

# nouvelles news

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**March 2015 mars**

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## 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

**March 1**

**various members and friends**  
**"Bring a Joke Sunday"**

This Sunday we shall let humour be the instrument nourishing our souls. All are invited to bring a joke or two that you could share with everyone. If you can't come up with one we shall have some extra jokes on hand that you could use. If you prefer not to tell, just come and laugh!

Service Leader: Kevin and Keith  
Coffee Convenor: Phyllis Baxter

**March 6, 11:00 am**

**Dr. François de Médiçi**  
**"Autumn Genius: The genius of Cèsar Franck"**

Another in a series of programs consisting of a talk (in French this time) and mini concert focused on composer/musicians who flourished in their later years. Followed by a light lunch. Free for seniors over 60; a small charge for others. Series produced by Pauline Farrugia.

Upstairs, in the Sanctuary

Service Leader: Pauline Farrugia  
Musician: Tristan Longval-Gagné

**March 8**

**Rev. Carole Martignacco**  
**"Why Surrender?"**

All religious traditions have some prescription for surrender. If not to God, Allah, or something holy - what about to life in general, forces beyond our control, letting go of the ego, and finding a peace that passes understanding? What would surrender look like for UUs?

Today is also International Women's Day.  
Musician: Mike Matheson

**March 15**

**Rev. Brendan Hadash**  
**"The Cathedral of the World"**

"Imagine standing in front of a stained glass window in the cathedral of the world. The light outside signifies whatever is most holy, whatever is true, whatever is of ultimate importance; the colours of the window signify the faith you were raised in." This image invites us to reflect on the relationship of the world's religions to one another and to Unitarian Universalism.

Reverend Brendan Hadash, who served UUEstrie in the 1980s, is now retired and living in St. Johnsbury VT.

Service Leader: Keith Baxter  
Coffee Convenor: Uma Nigam/ML Ross

**March 22**

**Ms. Susan Macaulay**  
**"My Alzheimer's Story"**

In 2011, Susan Macaulay left her job and business in the United Arab Emirates to return to North Hatley to accompany her elderly mother who is living with the brain disease known as Alzheimer's. She will share her story and the insights she has gained over the last several years, particularly the joy that is possible even as the disease progresses.

Service Leader: Keith Baxter  
Musician: Keith Baxter

**March 29**

**Rev. Carole Martignacco**  
**"Holy Fools"**

We inherit from the ancient Romans annual customs of celebrating the silly, the madcap and ridiculous, overturning the usual order of things, in a spirit of mayhem and merry-making as the year turns. Join us for some holy madness, as we look at traditions of

sacred humour across the world and celebrate what makes us laugh.  
Musician: Frances Alvo

**April 2, 5:30 p.m.  
“Pledge Dinner”**

The Board of Trustees invites you to our annual Pledge Dinner. The menu will be home-cooked and served with love by your very own board members. We will have a mystery entertainment, something a little different, something fun. And a short but meaty PowerPoint report on the results of our three research groups (investments, parsonage, fund-raising). Please join us!

Downstairs, in Stoddard Hall

**Genie en Gris Concert Series**

Continues this month. Here we see Dr. Ross Osmun, who performed in February, with series producer Pauline Farrugia.



Concert and talk is always followed by a light lunch, and it is free if you are over 60.

**“Works in Progress” Coffeehouse**

Held on February 14 (see Rachel's column)



Thanks to Heather Lewis for the photos in this edition.



### Minister's Reflection - Carole's Column

*Rev. Carole is on leave until March. We look forward to her return and column in the April newsletter.*



### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

What a roller-coaster ride it has been! As I write, it is minus 30 outside. But the sun is shining this early

morning. Yes, despite the odds, spring is on the way again.

The weather is a good reflection of this winter at UUEstrie, too. It is proving to be quite a ride, working on creating a viable future for our congregation. We've been missing Rev. Carole this month, too, as she is on leave of absence from us to minister to the Unitarian Church of Montreal. We look forward to welcoming her back on March 7.

**Research Groups.** Our three research groups have been meeting regularly. We've consulted experts and discussed the best stewardship of our parsonage, investments, and fund-raising efforts. We're still investigating a few things, and still discussing. We're not jumping to premature conclusions, so not reporting results yet.

In the three work groups, we've had some strong disagreements. But we've also often reached consensus, or – dare I say it – sometimes outright agreement! Sometimes it seems that the more information we gather and look at together, the more easily we agree. In research and health care, the concept of “informed consent” is important – that consent is not truly consent unless the person is fully informed about what he or she is agreeing to. Likewise, “informed consensus” is our goal.

We anticipate bringing the results of our work groups, with recommendations, to the next board meeting on March 17. And yes, you are welcome to attend, too, if you wish. We are

meeting at 1:30 to 4 p.m., Tuesday, St. Patrick's Day, at UUEstrie. Don't forget to wear green!

We'll report the research results at our upcoming Pledge Dinner, too. Please join us on Thursday, April 2, at 5:30 p.m. The board of trustees is throwing the party for you. See the notice published in this newsletter, and you can look forward to receiving a personal invitation soon after March 17, too. Then we hope you will RSVP, so we can plan to have enough food and enough seating.

