

nouvelles news

October 2014 octobre



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

October 12

Rev. Carole Martignacco

“Joy & Justice - Thanksgiving Sukkot”

For our annual Thanksgiving service at the historic Huntingville Universalist Church, we welcome Rabbi Anna Maranta of Ottawa and Isaac Romanov of JCCET, who will celebrate with us themes of joy, gratitude and justice in the Jewish harvest festival of Sukkot. Music by harpist Rev. Abigail Stockman. (Directions: At traffic circle Jct. 143/147, go south 1k on 147; church is on right across from bridge.)

Away from UU Estrie

Coffee Convenor: Joey Marosi

October 18, 7 - 9 pm

Wendy Luella Perkins

“Soulful Singing”

Singing is good for the soul. Experienced singer and chorister Wendy leads workshops designed to get everyone singing lustily, without fear, using various exercises to release our inner song and improve weekly singing at worship! All members and friends are welcome for this 2 1/2 hour session on Saturday evening. Members of the larger community also welcome; a goodwill donation is suggested.

October 19

Rev. Wendy Luella Perkins

“The Power of Song”

Explore the power of song in our lives through words, silence and singing. Soulful Singing (singing meditation) moves us off the page, to go with the flow, become more fully present in the moment. No written Order of Service or hymnbook. Songs and chants are taught in the oral tradition without accompaniment. All the familiar elements of a

worship service will be here—you are invited to lean into this Sunday morning experience, embracing the moment-to-moment existence we share together. Children age 12 + are welcome to stay for the service.

Upstairs, in the Sanctuary

Service Leader: Carole Martignacco

October 26

Ms. Julia Hamel

“Lessons from Sri Lanka”

Julia Hamel, a young adult who has just returned from Sri Lanka, will share her observations on its adjustment after years of internal war.

Each year we take one Sunday to recognize the goal of peace, justice and liberty for all people in all nations of the world. Today's collection goes to support the UU United Nations Office. The UU-UNO plays a major role among NGOs affiliated with the UN and each April hosts a spring seminar for youth and adults.

Service Leader: Keith Baxter

November 2

Personal Testimonies Welcome

“All Souls Sunday”

In memory of friends and loved ones who have recently passed away, this joint service with l'Olivier, a francophone group is devoted to the spiritual connection we have with the departed. Personal testimonies from all who wish to participate are welcome.

Upstairs, in the Sanctuary

Service Leader: Keith Baxter

November 9
Ms. Blondine Maurice
“Simplicity Parenting”

The speed and stress and fear and over-stimulation of contemporary society takes its toll, especially on children. Blondine Maurice leads workshops in Simplicity Parenting as well as Inner Clown Play. A pioneer Waldorf teacher in the Eastern Townships, she started 'l'Oiseau d'or' kindergarten in her home in 1986. (L'Oiseau d'or later occupied our own Stoddard Hall for two years in 1990-92!) She lives in Montreal.

Upstairs, in the Sanctuary

Inner Clown, Saturday November 8
“Le Courage d'Etre”

... is an all-day, bilingue event being held in Stoddard Hall by Blondine Maurice.

There are 12 places only, and you must register and pay a fee, preferably before October 18.

See poster at UUEstrie.

For information: funserieux@gmail.com

3 Timely Social Action Projects:

The Bare Necessities.

A non-profit in Sherbrooke will be distributing free coats and food to ward off cold and hunger this winter. “Because you shouldn't have to choose!”

Clean your closets! At UU Estrie, we will be collecting coats, jackets, snowpants, vests – for all ages, cleaned and gently used – throughout the winter months.

MITTEN TREE

Again in December, we will trim our Christmas tree with new hats, mittens, scarves, socks and warm knitted or fleecy wear for all ages.

WINTER FOOD SHELVES

Donations are needed. Please bring a non-perishable food item or harvest vegetable to the Thanksgiving service on October 12th, and continue with donations each Sunday in the months to come. Many will benefit from your generosity!

JUST GIVE THANKS!

An attitude of gratitude does a world of good for a person. That's what psychological research tells us these days. It stops negative thinking in its tracks. It destroys stress and creates well-being.

