

nouvelles news

January-February 2016 janvier-fevrier



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

January 8, 5:30 p.m.

“Welcome Families! Potluck supper and discussion”

Potluck supper and discussion for young families (and those who enjoy being with them), with child care offered for children. Coffee, tea and juice are offered. Bring a dish to share. RSVP to Amanda.hillenburg@gmail.com, revcarole@uuestrie.ca, or wildflowergrowing@hotmail.com . *Downstairs in Stoddard Hall.

January 10

Rev. Carole Martignacco

“Beyond Protest ~ A New Era of Activism”

From the decades of anti-this and anti-that, a deeper wisdom is welling up. It is not enough to protest injustice, as our resistance too often is dominated by the very shape of what we protest. Instead, we are called to be innovators, shape-changers in a world that longs to be reinvented.

January's theme is Resistance.

Musician: Mike Matheson

Coffee Convenor: Kevin Jensen

January 17

Townships Tellers

“Stories, Stories, Stories”

A morning filled with nothing but stories, featuring tellers from the Townships Tellers as well as other local tellers. Followed with a potluck lunch with the tellers for those who would like to join us. All Welcome.

Service Leader: Keith Baxter

Coffee Convenor: Heather Lewis

Friday, January 22, 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, January 23, 7:00 pm

“Coffee House & Play Reading: The Cruellest Month”

Coffee House & theatrical reading of a radio play based on *The Cruellest Month*, a novel by mystery writer Louise Penny and adapted by Eric Alexandre. Directed by Phyllis Baxter, with a cast of 14 characters and sound effects, in a coffee house ambiance. Repeat performances Friday and Saturday. Doors open at 6:30 p.m.; refreshments available at reasonable cost. Tickets: \$15/performance. Benefit for UUEstrie and Syrian refugees. To buy tickets: 819-842-4146 or info@uuestrie.ca.

January 24

Prof. Bruce Gilbert

“Excess Is the Pathway to Wisdom”

British romantic poet William Blake (1757-1827) believed that if the doorways of perception could be cleansed we would be able to perceive in the infinite. The active exercise of one's creative imagination releases divine energies that reveal "the world in a grain of sand."

Dr. Bruce Gilbert is Professor of Liberal Arts and Philosophy at Bishop's University. He will explore Blake's spirituality of creativity by reflecting on Blake's poetry and visual art.

Service Leader: Camille Bouskela

Events as of press time. For latest information, consult uuestrie.ca, where [French translations](#) are usually available.

January 31**Mr. François Beausoleil
“Understanding Nonviolent
Communication”**

François Beausoleil lives with his wife Anya Borissova in Canton de Hatley. He worked for a number of years for the Cirque du Soleil, and now travels widely as a consultant in Non-violent Communication to business and other organizations, and gives workshops for the general public.

Service Leader: Phyllis Baxter

February 5**Génie en Gris****“The Genius of Florent Schmitt”**

Another mini talk and concert revealing the genius of another musician/composer's work in later life. Followed by a light lunch (free for seniors over 60).

Upstairs, in the Sanctuary

Service Leader: Pauline Farrugia

February 7**Ms. Regine Neumann****“Spirit of Play I”**

Regine is a sculptor and artist who works with the fine arts department of Bishop's University. She has noticed the importance of a playful attitude on the well-being of everyone, especially in relation to art.

Service Leader: Gudrun Brand

February 14**Rev. Carole Martignacco****“A Larger Love”****February 21****“Resolved for Social and Environmental
Justice”**

We shall discuss several social justice resolutions proposed for discussion and acceptance at the national gathering of Unitarians and Universalists in Vancouver this coming May. What are the burning issues on which we want to speak out? What exactly should these resolutions say to become agreed policy of the Canadian Unitarian Council?

This Sunday, a special collection will be taken for the Sharing our Faith fund of the CUC. UUEstrie has already benefited from this fund. Service Leader: Keith Baxter

**Syrian refugee Fund**

We have decided to contribute 50% of our fundraising revenues to help bring a family from Aleppo. Peggy, Antoine and George are friends of Michele Murray. She and her husband are sponsoring them. They are almost halfway to their goal of \$40,000 – which they need to reach within the next two months. The family's situation is very precarious. We hope they can come soon. For more information, see <https://fundrazr.com/campaigns/>

THANKS FOR SCHOOL SUPPLIES

You can give a word of thanks to the UU people who made a very large contribution to our collection of school supplies. I just handed over 9 backpacks to newcomer Syrian students ranging from early primary to university. I included a note welcoming them to Canada and hoping they would succeed in school. I mentioned that the supplies were donated by the UU Church of North Hatley (among others). For the two early primary packs, I specifically mentioned that they were donated by Gordon Stoddard and friends.

