgiving and Dec. 31. Black Friday honours this shopping frenzy as the point when red shifts to black ink on the annual balance sheets, marking the year's first profit for many stores. According to the National Retailers Federation, the period between Thanksgiving and Christmas brings in as much as 40 percent of annual profits.

Everything has two sides – at least. “It was the best of times and the worst of times,” wrote Charles Dickens, when the Industrial Revolution was in full swing in England. He could as well have been writing of our present age. For those who see shopping as imperative, Black Friday may be a merry term. Or depressing, if you consider consumerism one of the great modern plagues. For many, it's a

pivotal choice, a question of values: are there other kinds of balance sheets we might wish to shift into the black this season?

In sharp contrast to the Black Friday frenzy, we are told by such organizations as Change.org and Compassionate Giving that there is a healthy increase in charitable giving already marking the 2012 holiday season. One survey indicates that over 147 million adults will participate in the shopping spree that starts now as early as 8p.m on Thursday, Nov. 22. Yet this is also a time when supporting the less affluent becomes ever more crucial.

One of the most significant features of the holiday season is the giving of gifts, going back to ancient origins of winter holidays in Roman times. And gift-giving means the more, when matched to the giver. Are there people on your list, as there are on mine, for whom you never quite find the right gift? Or who seem to have whatever they need already, or are in the down-sizing, simplifying mode? For years I've tried to snatch up the latest novel on the bestseller lists, and mail it to my sister on the West Coast – invariably to find she's read it months ago, and discussed it thoroughly in her book discussion club at the local library. This year she's getting a goat – not mine – but a goat given to a family somewhere across the world. Along with a poem about the goat's reception, and how it transformed one family's outlook for the coming year.

The gift-giving season is again upon us! Anyone care to join me in this kind of giving? Internet shopping can be very gratifying – and it's not all happening on E-Bay!

Blessings for the coming season, and may we each find our balance between the dark and light.

– Rev. Carole

Entre amis/Between Friends Sun., Dec. 2, 2:30-4:30 p.m. at the Haskell Free Library

An open community forum encouraging neighbourliness at the border – a conversation among and between neighbours and cultures. Head Librarian Nancy Rumery, Revs. Abigail Stockman, Vermont and Carole Martignacco., UU Estrie. Come share your stories and hopes for maintaining friendly ties across our international border, at this historic cross border building.



President's Report

'Tis the season once again. As I pulled out the ads for the recycle bin from the newspaper so I could read the news, I noticed that one headline was "BLACK FRIDAY ONE DAY ONLY

SALE." For a brief (I hope) schizophrenic moment, I thought that it meant Good Friday before realizing that the American buying frenzy of the Thanksgiving variety had invaded our shopping habits. Hopefully our Christmas preparations for a spiritual pageant and a generous turkey dinner, open to all, will counteract this shopping perversion.

Attending the 175 years of Universalism in Halifax-Dartmouth on Saturday, November 17, 2012 and the Service of Installation for The Reverend Norman William Horofker the next day was a special celebration for Jaime and me this past weekend. The enthusiasm and goodwill from this 100 member or so congregation was infectious and joyful. The dinner was packed into a space that barely contained us all. There were special guests: Vida Ng, executive director (interim) of the CUC, Reverend Beth Miller, a former minister of that church, The Reverend Diane Rollert of the Montreal Church and Kelly McDowell, congregational Development Resource Person, eastern division of the CUC. When we were dining, the couple across from us started the conversation with the fact that they had lived in North Hatley 35 years ago. Alas, there were but few that we mutually knew. The musical celebration was most enjoyable with a choir that has more singers than our church has members. Their songs were usually original and their director, Deborah Wiggins, quite extraordinary. The installation of Reverend Norm was well organized and profound. Reverend Norm said in his response, "May our association together promote justice, righteousness and love, thereby making a positive difference in Halifax and beyond." I have copies of the two events and the placemats that were part of the dinner which show the various spaces the church has occupied the past 175 years and some interesting Universalist quotes. One of the quotes from Thomas Starr King is "The difference between Universalists

and Unitarians is that Universalists believe that God is too good to damn (humanity) and Unitarians believe that (humanity) is too good to be damned." I will leave these mementos outside Stoddard Hall for others to enjoy.

We will be away for the coming season and wish you all a happy and generous season and good wishes for the New Year.

Sooky

A Medal for Rachel



Award of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee medal to Rachel Garber may be the one time a member of this congregation received that order of recognition for community service. Jean Rousseau, MP for Compton-Stanstead (and a recent speaker at our

church) chose Rachel with some others for the honour from nominations of likely candidates throughout the riding. Thrilled to be present at the ceremony on November 14 in the Marguerite Knapp building in Lennoxville were the following from UUEstrie: Gudrun Brand, Sooky and Jaime Dunton, Adele Ernstrom, Heather Lewis, Rev. Carole Martignacco, Carol McKinley and Mary Lynn Ross.

