

February 2014 fevrier

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

February 2

Prof. Scosha Merovitz
“A Certain Ambiguity”

One of the reasons why spiritual communities everywhere gather in worship, is to seek Truth together. Scosha Merovitz, Chair of Mathematics, and Director of the Math help center at Bishop's University, will explore the meaning of truth under the axiomatic method. She will look at two of the most controversial topics in mathematics and the history of truth--infinity, and Euclidean geometry. Mathematics certainly has profound things to say about what it means for humans to truly know something. Can we apply mathematical reasoning to faith and religion? If so, how?

Service Leader: Keith Baxter
Musician: Laurent Hubert
Coffee Convenor: Chantal Michaud

February 9

Rev. Brendan Hadash
“Absolutely Everything I Know”

Rev. Brendan Hadash used to serve UUEstrie as a part-time minister in the 1980s, and lives in Vermont. In his sermon he will elucidate what he is certain of in the areas of math, geometry, physics, philosophy, the world, morality, etc.

We also celebrate this Sunday as Sharing Our Faith Sunday. A *special collection* will be taken for this CUC fund. (see note on p. 2)

Service Leader: Keith Baxter
Musician: Pat Bird
Coffee Convenor: Gudrun Brand

February 16

Lindsay-Jane Gowman
“Spirit of Play IV”

UUEstrie aspires to be a genuine multigenerational community. One way we try to advance this is by dedicating one Sunday morning each winter to simply playing with the children in our midst. This Sunday, adults and kids will mingle in a number of games, giving the kids a chance to get to know the adults better, and vice versa. Play is good for the soul!

Service Leader: RE committee
Coffee Convenor: Mary Lynn

February 23

TBA

“In Pursuit of Social Justice”

Unitarian Universalists are a social-justice-minded community;. We join UUs in Canada to strengthen the well being of all. February is 'CUC month'. This Sunday we study social justice resolutions to be brought before the annual general meeting of the Canadian Unitarian Council, held this year in Montreal, on the Victoria Day weekend.

Service Leader: Keith Baxter
Coffee Convenor: Reine Gagnon

March 2

Rev. Carole Martignacco
“World Cafe – Quebec Charter”

Our winter services in Stoddard Hall allow for innovative formats, such as this coffee house arrangement where all participate in engaging conversations about timely questions that matter to all. Come join us as we explore the proposed Quebec Charter of Values, and how we are called to address issues of diversity, inclusiveness, and challenges to religious freedom in our time.

Programme Committee Notes:

February is CUC month at UUEstrie

UUEstrie is a tiny island in a small sea of UU congregations in Canada that stretches from coast to coast. Once each year we celebrate the larger community of Unitarian Universalism of which we are a part, and dedicate the offering plate to the Sharing Our Faith fund of the Canadian Unitarian Council, a fund that makes grants for projects in congregations across the country that might never come to fruition without this external funding. UUEstrie has benefited a number of times from this fund.

Two Sunday services in February will feature our connection to the Canadian UU movement via the **Canadian Unitarian Council**.

On February 9, our offering that day will be a special collection for the Sharing our Faith fund. Please be generous. To make your donation tax-receipt-able, you must simply identify yourself as donor in some way, e.g. on an envelope, or on your cheque, or by donating on-line through our website.

On Feb 23, we shall be talking about several proposed resolutions to come before the AGM of the CUC, and taking time to discuss these and give our feedback to the proposers of these resolutions. This is UU democracy in action, and reflects also our common concern for social and environmental justice.

Coming in March

Our annual Pledge dinner is scheduled for Friday, March 14, 5:30 pm. All members and friends are welcome, and note: this is not a potluck; you will be fed by members of the Board of Trustees! Mark your agenda, and do plan to come. The skit alone will be worth the detour.

