

nouvelles news

June 2014 juin



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

June 1

Mr. Mark Abley

“Lessons from the Past: Thinking about Duncan Campbell Scott”

Mark will explore how one of Canada's most distinguished poets could also be responsible for the Indian residential school policy and the destruction of Aboriginal cultures and languages. How could Scott do what he did?

Mark is a writer and columnist for the Montreal Gazette. His latest book is on Duncan Campbell Scott.

Service Leader: Keith Baxter
Coffee Convenor: Joey Marosi

June 8

Rev. Carole Martignacco

“Beyond Belief – A Faith for the 21st Century”

To survive and thrive as a faith of our times, we can no longer afford to remain simply a “religious alternative” to the mainstream, a “refuge” for those seeking freedom from doctrine and dogma. Religion is about connection, about community, about meeting the needs for belonging and living meaningful lives. Our challenge: how to transform ourselves to remain relevant to the changing world.

Coffee Convenor: Yanan Wang

June 15

TBA

“Fathers' Day”

A day to honour fathers. All are welcome to bring a photo or other artifact if they would like, and to share memories and pay homage to their fathers, or a father figure in their lives.

Service Leader: TBA
Coffee Convenor: Uma Nigam/ML Ross

June 22

Rev. Carole Martignacco and Mr. Keith Baxter
“The Tikkun Peace Plan”

This will be another in an ongoing series at UUEstrie exploring the question of achieving Peace in the Middle East. Tikkun is the newsletter of the Network of Spiritual Progressives, based in San Francisco. They have produced a thorough 9-point peace plan, all of which is absolutely necessary if there is ever to be a lasting peace in the Middle East.

Service Leader: Keith Baxter
Coffee Convenor: Gudrun Brand

June 29

TBA

<i>The Annual General Meeting will take place after the service today</i>

July 6

Rev. Ken MacLean
“TBA”

Reverend Ken MacLean has been visiting us in North Hatley for 50(!) years, now. It is always a joy to welcome him back for his annual visit.

After the worship service, we shall adjourn to Fellgarth Farm, the home of Wilhelm and Gudrun Brand, 3795 Rte 143, about 6 km south of North Hatley, for our annual summer picnic. All welcome. Bring your picnic lunch or something to share.

Service Leader: Keith Baxter



Minister's Reflection - Carole's Column

***"We need not 'gather'
alike to love alike."***

(Words of 16th century
Unitarian Farel David,
adapted for 21st century)

The above quote, heard for the first time at the CUC Annual Conference and Meeting (ACM) in Montreal this past Victoria Day weekend, highlights for me the grand sweep of change in our history. Five centuries ago liberal Unitarianism emerged out of the Protestant Reformation in Europe, its new trinity: freedom, reason, and tolerance. From the religious "diets" or court debates of the early 1500s called by Transylvanian royalty to resolve divisive issues of doctrine and religious tolerance, came David's famous quote which characterizes our movement to this day: "We need not *think* alike to love alike."

This year's CUC ACM confirms that our early love of debate has, shall we say, hardly abated. As your delegate, I attended most of the Friday day-long annual meeting where we voted on resolutions, accepted the budget and reports from CUC staff and affiliate organizations, and affirmed a new governing board for our national movement. I was present for most of the debate about the Palestinian-Israeli peace resolution, but was called out to perform "artistic duty" before the actual vote. The vote went as I'd expected; the debate - heated at times but always respectful - continued throughout the conference right up to the end of the UUMOC (U Ministers of Canada) annual meeting which followed the week after the CUC ACM. I did my best to offer pastoral care.

Artistic duty has often been my reprieve at these gatherings. The mid-Friday arrival of flowers for the opening ceremonies constituted a happy emergency. Among my various duties was to design with another minister the worship space for the ACM. Our task: to transform a stark hotel auditorium into a sanctuary. Miraculously, it worked: with paving stones, a chalice from Toronto, brightly coloured fabrics, and hundreds of roses, which were distributed at the closing ceremonies in a Flower Communion

of appreciation. Another happy task was decorating an equally stark meeting room, transforming it into a quiet sanctuary for meditation and consultation with ministers who had volunteered to be "on call" for ACM attendees, a space I used for my Sunday morning meditation practice. I confess to retreating often to this "quiet room" - ostensibly to monitor its use, but also to enjoy moments of solitude amid the social intensity of many, varied ACM events.

