

nouvelles news

December-January 2013-14 décembre-janvier



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

December 1

Rev. Carole Martignacco "Balancing Light and Dark"

We are moving quickly toward the "tipping point" in the balance of light and darkness. As Earth's cycles change, how are we affected, mentally, physically, spiritually? Celebrate the Solstice in all its deeper meanings with poetry, story and song.

Coffee Convenor: Reine Gagnon
Music: Laurent Hubert
Flower Convenor: Sooky Dunton

December 8

"Write for Rights"

This service participates in Amnesty Day. Some of the causes investigated by Amnesty International will be presented and there will be opportunities for all to write their own letters in support of political prisoners (e.g. Pussy Riots), Whistleblowers (Bradley Manning), and others. (Details, page 2)

Downstairs, in Stoddard Hall

Service Leader: Rachel Garber
Coffee Convenor: Joey Marosi
Flower Convenor: Sooky Dunton

December 15, 4 p.m.

Rev. Carole Martignacco and Jane Gowman "Christmas at UU Estrie" Annual Turkey Dinner

Celebrate the season with music, poetry and song. Welcome IN-A-CHORD, a visiting trio led by Donald Patriquin, who will share selections from their much-acclaimed recent concerts in the Townships. Our children from the Religious Exploration program will share A Special Christmas Memory, and we'll trim the tree together.

Bring HUGS. Hats, Underwear, Gloves, Socks or Scarves. We will decorate our tree with these NEW warm items of clothing, which will then be given to the "Walk in My Shoes: HUGS for the homeless." HUGS, an annual project of Mental Health Estrie.

Annual Turkey Dinner - Downstairs in Stoddard Hall
This is NOT a pot-luck this year. \$6/person or \$20/family will help cover expenses. In addition to the cost per meal, please bring a non-perishable food item or cash donation for the local Food Bank.

Service Leaders: Jane Gowman; Rev. Martignacco
Flower Convenor: Sooky Dunton

December 22, 4 p.m.

Rev. Carole Martignacco "Carols and Candlelight"

Our tradition service of readings and carols led by guest performers of the trio In-A-Chord, followed by a festive Wassail in Avery Booth Hall.

Service Leader: Rev. Carole Martignacco
Musicians: Various
Flower Convenor: Sooky Dunton

December 29

No service. We wish you a happy New Year.

January 5

Rev. Carole Martignacco "The Kalends of January"

Kalends was an ancient Roman holiday from which our word calendar derives. We celebrate the turning of the year as a time of renewal and re-visioning. Bring your goals and resolutions for the New Year.

Downstairs, in Stoddard Hall

Service Leader: Rev. Carole Martignacco
Flower Convenor: Sooky Dunton

The rest of January:

12: Jason Krpan

19: Annual Storytelling with the Townships Tellers, followed by a pot-luck lunch

26: Speaker to be announced

Invitation December 6 from Marie-Pier

Like I said on Sunday, my student association is co-organizing a multicultural dinner on December 6th and of course you're invited! Here is the announcement on facebook:

Le REMDUS invite tous les Estriens et toutes les Estriennes à se réunir pour manger et discuter ensemble le vendredi 6 décembre, 17 h, au sous-sol de l'église Saint-Esprit (2290, Galt Ouest, Sherbrooke). Apportez, si vous le pouvez, un plat à partager avec quelques personnes, de même que votre assiette et vos ustensiles.

Venez goûter la diversité sherbrookoise!

“A Special Christmas Memory”



December 15th, 2013, 4pm

Throughout the next month, children will be making Christmas decorations in Religious and Spiritual Education, in preparation for our Dec. 15 program.

Each child will be asked to share their favourite Christmas memory or favourite part of the holiday season and as we hang our ornament on the tree we will share it as part of the service. We will open this up to all people as well.

The children and I will then LIGHT up the tree and share a reading.

Each child, member and guest is asked to bring new mitts, scarves, socks or hats to hang on the tree, which will later be donated to HUGS. Please also bring a non-perishable food

item for the local food bank for the dinner that follows the Christmas program.

December 8

Amnesty International Service

All are invited to hear a short description of some current Amnesty causes. These include individual prisoners of conscience as well as a campaign called "Open for Justice" which advocates for allowing victims of Canadian corporate injustices abroad to pursue justice in Canadian civil courts.