Make every day Thanksgiving Day. Be grateful to other people, to nature, to animals, to the universe, to your own inner Spirit. It doesn't matter who you say it to – just say thanks!

Happy Thanksgiving – Ed. Note: *And thanks to Rachel Garber for contributing these words of wisdom.*

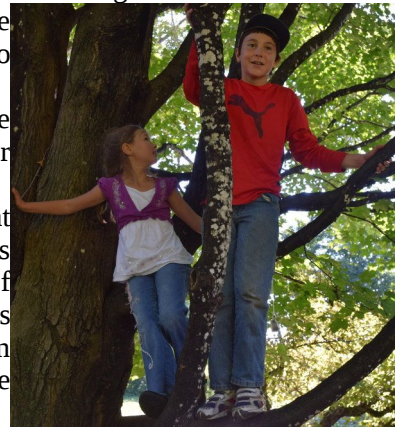
Fall hike, picnic, and Water Communion



This took place the first Sunday of September. Most walkers reached a view of the countryside spread out into the distance, while incredibly the children lagged behind, because they started discovering “gold” in the gravel road.

So of course they had to climb a tree.

Rev. Carole led a water communion, people brought water from as far as the Bay of Fundy, and as close as the rain barrel in the yard.



And a bright green caterpillar in the dill.





Minister's Reflection

Awe - Émerveillement

What does it mean to seek a life of awe? *Que signifie chercher à vivre une vie d'émerveillement?* (excerpt from October Soul Matters packet)

October's word in our spiritual alphabet for the year calls us to be aware of the awesome in our midst. Closely akin to awe are reverence and a sense of wonder, which are often predicated upon a certain humility. Indeed, the capacity for responding to the experience of being alive with wonder, reverence and awe is a fundamental distinguishing trait of the human spirit.

For me, beauty does it every time! Right on schedule every year the landscape here in Québec's Eastern Townships bursts into glorious colour. These past weeks have been breathtaking in their richness. Now with the chill nights, grey rain and wind, all around us the brilliant leaves are falling. Neighbourhood children shriek with laughter and delight as they first rake their yards, then jump in turn into the huge piles, scattering dried leaves only to rake them and begin all over again. The first faint scents of wood smoke waft upward from fireplace chimneys, and the honking of geese fills the air. In the writers' group check-in, I recall a poetry prof who came into the room one fall morning with a basket full of bright leaves he'd gathered along the way to class. Standing in the midst of the circle of students, he threw them up into the air, shouting exuberantly, "Leaves are my flowers now!" That was our opening line, prompting a whole collection of almost-poetry scribbles filled with awe.

A few days ago, I had the joy of conducting a wedding ceremony in our sanctuary. The couple had decorated the entrances with artfully stacked bales of hay and pumpkins; inside, the pews were garlanded with graceful hemp bows and streamers. The flower girl was only three, and no one quite knew how or whether she'd follow through on her assigned task. We formulated a Plan B and C. We all rehearsed walking slowly; she studied the bridesmaids and followed suit. We talked about the basket she'd carry tomorrow, and how it was okay this time

to scatter its contents on the ground and be messy. On the big day, she stood in back bedecked in her finery. The music shifted, I beckoned and she solemnly began her long trek down the aisle in front of the bride. Every few steps, she bent down and drew a single red, orange or gold leaf from her basket and carefully laid it on the carpet, then moved on. The guests were spellbound, the groom tear-stricken, the grandparents proud, the bride relieved, all of us grateful. I was in awe of this small child's capacity for reverence, the inner beauty of her spirit. However she understood the moment and her own role, it was beyond rehearsal.

We were all one in the moment, watching her with held breath. The wonder of it all - the spirit of a child. Awe takes us there, to the ground of our being.

Leaves are our flowers now - red and gold, orange and brown. They flutter from living beings on swirling winds to the ground. Quickly, before it passes and all lies hidden beneath white blankets of snow, what do you love about this time of year? If autumn is not your season, what of the summer just past, or any other? What moves you to awe? To bow down in reverence? To pause in wonder and yes, that other October word - gratitude - at this magnificent existence we share with all of nature and each other?

