

nouvelles news

May 2014 mai



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

May 4

Prof. Keith Baxter

“Educating for Sustainability”

It is easily shown that contemporary Western civilization is unsustainable on ecological grounds. So what happens next?

Service Leader: Keith Baxter

Musician: Pat Bird

Coffee Convenor: Heather Lewis

May 11

Rev. Carole Martignacco

“Mothers' Day – Putting Together the Puzzle”

Mother's Day we honour those who have nurtured us and given the gift of life. It's also a good time to look at family systems, the contexts in which we become who we are. The work of a lifetime is to somehow put together the myriad pieces of our lives, from birth onward. Meaning emerges as each piece clicks into place.

Musician: Laurent Hubert

Coffee Convenor: Lucie Craft

May 18

CUC Worship Service in Montreal

“No Service in North Hatley this Sunday”

We are invited to join with UUs from across Canada assembled for worship in Montreal at the Sheraton Dorval at 10:30 am. The occasion is the Annual Conference and Meeting of the Canadian Unitarian Council, whose theme is 'Building Beloved CommUnity: Sacred Spaces beyond Walls'. Visit cuc.ca for details.

**ALTERNATIVE MAY 18 SERVICE:
CONTINUA at First Universalist Parish at 10 a.m.
in Derby Line VT**

If Montreal seems too far to go for Sunday worship, may we suggest First Universalist Parish, 112 Main in Derby Line VT. Continua brings songs of spirit from a range of sources and traditions to bedsides of patients facing end of life in private homes, nursing homes, hospitals and rehab. They will speak of their mission and share their music.

Away from UU Estrie

May 25

Ms. Annis Karpenko

“Riding a Lost Horse Home”

A story of cultivating creativity, self-awareness and personal satisfaction. Annis is a Townshippier ending a multi-year stint as General Manager of the SRC at Bishop's University, while exploring the art of thesis writing.

Service Leader: Rev. Carole Martignacco

Coffee Convenor: Mary Lynn Ross

UUEstrie Town Hall Meeting - Sunday May 25

The Board of Trustees invites members and friends to a discussion of the future of UUEstrie. We'll begin by looking at our current budget, but will also look at the bigger picture. Within the context of our limited resources, what are our priorities? What is our *raison d'être*? How can we creatively face the congregation's challenges?

The meeting will be about an hour long - 90 minutes, absolute maximum. We invite you to bring a brown-bag lunch, and join us in Stoddard Hall right

after a short coffee hour - you can bring your coffee with you!

This is the first step in our follow-up to Linda Thomson's workshop. We are approaching it in a spirit of shared respect for each other and the mission of our congregation. We sincerely hope you will join us.

Rachel Garber,
President

June 1 - Luncheon in Honour of the Duntons

Come join us as we will recognize Jaime and Sooky Dunton for all their years of faithful service to UU Estrie, and take this opportunity to say our reluctant goodbyes. Immediately after the service, a light luncheon is convened by Joey Marosi.

A CULTURE CHANGE CONTINUUM

(based on the work of UU Rev. Erika Hewitt, with reference to the work of Brené Brown)

Rev. Hewitt. In a recent blog about A Very Large Project for Unbitarian Universalist, suggests that we often frustrate and sabotage our own possibilities for growth and change because we are too critical of those who would lead us to be other than we already are. She asks: "Are we ready to cultivate a new way of being together?" Can we be a people who "encourage creativity, with all the courage it demands," who "honour vulnerability" and respond to new ideas and invitations with curiosity"? Her antidote to "armoring up" against change follows:

Criticism —> Assessment —> Curiosity
—> Appreciation —> Trust

CRITICISM

What do I dislike about this?
How does this fail to meet my needs?
Why should I listen to them?
When do I get to tell them what's wrong with it?
How can I disconnect from this?

ASSESSMENT

Do I like this?
Does it suit my needs?
Does it satisfy my tastes and preferences?

Are they worth listening to?
Is it worth connecting?

CURIOSITY

What love/energy/time/vision went into this?
What would I lose by listening to them?
Are they taking a risk by sharing their gifts?
Whose needs or preferences matter as much as mine — or *more* than mine?
If this doesn't serve me, who might it serve?
What would connection look like?

APPRECIATION

What can I learn?
What gifts can I see?
How does this invite me to be brave or vulnerable too?
Who's transformed by this (even if it's not me)?
How does this strengthen the larger "we"?
I found a way to connect.

TRUST

We're all doing our best, all the time.
When one of us is fed, the whole is stronger.
Creativity and courage are contagious.
When others share their gifts, it gives me permission to share my gifts too.
I respond to vulnerability with my own.
Connection is already happening.



Robin, Jodhi, Uma, and Keith at Benefit supper.



Minister's Reflection - Carole's Column

May Day, May Day!

