

# nouvelles news

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September 2013 septembre

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## Events this Month

All Sunday services start at 10:30 am unless otherwise specified.  
We have an active children's program during our Sunday service, at which all children are warmly welcome

### **September 1, 10:30 am** **Ms. Jill Hertog** **"Olive Oil 101"**

There are many olive oils to choose from. Jill Hertog will tell us how to choose the olive oil that is both environmentally sound and gives one the best in healthy antioxidants anti inflammatories and taste.

Service Leader: Keith Baxter  
Musician: Mike Matheson  
Coffee Convenor: Sooky  
Flower Convenor: Sooky Dunton

### **September 8** **"Water Communion Picnic"**

We will gather at the Jensen farm, 16 Bowen Rd., in Hatley, at 10:30 am for a hike on a trail in the woods, followed by an informal outdoor water communion service at 11:30, and a potluck/picnic at Noon. All are welcome to participate in any part of the festivities and fellowship. You are invited to bring water evocative of a special place or a special time experienced over the summer months. Merging the waters symbolizes how our many streams of thought and experience join together to create one community.

Severe weather plan: assemble at the church for 10:30; to be announced last hour on the website if needed. Otherwise, no service in North Hatley on this Sunday.

Meet at Jensen Farm in Hatley, weather-permitting.

Service Leader: Kevin Jensen  
Musician: Kevin Jensen

### **September 15** **Mr. Keith Baxter** **"On Community"**

One person's journey to a spirituality that has become a weekly covenant. Keith will deliver his take on this homily which was originally presented to the Unitarian Universalist Church of Vancouver by Geoffrey Gomery. What is Church? What is community? And why bother?

Service Leader: Keith Baxter  
Coffee Convenor: Chantal Michaud  
Flower Convenor: Sooky Dunton

### **September 22** **Mr. Reb Sherril Gilbert and Rev. Carole** **"Sukkot"**

Sukkot is called variously "The Festival of Booths" or "The Season of Our Joy". With the help of our Jewish friends in faith, from B'nai Or in Montreal and the JCCET community here in L'estrie, we celebrate this important Jewish harvest festival, giving thanks for the bounty of the Earth. Ours is an intergenerational service in which we will gather around our own Sukkah, or temporary dwelling and share a potluck feast. Please bring an uncooked vegetable to exchange.

Service Leader: Rev. Carole Martignacco  
Musician: Mr. Terry Reilly  
Flower Convenor: Sooky Dunton

### **September 29** **Ms. Ena Greyeyes** **"A Story of Struggle and Survival"**

From the age of 7, Ena Greyeyes was forcibly removed from her family in Duck Lake, Saskatchewan and placed in a residential school for 13 years, completely cut off from her parents, her culture, her language, her

world. Following that time she had a choice to make about whether to use that sorrowful experience in a destructive or a constructive way. Repressed for years, her voice returned in her 60th year.

Service Leader: Joey Marosi

Musician: Pat Bird

Flower Convenor: Sooky Dunton

### Handfasting Ceremony



A lovely UUEstrie wedding outdoors took place on Saturday, Aug 24, at the Stanstead Stone Circle, conducted by Rev. Carole. Weather was perfect, 8 young adults in attendance, including the couple. Six children plus one on the way, two of whom participated in the family handfasting part of the ceremony, plus five seniors (60+.) All but one of the group were UUEstrie members and friends, i.e., all but one of the 19 or more of us who were there, know, and have been in, our church, and know its vibe. Lots of open grassed space for the kids to play safely while adults hung out. Healthy picnic snacks afterwards for all. It was nice. Best wishes to Natasha and Wes, and their girls Nyima and Maddie.

- Keith

Minister's Comment: Thank you to the several members of UU Estrie who turned out for this ceremony and picnic reception in support of the merging of these two families. Wes Colclough has been a visitor to UU Estrie for several years, and active in Tierra del Fuego. Natasha is already a UU who has been active in All Souls church in Washington D.C.

- Rev. Carole



Pictures: Rachel Garber

### Response to the proposed Charte des valeurs québécoises

Rev. Diane Rollert, minister of the Montreal Unitarian congregation, writes in part:

"Seeing the trial proposal for a *Charte des valeurs québécoises* is heartbreaking for me as an immigrant and as a religious person. It signals to me that I may never be fully welcome in my chosen home. It tells me that people "like me" are something to be feared, a message that is so different from the warmth and welcome I have personally encountered.

"In my time here, I have met an incredible diversity of people, and my life has been especially enriched by some of the people who would be most affected by this charter."

Rev. Rollert's full text (in English and French) is available at the church, and will probably appear on their website at [www.ucmtl.ca](http://www.ucmtl.ca)

"I would like to believe when I die that I have given myself away like a tree that sows seeds every spring and never counts the loss, because it is not loss, it is adding to future life. It is the tree's way of being. Strongly rooted, perhaps, but spilling out its treasure on the wind.