We will move to tables in the hall and a "Write For Rights" will finish the service. Individual letters for each cause will have already been written and copies made. People will have the possibility of signing these letters, adding their own messages to these letters, or completely writing their own letter. The service leaders will insure that the letters are sent.

Hope to see you there for this second annual service that coincides with Amnesty's December Write for Rights campaign. *Kevin*

Canadian Unitarian Council's Annual Conference and Meeting 2014 – Montreal, May 16 – 18, 2014

“Building Beloved CommUUnities: Sacred Spaces Beyond Walls”

ACM 2014 will build on 2013's theme of “Diversity: Creating A Shared Understanding.” Expanding from Rev. Shawn Newton's Confluence Lecture (The Risks of Relevance) and Rev. Mark Morrison-Reed's Keynote address (Radical Inclusion), ACM 2014 will take us into an exploration of how we expand our UU community beyond congregational walls, how we remain relevant into the future, and being radically inclusive.

Hosted by the Unitarian Church of Montreal, the ACM will be held at the Sheraton Montreal Airport

Registration for the ACM will open in January 2014. It's not often that the CUC gathering occurs so close to home. We hope many of us will be able to attend: there are always excellent workshops, speakers, music, and worship at these things. Plus it's fun to be together with hundreds of other UUs from across Canada.



**Minister's Reflection -
Carole's Column**

"Finish each day and be done with it. You have done what you could. Some blunders and absurdities have crept in; forget them as soon as you can. Tomorrow is a new day. You shall begin

it serenely and with too high a spirit to be encumbered with your old nonsense."

- Ralph Waldo Emerson

These hope-filled words are posted on my refrigerator door where, theoretically, I will attend to them religiously. On good days, between opening and closing the door to retrieve or replace the wine or coffee creamer, I actually notice this little black and white magnet and remember to perform a quick spiritual check. Inspired by a benign self-forgiveness for my own life, full of missed moments and personal limitations, on the best days I may even remember to extend this same forgiveness to all with whom I interact, for good or ill. The idea being: if we actually were to put closure to each day passed and carry no unnecessary burdens forward - of guilt, regret, betrayal, recrimination, or shame - we'd be poised, after a period of restful oblivion, to begin anew and truly greet the new day's dawning and embrace new possibilities. As Emerson reminds us, "tomorrow is a new day." What he doesn't say, but we of course know, is that tomorrow's failings may undoubtedly look a lot like today's. All the more reason then to let them rest and carry nothing forward. Instead, we are encouraged to carry forward our best energy, renewed and refreshed. It seems to help that, as Shakespeare said, "our little lives are rounded with a sleep."

What old nonsense, what blunders and absurdities, are you talking about? - I want to ask Ralph Waldo. Could it be this famous Unitarian whose profound philosophical musings and prolific writings have inspired me since grade school, actually grappled with his own daily scruples and failings? Imagine Emerson forgetting to take out the trash, or clean the cat litter. Perhaps, deep in thought, he muttered under his breath and failed to tip his

hat or return a smile while passing someone in the village. How did his neighbours in Concord experience the man who is now an icon of literary and liberal religious history? And though I lack the wit and wisdom of his published essays as a redeeming legacy, still I like to imagine that a hundred or more years hence might give a certain benign perspective to even my own daily fits and foibles.

According to custom, our current newsletter issue spans the end of one year and beginning of another. We are fast approaching the Winter Solstice, that pivotal point that marks the balance between light and darkness, along with the beauty of myriad festivals of light steeped in the collective history of humankind it is our custom to celebrate. Following closely on their heels are the usual celebrations - raucous or reflective - that ring in the New Year. Momentous rites of the moment that come round every year, signs of the turning of the great cosmic wheel of time, we do well to attend to these powerful reminders prompting our attention to the larger picture.



As I write this, I watch the landscape turn white and fill up with our first serious snowfall of the season covering the leaves I've not had time to rake, oblivious to the bulbs I forgot to plant, this brilliant dusting of light looks a lot like forgiveness. Winter is a dormant season, a time of reflection, while the earth itself seems to sleep, to dream of new possibilities. Whatever our personal foibles or failings, within the grand cycles of darkness and light, may we have the grace to let them go. To turn a fresh face to each day's dawning, and with each page on the calendar, to begin the new day, week, month or year with "too high a spirit to be encumbered with (our) old nonsense." So may your December be blessedly merry, and your New Year be truly NEW!