**Happy Endings.** In our next newsletter, look for news about our “Happy Endings” series of workshops at Uplands in May and June. It's about five really telling topics for anyone who has ever been born – and therefore, whose life will end one day. One of those topics is the question of how to leave all your money to your kids, and also give some of it to your favourite charity instead of paying it in taxes. It's called a bequest. Giving bequests to UUEstrie could be a nifty way to strengthen our finances – assuming of course that UUEstrie might be a favourite charity for some of us!

**Works in Progress.** Perhaps the brightest spot this month was the 8<sup>th</sup> Works in Progress coffee house concert on February 14<sup>th</sup>, organized by Debra Fougère and Kevin Jensen. Young and old, French and English, all mixed it up with all kinds of music in a joyful ambience. Then Debra left for her six-week trip to India. As Joyce Booth expressed it so eloquently in a note to Debra:

*“Saturday Night was delightful, Debra. Your donations and Kevin's bread and fudge sale raised funds for the church. I hope it was profitable for your trip. [Debra catered the food to help support her trip to India.]*

*“Aside from the \$\$\$\$\$, it was a lovely evening. I looked around at people's faces and they were always happy-looking and smiling! A hooking friend who was there with her husband, mentioned to me this afternoon how much they enjoyed it.*

*“Thank you so much!”*

And thank YOU, Joyce, for your encouraging words and your unsung heroic work as assistant treasurer!

Love is the Spirit,  
Rachel

**Please Come to our Pledge Dinner**

Spring is coming. Let us have fun!

This is your invitation from the Board of Trustees to our annual Pledge Dinner on Thursday, April 2, at 5:30 p.m. at UUEstrie. Yes, you are invited, member or not. You should receive a personal invitation in a few weeks, and then we hope you will RSVP so we can plan to have enough seats and enough food.

The menu will be home-cooked and served with love by your very own board members.

We will have a mystery entertainment, something a little different, something fun. Our very own Oscars, in a sense, where you get to sit in the Academy chairs and pick the winners. A few after-dark thrills!

And we will offer a short but meaty PowerPoint report on the results of our three research groups which are looking for ways to be better stewards of our financial resources. One group is looking at the possibility of selling the parsonage, or if we don't sell, how to maximize its use. Another group is looking at how to beef up our investments, how to maximize their returns in an ethical manner. A third group has been brainstorming about fund-raising strategies that will make more money in a way that is in keeping with our values and mission.

And, yes, this is a pledge dinner, in the shadow of a deficit budget for 2014-2015. Could you please think about giving just 10% more before April 30, for this year, and after April 30, for next year? What would happen if we all help out, according to our means?

Rachel Garber, President

**Denominational affairs**

Our duty to participate, the duty of every democrat, was exercised on behalf of UUEstrie by a Group of Six: Rachel, Lin, Jane G, Gudrun, Phyllis, and Keith, on Feb 22, when we discussed and commented on the four Resolutions coming before the AGM of the CUC, in Ottawa, in May. Rachel took notes and will send some feedback based on our thoughts, to the CUC, by the end of February.

The Abortion rights resolution we found to be well thought out. The Truth and Reconciliation resolution was very popular in our group, as most of us had personal experience of aboriginal people. The fossil fuel divestment resolution seemed much like a no-brainer; it had carefully thought out actions to implement. We were sympathetic with the clean air, clean water, clean soil resolution, though its implications were not clear for us.

The annual conference and meeting of the CUC is in Ottawa May 15-19. Plan to attend!

Look for one Sunday in March where we shall consider a new Statement of Mission for the CUC as well as a set of principles proposed as the 'ground' for the continued building of the UU movement in Canada.

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 CUC monthly ENews is available at <http://cuc.ca/enews/>

**Special Thanks this Month**

To Rhéa Merson, who is our faithful, willing, friendly and helpful children's programme coordinator. Many's the child who feels welcome here thanks to Rhéa.

To Debra Fougère for organizing the Feb. 14<sup>th</sup> fund-raising coffeehouse, and to Mathew McCully for doing the setup and performing, and to all the performers.

To Jeff Gagnon for keeping our entrance ways cleared of snow and safe for all.

To Mary Lynn Ross, for her faithful caring of our meetinghouse building.



**Newsletter published by:**

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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
3. Mary Lynn Ross

*Spirit of Play, February 15*



## Calendar and Schedule

SUN 1 10:30AM SERVICE: JOKES  
FRI 6 11:00AM CÉSAR FRANCK  
SUN 8 10:30AM SERVICE: SURRENDER  
SUN 15 10:30AM SERV: BRENDAN HADASH  
TUES 17 1:30PM BOARD MEETING  
SUN 22 10:30AM SERVICE: SUSAN MACAULAY  
SUN 29 10:30AM SERVICE: HOLY FOOLS

### Board of Trustees

You have elected this board to take care of business. The Board generally meets on the **third Tuesday** of each month at 1:30pm, but check for changes. 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
Debra Fougère	Member at large

## This is your newsletter !!!

Next issue of Newsletter is April 2015

**Deadline: March 23.**

*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](mailto:newsletter@uuestrie.ca).*