Our next Friday Free Student Supper in Lennoxville is scheduled for Friday, March 21. We did one of these in the fall and enjoyed success, feeding a total of 63 students 'a taste of home away from home'. Speak to Rev. Carole for more info, or to offer to cook for the supper. This is an initiative of a number of local churches working together, who do these suppers every Friday throughout the semester.

On the last Sunday in March, our speaker will be a very special guest, Mr. Robin Cappuccino,

son of Bonnie and Rev. Fred Cappuccino. His topic will be growing up in a family that went from 2 kids, to 21(!) kids, to 1,300 kids. That last number represents the number of children served by Child Haven, the charity founded by Fred and Bonnie back in 1980, and for which they received the Order of Canada. Child Haven now operates 10 orphanages in four countries in South Asia.

Child Haven Fundraising Dinner

You are invited! Date: Tuesday, April 15, at 6 pm, at Restaurant Shalimar in Lennoxville. Tickets will be available soon. \$75 ticket includes a \$25 meal, and a \$50 receipted charitable donation to Child Haven. There will also be sales tables and a silent auction of beautiful artifacts from India. Speak to your friends, tell them about Child Haven, and invite them to come to the dinner. A beautiful source of inspiration about Child Haven is their website: childhaven.ca. Also please note that we shall have Robin Cappuccino, son of Bonnie and Rev. Fred Cappuccino who founded Child Haven 30 years ago, as guest speaker in our pulpit on March 30, two weeks before the dinner. Not to be missed, so Mark Thy Calendar.

BALANCING ACT Comes to North Hatley!

Something to combat the mid-winter blahs! "I just don't get around to it at home." "It's easier to do this with others – and so much more fun!" say regular participants. Mondays and Wednesdays from 10:30-11:30, a lively group of villagers now gather in Stoddard Hall for a series of exercises led by former marine trainer and BCS athletic director David Turner to improve balance and upper/lower body strength and coordination. Geared to seniors, this training is more energizing than exhausting, and is open to all on a come as you will basis. Sessions include a snack and juice break; donation of a loonie or toonie is welcomed to defray cost of heating the hall. Exercise routines vary from week to week, drawn from *The Balance Manual* by Mike Ross. Questions: contact Coach David Turner at 819.842.1387 or email: davidturner41@gmail.com



Minister's Reflection - Carole's Column

"In order to unite with one another, we must love one another; in order to love one another, we must know one another; in order to know one another, we must go and meet one another." -

Cardinal Mercier's Testament

Interfaith and community outreach. Representing UU Estrie in meeting clergy and members of other faith communities, joining with others to transcend differences and build bridges of love, understanding and common cause - because we believe, with 16th century Unitarian Francis David, that "We need not think alike to love alike." Early on in my ministry I remember looking around at the four churches in this small village, and asking - as only a newcomer from away could do - what kinds of social justice we engaged in together. For me, it was a given that living in close proximity, we'd need to work together! Since I was speaking with a retired Anglican priest who was also the village pianist, the answer to my question was musical: a small group of folks meeting to sing their favourite hymns expanded and grew into the Lakeside Singers, a community choir that drew its members from and performed in all four churches. From time to time, other opportunities have presented themselves, and I now have developed solid friendships and good working relationships among area clergy. Now with the funding from our Northern Lights grant supporting growth and visibility and shared social justice through interfaith and community outreach, I will be busy developing this outreach ministry on your behalf. Here is just one example of what that could look like:

Interfaith Prayer Service at the Connaught Home: Every January area churches celebrate a worship service calling for unity, celebrating a tradition going back to 1894 that was started by the World Council of Churches. This year's order of service was prepared by Canadians, and began with a tribute to indigenous peoples by calling the several directions - east, south, west, north, heaven and earthward - which my

interfaith colleagues in North Hatley graciously invited me to lead. The service was co-led by Revs. Mead Baldwin (United), David Oliver (St. Barnabas Anglican) and myself (UU), and Mr. Michel Grimard (St. Elizabeth Catholic), with Connaught residents and visitors from the village in attendance, including one member from UU Estrie. Two of the five hymns were from our hymnal, we held hands and prayed for world justice, citing the Eight Millennium Goals of the United Nations. We each presented symbols representing our traditions - I brought the flaming chalice and the message that "yesterday's heresy is today's truth." Rev. Oliver and I sang a duet version of #134 from the SLT - Our World Is One World. Over coffee after the service, Mr. Grimard explained a shared justice project begun by St. Elizabeth's and for which community involvement is invited: building a secondary school in a small village in Africa. A kind of Congolese version of "Three Cups of Tea," Mr. Grimard will visit to tell us about it soon.