- poet May Sarton (1912-1995)



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

Having a vision is like throwing a dream into the future, then catching up with it and living into it until it becomes real. If the visioning process had a theme song, it would probably be the soul-searching chant - based on the three existential questions of the artist Gauguin - which appears in our hymnal: *Where do we come from, who are we, where are we going?*

A visioning process is not just pie in the sky or navel-gazing. A well-known proverb poses it as a life or death issue: "Without a vision, the people will perish." What's true of individuals is true of any organization or community. In order to move forward, it helps to know where we are going. Or as one pundit wisely suggests: If you don't know where you're going, you'll probably end up there. Not necessarily in a place of your choosing!

So from time to time, our church leadership has stepped aside from the business of programming, fundraising, building maintenance and numerous meetings, to take stock of our situation. Expanding on the basic questions: What is our history? Who are we now? What is our context? What opportunities exist now that we might explore? What social justice issues are most urgent today? How shall we use our precious resources? Where should we focus our energies? What is our hope for the future? Considering that all things change over time, what or who do we wish to become? What would it take to do \_\_\_\_\_.(fill in the blank)?

These are questions members of your Board, Committee on Ministry, and minister are exploring through a series of meetings, begun this summer and continuing into the fall, to formulate new priorities for our shared ministry. Our version of a "strategic plan" or long-range vision. We start with a few things we know about ourselves: Many of us are moving into the "golden age" where our increased wisdom seems to be matched by an ever-decreasing physical energies. Pastoral care is an important part of our present and our future. Our historic building is also showing its age, and in need of

continual maintenance. Hidden away in this lovely but small resort village in the Townships, the limited demographics of our location pose challenges to growth. We are increasingly becoming an island of English-speaking Quebecers in a francophone sea. We are surrounded by churches of other faiths who are also struggling to maintain their existence. We long to make a difference in our world, locally and globally.

Recently, we've written proposals on your behalf and been awarded grants for two specific outreach initiatives. One from the New York Universalists is funding translation of our website by a qualified intern recommended to us by a francophone member. This has prompted us to look more closely at the presentation we make of ourselves on the web, editing existing texts and adding new ones. A second grant from the Canadian Unitarian Council (CUC) Sharing Our Faith fund was awarded last May to help fund outreach and networking in the community. Our presence at the local Townshippers Day held this year on Saturday, 12 September at the Bishop's College School campus in Lennoxville is part of that effort. We'll be promoting our uniquely non-creedal Sunday morning option on the Quebec religious landscape for those who do not yet know we exist - just one of many ways to make ourselves known. You can think of others, I'm sure. Elsewhere in this newsletter, your Board President Sooky Dunton has outlined some of the major considerations in this covenanting process that we hope will move toward a more dynamic and focused shared ministry. She is asking for your input. What are your fondest dreams and hopes for this unique religious community we are creating together?

Renewal rarely happens by accident. Eventually, what does not remain relevant becomes obsolete. We need all voices so we can move forward together. Please call or write your suggestions, and email them or place them in the wooden box outside the church office. We'll keep you posted! And as always - see you in church!  
- Rev. Carole

**CONGRATULATIONS!** To the Ottawa UU Fellowship on the Dedication Service for their new home, in partnership with Heartwood House. A ceremony will be held on Sunday, 29 September. We wish you all success!





### President's Report

I remember as a kid thinking that when I got to be aged I certainly would not be grumpy like many old people I knew. But it has happened. This seems to be the summer that was. How is that for being spleeny, as my mother

called it?

But it seems that there have been so many "to do" things this summer that there has not been much time to enjoy the usual more relaxed fare. Enjoy the process, one is told, but sometimes that eludes me. We have had our Summer Sale, which included extended hours, ticket sales, a bridge game and a tour of our church, our annual picnic, good and meaty summer services and all the readying and attending and cleaning up that such events involve with fewer hands than usual. Many members of our community have serious health concerns, which leaves us heavy hearted as well. So, with that off my chest, hopefully I can go on looking forward to a colourful and bountiful autumn with less spleen. And enjoy all of that and one another!

News from the Board: We have been granted \$1,529.08 from the Vermont/Quebec Convention for a "Sharing Our Faith Grant" which we plan to use for various outreach initiatives plus \$1,000.00 for outreach in French, including review of our web-site to ascertain what can be translated. Reverend Carole Martignacco is completing the process and a student will, if we have enough funds, do the translating. That grant was from the New York Universalists. We are also exploring other sources of funding. We have on-going meetings of members of the Committee on Ministry, two members of the Board and Rev. Carole to come up with a concrete plan for growth. Our meetings to date have been the aforementioned ones on covenant, on the Caring Committee and on a post mortem of our fund raising.

All are welcome to the hike at the Jensens' starting at 10:30AM on Sunday, September 8, 2013. A water communion will follow at 11:30 at which everyone can toast their summer happenings and then enjoy a picnic lunch. -  
- Sooky Dunton

### 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/>

There is no Eastern Regional Gathering this fall. However, the CUC Annual Conference will be held in Montreal mid-May 2014.

