

nouvelles UU estrie news

November-December 2016 novembre-decembre



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

November 6

Rev. Carole Martignacco **"Freedom and Grace to Let Go"**

How do we deal with loss and grief, and support each other in times of need?

Note: today we return to Eastern Standard time. Fall back or you'll be early to church!

Upstairs, in the Sanctuary

November 13

Rev. Carly Gaylor **"Renewing Trust"**

There are many synonyms for trust: faith, confidence, reliance, duty, protection, etc. What is it to truly trust ourselves and one another, to trust that we have and are enough? Are we people of trust or fear? How can we renew our relationship with trust?

Rev. Carly Gaylor has most recently served as Sabbatical Minister at the Unitarian Church of Calgary. Her long-term ministry plans include planting a new UU urban ministry with her partner, Curtis Murphy.

Upstairs, in the Sanctuary

Service Leader: Keith Baxter

Wednesday, November 16, 7:00 pm

Ms. Amanda Lindhout **"Freedom in Forgiveness"**

Amanda Lindhout was held hostage in Somalia for over 400 days. She speaks of her experience and the spiritual growth that is possible from it. This is not a UUEstrie event, but is of deep interest to most of us. It is one of the Donald Lectures held at Bishop's University, Centennial Theatre at 7 pm, free and open to the public.

Away from UU Estrie: Bishop's University

November 20

"Walking the new Massawippi Foundation Trail"

We propose to meet at the parking lot of the new Massawippi Foundation trail in North Hatley, which is off the Capelton Road, a few hundred yards north of the curling rink, and take about a thirty-minute walk together in the crisp autumnal air, whence we shall return to our own Stoddard Hall for hot soup and cocoa. In part we wish to celebrate this new community walking trail, and in part to make up for our regular fall hike that was rained out in September.

Away from UU Estrie, Trail in North Hatley

Service Leader: Kevin Jensen

Wednesday, November 23, 7:15 pm

"Spirit of Life discussion group"

The monthly meeting of this group to share thoughts about the theme of the month. This month the theme is "Letting Go". All are welcome: speak to Carole.

Downstairs, in Stoddard Hall

Service Leader: Carole Martignacco

November 27

Ms. Margrethe Ulvik

An exploration of the inspirational events Margrethe experienced as Artist in Residence in Norway a year or so ago.

Downstairs, in Stoddard Hall

Service Leader: Gudrun Brand

December 4

"Writing for Rights"

Another annual tradition at UUEstrie, in which we support Amnesty International by writing letters in support of those who have been unjustly incarcerated,

usually simply because of their political beliefs. A special collection will be taken to cover postage for the letters we choose to send.

Downstairs, in Stoddard Hall

Service Leader: Kevin, Adele, Rachel

**December 11, 4:30 pm
"Pageant"**

Our annual yuletide/Christmas pageant in our sanctuary followed by a turkey dinner in Stoddard Hall. All welcome. We plan to do a collective recreation of the pageant as we did last year. Speak to Crystle Reid if you'd like to be part of the pageant creation and presentation. The turkey supper will be convened by Kevin Jensen and Gudrun Brand.

Upstairs, in the Sanctuary

Service Leader: Crystle Reid

**December 18, 4:30 pm
Rev. Carole Martignacco
"Carols and Candlelight"**

Living in EXPECTATION in a dark, cold and beautiful dormant season.

Upstairs, in the Sanctuary

**December 25, January 1
"Dark" - no services**

**January 8
Rev. Carole Martignacco**

We start our New Year off with a service on the theme of "Creation", presented by Rev. Carole.

**January 15
Townships Tellers
"Stories, Stories, Stories"**

An annual tradition at UUEstrie: storytelling as the medium for spiritual insight and enrichment. Anyone who would like to tell, please speak to Keith Baxter. Special guests: The Townships Tellers, a storytelling group that meets at Uplands, in Lennoxville the third Thursday of every month.

Service Leader: Keith Baxter

Calendar Reminder:

11 November, 5:30 - 7:30: UU Estrie hosts the **Student Supper** at St. George's in Lennoxville

Fièvre la fête

At "Fièvre la fête," the lively pride celebration at Sherbrooke's Marché de la Gare on August 27, the following members fielded questions about Unitarian Universalism and our congregation: Keith Baxter, Camille Bouskela, Adele Ernstrom, Ryan Frizzell, Reine Gagnon, Rachel Garber, Amanda Hillenburg (With Charles) and Crystle Reid.