Two more families are arriving this coming week. We have enough paper and pencil items, but if people are interested in donating more, they can provide backpacks, pencil cases, and scientific calculators. Or cash. Fortunately I found \$50 to \$60 backpacks at 60% off during the post-Christmas sales at Sears. So I bought 16 of them. Most of the students appear to be high schoolers. Thanks again to everyone; I was amazed at their generosity.

-Dr. Frances Aboud & Joey Marosi



Minister's Reflection - Carole's Column

Greetings and all good wishes for 2016!

"RESISTANCE" is January's theme-based worship word. And it's a good one to wake us up to the New Year. Have you made your resolutions yet?

This time around, I find myself resisting the notion of making the same old weary promises. You probably have your own version of eat better, exercise daily, talk less and listen more, meditate, maintain closer communication with distant relatives, and diligently keep up with your weekly filing. Perhaps it's less the resolutions process but the life review that awakens resistance. Naming hopes for this year's regimen of self-improvement, after all, forces us to acknowledge what happened to all those dusty resolutions we made - could it really be? - a whole year ago.



Turning 70 this past December's been a kind of reality check. After participating in this annual ritual for decades now, I can't imagine what might magically make this round any different. So, in lieu of making promises to myself too soon forgotten, I opted for action and spent one entire overcast, too snowy to open the back door afternoon sorting recipes collected over the past - I won't even tell you how many - years, and filling a 3-ring binder complete with

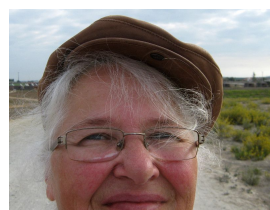
dividers and categories, including one called "10-Minute Meal Emergencies."

Taking the "path of least resistance," we may succeed in avoiding obstacles. But does it take us where we want to go? Resistance can be useful, even noting what we resist can be useful self-awareness. What we avoid or leave on the shelf has a lot to tell us about our "shadow" side. I find the pop psych saying that "what we resist persists" has more than a faint ring of truth for me.

What do raises your hackles, causes resistance in your spirit, and makes you want to run in the opposite direction? I invite you to spend some time this month with me, exploring the many ways resistance shows up in your life.

And once we've done that, we'll be ready for February's theme, Desire. And exploring the meaning of that word in our lives will feel, after working on resistance, like a welcome reward. Though desire is often used in its erotic sense, it signifies a longing that is deeper and stronger than "want" or "need". What is it that you most desire in this life, that would make your being alive truly meaningful? Resistance and desire - two sides of the same coin, perhaps?

Here's wishing you all blessings of a beginning year, and together, here's wishing we make it full to the brim with goodness.



President's Report

Your board is charging into the new year, simultaneously looking back and looking forward. UUEstrie has a long history to consider, and we are trying to look far into the future, too. Where will we be a generation from now? How will we be living the Love that we are?

We are also looking ahead financially. Right now, we are desperately seeking a treasurer! After long and faithful service, Joyce is retiring as assistant treasurer. Do you love numbers? We could indulge that love! Just let me know.

Good news: We received \$2,560 to help support the "Welcome Families" initiative of Jane Gowman and Amanda Hillenburg. We have applied for funding from the New York

Convention of Universalists to continue our quest for UU resources in French.

In the immediate future, I am looking forward to a spate of meetings - the Committee on Ministry and the Investments/Finance working group on January 8; the Fundraising Group on January 10, and the next Board meeting on January 12 (yes, Adele will attend by phone from California). Later in January, we will be scheduling a meeting of the Parsonage Research Group. We will soon be sharing the results of this preliminary work with you, and asking for your input.
- Rachel

Arms Trade Treaty

A petition signed by thirty members and friends of uuestrrie asks that Canada sign the UN Arms Trade Treaty, which restricts the sale of arms to countries with poor human rights records. Initially addressed to the Harper administration, it has been sent with the following letter to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau:

Dear Prime Minister,

The enclosed petition was drafted and initially circulated among members and friends of UUEestrie before the last federal election. It was prompted by concern with the plight of refugees and by an item in the Toronto-based Peace Magazine, according to which the Conservative administration declined endorsement of the UN Arms Trade Treaty on what seemed to us the astonishing grounds that to do so would adversely affect responsible gun owners. Apparently this mantra of the National Rifle Association could be invoked in the most unlikely contexts. We would respectfully urge your attention to this dossier, with its connection to the global refugee crisis, as highly deserving of federal action.

Yours sincerely,
Adele Ernstrom

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/>

Caring Corner

Frazer Adams death is a loss for the entire extended community. Our condolences to his wife and family.

Congrats to the Lin and Kevin Jensen on the arrival of their newest grandchild, Margot, who with her family made a visit over the Christmas holidays.

Special Thanks this Month

Crystle Reid for her gifted work creating the December 13th Solstice program.



