

# nouvelles news

April 2013 avril



## 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

**April 7**

**Rev. Carole Martignacco**  
**“Enlightenment – NOW!”**

Climate change has dominated recent news with startling weather-related evidence documented world-wide. Are we entering a new age of awareness, based less on a collective shift in consciousness and more on actual lived experience of the effects brought on by our persistent denial of the past decades? If we humans have a prayer - what is it?

Downstairs, in Stoddard Hall

Coffee Convenor: Debra Fougère  
Flower Convenor: Sooky Dunton

**April 14**

**Rev. Jeff Brown**  
**“Let's Celebrate Sin!”**

Jeff Brown is a retired UU minister from Mississauga ON. He has a second home in southern Vermont, which puts him close enough to North Hatley to be able to drop in and share a worship service with us.

Jeff asks, "How do we make our time together different – more celebratory, responsive, and open — services that round out our whole being and reflect twenty-first century questions and sensibilities? We can start with our emotions, urges, and senses — everything that makes us human.

"With all due humility, I've had enough of what's wrong with our human condition. I'm tired of all the analysis of Benedict XVI's abdication and the commentaries about all that religion categorizes as taboo. It's time to reclaim some of those forbidden, and all too mortal, parts, for they are what creates our humanity. "Let's hear it for the sacredness of sin!"

Upstairs, in the Sanctuary

Service Leader: Rev. Carole Martignacco  
Coffee Convenor: Phyllis Baxter  
Flower Convenor: Sooky Dunton

**April 19, 5:30 pm**  
**“Pledge Dinner”**

An evening of fun and food for all members and friends of UUEstrie. Look for another skit from *Fincte*, and some rousing songs, as well as encouragement to make a substantial pledge to the church, to keep it going. Supper provided by your loyal Board of trustees. Just bring yourself, and your spouse (and your pledge form, and your chequebook if you want!).

Downstairs, in Stoddard Hall

Service Leader: Keith Baxter

**April 21**

**Dr. Helen Jensen**  
**“Seeds for Food Security”**

Today we celebrate Earth Sunday. Our speaker is Helen Jensen, Quebec Regional Coordinator of USC Canada's domestic program: The Bauta Family Initiative on Canadian Seed Security (Helen is a daughter of Kevin and Lin Jensen). She will speak on the link between farmers, seed conservation, and food security in the developing world and Canada. The offering will be a special collection for USC Canada Seeds for Survival. Bring seeds to share with the congregation after the service.

Upstairs, in the Sanctuary

Service Leader: Gudrun Brand  
Flower Convenor: Sooky Dunton

**April 28**  
**Le Cercle gaulois**  
**“La Connexion”**

La connexion semble importante pour le bien-être humain. Quand est-ce que nous nous sentons particulièrement connecté? Avec quoi sentons-nous la connexion?

Un service complet dans la langue de Molière.

Upstairs, in the Sanctuary

Service Leader: Émanuèle Lapierre-Fortin

Flower Convenor: Sooky Dunton

**4 PM - Huntingville Universalist Church**

An Interfaith Service with a dialogue sermon by United Minister Mead Baldwin and our own Rev. Carole Martignacco – topic to be announced!

**May 5th at 4 p.m. – Celebrating 10 Years of Shared Ministry**

On May 5 we will celebrate the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of our ministry with Reverend Carole Martignacco, who arrived in North Hatley in January of 2003 and was formally installed as our half-time settled minister in a covenanting service held on May 11, 2003. Clergy from several faith communities and special guests have been invited for this anniversary celebration. Please note the time: Our service for that Sunday will be at 4 p.m., followed by a tea and hors d'oeuvres reception arranged by Joey Marosi. All are welcome to commemorate this milestone with us.