I remember as children we used to shout it out gaily as we ran about the neighbourhood ringing doorbells, whispering, giggling, then quickly disappearing, as we left a small surprise - a paper basket filled with muffins or cookies, decorated with bright tissue blossoms fashioned in grade school art class - on each stoop. ("Stoop" is Minnesota-speak for front step.) This spring in our north and eastern corner of the universe, renewal seems a bit reluctant in coming. We see it in the ever so slowly greening landscape, and the tentative appearance of first flowers poking through the soil. Wherever in the world the custom evolved to offer each other baskets of blossoms on the first of May, I imagine it did not originate in Quebec. Wherever I go, people console themselves that however slow the greening of the land, the real gift is the deep freeze is finally over.

Speaking of renewal, it's that season here at UU Estrie. Starting with our Right Relations workshop in April with the CUC's Linda Thomson, we set the stage for important conversations and hopefully, a visioning process that will lift us to the next level of being UU Estrie. End of May we have an all-congregation Town Meeting - the first I can recall since serving as your minister - to explore the future of this historic "flame of liberal religion" in the Eastern Townships. So much is at stake, as our President indicates in her column, concerns and decisions that will shape our future.

Just like the landscape, we also may feel somewhat tentative. What would it take to really flourish? What would blossoming really look like here? Are we ready to brave the elements and reach out toward growth in this new season? May we think beyond ourselves? What's next, and how do we get there?

These days, I get more opportunities to see UU Estrie from beyond our doors. Fulfilling the terms of our Northern Lights grant by engaging in several interfaith and community outreach

projects on your behalf puts me in touch with lots of people from other faiths who know who we are by what we do. I hear many good things about us in the larger community. How others perceive us: open, friendly, welcoming, vital and busy. Recently, I received an email from one of the volunteers from another church, who joined our team to help host our turn at the Student Hospitality Suppers in Lennoxville; she thanked us for the chance to be part of our team! And thanks is what I keep hearing, as I go about representing you - whether it's the 400 Bells for Earth Day, the luncheons and forum of the Caring Council in support of English-speaking caregivers, the interfaith Passover Seder for Peace, the Sherbrooke RECORD coverage of "Veiled Like Me" - represent efforts to reach out and promote our faith that are enthusiastically welcomed by those beyond our doors. We know that growth comes when we reach beyond ourselves. As Denise Levertov asks in one of her poems in our hymnal, "How can we tire of hope, when so much is in bud?" Just like the bulbs hidden beneath the ground, I believe we have all we need within us, including the will, to flourish.

There is, for sure, a whole other meaning of the phrase - not of welcome but distress. "May day" is the call sent out from a sinking ship - not at all the signal I believe we wish to send! Come to the Town Meeting, and help envision a future in which our faith not only survives in the Eastern Townships, but thrives and inspires! I wish you a spring in your steps, UU Estrie - and may your days ahead be sunny and filled with glorious, flowering energy. - Rev. Carole



Silent Auction items, for Child Haven

June 1 ~



President's Report -- Covenant

Complaints are often backward-looking. In contrast, a covenant is forward-looking. For details, I hope you read

Linda Thomson's report on UUEstrie's workshop on covenant and congregational processes.

For me, it is about here-and-now. Having respectful relationships and democratic processes in our community. Isn't that the first step for fostering the same in the wider community that is our world? And the basis for a viable future – having a community that attracts new participants, and entices them to engage with us?

I personally am not advocating any one formula for moving forward. If factions there are, I am in the faction that cares much more about how we relate to each other than what we decide to do.

It is clear that we are attempting to do too much with too few people and too little money. Too many of our most stalwart volunteers are too tired and too elderly to continue at their recent pace. We clearly need to make decisions, establish priorities, and figure out the best way forward.

How to do this? Linda recommends this: "Without some guidelines for discussion, decision processes and goals for relationships, it is easy to destroy the heart of a congregation in the decision making process. Answering the question, 'How we want to be together' can help when a group is making decisions."

Linda's report shows that at the workshop we came up with some important guidelines. At the last board meeting, we discussed the follow-up to Linda's workshop. As promised, your board of directors will soon be consulting with Linda and scheduling congregational meetings to look together at our shared future.

*Rachel Garber,
President*



Photo: Rachel, Ross Murray at "Purple Prose"

BRAVO

Congratulations to our beloved summer minister **Rev. Ken MacLean**, who will be presented with the UUA's Distinguished Service Award at the General Assembly of the UUA in Rhode Island this June. We are so proud of his many denominational accomplishments, his long-time connection to us and the wider UU movement. We will be able to congratulate Ken personally during his visit to our pulpit July 6th.