And to the cast she worked with, who enjoyed the process together: Heather Lewis, Mary Lynn Ross, Phyllis and Keith Baxter, and Rev. Carole. And to all who participated in trimming the tree with the "Lights" of their lives.

Special thanks to Mike Matheson and Ryan Frizzell for their inspiring music on piano and trumpet.



Thanks again to Mike and Ryan for music, and to Tristan Matheson for his flute solo at our Carol service on Dec. 20th.

Thanks to all who contributed warm clothing for the homeless, and school supplies for Syrian refugee children. We will continue to accept school supplies, as the need increases over the coming months.

And thanks to all who helped to make the Turkey Supper a huge success - the convenor, Kevin Jensen, the cooks, Lucie Craft and Susan MacAulay, Riet Patella and Reine Gagnon who helped and washed a lot of dishes, and numerous others who helped and brought dishes. Thanks to Joey Marosi who set-up for the meal and decorated, and Gudrun Brand who decorated the sanctuary, and also to all those who participated and helped clean up. Thanks to the Brands for bringing the tree. What a joyous event this is, and such a warm welcoming way to connect with friends at the close of each year. Many, many thanks to all!

The Beaver Hall Painters in Montreal

Now at the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts, *1920s Modernism: The Beaver Hall Group* marks an epoch in public awareness of Canadian art in the twentieth century. Long identified inexactly as a constellation of women painters, Beaver Hall emerges in this show as a coherent Modernist formation in Quebec's metropole. Contemporary with the Toronto-based Group of Seven, it was composed, remarkably, of equal numbers of women and men.

One of its male exponents, Edwin Holgate (1892-1977) is represented in the exhibition by a number of strong works, including a deft, acerbic portrait of Montreal art critic Jean Chauvin (1933). Holgate was designer of the sofa that currently graces Avery Booth Hall in our church. His wife, Frances Rittenhouse Holgate, is the subject of a stunning portrait (c. 1920-25) by a woman member of Beaver Hall, Lillias Torrance Newton (1896-1980). For me, one of the most arresting discoveries in the show was Torrance Newton's *Winkie* (1929). In this portrait her young son faces out uncertainly from on top a mound of earth, the colour of his red cadmium beret telling against an overarching sky. The painting is eloquent at every level: in the child's open yet diffident gaze

with its moving lights and in the irresolute gesture of the hands pulling a leaf, it seems, from a spring flower—eloquent both in formal organization and in its acuity of characterization.

Two other works might be singled out, one *The Blue Sleigh* by Sarah Robertson (1894-1948) with its breadth of singing colour; it may be taken as an everyday scene in rural Quebec or as journey in an allegorical Anyplace. Another is *The Immigrants* by Prudence Heward (1896-1947), a major painting first exhibited in 1928 and last seen in 1948; like many other works in private collections it remained to be rediscovered for this show. It seems a resonant coincidence that in the midst of the current refugee crisis, it should be possible to see anew this powerful portrayal of immigrant women who may appear either as sisters or as two facets of one deracinated psyche, holding itself together at a critical juncture of existence.

My friend, former colleague at Bishop's and co-curator of the exhibition with Jacques Des Rochers, Brian Foss, sent me these reflections on the surprises and reception of the show:

Dear Adele, Many thanks for your thoughtful postcard about the Beaver Hall Group exhibition. I'm so glad you enjoyed the show... The attendance has been beyond everyone's expectations, with an average of 1000 visitors per day.

I love it when things turn out well!

All best wishes, Brian

The exhibition is on till **January 21**.

Adele Ernstrom

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Minister's Office Hours
Thursdays from 2:30 to 5:00 p.m.
Please respect the Minister's sabbath, Sunday
afternoon and Monday.
For emergency pastoral care, phone:
1. Rev. Carole
2. Mary Lynn Ross

Calendar and Schedule

FRI 8 5:30PM FAMILY POTLUCK
SUN 10 10:30AM SERVICE: ACTIVISM
TUES 12 1:30PM BOARD MEETING
SUN 17 10:30AM SERVICE: STORIES
FRI 22 7:00PM CRUELLEST MONTH
SAT 23 7:00PM CRUELLEST MONTH
SUN 24 10:30AM SERVICE: BRUCE GILBERT
SUN 31 10:30AM SERVICE:
NONVIOLENT COMMUNICATION

FEBRUARY

FRI 5 11 AM ? GENIE EN GRIS
SUN 7 10:30AM SERVICE: SPIRIT OF PLAY
SUN 14 10:30AM SERVICE: REV. CAROLE
TUES 16 1:30PM BOARD MEETING
SUN 21 10:30AM SERVICE: CUC RESOLVED
SUN 28 10:30AM SERVICE: ANGELA LEUCK

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
Adele Ernstrom	Secretary
	Treasurer
Michael Grayson	Member at large

This is your newsletter !!!

Next issue of Newsletter is March-April 2016

Deadline: ***February 22.***

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.