

June 2013 juin

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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

**Saturday, June 1, 8 p.m.**  
**Choeur des Sangs Mêlés**

**“Lune de miel (honeymoon)”**

Spring concert! Lune de miel will be a honeymoon indeed, featuring blossoms, birds and bees – and the “birds and the bees”! From Armenia to Sweden, South Africa to Peru to Tibet, a selection of a cappella songs evoke the old spring festivals and fertility traditions, the fickle hummingbird and the traitorous cuckoo, roses, nightingales and the pleasures and sorrows of love. Come, and invite your friends!

Suggested donation \$12. Proceeds to be divided between UUEstrie, Les AmiEs de la Terre and Carrefour de solidarité internationale.

**June 2**

**Dr. Patrick LaBelle**

**“Wonders of the World at the Quantum Level”**

It's not Quirks and Quarks, but pretty close. Patrick Labelle is a physicist who teaches at Champlain College and Bishop's University. He enjoys trying to translate Quantum Physics into terms that you and I can understand, and then trying to figure out what it all means.

Service Leader: Keith Baxter  
Coffee Convenor: Carol McKinley  
Flower Convenor: Sooky Dunton

**June 9**

**Ms. Kye Flannery**

**“I'm a Minister, Not a Saint”**

In our UU tradition of shared ministry, what does being ministers to each other require of us? A subtitle might be: 'Shadow Selves and Higher Selves'. Our culture, and communities consider ministers to be beacons, keepers of a high standard. As we bring our

best gifts, what do we do with the rest of ourselves when we seek to serve a community?

Kye Flannery, UU ministry student in Boston, is just completing an internship at the First Unitarian Church of Ottawa under Rev. John Marsh, where she reflects a lot about ministry with both a small and a big 'M'.

Service Leader: Keith Baxter  
Coffee Convenor: Adele Ernstrom  
Flower Convenor: Sooky Dunton

**Thursday 13<sup>th</sup>, Annual Meeting, 7:00 pm**

**Friday, June 14, 7:30 pm**

**Village Harmony**

**“Village Harmony in Concert”**

Village Harmony is a singing camp for youth and young adults based in Vermont. For over 20 years they have been taking their singers on tour in Northern New England, developing their voices, their repertoire and their professionalism. UU Estrie will be their only Canadian stop on this tour. Twenty powerful voices ringing out a capella songs in English, everything from Gospel to Contemporary.

Suggested donation: \$12 at the door. Come, Enjoy and bring your friends!

**June 16**

**Members and Friends**

**“Fathers' Day”**

Personal testimony about our fathers. Everyone is welcome to offer a personal testimony about a father figure in their life, In the language of your choice.

Service Leader: Kevin Jensen  
Flower Convenor: Sooky Dunton

June 23

**Ms. Bethany Knight**

**“Living a Life of Meaning: Practicing Daily Gladness”**

Bethany Knight is an annual visitor to our pulpit, with an engaging and joyful message of love and sharing drawn from her experiences in Vermont, Florida and India (as well as having been raised UU!).

Service Leader: Keith Baxter  
Coffee Convenor: Jensens  
Flower Convenor: Sooky Dunton

June 30

**Kira Yonelinas-Scheib  
with her Dad, Andy Scheib  
“Seeds of Learning”**

Kira, age 10 years, raised funds to provide scholarships for children in Nicaragua by baking, garage and book sales in her home town of Davis, California. She and her Dad, along with three other parents and children ages 10 to 14 years, flew to South America to deliver their gift. The parents helped to build an addition to a school while the children helped by fetching and carrying materials. As well as teaching the children games, Kira and friends are in a Spanish immersion program at their school. This will be a power point presentation.

Service Leader: Mary Lynn Ross  
Flower Convenor: Sooky Dunton

July 7

**Ms. Susan-Lynn Johns  
“Picnic Sunday”**

Susan-Lynn Johns is lay minister of our sister church in Derby Line. This will be her first visit to our pulpit. Today is also our annual Picnic Sunday. After the 10 am worship service in our sanctuary, we shall adjourn to the Jensen farm, on Bowen Rd. in Hatley, for a picnic lunch. Bring your frisbees, your picnic lunch, outdoor games to play, even your bathing suits if you like (there is a pond). All are welcome.

Coffee Convenor: Mary Lynn Ross

Thursday, July 25, at 8 pm. UUEstrie Benefit at the Piggery



**THE ORIGINAL CANADIAN DUELING PIANOS**

It's 2 guys on 2 pianos having way 2 much fun. Randy Vancourt and Mark Kersey. All the way from Toronto, 2 **The Piggery**.

