

nouvelles news

July - August 2014 juillet - août



Events these Months

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

July 6

Rev. Ken MacLean

“Thoughts After Attending My 65th College Reunion”

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. Sunshine guaranteed.

July 13

Ms. Bethany Knight

“What is the Point of Disappointment?”

Henry David Thoreau said, "If we will be quiet and ready enough, we shall find compensation in every disappointment."

Bethany Knight, an annual visitor to our pulpit, returns with her reflections on the power and value of disappointment. Bethany is now living in Florida, but visiting back in Vermont, which allows us the privilege of having her visit UUEstrie.

Service Leader: Keith Baxter

Coffee Convenor: Phyllis Baxter

You are invited! UU Light - Tea and Conversation with the Minister, 12:15 in Stoddard Hall (downstairs). An open invitation to all visitors, friends and newcomers - members also welcome! Come enjoy light snacks and an informal chat about Unitarian Universalism and the many ways of becoming involved in the UUEstrie community.

July 20

Rev. Carole Martignacco

“The ABCs of Spiritual Literacy”

Religion UU style, sans creed or dogma, grounds us in a social covenant based upon Seven UU Principles guiding how we govern ourselves and relate to each other in community. Which is not the same as offering an authentically open and coherent spiritual path that help us make meaning in our lives. Today's cutting edge UU spirituality is like a new alphabet - what would you include from A to Z?

Coffee Convenor: Jane Pankovitch

July 27

Mr. Thomas Pick

“Afraid to be Jewish”

Thomas Pick will tell his own family story, starting with his Jewish parents, who fled Czechoslovakia at the beginning of the war and, upon arriving in Sherbrooke, hid their Jewishness and brought up their two sons as Christians. At the end of his talk, he will show an 18-minute film, made by one of his cousins, about growing up as a Christian and hiding her Jewish heritage. Thomas says that the movie could have been about him.

Service Leader: Joey Marosi

August 3

Ms. Claire Webster

“The World of Alzheimer's”

Claire Webster will be speaking predominantly from the caregiver's perspective, and will welcome questions regarding the types of support services available to caregivers as well as any other questions related to this disease and the impact that it has on the individual and the family.

Service Leader: Joey Marosi
Coffee Convenor: Mary Lynn Ross

August 10

Ms. Gabriella Brand

“What Lies Do You Live With?”

We all live with constructs--ideas or thoughts which we hold to be true, but which are not based on empirical evidence. What are yours? What's so true for you that you never even question it? Gabriella Brand will explore theories of social construct and bare her Unitarian soul.

Gabriella is a long-time friend of UUEstrie. A former school head and foreign language educator, she has been a Unitarian for over fifty years.

Service Leader: Keith Baxter

August 17

Mr. Daniel Nerenberg

“Report from Palestine”

Daniel Nerenberg is a former Townshipper now living in Washington DC. He has lived in Ramallah, and will have recently returned from another visit to Palestine. This will be another in our 2014 study series on the problem of achieving peace and justice in the Middle East.

Service Leader: Joey Marosi

August 24

TBA

Service Leader: Keith Baxter

August 31

“Hike and picnic with an informal worship on the lawn”

We shall close our summer season with our traditional hike and outdoor worship and picnic lunch at the Jensen farm, 16 Bowen Rd. in Hatley. All welcome. No service in North Hatley-- just come directly to the farm for 10:30 am. Bring your picnic lunch or something to share.

Away from UU Estrie

Canada Day Parade in Hatley



Seven walkers from UUEstrie took part in the parade, watched by thousands. The general theme of the day was “The True North Strong and Free,” to which we added “For all Species,” and carried signs along with our banner.



It is always amazing to see this tiny village transformed into a large festival, thanks to a small, dedicated group of volunteers. Visiting mayors invited as dignitaries could scarcely believe it possible.



“The world is not respectable; it is mortal, tormented, confused, deluded forever; but it is shot through with beauty, with love, with glints of courage and laughter; and in these, the spirit blooms...”
~ George Santayana



Minister's Reflection - Carole's Column

"Let us be ever hopeful gardeners of the spirit, who know that without darkness nothing comes to birth, as without light, nothing flowers." ~ May Sarton, poet and Unitarian

Mid-summer is such a glorious celebration of growth. Mornings out on the deck with a first coffee I carefully inspect the gardens, relishing each new sign. Overnight a leaf enlarges, new shoots appear, a bud opens, a blossom sets and something resembling a bean, zucchini or tiny tomato miraculously emerges. Imagine my surprise when I discover a few mornings ago, in a very unlikely text, this story about the "tomato effect".

"The tomato was discovered by Europeans in the New World," writes Peter Steinke. "Explorers brought it to Spain and from there it spread quickly to Italy and France. The Italians called it 'pomodoro'; the French ascribed aphrodisiac properties to the tomato, 'pomme d'amour.' By the end of the sixteenth century, the tomato had become a regular ingredient in European meals." Yet, as Steinke goes on to say, the South American fruit so widely cultivated and enjoyed in Europe was shunned for many years in North America. Related to the deadly nightshade family, it was believed to be poisonous.

