

nouvelles news

October 2013 octobre



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 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

Coffee Convenor: Debra Fougère

Flower Convenor: Sooky Dunton

October 6

Mr. Allen Yale

"The Jefferson Bible"

Thomas Jefferson, author of the American Declaration of Independence, and the Constitution of the State of Virginia, and founder of the University of Virginia, once said that every democracy needed a revolution every seven years or so, to break the shackles of accumulated power, and restore true democracy. He was a radical free thinker, for sure. One of his productions was a severe editing of the New Testament Bible to rid it of superstition and dogma, and retain only the essential teachings of Jesus.

Allen Yale is an elder of First Universalist Parish of Derby Line, Vermont. This is Allen's first visit to our pulpit.

Service Leader: Keith Baxter

Coffee Convenor: Phyllis Baxter

Flower Convenor: Sooky Dunton

October 13

Rev. Carole Martignacco

"Thanksgiving in Huntingville"

Our Thanksgiving worship service is an open table harvest communion welcoming all in the historic Universalist Church in Huntingville.

Away from UU Estrie. Directions: Rte. 143 to 147, past RR tracks, church is on the hill to the right.

Musician: Laurent Hubert

Coffee Convenor: Skeats

Flower Convenor: Sooky Dunton

October 20

Mr. Jonathon Ellison

"How Can One Clown Change the World?"

This Sunday, Jonathon will share his experiences of clowning to prevent cholera, clowning for the elderly and kids with HIV, joining a theatre company in Sri Lanka to tackle heroin-use and young girls being sold into marriage, clowning in a Mumbai slum, and his most recent experience of being kidnapped and married off by a large group of wild African ladies.

He is guaranteed to make you laugh while challenging how our economy, our global banking, our investment opportunities and our aid are affecting the less fortunate he has been fortunate enough to live and clown with.

Jonathan's children's story will feature clowning. Kids, please come!

Service Leader: Kevin Jensen

Coffee and Flower Convenor: Sooky Dunton

October 27**Adele Ernstrom****“Elizabeth Eastlake v. John Ruskin: The Content of Idea and the Claims of Art.”**

Whose judgement of art should be considered authoritative, that of critics or that of artists? In Victorian England the question was hotly contested. It figured in a famous libel suit in which J.A.M. Whistler defended his Nocturne in Black and Gold: The Falling Rocket as embodying the knowledge of his lifetime as an artist--this against John Ruskin's charge that Whistler had merely flung a pot of paint in the public's face.

Another exploration of the issue shifted ground slightly to consider whether the value of art lay in what was proper to it--the artist's means--or whether concept in art was paramount; in the latter case any generally educated person could judge. Elizabeth Eastlake argued the former position with verve in the Quarterly Review, an influential organ of opinion. She there challenged Ruskin's view that the thought, or idea, in art is everything and the artist's means simply a vehicle for that content.

We look at the outcome of this contest.

Coffee Convenor: Mary Lynn Ross

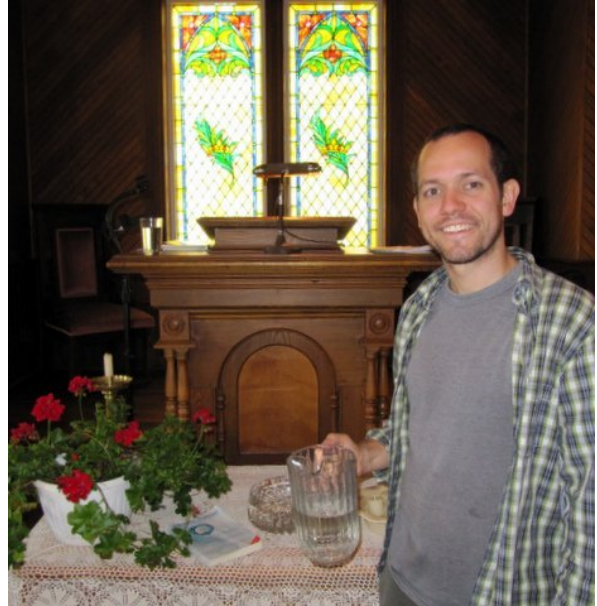
Flower Convenor: Sooky Dunton

Picnic, Hike in Hatley

The annual picnic in July saw 14 people assemble on the Jensens' farm. Some came from as far away as Amsterdam, a good time was had by all. We got to know Wes and Natasha better (See September newsletter.)



