

# Unitarian Church of Montreal Église unitarienne de Montréal



Newsletter

June / juin 2008

## Worship Calendar

Services start at 10:30 am, unless otherwise noted.

### June 1

*More Than Words*

Rev. Diane Rollert

Religious Education Appreciation Sunday for all those who gave their time and talents to the children's RE this year (including some special good-byes).

**Please bring non-perishable food for the NDG Food Depot.**

### June 8

*A Sun-Drenched Faith*

Rev. Diane Rollert

Flower Communion Sunday. Please bring a fresh flower to exchange with others.

### June 15

*How Can I Keep From Singing?*

Rev. Diane Rollert



Special musical guests: Singers of United Lands (S.O.U.L.)

All are invited to share in a festive spread of foods during the social hour following the service.

### June 22

10:45 am *Worship in Westmount Park*

Our annual worship service and picnic will be held in Westmount Park (see page 5 for map) at 10:30 am. Bring your own picnic lunch, plates, utensils, and blanket.

### June 29

**Summer Services Begin**

*The Peace Dividend: Promise And Reality*  
Blair Rourke

## From the Minister's Study

The Canadian Unitarian Council's task force on our Principles and Purposes has just completed its report, and based on the glimmers I've seen, the word of the day is "community."

Our members and our congregations are seeking less emphasis on the individual and more focus on community. Community is the fourth pillar of our faith that deserves its central place alongside reason, tolerance and freedom.

While in Ottawa at the CUC Annual Conference and Meeting, I had an "Aha" moment about the power of community. It came to me while moderating a workshop on behalf of L'Abri en Ville and Ancoura. These two organizations are working to provide housing for persons living with mental illness. Over the last 17 years, L'Abri en Ville has set up and supported ten apartments for mentally ill residents in Montreal. Ancoura is a newly formed group inspired by L'Abri that is beginning a similar program in Ottawa.

During the workshop, residents, families, staff and volunteers came together to share their stories. The key to their success? Community. At L'Abri it takes sixty volunteers to support and nurture 30 residents, and it works. It works because the volunteers and the residents see themselves as a community and as family. They say that they've come to realize that they work together out of love, not duty.

As I listened to their stories, I was struck by the gift they were giving to all those present. I found myself thinking of the many lives that could be changed and truly saved through the enveloping support of a loving community.

As Unitarians, we take great pride in being a movement that believes in working toward social justice. Here was a group modelling for us how to act justly in the world in a most profound way. There was no difference between the givers and receivers. Volunteers, staff and residents were truly transforming each other, being and (*cont'd on next page*)

(cont'd from previous page) doing, learning and growing together.

This is the essence of community that needs to be at the core of our principles and our values. This is how we can nurture the spirit and heal the world.

May it be so,

*Diane*

## President's Message

"Are we not on this earth to make it a better, a kinder, world for all?" These were the words on a bookmark tucked into a fundraising letter I received from USC-Canada a few years ago. It is a quote from USC-Canada founder and Unitarian, Dr. Lotta Hirschmanova. For me, this rather matter-of-fact rhetorical question provided a useful answer to the big question "Why are we here?" Although it may be a bit too straightforward for some, it struck a chord with me and I return to it regularly.

As my term as president comes to an end, I find myself grateful for the incredible opportunity the congregation provided me to make a better, kinder world. Where's the connection you might ask? What does chairing board meetings, writing canvass letters and dealing with developers have to do with making a better world? It all contributes to supporting the ongoing vitality of this historic congregation. We are making a difference! In each others' lives and in the world around us. Sometimes, in seemingly imperceptible ways — but even a small pebble dropped in a big lake makes ripples.

Serving as president has been a privilege. It has given me the opportunity to stretch my mind and heart in ways I could not have anticipated.

The challenges and frustrations of the past two years are FAR outweighed by the rewards of working closely with the thoughtful people who generously give of their time and passion in all manner of leadership in the congregation.

I am deeply appreciative for the congregation's support, encouragement and trust over the last two years. In fact, I'm at a loss for words...

Thank you. Namaste,

Alison Hall

Outgoing President

## Darfur: Canada must not look away/Darfur: Le Canada doit agir

At our "Christmas in June for Darfur" event on June 1, (see below), you will have an opportunity to join Save Darfur Canada's postcard campaign, and add your voice to those of 300,000 others across the country. Available in both French and English, the postcards tell Prime Minister Harper that Canada must do more to help protect civilians, save lives, and end the cycle of impunity in Darfur.