**Celebrating our Centenarian**

Nancy Pacaud's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday falls on March 31<sup>st</sup>, Easter Sunday. We plan to have a dedication of the kitchen in Avery Booth Hall following the service. Her daughter, Jill Hertog, has reserved the day before, Saturday, March 30<sup>th</sup> at Cafe Les Desserts Richmond to celebrate the occasion. Call Jill at 842 628 0412 to reserve.

**GRANNIES CLOTHING SALE – *Mark thy calendars for April 26 – 27!***

The Grannies For Grannies group that meets in our church will host a gently used Clothing Sale on the weekend of April 26 – 27 at the

Amidée Beaudoin Community Centre in Lennoxville. This fundraiser for the Stephen Lewis Foundation supports Grandmothers raising AIDS/HIV orphans in Africa. Hours are: Friday, 1-8 pm; Saturday, 8-5 pm.

**April 6, from 9:30 am**  
**“Spring Cleanup Day #1”**

Come one, come all. Put a little time into sprucing up the old place. Wear comfortable work clothes. Pick a task from the list that will be available at UUEstrie and go to work indoors or outdoors. Plan ahead if you like, to make sure supplies for your chosen task are at hand. Bring a brown bag lunch if you like. People are expected off and on all day from 9:30 am. Come when you can.

Can't make it on the 6th? Come to Cleanup Day #2 on Saturday April 13!

**Special Reminders for cleanup needs this season:**

Please everybody remove all props to do with Christmas from the upstairs kitchen asap.

Special cleanup tasks for April 6 and 13 From 9:30 am on:

- Scraping and painting white railings at the front of the church building.
- Re-painting three red doors with a roller.
- Water-sealing railings at Gagnon Street entrance.
- Re-painting/staining white trim around all our windows and doors .

Regular tasks include washing windows and floors as needed, raking lawns, vacuuming and cleaning each room in our building. A list of routine jobs will be printed and available on the day.

**Report from *Harvest the Power***

I spent two full weekends participating in this Leadership Development workshop, animated by two very competent leaders, that was held at the First Universalist Parish of Derby Line VT parish hall in January and March.

One of the things that came up was, predictably, mission and vision. When I looked at what we had in that area, the key ideas were actually in several different documents; they needed to be put together in a direct, simplified way.

*Keith*



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

**LET'S RAISE A  
CHEER FOR HUMAN  
RIGHTS! History is in  
the making, and for once  
it's encouraging!**

I hope you are all watching as I am the news from the US around DOMA and Proposition 8, as the case against legalizing Equal Marriage unravels. We are seeing the enactment of a human rights dream, the fruits of years of incredible work by dedicated activists and organizations to dismantle injustice on both sides of the border. Canada may soon be joined by the US in defining marriage as the ability to partner for life with the person of one's choice. And we in the northland can assure our neighbours that the sky has neither fallen nor has all mayhem let loose on the collective family scene in nearly a decade since the Equal Marriage Act passed in Canada's Parliament.

DOMA is the Defence of Marriage Act passed in 1996 that reinforced the conservative "right" position that marital status and benefits be reserved for "traditional" male-female couples only. Proposition 8 is California's voter-approved gay marriage ban that reversed a state decision to legalize Equal Marriage after only five months back in 2008. Marital status in the US is relevant in over 1,100 federal laws affecting rights such as health benefits, medical decision-making, childcare and custody, pensions, as well as estate and inheritance laws.

The momentous case currently before the Supreme Court's nine justices is expected to reflect a rising sea-change in public opinion which is now beginning to favour gay rights throughout the country. It calls for a re-interpretation of basic Constitutional rights and involves a recent widow, Edith Windsor from New York, aged 83, who in 2007 married Thea Speyer, her partner of 44 years, in Canada. Thea suffered from MS for many years and on her death left all she had to Edie, who has now sued to challenge a \$363,000 federal estate tax bill. According to current law, had Windsor married a man, her estate tax bill would be zero. To date, 10 of the 50 states now allow Equal Marriage,

including some of our closest neighbours: Vermont, New Hampshire, Maine, New York, Maryland, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Washington, Iowa, and the District of Columbia.