The water communion scheduled for September was held at the church instead, under threatening skies. Curtis Murphy led the service.



However, the weather cleared around noon, so after the pot luck meal, about a dozen people made the trip to Hatley for a hike up the hill, with nice views, and wild apples.



A tree is to climb.





Minister's Reflection - Carole's Column

"Stuck on the Other Side" might be an appropriate title for the story I will write someday. "Exiled in My Own Country" sounds none too dramatic. For now, it's just good to be

back home!

And it occurs to me I'll think of it all whenever we sing "Our World Is One World" - one of my favourite hymns in Singing the Living Tradition. Perhaps I could write my own private verse to that hymn, remembering that this vision of a cohesive global human community we hope one day to make real is not yet. The current reality, I can report with renewed certainty, is that the borders between countries in our North American hemisphere are more than ever formidable. As people on both sides, we live with that ambiguity and its effects in many ways.

Last year I had worked with another minister and the head librarian at the Haskell Free Library in Stanstead/Derby Line to offer a community event at that historic building that straddles two countries, inviting people to tell their stories about how the border shapes their lives. So when suddenly denied entrance and required to remain in the States, I turned to my wonderful friend in the UU ministry with whom I meet regularly at the border for lunch and collegial support. I called her from my hotel room, and we immediately formulated a rescue plan. Rev. Abigail Stockman, whom many of you will remember spoke here last year about her work in a Vermont prison as a community minister, welcomed me into her beautiful home in scenic Irasburg with a graciousness that was breathtaking. At that point I had no idea how long the necessary paperwork would take, or if I'd be required to prove local residency to return. Reassured that I had a home in Irasburg for as long as I needed, I began furiously seeking legal advice and researching on the internet all options for returning home to North Hatley and my ministry in l'estrie.

From Vermont, I was able by phone and email to alert those who needed to know, cancel

pending meetings and renegotiate ongoing projects, rearrange for a wedding to be done by our new lay chaplain Jaime Dunton, answer questions about where to find whatever in the church office, and continue liaison work for upcoming Sunday services. Meanwhile David, my ever-faithful life partner made frequent treks back and forth with items of clothing and assorted records from my home and church office. When the Board met, I was able to attend by Skype. And for one meeting, a team came down from UU Estrie to meet around the dining room table in Irasburg. With breakfast on the table and a cozy fire in the woodstove, it felt good to see familiar faces and know that home was not too far away and ministry was still in progress.

One could do worse than be exiled in the beautiful green mountains of Vermont. I took long walks with Abigail and her two delightful canine companions, Leo and Emma Lou, and made brief forays into New Hampshire for Sunday services at Littleton and Franklin.

In the end it was relatively simple to renew my "visiting clergy" status and return, to begin the process of applying for permanent residency. How many are not so fortunate. I think of our two Colombian refugees who took sanctuary in our church during the terrifying process of applying for asylum. My experience is but a shadow of theirs, and my exile ended quickly and happily. There is no comparison. Good fodder for sermons, one Canadian colleague suggested, welcoming me home. For sure, someday I will indeed write about it more thoroughly, if only to explore the psychological dimensions of being shut out, turned away, turned back, denied entry; suddenly homeless. These will remain as a fine residue whenever I hear of immigration issues in the international news.

For now, let me repeat - it's good to be back! With gratitude for UU Estrie and the ministry we do together, and thanks to all for your support and good wishes.

- Rev. Carole

"If you hunger for spirituality without dogma...If you long to put yourself to work healing a suffering world...If you want a faith community that helps you deepen into life's questions even when there are no final answers...Unitarian Universalism may be your religious home."