Save Darfur Canada is a national coalition of groups who advocate for an end to the violence in Darfur, Sudan. Members include Amnesty International Canada, Kairos: Canadian Ecumenical Justice Initiatives, the Canadian Jewish Congress, the Muslim Canadian Congress, and others. At its most recent meeting, our Board voted for UCM to join Save Darfur Canada.

## Christmas in June for Darfur

Don't cringe! The Social and Environmental Concerns Committee (SECC) offers you a hassle-free, guilt-free, two-for-the-price-of-one special offer. Combine the Solar Cooker Solution, the cooker kits going to Darfur refugee women in Chad, with gift cards you give as birthday, hostess, Christmas, or anytime gifts.

Specially designed informative cards, with spaces for names of recipients and donors will be available in Phoenix Hall after the service on June 1st. Cards will be available with English or French text.

As described in the May Newsletter, the cooker solution is a practical way to help the victims of the ongoing genocidal Darfur conflict. You can contribute by cash or cheque (to the Unitarian Church of Montreal, writing "solar cookers" in the subject line), in multiples of \$15, the cost of one solar cooker kit. You'll get an income tax receipt at the end of the year. Your gifts will help women in the refugee camps, relieve pressure on scarce resources of firewood, and please your recipients. The card sale totals will be added to the funds already raised through our "Share-the-Plate" offerings during the month of May and at the special Fifth Friday Pot Luck. Stop, shop, and enjoy delicious homemade goodies!

If you aren't able to make it for this occasion and would like a gift card or two, please contact one of us: Mary-Louise Engels 514 487-2665 or Frank Greene 514 426-4170.

## Entre Nous

**Maychai Brown** has been with Breast Cancer Action Montreal for the last seven years. As Administrative Secretary, she was in sole charge of our office – not only conscientiously taking care of the endless day-to-day paperwork of a non-profit, but also counselling distraught callers who had been newly diagnosed. It is no surprise that she has done a stellar job under somewhat trying circumstances. Please join us in wishing her newfound freedom and happiness in her well-deserved retirement.

*–Janine Cobb, Past President of BCAM*

## Nine New Members

At the May 4 Worship Service the UCM congregation welcomed nine new members:

Elizabeth Charbonneau  
Francine DesMarais  
Elizabeth Forbath  
Shoshanna Green  
Cameron Hoffman  
Nancy Kleins  
Allen Lobo  
Gertrude Pastor  
Andrew Thompson

We'll introduce them in more detail in the July/August News

But here's one story we wanted to tell now. When Patricia Philip was a student at the University of Toronto she had a part-time job in a doctor's office. And the doctor's name? Forbath. He was here for the ceremony on May 4, a great pleasure for Elizabeth and of course for Patricia.

## HELP!!!! Gary Russell needs a haircut!!!!

The Leucan Shaved Heads Challenge is now in its fifth year. Last year more than 3.4 million dollars was raised thanks to the 6,500 people who agreed to have their heads shaved to

support children living with cancer.

For the second year in a row, members of the Montreal Symphony Orchestra Musicians' Association – this year with substantially more hair to lose! – have decided to put a price on their heads. Last year we raised more than \$5,800 for this important cause, and we hope to match – or even exceed! – this amount this time around.

To make a donation online go to: <http://defileucan.ca>

A tax receipt will be automatically generated for donations of \$20 or more.

You can also come and support us "live" when we will get our heads shaved on Sunday, June 8, at 1:45pm at the Galeries d'Anjou shopping centre. It will be our pleasure to see you before – and especially after! – our haircuts...

Thank you for your generosity - this is a beautiful cause, and our heads are worth it! –Gary Russell (2nd Assistant Principal cello, MSO)

## Quilting Hands Needed

Would you like to take part in quilting a gift to the church? Are you available during the summer and/or early fall?

It can be done in a small group and/ or on your own, by hand or machine. To arrange your participation, contact: Judy at 514-488-0590 or [judithenk@yahoo.ca](mailto:judithenk@yahoo.ca)

## Volunteers Needed For A Soul Singer!

We still need two rooms from June 14 late afternoon until June 18, to host our SOUL singers. Info on page 10 of the May NUUS. Come ye all and step into the hospitality mode!