So just what is the "tomato effect," you may ask? According to Harvard business professor Theodore Levitt, it has to do with the power of belief in limiting our options, narrowing our sense of possibility. Which over time can lead to confusion, loss of focus and purpose.

The real surprise for me was discovering this passage not in a book on gardening, but on congregational dynamics. Yes, I admit to reading those kinds of books on my deck in summer! Peter Steinke is a seasoned pastor and long-time interfaith church consultant, author of two books in my library on congregational systems: How Your Church Family Works, and Healthy Congregations - A Systems Approach, in which the above passage about tomatoes appears. I first encountered Steinke and his work in a course he

taught at a seminary I attended back in Minnesota in the 90s. His is an organic perspective: the church being made up of living beings is an organism in itself, and its functioning is subject to the same dynamics as all living systems.

Mid-July members of your new UU Estrie Board recently voted in at the Annual General Meeting end of June, will carpool to Kingston to participate in one of Steinke's Healthy Congregations trainings for church leaders hosted by the Canadian Unitarian Council (CUC) at the Kingston UU Fellowship. Over half the Board and I will make this "UU pilgrimage" to explore together how our own church family system works, and how and why it sometimes doesn't. No doubt discovering a few juicy "tomato effects" in our own system. We will bring back what we've learned to share with all of you. It's exciting to have a majority of our leadership team begin the year's work with a shared language, understanding and purpose.

What if our North American ancestors had never enlarged their worldview or changed negative perceptions of that versatile fruit featured in so many French and Italian as well as Mexican dishes. Here's to the brave souls who ventured beyond their fears, challenged limitations of what they believed and lived to invent marinara, bruschetta, and spaghetti sauces. Here's to us, moving beyond ourselves to uncover the limits of our own fears and misperceptions! Here's to a rich growing season and harvest!

~ Rev. Carole

"The only unsafe group is a closed one, a world in which awareness of change is not present."

- Arnold Mindell

"Competing pressures tempt one to believe that an issue deferred is a problem solved; more often it is crisis invented." - Henry Kissinger

"After all, organizations, as the very word declares, are organic, just as corporations, from corpus, are living bodies." - James Hillman

"A healthy congregation is one that actively and responsibly addresses or heals its disturbances, not one with an absence of troubles."

- Peter Steinke



President's Report Transition

“A group is always stronger than its strongest champion.”

That is a good lesson for us as a congregation. We took note at our AGM on June 29 that the year 2013-2014 has been one of transition and challenges. Sooky Dunton resigned as president in December 2013, and I moved from the position of vice-president to complete her term. Before leaving, she was instrumental, with Keith Baxter, in applying for a Northern Lights grant for our Outreach project. The application was successful, and early in January we began soliciting donations from the Chalice Lighters across Canada.

Why do we exist? Where are we going, and how do we plan to get there?

To this end, we invited Linda Thomson to lead a workshop for us on Covenant and Congregational Processes, and right relationships. We followed up with two Town Hall meetings of members and friends. The first one focused in part on financial matters; the second one focused in part on our Outreach initiative.

Our next Town Hall meeting – a brainstorming session – is planned for Sunday, July 20, at 12:30 p.m. Please plan to bring your brown-bag lunch and come. Your input is warmly welcome. This year holds the promise of continuing challenges and transition. One champion, or a few of them, cannot meet them alone. All of us are needed.

Democratic decision-making is important. Whatever decisions we as a group make about our future, our finances, our shared ministry and our priorities, the most important thing for me is that we do this in a way that is respectful of the congregation and the individuals in it. It's a matter of walking our talk.

I owe a deep debt of gratitude to all the board members, and Rev. Carole. They have all worked very hard, and shown real caring for our congregation. Over the past 12 months, the board has had 17 meetings and one study session.

Thanks too to all the committee members and other volunteers who do so many things that are unseen and unacknowledged. As a group, we are strong!

In the spirit of Love, Rachel Garber, President

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/cuc-enews/>

Special Thanks this Month

Thanks to Carol McKinley for organizing as a benefit for UUEstrie co-sponsorship with the Piggery of Suzanne Sheridan's concert with her band on June 28. And thanks to all who sold tickets. The event was a resounding success and it was additionally gratifying to learn that Suzanne Sheridan is a member of the UU Church in Westport, Connecticut. She attended our service on June 29, offering us another chance to express appreciation of the performance.



Thanks to all who participated in the Annual General Meeting on June 29, the major decision-making event in our church year, which included the election of a new Board. Members newly elected to the Board are Rachel Garber, who now begins her first term as President; Heather Lewis is now Vice-President while Joey Marosi joins as Secretary, Keith Baxter as Treasurer and Joe Weber as Member-at Large. Continuing for the second year of her term as Member-at-Large is Mary Lynn Ross. Thanks to our new Board of Trustees for taking on these crucial leadership roles. Member-at-Large Carol McKinley now leaves the Board and Adele Ernstrom concludes her term as Secretary.