And us 2. Our challenge: Raise funds for UUEstrie by giving yourself and your friends way 2 much fun.

Aha – gottcha. You saw “pianos” and you thought “concert.” But no – think comedy! It's an evening of high fun by 2 seasoned comedians. Think being in stitches, and think music 2. Think 2 pianos, think 2 many laughs. Think a 1-of-a-kind show filled with all kinds of music, laughs, flashy piano pieces, singalongs, and even championship yo-yo tricks.

Think about paying \$5 less than the going rate for tickets for this 2 funny show. **Only \$20**. And \$8 of it comes right back to UUEstrie. Take a crowd with you!

Build your summer around That Special Moment, **Thursday, July 25, at 8 p.m.** And be there, with Randy and Mark, and their twin pianos 2, for **The Original Canadian Dueling Pianos** show.

Randy has performed all over North America, building up to this night. He co-created Radio Freaks. He has composed music for TV shows. Dudley the Dragon and Don't Lick the Pig are just 2 of many. Check out [www.randyvancourt.com](http://www.randyvancourt.com).

Mark has pulled himself away from 6 years writing scripts and performing as Mark The Repairman on Mr. Dressup. He was the 1984 Canadian yo-yo champion, and recorded 5 albums with his children's group The Stylamanders. Read all about it at [2pianos.homestead.com](http://2pianos.homestead.com).

They're ready for us! Are we ready for them? Please join the fun and help raise funds for the UUEstrie 2. Get tickets for yourself and your friends. Get them now. From Rachel. Call 819-300-2374, email [Rachel@uuestrie.ca](mailto:Rachel@uuestrie.ca) or nab me next Sunday. Bless you.

**UU ESTRIE SUPER SUMMER FUNDRAISERS ARE BEING PLANNED**

At 6pm sharp, on Thursday evening, July 18<sup>th</sup>, our church bells will chime to herald the official end of a UU ESTRIE Silent Auction that is currently on the drawing board. In a show of interfaith support, United church minister Mead Baldwin will join us for the final hour to ensure a spirited, festive finale. We are excited to tell you that July 18th will be a very special day in North Hatley since our AUCTION will coincide with the Piggery Theatre's Annual HOUSE AND GARDEN TOUR and our own UU ESTRIE will be part of the TOUR !

What a splendid opportunity this gives us to showcase our church as a historical gem to the wider community, while giving participants the chance to also support our Silent Auction. Adele Ernstrom has volunteered to compile historical data to share with visitors whom we hope will enjoy a little respite in our sanctuary, perhaps with a cold drink and quiet music for backdrop.

Our Silent Auction will get underway the weekend of July 6/7 with open hours again on the following weekend. Specific hours will follow; we hope to encourage as many people as possible to participate.

Most of all, we need YOU, our members and friends of UUC ESTRIE, to donate quality items, art works, crafts, produce, or service such as a catered lunch or dinner, landscaping help, computer sessions . (No large furniture or used clothing please .) We shall also canvass in our communities for rounds of golf, restaurant meals, and services etc.

We also need your presence and participation in this, our major fundraising event of the year.

So, "all hands aloft" to ensure that our Silent Auction and Piggery Evening will both be a SUPER SUCCESS and chance to enjoy ourselves while helping to offset mounting financial concerns of these past few years.

More information and volunteer assignment sheets will be available soon .

Here's to two profitable (ad)ventures,

Carol McKinley

( UUC Fundraising Cmtee)

**Congratulations**

Congratulations to Phyllis Baxter who was recently credentialed as an Eden Energy Medicine Practitioner. The Small Group Ministry benefited from a programme Phyllis organized in Stoddard Hall for its April meeting. Phyllis expects in the near future to be offering private consultations in Energy Medicine.

Congratulations to Helen Jensen for receiving her degree of PhD In Biology. She accomplished this while getting married, moving into a house and having a baby.

**10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Shared Ministry**

May 5 marked Carole's 10 years as our minister.



Special guests and interfaith clergy came from as far away as Toronto and Burundi.



Thank you, Catherine Walker, for delightful Cello music.