After teaching the Lay Chaplains "Challenging Memorials" training all day Thursday before the ACM, I had numerous other small tasks: choosing chalice lighting words for the Friday ingathering, being worship "marshal" for the Sunday service, insuring our UU Estrie banner was present for the colourful "medieval" banner parade that opened the conference (carried proudly by Heather Lewis and Rachel Garber).

Throughout the conference, whose theme was of a faith "Beyond Our Walls", I was acutely aware of a thread of creative outreach pervading major presentations: Friday's keynote speech, ministers' Confluence lecture, the CUUHS (history society) lecture, a Saturday all day workshop (with Phyllis Baxter) on "Theme-based Church", attending various luncheons and the awards banquet. How we gather, and re-gather, only to gather again - will be a theme I come back to many times in the weeks and months ahead, as we work together to create a vision of what UU Estrie might look like - here, now, in this place and time, interpreting our liberal faith and our long history of change, meeting the needs for spiritual community in an age that could hardly have been imagined 500 years ago, or 150 years ago when Universalists first gathered in Québec's Eastern Townships. That's the exciting task before us - may we meet the challenge with all the imagination, love and commitment we can gather. - Rev. Carole

[CUC Truth and Reconciliation statement](#)

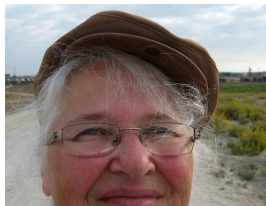
(click on link for full text)

An Expression of Truth and Reconciliation
From the Canadian Unitarian Council and
Unitarian Universalist Ministers of Canada
Delivered to the Truth and Reconciliation
Commission March 29, 2014 in Edmonton,
Alberta:

We, the Canadian Unitarian Council and the
Unitarian Universalist Ministers of Canada,

commit to the journey of healing and reconciliation between Canadian Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal people.* Today, as we acknowledge and accept our responsibility for truth-telling, healing and reconciliation, we commit to these specific steps to advance that journey:

- 1) To assemble and promote educational materials for our congregations regarding the history and impact of the Indian Residential School system.
- 2) To create and promote a new program for congregations about racial equity and intercultural competency.
- 3) To continue to encourage our congregations and their members to learn more about the richness of Aboriginal spirituality and cultures, working together to advance the struggle for justice for Aboriginal people.



President's Report The Beauty We Love

"Let the beauty we love be what we do," Rumi said.

As we go forward in our series of congregational meetings, it feels as if we are taking an important step in this direction. I'm writing this just a week after attending the Canadian Unitarian Council's (CUC) annual conference, where stimulating ideas were rife – ideas for social justice initiatives, for living the values that we give lip-service to. For reaching out, but also for reaching inwards. I hope to share some of these ideas in the next newsletter.



UUEstrie had good representation at the CUC's conference. Sooky & Jaime Dunton.

Phyllis & Keith Baxter. Rev. Carole Martignacco, Heather Lewis & myself. Next year's conference will be in Ottawa.



As one of UUEstrie's delegates to the CUC's business meeting, I observed lively discussions about the two special resolutions. One was on Human Rights in Palestine and Israel. Because of the great diversity of viewpoints and need for more clarity in the wording of the resolution, it was agreed not to vote on it.

Another was the urgent resolution regarding pervasive surveillance by the Canadian government via the internet and electronic communications. This was passed. It asks individual congregations, and individual members of congregations, to call the Government of Canada to account for its surveillance of citizens.

Your board is busy dealing with "how to" issues – organizing the Town Hall meetings, for example. Replacing the fridge downstairs that is broken down. Discussing how to better manage our electronic equipment. So are the several committees busy – especially the buildings & grounds people, dealing with the aftermath of flooding this spring, and the program committee, pulling rabbits out of a hat for Sunday services.