Now I hope you're sitting down, for this news reads like music to the ears of religious liberals anywhere. The Huffington Post reports: "Nearly everybody invoking religion outside of the court on Wednesday did so in the name of a loving God who embraces all people, including LGBT people who want to marry their same-sex partner. But there were a handful of others with signs condemning gay marriage and pointing to the Bible as the reason for their stance."

California House Rep. Xavier Becerra, head of the Democratic Caucus, is one who voted against DOMA in 1996. As a Catholic, he drew heavy criticism at the time from his religious community. Interviewed this past week by The Huffington Post, Becerra said "he respected those people's religious views, but said their beliefs don't apply to him or anyone else. 'When you enter into the public forum, when you start to have our civil life dictated by our religious values, our Constitution says no,' he said. 'Our Constitution says everyone is created equally. If that conflicts with someone's religious values, we still say, in this country, that the civil value wins out.'"

So here we have it at last – respect for diverse religious beliefs, yet forging common ground in civil law. As if to give further proof to a season of miracles, even Rush Limbaugh, the ultra-conservative media pundit, has publicly admitted on a recent radio show that nationwide legalization of gay marriage is now inevitable, saying opponents of gay marriage are being told "the country is changing and you better get with it and understand it. The genie is not getting put back in the bottle."

**Friends, this is not an April Fool's prank!** It's all taken from actual news coverage of the past few days. Could it be in our lifetime the old world is coming to an end – with a new one being born before our very eyes? *Step by step, the longest march...* Let's cheer it on, adding our liberal prayers of thanksgiving. For we believe in justice. One oppression at a time - freedom, reason, love and goodness *will* win out!

*See you in church! – Rev. Carole*



### President's Report

I am reading a book called On Looking: Eleven Walks With Expert Eyes by Alexandra Horowitz. She teaches psychology, animal behaviour and canine cognition at Barnard College, Columbia University. The author

takes walks with various experts in their field, mostly in a four block area in Manhattan where she lives. It is very familiar territory to her especially after accompanying her toddler on daily walks. As anyone who has walked with small children knows, their walks do not go in a straight line from A to B. Who would guess that a loose brick sticking out of a building could be so interesting to a child, or even notice that it was there? The author went on walks with a geologist who notices the cobble stones and dates their age, a doctor who diagnoses people that they pass, an architect who noticed typefaces and designs on the myriads of signs and an entomologist who notes all the insects surviving in such a busy space. It is astonishing to me how all of these experts see things differently and what interests each of them in their daily excursions in the same space.

And so I guess it is no wonder that even in our faith community we have differences as to what is important to us. One way to deal with this is to have our lines of communication active and topical so that we can get a handle on collective wishes for our community. We do this through our Committee on Ministry, which is designed to be a two way communication between the minister and the congregation. Another means is to have the minutes of our various committees such as the Board and the Program Committee posted for all to read. I have been very lax at posting the Board minutes and shall endeavour to be more diligent with them in the future. Perhaps an announcement in Church that they are available would do the trick. I think that in a small community such as ours it is important for us to be aware of all the contributions made by many to the work of the Church.

Sooky

### Second Cup of Wine – To Liberation!

*From the Interfaith Passover Seder Easter Feast.*

As we recall the liberation from slavery of our own people we are able to empathize with the plight of other peoples. This continent was built in part through the enslavement of blacks who were wrenched from rich strong cultures of their own. All physical slavery involves a spiritual slavery as well. We Jews know that we have often been robbed of a sense of dignity and pride. We dedicate ourselves tonight to freeing of body and soul of all human beings.



### Special Thanks this Month

To the children, who raised \$42 by selling donkey cookies that they made in Sunday school. The money will go to the Equine Initiative.

To Sooky Dunton, for immediate and thorough response to the flooding of Stoddard Hall; Sooky spent several days cleaning and disinfecting to prevent water and mold damage. Few were even aware of the problem, as she had everything in order in time for the Sunday service. We can't thank you enough, Sooky!