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

*"Through engagement in public discourse, religion becomes even more outward-oriented and more concerned with...the promotion of the common good."*

*"Our challenge is to foster a new spirit of civility...within an increasingly diverse society, where all can speak openly together about our beliefs, values and principles and how they relate to the common good."*

*"In a country that has embraced values of pluralism and religious freedom, the exclusion of religion from all public discourse would be inconsistent with our heritage."*

*"We are calling for a new level of maturity in our public discourse, where diverse religious perspectives are part of a rich and dynamic Canadian conversation."*

For two sun-filled days in the midst of a season of rain, we began each morning with devotional words from several world religious traditions. The chapel of the Birks Building on the McGill campus was filled during plenary sessions on May 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> with media figures and journalists, MPs and other elected officials from various levels of Canadian government, professors and scholars of world religions, heads of religious organizations, leaders from a number of local, national, and international humanitarian and faith-based agencies, educators, clergy and people of all faiths. The series of panel presentations followed by discussion and questions from the floor offered an intense forum for religious and cultural exchange, seeking to cover all aspects of inter-religious dialogue – its barriers, its successes, its possibilities for advancing world peace and cross-cultural understanding. Throughout, we were aware of a much larger “unseen” audience, as the entire conference was recorded and live-streamed all over the world. Over and over I thought: what a privilege to be here – what an amazing opportunity! We are here to restore hope and explore new possibilities for a more profound coming together of world religions.

Sooky Dunton and I joined Revs. Charles Eddis and Diane Rollert (one of the panellists on day two) who along with a couple of members of the Unitarian Church of Montreal filled an entire “Unitarian pew” in the chapel. Though I’ll be unpacking the experience of those intense two days for months to come, here while it’s still fresh are a few choice insights gleaned from that amazing conference at McGill: Bridging the Secular Divide – Religion and Canadian Public Discourse. Among the myriad issues raised throughout the conference, certain basic concepts kept resurfacing in each of the presentations by panellists and the discussions that followed.

A distinction was made between pluralism and relativism. Instead of a growing tendency to homogenize belief, to ignore or deny differences among religious traditions – is it possible to hold them all as distinct from each other yet culturally relevant. Questions were raised about how to distinguish between core religious principles and fundamentalist distortions, cultural practices or political exploitation.

What is secularism? Is it the “scourge of our time” – marking the rampant decline of values in 21<sup>st</sup> century civilization? Is it the antithesis of religion, the absence of religious values and principles? Perhaps instead it provides a benign neutral ground, absent of religious preference, persuasion or coercion. We explored how secularism – with civil law at its best focused on basic human dignity and universal human rights – could provide the necessary assurances of civility within which diverse religious voices are exchanged without recrimination or persecution. There was a strong challenge to all religious leaders to engage vigorously in meaningful and respectful dialogue and join in social action and justice with diverse communities of faith. For *“there will be no peace among nations until there is peace among religions.”*

This is urgent world-changing work of our time. I am excited to commit to this mission on your behalf, but I am not interested in being a “lone ranger.” Bridging divisions across faith lines is a vision that can only be realized if we engage whole-heartedly with others as a spirited and inclusive religious community. The first rule of success, we were reminded by one of the elected officials present, is to just SHOW UP.

Will you join me? There is no end to what we can do together. Our interfaith dialogue service this past May in Huntingville was just the beginning!

*Have a good summer!* - Rev. Carole

Please note: Reverend Carole is on vacation during the month of June. For pastoral concerns, please contact Board President Sooky Dunton.



### President's Report

We are rich! Not only is everything green and lush -- and did not die as I am certain will happen at the end of each and every winter - but the Annual General Meeting of the Canadian Unitarian

Council was held in Calgary this past weekend. The theme of diversity was explored for growth in every single session, in workshops, addresses by speakers, and at formal dinners.

The annual general meeting explored the proposed resolutions which we had already looked at in our church several Sundays ago. They were again hashed over on Thursday evening but then on Friday, spoken to with pros and cons, and PASSED. One of the most interesting to me was the proposal to dedicate a chunk of money to explore more electronic communications for congregations. Everyone is aware that travelling is expensive and many are unable to attend this important meeting. After dinner was the banner parade, ours proudly marched in by Keith and Jaime, followed by a rousing address by Mark Morrison Reed who challenged us that we talk of diversity but often fail to live up to our principles. Saturday and Sunday consisted of workshops called "pools" which were all day sessions on a variety of ideas about diversity. There were six pools ranging from economic to theological themes. But first, all were assembled to hear the keynote speech by Reverend Shawn Newton entitled "The Risks of Relevance". It was one of the most powerful talks I have ever heard. Later in the afternoon, there was a dialogue with the CUC Board, followed by the International Dinner featuring both the International UU's and the Uus at the United Nations. Sunday's worship service included a First Nations choir and what seemed

like the whole world celebrating our UU brand. Every year this is a highlight of many experiences at the Annual Conference and Meeting. My wish is that we each can be part of one of these worship services in our lifetime. More pools and congregational dialogues were followed by an Awards Dinner where outstanding UU's were recognized for their service. All done with a mixture of reverence and humour.