Calling Unitarian Artists

The Unitarian Church of Montreal has a modest Stairwell Art Gallery (the name says it all). It is intended to give UCM artists a chance to display and sell their work while also raising funds for the church (25% of sales, but work need not be for sale). We exhibit drawings, photographs or paintings ready for hanging.

In preparation for the next church year, we would like to open our walls to Unitarians from the Lakeshore and North Hatley congregations. Artists usually begin as participants in our Group Show. The next Group Show will hang during the months of September and October 2014. If you are interested in displaying two or three of your works then, please let me know, preferably by email. I will send you further details.

Contact: prue.rains@mcgill.ca, or (514) 481-8653

100 gardens in Haiti

UUSC supporters around the world have stepped up and committed to growing more than 100 food gardens and sponsoring more than 100 gardens for families in Haiti. What a way to celebrate Earth Day! You can sign up at www.uusc.org

Earth Day Bell Ringing



On **Earth Day** we bore witness, along with other religious congregations in the area, to the fact that CO₂ in our atmosphere has reached 400ppm, a level unmatched in millions of years, calling us humans to change.



We did this by ringing the bell 400 times, attracting a young passer-by. Now let's remember that bells alone won't stop climate change!

Ten of us each rang the bell 40 times, and had a rousing good time! Lin and Keith also rang bells later that day at Bishop's U.



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

To Heather Lewis and Rachel Garber for the photographs in this newsletter.

To Mary Lynn Ross for marshalling the troops for two successful church clean up days.

Huge thanks to all the volunteers who showed up to sweep, clean, shovel, prune, vacuum, scrub and de-clutter. The energy was high, the work was lighter with many hands, and the church now shines as a jewel.

Student Supper volunteers were thanked at a Volunteer Dinner held April 25th at Lennoxville United; dinner was provided by the interfaith Hospitality Planning team, which includes representatives from area churches, of which Rev. Carole is a member. Our team included: Lin, Kevin and Michael Jensen, Joyce Booth, Adele Ernstrom, Rachel Garber, Dylan Togane, Keith and Phyllis Baxter, Gudrun Brand, Jane and Alex Brand and Sebastien, Joey Marosi, Joe and Janet Cowan-Webber, and David Turner. For the November supper, we also had Domenic Beneventi, who has since moved to Vermont. What a FANTASTIC TEAM they were, providing both chili, cornbread and all the fixings – serving, welcoming and cleaning-up! UU Estrie thanks you, and so do the students.

A special, special email thank you from Nancy Branch, a volunteer from Lennoxville United who joined our UU Estrie team, thanks us for the opportunity to work with us? Gratitude abounds for this wonderful outreach program,

All who turned out for the 400 BELLS Earth Day bell-ringing, joining area churches in the Townships to alert us all of the 400 ppm of carbon spewing into earth's atmosphere. With Rev. Carole in our environmental witness were: Keith and Phyllis Baxter, Reine Gagnon, Rachel Garber, Dylan Togane, Lin and Kevin Jensen, Gudrun Brand, Edson Warner, and UU Estrie tenants.

Keith and Phyllis for organizing, and all who turned out for the Child Haven fundraising supper on April 15. About \$2,500 was raised. Especially Keith for selling an amazing number of the tickets.



Newsletter published by: Unitarian Universalist Church of North Hatley l'église unitarienne universaliste de North Hatley	
Address:	201 rue Main North Hatley QC J0B 2C0, Canada
Telephone:	(819) 842-4146
E-mail address:	info@uuestrie.ca
Church Website:	http://www.uuestrie.ca
Minister:	The Reverend Carole Martignacco revcarole@uuestrie.ca cmartignacco@gmail.com 819-212-7150 (cell) 819-842-1387 (home)
President:	Rachel Garber rachel@uuestrie.ca
Lay Chaplains:	Keith Baxter Jaime Dunton
Ceremonies Coordinator:	Jaime Dunton ceremonies@uuestrie.ca
Religious Education:	Lindsay-Jane Gowman re@uuestrie.ca
Editor:	Lin Jensen newsletter@uuestrie.ca

Minister's Office Hours
Wednesday , 2:30 – 4:30 pm
& **Friday 10:30 – 12:30**
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

FRI 2 9:00 AM CLEAN-UP DAY #2
SUN 4 10:30AM SERVICE: SUSTAINABILITY
SUN 11 10:30AM SERVICE: MOTHER'S DAY
WED 14 9:30AM BOARD MEETING
SUN 18 10:30AM **No SERVICE**
FRI 23 9:30AM NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE
SUN 25 10:30AM SERVICE: LOST HORSE
TOWN HALL MEETING

JUNE

SUN 1 10:30AM SERVICE: TBA
DUNTONS GOODBYE LUNCHEON
FRI 6 9:30AM PROGRAMME COMMITTEE

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 June 2014

Deadline: May 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.