Keith Baxter, for his extraordinary service as lay chaplain giving many hours of support to a grieving family, a role he fulfilled with compassion and grace.

Gordon Stoddard, for recording and posting Sunday services in a timely fashion on our website. (Our web master Lin Jensen affirms that these are accessed regularly – some talks as many as 30 or more times in the short time they have been available.) Gordon also produced the laminated UU Estrie pocket cards with our Affirmation in both languages – many thanks, Gordon.

#### *EACH SUNDAY WE SING:*

*FROM YOU I RECEIVE, TO YOU I GIVE  
TOGETHER WE SHARE, AND BY THIS WE LIVE.*

Many hands make light work, as the saying goes, while some take on heavier responsibilities with an energy sustained over time. In whatever way you receive and give back to this community, know that you are appreciated and your gifts sustain us all.

**SPECIAL THANKS, THEREFORE, TO ALL:** Who serve as elected members of the Board, play music, lead services, liaison with guest speakers, plan and help with fundraising projects, do publicity, manage finances, attend CUC events on our behalf, teach RE, serve on a committee or working group, attend services, participate in small groups or other activities, perform rites of passage, represent us in the larger community, create caring cards, donate candles, serve coffee, invite friends to services and events, provide caring home or phone visits to other members, tell stories to our children, vacuum carpets and wash windows, produce newsletters and meeting minutes. The list could

go on and on....and much of the work we do for each other is behind the scenes, invisible. Let us thank each other and offer encouragement and help whenever we can. For the service we give each other, the cost is love, and the wages are recognition.

### BOARD Odds and Ends

1) The Board has approved a donation to CUSJ, which publishes JUSTnews, the Canadian Unitarian Justice newsletter that we receive quarterly. It is available on the information table outside the ministry office for all of us to read, and it is definitely worthy of your time. A stated purpose of this publication is "to proactively represent Unitarian principles and values in matters of social justice." We may well be proud of the efforts of Rev. Frances Deverell and Canadian Unitarians for Social Justice (CUSJ) in bringing to our attention issues of environmental and humanitarian urgent concern.

2) We received from the New York State Convention of Universalists a grant of \$1,000.00 to support the Church's beginning phase of an outreach initiative in French. The grant is to underwrite the translation and generation of French content on UU Estrie's website, plus acquisition of Unitarian Universalist material in French. Our thanks to Rachel for completing that application.

3) Rachel has been approved by the Board to be our delegate to the Vermont-Quebec Convention annual meeting. Thank you, Rachel. Attendance involves travelling to Montpelier, Vt, to represent UU Estrie - a full day's project.

4) Keith applied for and received \$500.00 from the West Fund for our RE program. Keith regularly takes responsibility for this application. Thank you Keith.

5) The 'Harvest the Power' workshop held in Derby Line, Vt on two weekends this winter was attended only by Keith. Keith found the workshop most worthwhile.

6) The CUC resolutions that were debated and approved by our group on 'Resolutions Sunday', led by Keith, was an innovation to make us all more aware of what the CUC does on our behalf. This year a working plan for a follow-up was part of the CUC's mandate and an important part of ours to follow up on it.

7) Thus far the only delegates to the CUC's annual meeting in Calgary on the Victoria Day long weekend in May are Jaime and Sooky. Jaime is CUC's parliamentarian and has been working diligently with the executive on re-writing the by-laws. Who knew that involved so much work? It would be so special for others to go to this rich and rewarding conference, if they could meet the financial challenge. Any takers? So far, we only have one delegate who can vote, as the parliamentarian may not.

8) Phyllis has pointed out that in the affirmation we repeat every Sunday, the French translation calls us a community rather than a church. What does our congregation think of using 'community' in the English version?

9. Dates to circle for Spring clean-up: April 6th and 14th. Some of us consider that this is our second home and we would welcome volunteers to help with cleaning for a few hours on either of those dates. There is room for janitors and ground keepers as well, if you prefer not to get your hands wet.