- Rev. Kathleen McTigue



President's Message

"Our problem is not to find better values but to be faithful to those we profess"- John W. Gardner

This statement appeared in the Montreal Gazette, recently and along with Reverend Diane Rollert's piece on her stance on the proposed "values" by our Quebec government, reflects well, I hope, on how we want to be.

It has been a busy time these past weeks at UUEstrie not the least of which has been our missing minister and her safe return.

We have applied for two grants. One to the West Fund for an outreach for services around death and dying. Adele and Rachel worked diligently on this proposal and we thank them for that. The other grant was for the Northern Lights, an ambitious request for funds for an even wider outreach to other faith and secular groups to act together for a wide range of social justice issues. This was mainly and incredibly put together by Keith Baxter with an endorsement from Reverend Carole Martignacco. Grant proposals take a lot of time and know how that these have exceeded in spades.

We had the best ever interest in our table display at Townshippers Day. Thank you to Rachel for setting it up and finding recruits to grace the tables and to Heather Lewis for her excellent observation and count report.

Our continuing covenant meeting was held in Irasburg, Vermont. A first for us.

Your Board has decided to stay with our 10:30 Sunday meeting time at church although there were those who preferred the earlier time. We also deferred a vote on an ad for our services in the Sherbrooke Record, which we will decide at our next meeting on October 8th at 1:30 pm. Everyone is welcome to Board meetings. Your input of any ideas that you may have for enhancing our community is especially welcome.

Sooky Dunton

Townshippers' Day

September 14th 10-4 at the Bishop's College School campus. Great day yesterday. Here are the numbers:

Rachel: steady stream – about 25 people stopped (10 to 12 am); Adele and Debra: -- 10 to 12 people (12 to 1 pm), 35 people (1 to 2 pm); Heather and Reine: - about 9 people 2 to 4 pm.

Total: approx. 81 people (not counting the ones who just took a chocolate.) BTW, the chocolates were very popular, thank you Carole and David.



The most significant thing for me was that a young family stopped to talk, just before 4 pm. They have lived in Lennoxville for 4 years, but lived in Montreal before and had gone to the UU church in Mtl. Since moving here, they have gone to the Huntingville church once for Thanksgiving service. Somehow, they did not know about our church in NH.

Regards – Heather



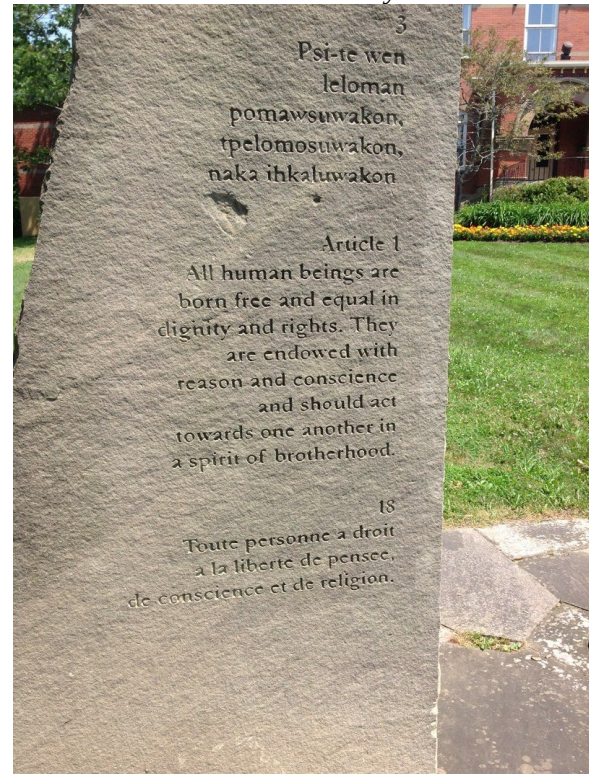
A Special Interest in UN Sunday

This past summer Jaime and I attended the 67th reunion of my graduating from Hampton Consolidated High School. This was my school from Grade 4 to 11 which had two grades in each classroom and was situated between the "town" and the "village" with a combined population of under one thousand residents. The reason that we were there was that my father was a major in the army stationed at Camp Sussex which was about twenty miles away.