It will be such an enriching experience. You can read about them on their website: [www.singersofunitedlands.org](http://www.singersofunitedlands.org).

Please contact: Mickey van Riel at [orangeblue@videotron.ca](mailto:orangeblue@videotron.ca) or 514-634-3347

## Covenant Groups on vacation over the summer

Covenant groups will be officially on vacation over the summer. This will allow us time for training new facilitators, reorganizing ourselves into fewer and larger groups, and incorporating the suggestions made by our current facilitators and covenant group members.

In the fall, we will issue a new brochure and a new open invitation to all who may be interested in joining or rejoining a covenant group. (We will try to keep the members of current covenant groups together, should they so desire.) At that point, we will know more specifically who the facilitators are, and when they have chosen to schedule their groups.

We thank the six facilitators who this year launched the UCM covenant group program: Valerie Broege, Patricia Gordon, Noline Guerrier, Diana Kleins, Brian McGill and Kirstin McKeown.

Prue Rains  
Covenant Group Coordinator  
Contact: [pruerains@mcgill.ca](mailto:pruerains@mcgill.ca)

## Annual Picnic Service in North Hatley

You are all invited, as usual, to our annual picnic service, to be held Sunday, July 6.

We will serve coffee and doughnuts at the church at 10 a.m. and will plan to be at the Brands' farm, 3795 Rte 143, Hatley by 11 a.m. for a circle blessing. This will be followed by a picnic and games. Everyone to bring their own lunch. Sunshine guaranteed. Anyone for golf?

## Activities

### Book Discussion Group

Date: Wednesday 11 June, 6:00 pm  
Location: Phoenix Hall  
Contact: Kathy Douglas, 514-488-9608

Wrap-up and planning session. Here's your chance to include your favourite book in next year's list. Please let Kathy know if you plan to attend.

### Carmina Choir

Dates: Tuesday, June 3  
Time: 7:30 pm  
Contact: Keith at 514-931-9028

There is only one rehearsal this month and then we will end the season with our Springtime in Vienna concert!

### Midday Meal with Music

Date: Wednesday, June 18  
Times: 10:00 am Scrabble and Bridge; 12:30 pm Lunch; 1:30 pm Music  
Contact: Ruth di Giovanni., 514-934-4956

Please call Ruth at 514-934-4956 by Sunday, June 15, to reserve a seat.

### Parts in Peace Choir

Will begin again on September 8.

### Play Group

Dates: Tuesdays and Thursdays  
Time: 10:00 am-noon  
Location: Nursery  
Contact: Melani Litwack, 514-488-9884

We welcome children under five on Tuesdays and Thursdays on a drop-in basis accompanied by a (grand)parent or caregiver. Pack a snack for your child(ren). Coffee is provided. Open to all, whether church members or not. No charge

but a donation of \$2/day per family is suggested.

Please note: Thursday, June 19 will be the last play group until the fall.

### Prisoners of Conscience

Date: June 15 (3rd Sunday of each month)  
Time: After worship service  
Location: Phoenix Hall  
Contact: Genevieve Patterson, delmaspatterson@mediamonitors.org

Please find our table and sign a letter, as recommended by Amnesty International, protesting the incarceration of prisoners of conscience.

### Religious Explorations Group

Date: Sunday June 1  
Time: 12:30 pm  
Location: Children's Chapel  
Contact: Christine Rourke, 514-761-0669

Topic: What is the "glue" that keeps Unitarians together? Is it a weak paste that lets things fall apart when opinions differ strongly, or is it a super glue that holds tight come what may?

### Réunion du Comité francophone

Date: Sunday, June 8  
Time: midi  
Location: Salle Channing  
Contact: Hannelore Poncelet

### Seeking the Sacred in Stories

Led by Rev. Diane Rollert  
Monthly Brown Bag Lunch Group  
This program will begin again in the fall. We will be reading short stories from the book "Island" by Alistair MacLeod. More details

will be provided in the Summer Newsletter.

### Soul Time Mid-week Worship Service

Date: Thursday, June 12  
Time: 7:30 pm  
Location: Children's Chapel  
Contact: Elizabeth Morton, 514-849-2739

At our December Solstice gathering, Diane Rollert said, "There is something magical about a small group of people coming together in a circle in a darkened room, around a table full of candles." That magic happens every month at Soul Time – an opportunity to step off the merry-go-round, let go of all the burdens we habitually carry, re-connect with each other and with our own deeper selves, to breathe, relax, reflect and share gently what matters most.