Long-term issues are also of great concern. And the greatest concern, for me, is how we address them. Can we speak the truth in love? Recognizing that each of us has our own "truth" – and respecting each person's views? I am feeling very encouraged by our first Town Hall

meeting. But we have just begun. Thanks to all for your great collaboration and your concern.

Rachel Garber, President

At UUEstrie's TOWN HALL MEETING

Our first UUEstrie Town Hall meeting was on May 25, after church. About 20 people attended with their brown-bag lunches. The discussion was so rich we continued for an hour and a half.



First, we reviewed Linda Thomson's recommendations following our "Covenant of Right Relations Workshop." [You can see them on our website.](#)

Then we reviewed the purpose of our meeting – to discuss why we – UUEstrie – are here, and where we are going. And then how we are going to get there. We noted that this is a discussion meeting, not one to vote on decisions. And that it is the first in a series – our issues are important, but nobody is on fire.

We talked about how we want to address these issues – that decisions are made in a democratic and respectful manner that expresses the spirit of love. We agreed to record all comments and ideas in this brainstorming session.

We discussed the current budget and the state of our growth and development fund. (A copy is available from Keith for those interested.)

Ideas for improving our financial situation:

1. Draw down on capital investments.
2. Use qualified but cheap carpenters for repair work (ask Jane Gowman for references).
3. Seek better returns on our investments (Gabor Matthias gets 5%).

More information is requested about:

1. Our Outreach Project – its activities and budget.
2. Our investments now vs. 10 years ago.
3. The amount of our special minister's fund that was spent down.

Comments about finances:

1. Our pledges total only \$19,000 for the coming year, vs. \$24,000 last year.
2. We have the impression more ceremonies are happening – at least more funerals – but the revenue from ceremonies is down this year.
3. Looking at the budget, we did OK this year – let's keep our social consciousness going.

Comments & ideas about our purpose:

1. We have a great vacuum in relation to creative ideas about social justice, which is related to outreach. We are delinquent UUs! We are saturated with figures.
2. IDEA: The question is not "budget vs. outreach" – one cannot take precedence over the other. They're a package.
3. IDEA: We're getting older. It's hard work to care for the buildings. Simplify our lives by selling the parsonage, and free up time and resources for outreach and social justice initiatives.
4. We have a sense of many generations in this church; we're always getting older. If we have no new generation, we may have to close down. But we do see children coming to services; we are caretakers of this community and its spirit.
5. The CUC's ACM theme this year was "outside your walls" – to get out into the community for reasons other than maintaining the church.
6. We are a member of CUSJ – Canadian Unitarians for Social Justice (CUSJ.org).
7. We have studied a number of social justice issues this winter – two services on the Middle East situation; UU-UNO; Dying with dignity (Bill 81), etc.
8. IDEA: to choose social justice issue(s) that we as a group address in an ongoing way.
9. Where are the people?
10. IDEA: Make a place where young people and youth can take part – build on their ideas; be open to new ideas. They may use our space; we don't necessarily have to be part of their initiatives.
11. IDEA: Theme-based ministry/services. The program committee is hardworking, but we could

organize services around spiritual themes. We could share resources – sermons, materials, music – among churches (Kingston, Montreal are both willing). This would free up time and energy to get out beyond our doors.

12. IDEA: Maybe we could collaborate with Derby Line on themes and services.

13. On the other hand, we can feel as if we are part of our group for doing things for the services or taking care of the building. These activities can be very satisfying, if we all do what we are most comfortable with.

14. Individuals do social justice work outside the church context – we're not one-dimensional (ex. Grannies and other groups meeting here).

15. IDEA: If we have initiatives as a group, it would provide a focus for the congregation.

16. Example: Participating in annual Pride Day that Marie-Pier Boisvert was instrumental in starting.

Our next UUEstrie Town Hall Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, June 8, right after church. It will be in Stoddard Hall for an hour – or if we choose to continue longer, 90 minutes. Please come and bring your lunch. Whether or not you were at the first one, you are very welcome!