I've been reading on my new KOBO a fascinating book by Harvey Cox entitled *The Future of Faith*, in which he echoes Dicken's in saying, regarding interfaith work, "we live in the best of times and the worst of times." On the one hand we have the Quebec Charter of Values regressively challenging the religious tolerance in the name of secularism, and on the other, we live in a global community in which for the first time in human history, people of all faith traditions may meet each other, on the street or live in the same village - or at least bridge the distance between them by communicating through the "world-wide web."

In asking for the support of Unitarians throughout Canada, we cite in our Northern Lights grant request how much has changed in Quebec culture in the 144 years of our existence. We are the only church of its kind in all of Eastern Quebec, and L'estrie is a large parish. In order to not only survive but thrive, we must reach out beyond our doors. I am so proud and excited to be part of this expanding ministry. Let's rise to the occasion, and become a visible, relevant presence in our world, as our Sunday morning welcome statement says, "enhancing the reach of loving care in our world."

Happy Ground Hog Day to all who see both their light and shadow! -- Rev. Carole

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE, Rachel Garber Love is the spirit of this church

-photo pending- Here is a passenger pigeon of gratitude to Sooky Dunton for her great contribution as president up until now! I am sure I cannot fill her shoes, so I am hoping all of us can work together to do that.

For that matter, I'm sending another pigeon of gratitude to Jaime Dunton, and all the other past presidents, board members, Rev. Carole and all those of us who have ridden and rowed the little canoe UUEstrie on its voyage thus far.

Each one of us helps make us what we are. Thanks to everyone for just being here, and I hope you will feel free to let me know if you see anything going awry.

No one is obliged to row the boat, if you need to just ride. But I really do want to widen the circle of participation. We are few, and the opportunities for interesting contributions are many. If you'd like to help out in any way, please let me know.

Outreach Project

Coming together just now is an Outreach Project spearheaded by our minister. We've just obtained approval of a Northern Lights grant from the CUC. This "grant" is really approval to obtain donations from almost 250 persons (Chalice Lighters) across Canada who have signed up to give between \$25 and \$100 to up to two Northern Lights projects per year. The projects are pre-approved by CUC's Northern Lights Team, and UUEstrie has just received this approval.

The Northern Lights funding will help support outreach on four fronts. First, interfaith initiatives include writing articles for newspapers, working with an interfaith clergy group, helping organize student hospitality suppers in Lennoxville, and collaborating with the Jewish Community Center of the Eastern Townships on an art exhibit and interfaith service. Second, on the community front, Rev. Carole is working on education events in North Hatley and working with the Care for Caregivers project in Magog. Third, our Rites of Passage outreach will offer information about alternative ceremonies for important life transitions. This includes working with La Traversée regarding end-of-life issues. Finally, Rev. Carole will

update and write blogs for UUEstrie's facebook page.

We are also the fortunate recipients of a \$4000 Sharing Our Faith grant from the CUC. The focus of this project is on shared action with partners on issues concerning the environment, social justice and human rights. This is a very important kind of outreach – putting our values into action.

We have received a \$1000 grant from the New York State Convention of Universalists toward making our website fully bilingual. This is in progress.

And we have just received a promise from the West Fund of a \$750 grant to help support a series of workshops on end of life issues, including green burials, living wills and bequests, in both English and French.