John Peters Humphrey was a neighbour of ours and he drafted the Universal Charter of Human Rights which was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on December 10, 1948. In the town's square are a pillar with words from the charter inscribed on it and a statue of John Humphrey as a child and as an adult. They are joined together to show that John as a child lost an arm in a fire when he was six and tragically lost both of his parents by the time that he was eleven. He was bullied by his peers because of this. Author Anne Huestis Scott has written a book called "The Boy Who Was Bullied", a copy of which I have left at the church. This book was launched at the United Nations Headquarters building in New York. To read more about this event, google the title and

find all about that moving ceremony and the pride that we all should have in this accomplishment of John Peters Humphrey on our behalf.
- Sooky Dunton



Humour Department: Mark Twain

"I have criticized absent people so often, and then discovered, to my humiliation, that I was talking with their relatives, that I have grown superstitious about that sort of thing and dropped it."

"The proverb says that Providence protects children and idiots. This is really true. I know it because I have tested it."

"I have long ago lost my belief in immortality--and also my interest in it."

--Adele Ernstrom

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/>

Special Thanks this Month

Thanks to the Covenant Group who made the long trek to Irasburg, Vermont for a 9:00 AM meeting with Rev. Carole.

A round of applause to Rachel's facilitation of Rev. Carole's inclusion by Skype in a Board meeting—the first such instance in our history. Special thanks to Jaime who valiantly stepped in to officiate at a wedding—his first—in the minister's absence.

Thanks to members of the Board and Keith for sorting out documents needed for Rev. Carole's return.

Our appreciation to all who helped with the pot-luck following the Sukkot service; to Rabbi Sherrill Gilbert and her partner Terry Rielly as well as Isaac Romano of JCEET for helping to create a memorable Sukkot celebration.

To all our writers of grant applications: Rachel, Adele, Sooky and Keith.

To Rachel for organization and set-up of our participation in Townshippers' Day; to Rachel, Adele, Debra, Heather and Reine for staffing the table and to Janet and Joe for helping to pack up.

Thanks as well to Heather, Rachel and Lin for photos.

Our gratitude to Keith for autumn grounds-keeping: mowing, raking and pruning both for church and parsonage.

Thanks to coffee convenors for the month: Sooky, Helene, Chantal, Joey and Debra and to the Jensens for hosting the Water Communion hike and picnic.

And thanks to Jane Bradley Cameron for the donation of copies of her books in English and Spanish on children and grief. Available for loan by contacting the minister.



DID YOU KNOW?

UU Estrie has a unique lending library of countless books by UU authors not found in most public collections, as well as titles on themes including world religions, spirituality, science and religion, ethics, ecological and social justice and more - all available to you as a member or friend. Recent titles added from book sales at the Haskell Free Library and Baldwin's Mills United Church include:

Darwin, Divinity and the Dance of the Cosmos, by Bruce Sanguin; Karen Armstrong on the historical Muhammad; The Pagan Christ - by Tom Harpur; Care of the Soul - Thomas Moore; Navigating the Tides of Change: Stories from Science, the Sacred, and a Wise Planet, by David La Chapelle

Do make use of this extraordinary collection liberally available from shelves in Avery Booth and Stoddard Halls and the church office, where you will find sign up sheets.



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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 6 10:30AM SERVICE: JEFFERSON BIBLE
TUES 8 9:30AM GRANNIES WORKSHOP
TUES 8 1:30PM BOARD MEETING
SUN 13 10:30AM SERVICE AT HUNTINGVILLE
SUN 20 10:30AM SERVICE: CLOWNS
TUES 22 9:30AM GRANNIES WORKSHOP
THUR 24 10:00AM NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE
SUN 27 10:30AM SERV: ADELE ERNSTROM
TUES 29 7:00PM NO-NAME SMALL GROUP

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 November 2013

Deadline: **October 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.