Respectfully reported ~ 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/>

Special Thanks this Month

To those who attended the recent CUC ACM in Montreal. With Heather Lewis, Rachel Garber, Keith and Phyllis Baxter, Jaime and Sooky Dunton, and Rev. Carole, our small but valiant community was well-represented.

To all who attended our first in a series of Town Hall Meetings, helping to brainstorm possibilities for our future vitality, and especially to Rachel Garber for organizing, Linda Thomson for her wisdom and expertise in

helping us shape the ongoing discussions, and to the Finance Committee for their presentation.

To all who have helped clean the church on the various scheduled and rescheduled Clean-Up Days, as especially to Mary Lynn Ross for organizing us and maintaining order in our space.

To Heather Lewis and Rev. Carole for pictures from the CUC, and the town hall meeting.

URGENT ~ MUSICIANS NEEDED!

From cello to kazoo – we need you! Our Sunday services aspire to a careful blend of word, music and silence. UU Estrie's music ministry is in urgent need of a regular Sunday pianist, and would welcome others with musical talent to bring continuity and variety to our worship. If you know of area musicians or music students, or if you play an instrument and might share your talents with us, please call Rev. Carole at 819.842/1387 or email: revcarole@uuestrie.ca

NOTE: Massawippi Valley Health Centre

A meeting will be held on Saturday, May 31st at Ste. Elisabeth's Church in North Hatley, 3115 Capleton, from 10 a.m. to Noon. Please plan to attend and lend your support to this very important grassroots community health initiative to benefit local residents.

NEW BOOKS FOR UU ESTRIE'S LIBRARY

Many good reads are sprinkled liberally about our church, on the shelves in Stoddard Hall and Avery Booth Hall, and in the church office as well. We have a varied collection – from vintage history of our faith, theology of world religions, inspiring biographies, environmental awareness, and spiritual readings spanning several centuries. These books are part of our ongoing ministry of the mind and spirit, and require simply signing a card with your name and contact info. Many new titles are added from year to year, most recently several on small church dynamics purchased by Rev. Carole from the CUC bookstore at this year's ACM.

From the Archives ~ June 1988

Dear Friends,

An exciting new year full of promise and opportunity begins on July 1st for the Unitarian Universalist Church of North Hatley. The possibilities and options are many, and the choices that we make now will affect this church for many years to come. We've had six new members sign the membership book over the past year. In addition, three wonderful baby girls have been born to church families since last October. At one Sunday service this Spring we had 19 children in attendance at Sunday School.

...[details of the pledge drive]... Your past support has helped us preserve the tradition of a liberal church in the Townships ...

Keith Baxter, chairperson of the Second Century Building Fund, reports that the design phase of this project is nearly complete and that the building and renovation phase will begin shortly. It will be a truly joyous day when this church has a firm foundation (physically as well as spiritually) and a warm, safe space where the children can play and receive their religious instruction.

...

Peace,

Judy Green, Secretary, Board of Trustees
For the 1988 Annual Financial Campaign

[Editor's note:] At that time we closed for the winter, shared a minister with Derby Line, and had 2 summer ministers, who lived in the parsonage apartment. This apartment was rented for the other 10 months. The church budget of \$15,000 was balanced by the rentals (22% of the budget.)

\$7,620 went for ministers and organist -- about half the budget, just like at present! The cellar had a creek running through it, a furnace, and washroom for those brave souls who negotiated the steep stairs into the dark. This was about to change, after a long soul-searching and tremendous fundraising effort.



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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

SUN 1 10:30AM SERVICE: MARK ABLEY
SUN 8 10:30AM SERVICE: BEYOND BELIEF
12:30PM TOWN HALL MEETING
SUN 15 10:30AM SERVICE: FATHERS' DAY
SUN 22 10:30AM SERVICE: TIKKUN PEACE
SUN 29 10:30AM SERVICE: TBA
12:30PM ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

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 July-August 2014

Deadline: June 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.