If you have small children you would like to bring with you, baby-sitting can be arranged by contacting Elizabeth Morton (514-849-2739) by the previous Saturday. We also have a listserv group that gets reminders a week or so in advance – if you would like to join, let Elizabeth know.

### Walking Group

Date/time: Saturdays, 10:00 am  
Contact: Diana Kleins, 514-747-9375 or Krystyna Matula, 514-287-0814

For those who enjoy nature and companionship, join us for walks in and around Montreal at a moderate pace and in a pleasant, informal atmosphere. A stop for refreshments after at a nearby coffee shop to plan the next week's meeting place/walk completes the morning.

## Special Events

### Carmina and friends invite you to join them for

#### *Springtime In Vienna*

including lighter works by Mozart and Beethoven, the beloved **Blue Danube Waltz** and excerpts from **The Merry Widow**.

Date: Saturday, June 7

Time: 8:00 pm

Location: Sanctuary

Suggested Donation \$10.00

Further info: 514-843-6497

### Picnic Service in Westmount Park

Date: Sunday, June 22

Time: 10:45 am

Location: Westmount Park (see map)



Our annual picnic will once again be held in Westmount Park as shown on the map. There will be someone at the church at 10:30 to help new folks find their way to the site. In the event of rain, the service will be held in the church. Please bring your own chairs, blankets, etc. If you wish to stay for picnicking, bring some food for yourself (and to share if you wish) but this is not a formal potluck event. Also, if you would like to bring instruments or songbooks to jam after the service, your music will be most welcome. See you there!

### Historical Walking Tour of Old Montreal

Date: Sunday, June 15

Time: 12:30 pm

Location: Corner of St. Nicholas and St. Sacrament Streets

The sites where Montreal Unitarians assembled in the 19th century will be the scenes of a walking tour of Old Montreal led by Charles Eddis, with stories of those days. The tour will begin at the corner of St. Nicholas and St. Sacrament Streets at 12:30 p.m. Written notes and copies of old photos will be provided.

St. Nicholas and St. Sacrament is near the Place d'Armes metro and directly one block west of the Centaur Theatre on St. Francois Xavier. (The second stop will be at the corner of Notre Dame and St. Henry, two blocks west of McGill.)

The tour will take about one hour, maybe a bit more. Bring a sandwich to stave off hunger. The tour will end at McGill and La Gauchetiere, near the Victoria metro. (For those who drive, car parking should not be difficult on Sunday afternoon. But the finish spot is some distance from the beginning.)

This is the fulfillment of a BidNite offering. Anyone who did not pay for a place on BidNite last fall is welcome, and is asked to give a \$5.00 contribution to Charles, who will pass it on to the church.

### Hear Ye! Hear Ye! Bidnite Benefit

#### Cheesecake and Chopin, Bach, Beethoven

Date: Sunday, June 1

Time: 2:30 pm

Location: Sanctuary

\$25 for adults, \$15 for students

Info: 514-485-9933 or 514-484-5559

Gary and Vanessa Russell, Violoncelli, Sandra Hunt, piano

Ticket price includes wondrous cakes made by Leslie Kaneb and beverage.

### UCM at the CUC AGM

The five UCM official delegates were Dima Dupéré, Charles Eddis, Emanuel Freitas, Margot Pineau and Diane Rollert. They were joined by 27 UCM participants for the CUC AGM held in Ottawa from May 16 to 19.

Five workshops were presented by UCM members:

"Coming Home: Community Supported Housing and Mental Illness: A Proven Model", by Eleanor Beatie with Richard Haughin; "Good Volunteer Practices", by Alison Hall and David Kersulis; "Démonstration d'un programme d'éducation religieuse UU pour enfants francophones, by Élisabeth Charbonneau and Hannelore Poncelet (one of five workshops presented in French); "Moving In, Moving On, Moving Out", by Kristin McKeown with Gwendolen Harman and friends; "So You re Thinking of Becoming a Minister, eh?", by Ray Drennan, Charles Eddis and Diane Rollert.

There were over 600 participants from across Canada including over 120 youth.

Many thanks to Hannelore Poncelet, Associational Affairs Chair, for providing this information.