All blessings of the season to you, even as it changes! ~ Rev. Carole

Trees Lose Parts of Themselves Inside A Circle of Fog - Francis Ponge, trans. Robert Bly

Inside the fog that encloses the trees, they undergo the robbing of their leaves...Thrown into confusion by a slow oxidation, and humiliated by the sap's withdrawal for the sake of the flowers and fruits, the leaves, following the hot spells of August, cling less anyway.

The up-and-down tunnels inside the bark deepen, and guide the moisture down to earth so as to break off with the animated parts of the tree.

The flowers are scattered, the fruits taken away. This giving up of their more animated parts, and even of parts of their body, has become, since their earliest days, a familiar practice for trees.

Eastern Fall Gathering

Dear Fellow Travellers,

The Eastern Fall Gathering takes place in Halifax Oct 31 to Nov 2. Early registration deadline is Oct 8 (this Wednesday!), cost only \$95, compared to \$135. Also subsidies are available to offset costs, and \$100 has been allocated from UUEstrie to help offset travel costs, if several of us travel together. Please let me know if you are interested in going. Many thanks, Rachel

To register and for more information, visit: <http://cuc.ca/event/eastern-regional-fall-gathering>

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/>

"Awe: an experience of such perceptual vastness you literally have to reconfigure your mental models of the world to assimilate it."

- Nicholas Humphrey

"Gratitude bestows reverence, allowing us to encounter everyday epiphanies, those transcendent moments of awe that change forever how we experience life and the world."

- John Milton

Let us hold in our hearts all the joys and sorrows spoken among us in our Sunday worship, and those that remain unspoken but still a vital part of our lives in loving community.

"I'll tell you a secret. Something they don't teach you in your temple. The Gods envy us. They envy us because we're mortal, because any moment might be our last. Everything is more beautiful because we're doomed. You will never be lovelier than you are now. We will never be here again." - Achilles

SPECIAL THANKS

To Rachel Garber who organized our Townshippers Day table in Coaticook this past month with the help of Rev. Carole, and the many volunteers who turned out to help: Joe and Janet Weber, Phyllis Baxter, Gudrun Brand, Chantal Michaud, Keith Baxter, and Mary Lynn Ross.

And to Rachel Garber and Keith Baxter who organized table and volunteers for the following day at the Sherbrooke Pride Festival held at Parc Jacques Cartier to staff a similar table there, including Debra Fougere, Jane Pankovitch, Mary Lynn Ross, Keith Baxter, Rachel Garber, Adele Ernstrom.

All the musicians who turned out for our musical Sunday, including many talented members and friends of UU Estrie, and Keith Baxter for organizing this spirited service.

October Moments in UU History:

25th In 1600, the first recorded use of the word Unitarian by the Diet of Leczfalva in Transylvania.

27th In 1553, scientist, physician and theologian Michael Servetus was burned at the stake on the order of John Calvin for his book, *On the Errors of the Trinity*. His death gave rise to a movement toward religious tolerance.

Seed Connections
November 7th - 9th, 2014
MacDonald Campus of McGill University, Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue, Quebec



Helen Jensen, who spoke to us about Seeds of Diversity Canada, sent us this notice of this conference she is helping to organize.

Our "second major ecological seed conference for eastern Canada. ECOSGN's bilingual conference brings together farmers, seed savers, seed companies, community gardeners, and experts on organic seed production to share knowledge, skills, and experience over three packed days. Whether you are a beginner or an expert, if you are interested in ecological seed in eastern Canada, this is the conference to attend!"

Detailed schedule and registration information is posted at:

<http://www.seedsecurity.ca/en/119-ecosgn-conference>

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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. Joyce Booth

Calendar and Schedule

THUR 9 9:30AM PROGRAM COMMITTEE

FRI 10 10:30AM BOARD MEETING

SUN 12 10:30AM THANKSGIVING IN
HUNTINGVILLE

SAT 18 7-9 PM SOULFUL SINGING

SUN 19 10:30AM SERVICE: WENDY PERKINS

TUES 21 10:00AM NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE

SUN 26 10:30AM SERVICE: SRI LANKA

FRI 31 7:00PM CUC ERG – HALIFAX

UNTIL SUNDAY NOVEMBER 2

SUN 2 10:30AM SERVICE: SAMHAIN

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 November 2014

Deadline: October 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.