Jean Rousseau presented the award and with Gerald Cutting, current President of the Townshippers Association, praised the quality of Rachel's leadership during her decade with Townshippers. To planning for the organization, she brought technological sophistication, skills in communication, and insistence on thorough research as a basis for identifying objectives. Rachel thought strategically, Gerald Cutting observed, while engaging with members of her team to develop projects in which fellow workers could share ownership. These efforts addressed concerns ranging from issues affecting youth, the elderly, and poverty among Anglophones in the Townships. Jean Rousseau emphasized the value of her work in fostering ties between English and French speakers in the region. Complementary to that effort was Rachel's support for the World March of Women

in 2000, which catalysed a coming together of Anglophone and Francophone women in the Townships. Those who knew Rachel were well aware of her capacity for hard work, never in the multiplication of busyness but with carefully considered purpose and respect for her relations with others as fellow workers towards a common goal.

We are proud to be associated with her in the church and congratulate her on this award!

Adele Ernstrom



How did Alex the dolphin get his name?

This contest to win your very own little knitted piggy for your Christmas tree, is still open as there have been no winners so far. Look at last month's newsletter for pictures (though pictures don't do these knitted things justice—they are very tactile objects, beautiful soft toys in fact made by Sarah Mae Baxter who offers a prize for the first right answer as to whom Alex is named after. Send your guess to dontpanick@gmail.com. First right answer wins.

Potluck lunch January 13, 2013

Everyone is invited to 'bring a pot' for a potluck lunch in Stoddard Hall after the Storytelling service on January 13, 2013. Nothing fancy required; just bring something to share and plan to stay for lunch with the tellers. This will be our first time back together in the New Year, so a good time to catch up with everyone.

Write for Rights

Last year's survey of members' interest in social justice issues helped suggest a programme for the Nov. 25 service. Concern for support of the CBC figured prominently in questionnaire results and Rachel Garber will host a letter-writing table addressing issues facing the public broadcaster. Human rights relating to Aboriginal women, mining conditions in the Third World and environmental issues around oil spills and pipeline development will be taken up at tables presided over by Kevin Jensen and Mike Matheson. The many who expressed a desire for peace may gravitate to a table in support of war resisters, in opposition to purchase of exorbitantly priced military hardware and meanness with regard to veterans' benefits. Tell your friends!

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/>

For So The Children Come

Sophia Lyon Fahs

For so the children come
And so they have been coming.
Always in the same way they came -

Born of the seed of men and women.
No angels herald their beginnings.
No prophets predict their future courses.
No wisemen see a star to show where to find
The babe that will save humankind.

Yet each night a child is born is a holy night.
Fathers and mothers-
Sitting beside their children's cribs-
Feel glory in the sight of a new life
beginning.
They ask "Where and how will this new life
end?
Or will it ever end?

Each night a child is born is a holy night-
A time for singing,
A time for wondering,
A time for worshipping.

Take Joy!

A solstice salutation translated from the 16th
century Italian

I salute you!
There is nothing I can give you
which you have not.
But there is much, that while I cannot give,
You can take.
No heaven can come to us,
unless our hearts find rest in it today.
Take heaven!

No peace lies in the future
Which is not hidden in this present instant.
Take peace!

The gloom of the world is but a shadow.
Behind it, yet whithin our reach, is joy.
Take joy!

And so at this Christmastime, I greet you.
With the prayer that for you, now and
forever,
The day breaks, and the shadows flee away!

*Here we are – all of us – all upon this
planet, bound together in a common
destiny, living our lives between the
briefness of the daylight and the dark,
Kindred in this, each lighted by the same
precarious, flickering flame of life, how
does it happen that we are not kindred in
all things else? How strange and foolish
are these walls of separation that divide
us!*

-- The Rev. A. Powell Davies (1902 - 1957)

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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



Rooftops in Cuenca, Ecuador

Calendar and Schedule

DECEMBER

TUES 27 7:00PM SMALL GROUP MINISTRY
SUN 2 10:00AM SERVICE: SOLSTICE
2:30PM BETWEEN FRIENDS
AT HASKELL LIBRARY
TUES 4 9:30AM GRANNIES WORKSHOP
SUN 9 10:30AM MEMORIAL SERVICE
RICHARD FAUBERT
4:00PM SERVICE: CLARA BIRD
SAT 8 2:00PM JIM SCOTT CONCERT
MON 10 6:30PM BOARD MEETING
SUN 16 4:00PM PAGEANT, TURKEY DINNER
SUN 23 4:00PM CANDLELIGHT CAROLS

JANUARY

SUN 13 10:00AM STORYTELLING
SUN 20 10:00AM PRISON CHAPLAINCY
SUN 27 10:00AM WISE ELDERS I

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 February 2013

Deadline: **January 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.

Please, please, please! We spent an hour looking through various mail accounts today.