For a detailed report of the AGM, check the CUC bulletin board in Phoenix Hall.



## Religious Education

### **Spirit Play Conference to be Hosted by the UCM Spring 2009**

We have recently received word that Montreal will be the site for the first annual Spirit Play Conference and Training! This is fabulous news for our congregation.

The conference will be held here at the UCM from Wednesday, April 30 to Saturday, May 3. We are expecting participants from the U.S. and Canada.

Spirit Play is an approach to working with children in Religious Education programs. It involves telling stories to children from a place of deep reverence and wonder. The stories come from around the world and from our own Unitarian traditions. They are told with the aid of various objects (usually felt or wooden pieces) that are treated with care and respect by the teacher. When the story is over, the teacher invites the children to wonder about all kinds of issues that might have been raised by the story – for example, “I wonder what it feels like to have someone make fun of you?”; “I wonder if there are any parts of this story we could leave out and still have a story?”; “I wonder how the boy felt when he flew his kite and looked out at the stars?”; “I wonder if the Spirit of Love and Mystery, which some people call God, is anywhere in this story?”; “I wonder who you are in this story?”

There are no right answers to the questions and the teachers do not provide any answers themselves. The idea is to encourage children to think and to wonder about some of the deep questions of life

for themselves and to allow all the children the space they need to explore their own answers. There is always a time after the story for the children to express themselves through art or through imaginative play involving the pieces from previously told stories (which are stored in baskets throughout the room).

Spirit Play is based on the Montessori philosophy of education and is one of the most dynamic and interesting new trends in Unitarian Religious Education. It was developed by Nita Penfold, D. Min., along with Rev. Ralph Roberts and Beverly Leute Bruce. Nita herself will be leading the training here in Montreal.

For further information about Spirit Play, check out the website at: [www.spiritplay.net](http://www.spiritplay.net).

As one of the fringe benefits of hosting this training, up to 15 members of our own congregation will be trained as Spirit Play teachers, free of charge, and up to 20 people will be able to attend the full conference (also for free)!

So, if you are interested in what you have just read and would like to consider participating in the training, please contact Shawn Dohring at: [dohrings@yahoo.com](mailto:dohrings@yahoo.com) or 514 461-1388.

Also, we will be needing lots of people to help with food preparation, home hospitality and other such details as the event approaches. There will be room for talents and abilities of all sorts! So keep your eyes open for future news and let Shawn know right away if you are available to help out with any of the early-stage logistics next fall.

Sincerely,

Sarah Marx McGill, DRE

### **Two, Four, Six, Eight! Who Do We Appreciate?**

That's right...It's Teacher and Volunteer Appreciation Sunday once again!

On Sunday June 1 we will honour all of the teachers and volunteers who have made this year's Religious Education programs such a success.

The children have special gifts to present to everyone who has taught or volunteered in RE this year.

This includes our amazing team of teachers and babysitters: Brigitte Weil, Janet Clancy, Rita Izzi, Margot Pineau, Ivy O'Reilly, Elizabeth Charbonneau, Jane Critchlow, Hannelore Poncelet, Prue Rains, Martin Vera, Sam Gyetvay and Sienna Hanshaw, as well as the many members and friends who have volunteered in the children's classrooms, attended the brainstorming luncheons, which helped to build the year's curricula, made food for the OWL events, created the art materials needed throughout the year, served on the RE Committee, and on and on.

All told there are more than 70 of you! So please mark Sunday, June 1 on your calendars and join us in the sanctuary for the celebration.

We are truly grateful to each and every one of you!

Sincerely,

Sarah Marx McGill

**UCM Annual  
General Meeting**  
Monday, June 2  
7:00 pm

## End of the Religious Education Year

It's hard for me to believe that the year is almost over! But it is.

Our final day of Religious Education classes will be on Sunday, June 15.

There will be an All Church Picnic on Sunday June 22 at Westmount Park (see page 5 or contact David Horan at 514 484-0255 for details).

Then, on June 29, our Summer Worship Services will begin. There will be no child-care or Religious Education programming during the Summer Services. However, you are always welcome to use the Nursery Room with your own children or to bring colouring books and quiet toys for use in Phoenix Hall. The sermons are miked into both of these rooms.

If you are interested in setting up and participating in a more official, rotating child-care schedule with other parents and families, please contact David Horan 514 484-0255

HAVE A HAPPY SUMMER!