10. 'Ecumenism in South Coatsly' The Pledge dinner is scheduled for 5:30 pm on April 19<sup>th</sup> on the above theme. All welcome; supper and entertainment provided by your Board.

### **Caroline Coutu Funeral**

About 250 people from the local area, and from elsewhere in Quebec, jammed into our meeting house for the funeral service for Caroline Coutu on March 22. She was part of the Waldorf community, based in Waterville. UUEstrie is the spiritual place of choice for many in that community, so they are a very real part of our wider community.

Providing rites of passage services for them and for the general public is an important ministry we offer, and is very much appreciated by all. At the funeral, many expressed their deep appreciation of the welcome, the open-mindedness, and the deep spirituality they felt and feel in our UUEstrie community. Our whole building was in use that day, but earlier in the week Stoddard Hall was also in use for a 54-hour vigil in memory of Caroline, kept by her family and close friends. I am very happy we were able to provide this ministry. - Keith

### **Global Chalice Lighting for April 2013**

This Global Chalice Lighting is submitted by the Indian Council of Unitarian Churches for April 2013.

ENGLISH:

God is the Knowledge Principle. May knowledge remove ignorance and may we realize that knowledge is a lasting inner wealth by which all outer achievements can be accomplished. By lighting the chalice may we bow down to knowledge as the greatest of all forms of wealth.

Knowledge backs our actions, whether good or bad. We therefore light this chalice as a witness to our thoughts and actions. The flame of the chalice burns upwards; similarly, we should acquire such knowledge as to take us towards higher ideals. When lit by spiritual knowledge, the negative tendencies in a human being get slowly exhausted, and the ego too finally perishes.

Knowledge does not lessen when shared; on the contrary, it benefits both the giver and the receiver.

FRENCH:

*Dieu est le principe suprême de la connaissance. Que celle-ci ôte l'ignorance et puissions-nous comprendre qu'elle est une richesse intérieure durable grâce à laquelle nous pouvons mieux accomplir nos projets. En allumant notre calice, puissions nous voir en elle cette connaissance comme la plus grande de toutes les richesses. Elle inspire nos actions, que celles-ci s'avèrent bonnes ou mauvaises.*

*C'est pourquoi nous avons allumé ce calice comme témoin de nos pensées et de nos actions. Voyez comment sa flamme brûle vers le haut comme pour nous inspirer à acquérir des connaissances qui nous poussent vers des idéaux plus élevés. Eclairées par une connaissance spirituelle, nos tendances négatives sont peu à peu évacuées et, finalement, notre Ego s'estombe.*

*Cette connaissance ne diminue aucunement lorsqu'on la partage ; bien au contraire, donneurs et receveurs en profitent mutuellement.*

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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



Memories of February...

## Calendar and Schedule

TUES	2	9:30AM	GRANNIES WORKSHOP
SAT	6	9:30AM	SPRING CLEANUP
SUN	7	10:00AM	SERVICE: ENLIGHTENMENT
SAT	13	9:30AM	SPRING CLEANUP
SUN	14	10:00AM	SERVICE: CELEBRATE SIN
TUE	16	7:00PM	SMALL GROUP
FRI	19	5:30PM	PLEDGE DINNER
SUN	21	10:00AM	SERVICE: FOOD SECURITY
MARDI	23	19H30	CERCLE GAULOIS
FRI	26	- SAT 27	GRANNIES CLOTHING SALE
SUN	28	10:00AM	SERVICE: CERCLE GAULOIS

### 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 May 2013

### Deadline: **April 21.**

*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](mailto:newsletter@uuestrie.ca).*

### Denominational affairs

If you are a member, you probably get the Canadian Unitarian newsletter by email. Current and past issues can be found on-line at <http://cuc.ca/the-canadian-unitarian/>. You can also request a paper copy there.

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