- Rev. Carole



President's Message

At the last Board meeting in November, I submitted my resignation as your president and as a member of our Board of Trustees. As many of you know, Jaime and I have put up our home for sale as we plan to move to Ottawa

when it sells. The major reason for this is that on our birthdays this year we realized that when our parents and grandparents were our age they had a nap every afternoon. It seems that that would be impossible for us with all that we wish to do. As well, we would like to be closer to some of our family.

I do not think that one does one's near and dears any favours by being far away, as they will necessarily have to pick up the pieces, legally and practically, when we kick the bucket. We also plan to vacation in Florida for the months of January and February and so, with Christmas commitments plus being away for a couple of months and perhaps a move with little time to attend to anything except packing, this decision seemed to be the fair thing to do.

I would like to ask all of you to understand that we are a shared ministry and to reflect on our principles, especially the one of respect for one another, something I feel is often in short supply. Rachel, our vice-president, has valiantly agreed to become your president with my thanks and wishes for good luck. *Sooky*

It's not too late to pick up a bright, beautiful and meaningful holiday gift!

"Dining Room Table" Scarf & Craft Sale

A marvellous collection of silk & cotton scarves, ornaments, jewelry, etc. from Thailand for the Mae Sot Education Project & bags as well as angels crafted by the Grandmothers for Grandmothers in support of the Stephen Lewis Foundation .

Saturday, December 14th , 10:00 – 3:00

Sue Haddon's (one of the SLF Grannies) dining room at 17 Lloyd St. in Lennoxville

Don't miss it!

Special Thanks this Month

To Sooky Dunton, our beloved outgoing Board President, for all the good energy and

wisdom she has brought to her leadership role, and for her devotion to the UU Estrie cause over many years in ways too numerous to name.

To Jaime Dunton, for countless contributions to the well-being of this community through so many leadership roles, the most recent of which is as a member of the Finance Committee. It is with deep sadness that we contemplate a UU Estrie without them.

To the vibrant crew with many helping hands that hosted UU Estrie's first ever Student Hospitality Supper on Nov. 29th at Lennoxville United, those who brought chili, cornbread, and bars and those who served the very appreciative students. Joyce Booth, the Baxters, the Jensens, Adele Ernstrom, Domenic Beneventi, Nancy Branch, Jane Gowman, Gudrun Brand, Joey Marosi and others. We are now part of a coalition of area churches who team up to provide "A taste of home away from home" to university and college students.

To Gordon Stoddard for his week in and week out recording of services and his posting of the files promptly on our website. We are grateful to Gordon for providing the sound system for these recordings. He has also taken on special projects such as the making of a film about the trip to Iceland of Clara Bird and Mahicans Diamond and a DVD of Helen Jensen's "Seeds of Security" as well as one of Adele Ernstrom's "Eastlake v. Ruskin." Both Gordon's editorial acumen and his technological expertise have distinguished these ongoing contributions to the church.

To Reine for her inestimably thorough cleaning of the church.

To Mary Lynn for her work in organizing the kitchen.

To the Newsletter for its ongoing and vital contribution to the church.

AND A VERY HUGE THANKS

to Rachel Garber, our current Board Vice-President, who has graciously agreed to step into the office of President, replacing Sooky Dunton for the remainder of her term. We are behind you all the way, Rachel!

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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

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|---------------------|----|---------|---|
| SUN | 1 | 10:30AM | SERVICE: LIGHT & DARK |
| TUES | 3 | 9:30AM | GRANNIES WORKSHOP |
| SUN | 8 | 10:30AM | SERVICE: WRITE / RIGHTS |
| SUN | 15 | 4:00PM | CHRISTMAS PROGRAM TURKEY SUPPER |
| SUN | 22 | 4:00PM | SERVICE: CAROLS |
| JANUARY 2014 | | | |
| SUN | 5 | 10:30AM | SERVICE: RESOLUTIONS |
| SUN | 12 | 10:30AM | SERVICE: JASON KR PAN |
| SUN | 19 | 10:30AM | SERVICE: STORYTELLING POT LUCK LUNCH |
| SUN | 26 | 10:30AM | SERVICE: TBA |

Board of Trustees

You have elected this board to take care of business, please discuss your hopes and concerns with any member:

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|----------------|-----------------|
| Rachel Garber | President |
| Adele Ernstrom | Secretary |
| | 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 February 2014

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.