It is exhilarating to be moving outward in this way. My hope is to keep pace by inward movement – one that has the savour of the spirit of love. That is my hope for myself, for each of us as individuals, and for all of us as a community.

Equal Volunteer Opportunity

1. lay chaplaincy
2. communications - translation; making posters etc.
3. caring committee
4. finance committee
5. outreach team

-- Rachel Garber

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/>

To Wes Colclough, Natasha Stovall and their daughters on the recent birth of a new baby boy named Finnegan Sol Stovall Colclough - we wish much happiness to your growing family!



Birthdays

Merry Christmas!

This is Finnegan Sol Stovall Colclough.

He was born 11:10 pm December 22, 2013 in Natasha's apartment in Brooklyn, New York...



Peace & Love! Allwayz, Natasha, Wes & Family

Special Thanks this Month

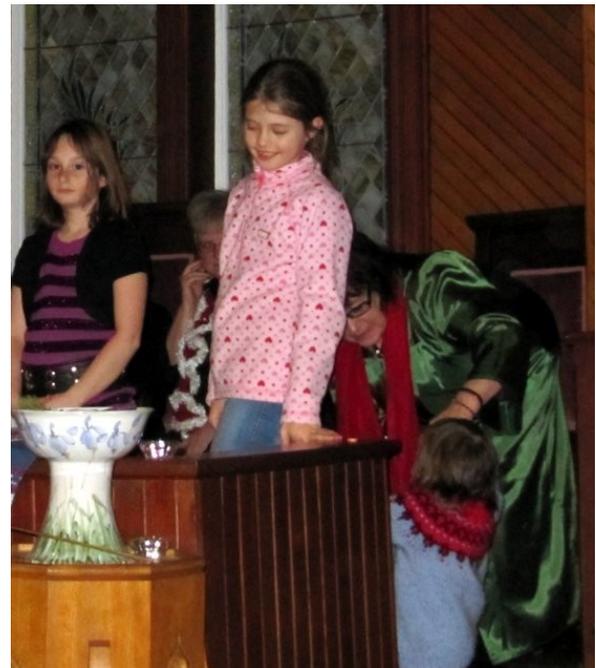
To the UU Estrie “emergency rescue team” who quickly and efficiently handled the recent flooding of Stoddard Hall and downstairs kitchen. Please thank Howard Hale for spending hours repeated installments of clearing the water with his shop vac from home, Keith Baxter for clearing the kitchen drain, and to Madame President Rachel Garber for contracting to have the carpets cleaned and

treated for mold in time for the Sunday service. (In spring, we will of course be revisiting and dealing with the source of the leak.)

To Rachel Garber, Keith Baxter, Rev. Carole, and Sooky Dunton – all members of the Northern Lights development team, who worked hard for approval of our grant and celebrated with an efficient work session printing, addressing and mailing request letters. Already we are receiving donations, by mail and through our CanadaHelps link on the UU Estrie website. Very exciting support for our congregation coming from UUs across Canada.

Gordon Stoddard, for all his work recording our services and posting to the UU Estrie webpage.

Sunday Morning Ministry Team - To all who helped make our holiday programs successful, and especially to our musicians, service leaders, presenters and coffee convenors who creatively produce our Sunday morning worship throughout the year. Each Sunday we take turns; if you’d like to help, please contact Rev. Carole to volunteer. This work of many hands is the labor of love we share.



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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

Pictures: Heather Lewis



Calendar and Schedule

SUN 2 10:30AM SERV: SCOSHA MEROVITZ
 SUN 9 10:30AM SERVI: BRENDAN HADASH
 SUN 16 10:30AM SERVICE: SPIRIT OF PLAY
 SUN 23 10:30AM SERVICE: SOCIAL JUSTICE

Board of Trustees

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

| | |
|----------------|-----------------|
| 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 March 2014

Deadline: March 2.

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.

Joyce Booth has charitable income tax receipts for your 2013 donations to UUEstrie ready for everyone. See her to pick up yours.