We were pleased to meet at the festivities Marie-Pier Boisvert, a friend of UUEstrie who is currently an officer in Montreal with the Pride Alliance.



picture by Amanda

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/>



Minister's Reflection - Carole's Column

NOVEMBER'S THEME:
LETTING GO

*Here is this tree
Laid waste by the last
Hard frost,*

*Here in this tree
The last bright leaf
Waves down at me*

*And I know I have seen,
Bright leaf,
Your look before:*

*In all that once
was glowing
And now is lost. ~ Carole Martignacco*

A few years ago, Rev. Wendy Luella Perkins, UU singer/songwriter from Kingston, gave a fall Soulful Singing workshop here at UU Estrie. While in North Hatley, she composed a lovely song that begins, "November chill came suddenly..."

And here it is ~ that familiar chill in the air! After weeks of glorious fall colour and sunny warm days, we now look out to windswept landscapes and rain turning to snow. November has always seemed a transitional month, almost its own season - spare and grey, winding down the year towards winter. This time of change helps us reflect upon all the lovely things we cannot hold forever, but must inevitably let go, including the beauty of summer. In the Celtic tradition, the veil between the two worlds thins. On the feast of All Souls we remember our loved ones departed from this life, and celebrate our connection to the ancestors - the long chain of being stretching before us down the corridors of time. Our November 6 service is entitled "The Grace of Letting Go". And in our Spirit of Life small group circle we will explore some practices for letting go with grace and gratitude. What gifts do we make room for when we let go and go with the flow of life, which is all about change and loss. Just around the corner from grief waits renewal. What does your spirit know of letting go? May the landscapes of November - open and spare - inspire us to reflection and deepen our stores of memory. Blessings and love ~ Rev. Carole

Your President's Ponderings

What a blessed month we have just had. I have felt so much gratitude for the beautiful, breathtaking colours everywhere, for the great weather day after day, for the bountiful harvest and for new life. A precious baby boy was born into the Bird clan. Congratulations to Pat for another great grandson and to new parents Clara Bird and Mekan Diamond. Congratulations too, to Gabriella Brand and Douglas Peary on the arrival of twin grandsons for parents Rebecca and Thomas.

In the meantime, there is misery in many places around our earth. Civilians are being bombed in Aleppo. Refugees are still fleeing deplorable conditions trying to make better lives for themselves and their families. Typhoons and hurricanes have caused destruction and loss of lives, especially in Haiti. To help support Haiti, we are taking up a special collection the next few Sundays. There has been much discussion and a lot of emails suggesting which organization we should donate to. There are dozens of worthy charities doing great work. The Board decided this time to send funds to UNICEF. A meeting has been called for November 6 after the service, to recommend causes that our community should support financially this year through our fundraising. Please come and participate in the discussion. There are several causes we already contribute to such as the UU-UNO (United Nations Unitarian Universalist Office), Child Haven homes for destitute children, women and the elderly, and Jonathan Ellison's project to bring water to Senegal's women.

I was very concerned by Rabbi Sherrill Gilbert's comments about the lack of fresh drinking water in so many of our First Nation's communities in Canada. Let us remember to be grateful for the land on which we live and thank the Abenaki Nation who were here long before Europeans arrived. What is the status of this land? I am ready to hear more about the history of this area and what has happened to the Native people who travelled the rivers and lakes that we so appreciate today.

Have a Safe Hallowe'en and start to think about snow tires!

Phyllin Baxter

Thanks from John Mackley

27 Oct. 2016

Dearest new friends, sisters and brothers,

Although we have only recently met in the social realm it is as though I have known you all for eternity, and I sincerely relish this opportunity to address you at this time.

My name is John Mackley, I am he who was referred to when our beloved sister, Rachel Garber, introduced you to the imminent situation of my planning to travel to Utah in the western U.S. for the stated purpose of donating bone marrow for the impending Leukemia treatment for my closest sister Eileen Simmons.

It is my sincere wish to express my profound appreciation for the aid, instruction and wisdom of Rachel, while she is currently absent from the country and cannot state an objection. Without her experience and advice neither the endeavor nor the plane with me would have ever got off the ground.

I must also enunciate my gratitude and appreciation to each and every one of you for your support and aid in making it happen. In particular your kindness, compassion and cordiality upon my return. I would particularly wish to thank those who have inquired directly concerning my sister's and my welfare. Thank You.

In addition, I must not neglect to mention the great generosity and invaluable assistance, offered and delivered, that has prevented me from spending my days walking the streets and my nights sleeping on a park bench or behind a dumpster.

Thank You from the deepest recesses of my soul Chanti, and of course once again, Rachel.

Eileen is in the midst of receiving the severest Chemo treatments intended to thoroughly rid her entire physiology of every trace of the currently diseased blood and bone marrow in preparation for Wednesday's up-coming transplant of my new and healthy Stem Cells which, 'God willing' will then implant and transform themselves into a new and healthy, 'cancer free' blood and immune system production system.