My conclusions are that all of our congregations have to look at the fast and ever changing future. Most of us have diminishing congregations, and we need to consider alternatives to UU current practices. Multi-purpose buildings, covenants, services other than Sundays, at other meeting times, and podcasts were some of the suggestions. Interfaith dialogue and reaching out to other faith and secular groups is necessary, supported by our resolutions and religious exploration program.

All of this long weekend was jam packed with many choices of things to attend, meaty and interesting and quite exhausting, but worth it all. Plus one gets to meet old friends and new ones in cities one visits less often.

Sooky Dunton

*Editors note:* Further information and recordings of conference events can be found on the CUC's website under ACM.



### Vermont-Quebec Universalist Unitarian Convention: Quebec Was There

It was a sunny day in May. It was my privilege – on behalf of UUEstrie - to represent the Quebec contingent at the Vt-QC Convention's annual meeting in the Cavendish Universalist Church in Cavendish, Vermont. This year there were 19 delegates present. The other 18 represented churches in Vermont, including our friends in Derby Line.

There were 18 applications, and each one is to receive approximately \$800, out of the five percent of the Convention's assets to be distributed this year. Grants from administrative funds are destined for Vermont's Chalice Lighters, the UU Historical Society, and, mercifully, for the group whose application was late.

The proposed amendment regarding devolution of assets was re-worded to take into account that those of Quebec churches which dissolve would devolve to the CUC.

The really hotly discussed issue was the sale of the long-disused historic Cavendish church property to the Town of Cavendish. The town hopes to obtain grants to restore it and lease it to the local historical society, which will create a permanent historical exhibit regarding Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn. He won a Nobel Prize for Literature in 1970 for his writings that exposed the Soviet Union's forced labour camp system – most notably *One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovitch* and *The Gulag Archipelago*.

Solzhenitsyn was expelled from the Soviet Union in 1974. He and his family lived the next 20 years in Cavendish, Vermont. One of his three sons, Ignat Aleksandrovich Solzhenitsyn, still lives there with his family. Ignat is a pianist and the conductor laureate of the [Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia](#) and the principal guest conductor of the [Moscow Symphony Orchestra](#). He and his wife blessed us with their presence, and a reading of two "prose-poems" by Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn about church buildings.

The Convention chose to approve the sale of the building to the Town of Cavendish for a minimal sum, with a clause requiring the town to return to the convention for approval in the event they wish to change the vocation of the

property. That little "string" was, in fact, the focus of the hot debate. Some wished to give the Town carte blanche. All were in favour of the deal, which seemed to be a marriage made in heaven – or in Cavendish, this small village which, it seems, has changed little over the past 200 years.

Rachel Garber



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**Minister's Office Hours**  
 Wednesday & Thursday, 2:30 – 4:30 pm  
*(on vacation during June)*  
 Please respect the Minister's sabbath, Sunday afternoon and Monday.  
*For emergency pastoral care, phone:*  
 1. Rev. Carole  
 2. Sooky Dunton  
 3. Joyce Booth

**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/>

**Calendar and Schedule**

SAT	1	8:00PM	SANGS MÊLÉS
SUN	2	10:00AM	SERVICE: QUANTUM W.
TUES	4	9:30AM	GRANNIES WORKSHOP
SUN	9	10:00AM	SERVICE: KYE FLANNERY
MON	10	10:00AM	BOARD MEETING
THURS	13	7:00PM	ANNUAL GENERAL MTG.
FRI	14	EVENING	MYSTERY THEATRE
		7:30PM	VILLAGE HARMONY
SUN	16	10:00AM	SERVICE: FATHER'S DAY
SUN	23	10:00AM	SERVICE: BETHANY KNIGHT
MARDI	25	19H30	CERCLE GAULOIS
WED	26	7:00PM	NO-NAME SMALL GROUP
SUN	30	10:00AM	SERVICE: SEEDS/LEARNING

**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 July-August 2012

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