### Summer Fundraisers Were A Resounding Success

Our Super Silent Summer Auction in July was a great success, raising a total of \$4,239.75. Of this amount, \$300 is being sent to the Lac Megantic disaster relief fund, \$200 will support local social causes ( the North Hatley Recreation Centre's summer program for youth and a cultural exchange to Peru by a high school student Louba Gubbins-Fougere with roots in UUEstrie: the remainder will go to our Building Maintenance Fund, which, alas, will still have a large deficit.



The success of the Auction resulted from the outstanding generosity of our members and local donors' contributions of valuable goods and services that could be bid on at the auction, along with the tireless efforts of many members and friends of UUEstrie who helped organize the Auction.

Thanks to Rachel Garber's leadership in garnering support for UUEstrie to help sell tickets for a Piggery production that raised \$350.00

UUEstrie would like to extend sincere and heartfelt thanks to each and everyone whose efforts and donations made these events so successful. And it is unanimous that we shall now enjoy some well deserved “R and R”.

**BRAVO !**

Carol McKinley on behalf of  
The UUEstrie Fundraising Committee

## LOST & FOUND

Over the past several months, various items have accumulated at church, including ten or more jackets and sweaters, in sizes ranging from child to adult, and an assortment of hats, scarves and gloves. In particular, one dark green Save Our Prison Farms t-shirt, is available to whoever will claim it. With the fall chill in the air, we are hoping that these items will find their way home, thus freeing our coats for the cold weather wear to come.

## Special Thanks this Month

We are an active congregation, and it takes many hands to do all that keeps us functioning, including weekly worship, music, coffee hour, extra program events, meetings, finances, publicity, FUNd-raising, housekeeping and properties management. We thank everyone who contributes with time, energy and financial resources. Special thanks this month to:

**Michael Jensen** for painting the upper deck and railings outside the main sanctuary door.

**Sooky Dunton** for donating the cost of labour, paint and supplies for Michael to accomplish the task.

**Heather Lewis** for faithfully coordinating the Small Group Ministry monthly notices. As she steps down, she invites anyone from that group to take on the monthly notices.

**Carol McKinley** for spearheading the FUNd-raising Committee, despite serious health challenges.

**Rachel Garber** for continuing publicity for multiple events on our behalf, particularly during the Silent Auction.

**Jaime Dunton** and **others** who worked on SA solicitation or thank you letters and translations.

**Joey Marosi** and **Donnie Rittenhouse**, for their artistic contributions to Silent Auction set-up.

**Debra Fougère** for promoting the Silent Auction with her sandwich board sign at the NH

Summer Market, and helping coordinate the Ice Cream Social.

**Heather Lewis** and a whole team of others who solicited donations from many area vendors.

**Mary Lynn Ross** for coordinating volunteers to be present during the bidding process.

**Gabriella Brand** for being our resident clown at street-side during our Silent Auction Kick-off!

**Joyce Booth**, for hours of careful records and book-keeping associated with the Silent Auction.

**Adele Ernstrom, Rachel, Chantal Michaud** and **others** for producing the history text and French translations to handout to visitors, and **Adele** again for leading the history tour on the day UU Estrie was featured in the Piggery House & Garden tour.

**Mead Baldwin**, NH, Waterville, Hatley United minister, our gracious MC for the SA close-out.

HUGE THANKS TO ALL who contributed items, presence, refreshments, time and money to our Silent Auction and its Finalé.

To **ALL** who showed up in support of UU Estrie at our Piggery night fundraiser, Dueling Pianos.

Our Music Ministry Team: **Pat Bird, Mike Matheson, Laurent Hubert, Jaime Dunton** and **Keith Baxter**, who generously share their talents.

## CIRCLE SUPPERS

In the coming months we will be organizing a series of Circle Suppers. These are potluck, and provide an opportunity for members, friends and visitors to mingle and enjoy getting to know one another better. The host provides the hospitality and guests provide the menu. If you would like to either host or attend one of these gatherings, please call or email Reverend Carole or Carol McKinley on the Membership Committee.

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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



## Calendar and Schedule

SUN 1 10:00AM SERVICE: OLIVE OIL  
TUES 3 9:30AM GRANNIES WORKSHOP  
SUN 8 10:00AM HIKE & WATER COMMUN.  
SUN 15 10:00AM SERVICE: ON COMMUNITY  
SUN 22 10:00AM SERVICE: SUKKOT  
SUN 29 10:00AM SERVICE: ENA GREYEVES

### 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
Adele Ernstrom	Secretary
Rachel Garber	Vice-President
Heather Lewis	Member at large
Mary-Lynn Ross	Member at large
Carol McKinley	Member at large

## This is your newsletter !!!

Next issue of Newsletter is October 2013

### Deadline: **September 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**.*

### Benefit evening for Child Haven

Saturday Sept. 28, 6:00pm

Child Haven International runs homes for destitute children in India, Nepal, Tibet & Bangladesh.

Evening features Indian cuisine, Indian and Jazz music, a silent auction and bazaar.

Indian cuisine. Tickets are \$40.

Location:

Karnak Shriners Temple, Dollard des Ormeaux.

Information and reservations: 514-542-3260