Thank you all for your love and compassion, God bless you, every one.
Your brother in love, John

Social Justice Notes

Righteousness and justice are the foundation of thy throne.
Psalm 89:14

This verse from a Psalm of David figures in my paper for a conference in Montreal at U.Q.A.M. the last weekend in October. Asking "Were Wise Women necessarily ancient?", the talk is about paintings of individuals characterized through the resources of portraiture as sages, or wise women. One such resource is the modest armchair in which Carrington, Van Gogh, Henry Raeburn and Alice Neel placed likenesses of women so as to suggest the subjects' equanimity and resolution of life's experience. By filiation however remote, their armchairs recall the seated presence of enthroned goddesses in ancient Greek sculpture, and other associations including the Biblical concept of justice as foundation for a throne understood as source of moral authority.

The issue of social justice is primordial in the prophetic tradition of Judaism, as in the call of Amos that echoes in one of our hymns: "Let justice roll down like waters." In Judaism and in the extent to which it has influenced Christianity or, for that matter, post-Christian configurations, justice is the responsibility of all in the covenant, or faith, community. Justice is the proof of the covenant, the promised work of the spirit. Coming from such considerations, I regret the C.U.C.'s decision to remove "Social Justice" from the mission statement of Unitarian Universalist congregations in Canada. I would have welcomed an approach to tax audit issues closer to that of Canada without Poverty, a registered charity working towards the relief of poverty in Canada. In July 2015 Canada without Poverty argued before the United Nations in Geneva that the special audit program on charitable donations of the Canada Revenue Agency violates Canada's international commitments on human rights. More recently (Sept. 6, 2016), Canada without Poverty filed a Charter challenge to C.R.A. rulings that limit charities' engagement in advocacy by calling them political. In fact, many of the C.R.A.'s judgments have been egregiously political, and some scarcely coherent, as in their telling Oxfam that it could not work for "prevention of poverty"—that would be political—but could promote the "alleviation of poverty", which would be

charitable. However, the C.U.C.'s e-Newsletter for October states that the C.R.A. will be engaging with charities (like us) to clarify rules governing political activities. Online consultations are the first stage and all Canadians are invited to visit the C.R.A. website and submit their views. To do so, it will be necessary to communicate your ideas or suggestions before November 25, 2016. Members may find it useful to review the subject by consulting Marlene Koehler's "Protecting a Faith Organization's Charitable Status" in the Autumn 2014 issue of JUST news.

Adele Ernstrom



Special Thanks this Month

To David Turner for providing his gentle exercise class twice weekly and generously donating the proceeds thereof to the church. "Balancing Act" on Monday and Wednesday morning at 10:30 provides a friendly, non-stressful way to get fitter, and introduces a variety of people to our church space and community.

To Ryan Frizzell, Mike Matheson and Frances Alvo for the music that enhances our Sunday services and other events. Thank you for playing the interesting, often soothing or reflective selections of Preludes, Interludes, and Postludes (all the 'ludes!) And thank you for accompanying and filling out our hymns.

Thank you to Mary Lynn Ross who invited every one for coffee and snacks at her house after the Gary Shapiro service on September 18th.

And to Phyllis Baxter for stepping in to do Sunday School on the recent occasions when there was no one available to come and do the morning program with the children. And for undertaking the search for a new R.E. teacher.

And to Edson Warner for faithfully changing the lettering on the sign board outside each week that announces the services. "Nor rain, nor snow, nor sleet" deter him? And last Sunday it was in the snow!

And to Keith Baxter who was raking away at leaves last Sunday in the snow.

And to Adele for initiating a church effort to collect money for UNICEF in Haiti.

And thanks to all for whatever you do to support the UUestrie community.

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Calendar and Schedule

NOVEMBER

SUN 6 10:30AM SERVICE: REV. CAROLE
FRI 11 5:30PM STUDENT SUPPER
SUN 13 10:30AM SERVICE: CARLY GAYLOR
WED 16 7:00PM AMANDA LINDHOUT
SUN 20 10:30AM WALKING A TRAIL
WED 23 7:17PM DISCUSSION GROUP
SUN 27 10:30AM SERV: MARGRETHE ULVIK

DECEMBER

SUN 4 10:30AM SERV: WRITE FOR RIGHTS
SUN 11 4:30PM PAGEANT & SUPPER
SUN 18 4:30PM CAROLS AND CANDLELIGHT

JANUARY

SUN 8 10:30AM SERVICE: REV. CAROLE
SUN 15 10:30AM SERVICE: STORIES

Board of Trustees

You have elected this board to take care of business. Please discuss your hopes and concerns with any member:

Phyllis Baxter	President
Camille Bouskela	Vice President
Rachel Garber	Past President/Treasurer
Amanda Hillenburg	Secretary
Ryan Frizzell	Member at large



This is your newsletter !!!

Next issue of Newsletter is January-February 2017

Deadline: ***January 2.***

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.