A hearty thanks to Adele Ernstrom for her outstanding contribution as Board secretary, producing minutes that were timely and succinct, and skillfully edited. Thanks to Carol McKinley for her leadership and commitment, and her faithful attendance despite ongoing health challenges.

Special thanks to Joyce Booth, who was recognized at the AGM with an award of appreciation for her work as Assistant Treasurer and to Keith Baxter who received the prestigious "golden hammer" for continual hammering away on many fronts.

Those who showed up to walk in the parade on Canada Day in Hatley, representing UU Estrie with signs on including all species in any declaration of freedom. Special thanks to Phyllis Baxter for leading this initiative and to all those who made signs.

Massawippi Music Festival partners with UU Estrie

UU Estrie has offered its sanctuary as the "rain venue" for the summer series of concerts sponsored by the North Hatley Recreation Society. In sunny weather, the classical concerts featuring various musicians, quartets and trios will be held from 12 to 1 pm, at the Scowen memorial Band Stand in Dreamland Park. Dates for concerts are July 6, 13, 20, 27 and August 3, 10, 17, 24, and 31. In the event of rain, the concerts will be held in the UU Estrie sanctuary between 1 and 2 p.m.

The Church's Library and Alter's *Book of Psalms*

In the last issue of the Newsletter, Rev. Carole called attention to literature available at the church on the history of Unitarian-Universalism, on world religions, environmental issues, perspectives on spiritual insight and small church dynamics. Her invitation to explore the collection prompted my offer to contribute a copy of Robert Alter's translation with commentary of *The Book of Psalms* (N. Y. & London: W. W. Norton, 2007). While examining origins of the Psalms in hymns celebrating the gods of ancient Egypt and Mesopotamia, Alter presents new translations and a wealth of commentary that draws on recent scholarship. In his translation the first six verses of Psalm 19 read thus:

The heavens tell God's glory, and His handiwork sky declares.

Day to day breathes utterance and night to night pronounces knowledge.

There is no utterance and there are no words, their voice is never heard.

Through all the world their voice goes out, to the world's edge, their words.

For the sun He set up a tent in them - and he like a groom from his canopy comes, exults like a warrior running his course

From the ends of the heavens his going out and his circuit to their ends, and nothing can hide from his heat.

The Psalm then goes on to praise the Lord's teaching. To my mind, this translation does not equal the majesty of cadence in the King James version, nor is its sense as clear:

The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork.

Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night sheweth knowledge.

There is no speech nor language where their voice is not heard.

Their line is going out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. In them he hath set a tabernacle for the sun,

Which *is* as a bridegroom coming out of his chamber, *and* rejoiceth as a strong man to run a race.

His going forth *is* from the end of the heaven, and his circuit unto the ends of it: and there is nothing hid from the heat thereof.

However one may judge his translations, Alter's commentary is rich in suggestions for the interpretation of these sacred poems, as in this example when he points to the Psalm's connection with sun worship and solar imagery. But an instance in which his translation is very telling has to do with the oft-recited Psalm 23 ("The Lord is my shepherd"). He corrects the promised "forever" in the last line to read: "And I shall dwell in the house of the Lord for many long days." This will be less satisfying to some than the assurance in King James but, according to Alter it registers the viewpoint of the Psalm in the here and now: "The speaker hopes for a happy fate all his born days" and in this lifetime aspires to live in a place of security and harmony with the divine. So may we all.

Adele Ernstrom

Newsletter published by:

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Please respect the Minister's sabbath, Sunday
afternoon and Monday.
For emergency pastoral care, phone:
1. Rev. Carole
2. Joyce Booth

**Calendar and Schedule****JULY**

SUN 6 10:30AM SERVICE: KEN MACLEAN
PICNIC AT BRAND'S

SUN 13 10:30AM SERVICE: BETHANY KNIGHT

SUN 20 10:30AM SERVICE: REV. CAROLE
SPIRITUAL LITERACY

12:30PM TOWN HALL MEETING

SUN 27 10:30AM SERVICE: THOMAS PICK

AUGUST

SUN 3 10:30AM SERVICE: CLAIRE WEBSTER

SUN 10 10:30AM SERVICE: GABRIELLA BRAND

SUN 17 10:30AM SERVICE: PALESTINE

SUN 24 10:30AM SERVICE: TBA

SUN 31 10:30AM HIKE AND PICNIC

**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
Heather Lewis	Vice-President
Joey Marosi	Secretary
Keith Baxter	Treasurer
Mary-Lynn Ross	Member at large
Joe Weber	Member at large

This is your newsletter !!!

Next issue of Newsletter is
September 2014

Deadline: **August 24.**

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.