Sarah Marx McGill

## Nouvelles du comité francophone

Nous préparons les thèmes des célébrations et les activités en français pour l'année prochaine lors de notre réunion du 8 juin à midi. Nous apprécierons vos propositions, donc ne vous gênez pas de contacter un membre du comité ou Hannelore.

Le premier numéro du quatrième volume de La Tribune libre unitarienne, notre revue électronique, est sur notre site-web. Ce numéro est consacré au premier des sept principes UU : la célébration de la valeur et la dignité intrinsèques de toute personne, y compris un dialogue autour des accommodements raisonnables. Bonne lecture!

Il y a eu cinq ateliers en français au CUC-ACM à Ottawa au mois de mai. Élisabeth Charbonneau et Hannelore Poncelet ont présenté un atelier sur l'éducation religieuse en français.

Bonnes vacances et nous souhaitons de vous revoir tous en septembre.

Pour de plus amples informations sur l'UUisme en français, visitez notre site-web [www.uuqc.ca](http://www.uuqc.ca).

Contact : Hannelore Poncelet  
450-653-5694  
[hanniponcelet@hotmail.com](mailto:hanniponcelet@hotmail.com)

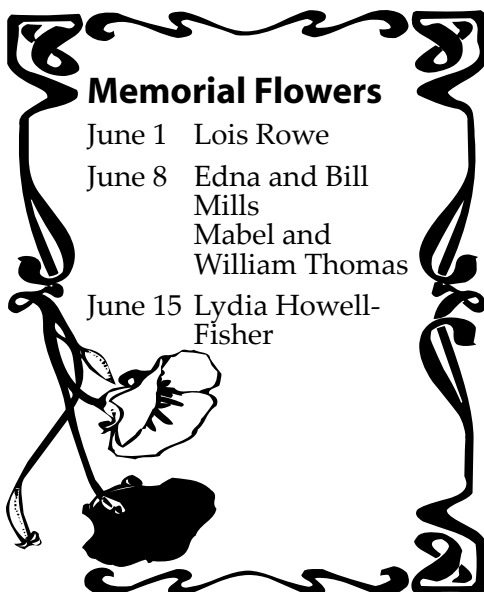
## Sandra Hunt's Amazing and Excellent Adventure: Japan April 2008

I was very lucky to travel piggyback-like with the Orchestre symphonique de Montreal to Japan recently. By accompanying my husband, Gary Russell, one of the principal cellists, I was able to economize on travel, accommodation and effort in planning. In fact, everything was arranged for me!

I did feel this a great privilege and conscientiously tried to learn lots of Japanese phrases on the plane to Tokyo. We experienced such a typhoon trying to land in Narita, that I fear all the phrases I'd learned were jolted and heaved away in the process.

Gary and I were assigned a commodious hotel room on the 35th floor which surprised me, because I had expected something the size of a salaryman's little sleep-pod. This particular hotel is actually briefly glimpsed at the end of that famous film tribute to Tokyo, Lost in Translation! Moreover, musicians were invited to use the 40th floor lounge to practice in the morning, so I took advantage and shared the sound space with two French hornists who created standing waves between me and them and the lounge stools. I never thought that I would sort of duplicate the scene of Scarlett Johanssen and Bill Murray melancholically sharing Tokyo life. in the lounge high over the city.

We had some interesting and novel experiences with bullet trains and underground metros. Their stations often offered mountains of bento boxes filled with ersatz sushi and sashimi for travelers to purchase at the last minute. Surprisingly, the audience of the Kabuki theatre we attended also came equipped with bento boxes. They ate them, en



masse, in the theatre foyer during intermission.

Actually the Japanese theatre for me was a highlight. At the Kabukiza in the Ginza district, we saw and heard an afternoon of three different plays, only one of which was complete. (We were left hanging as to the outcome of the other two plays!) The musicians, a singer/chanter, and a shamisen (a 3-stringed guitar-like instrument) player were virtuosos and emotionally powerful. I loved the costumes, and the way little black-clothed stage-hands followed the actors around to arrange their heavy costumes in traditional poses.

Gary took me to some of his old haunts as this was at least his seventh visit to Japan. The cities don't seem to be strong on civic planning, so there is no grid and no easy way to find exact addresses. I had some difficulties but always resorted to asking a passerby or taking a taxi. We visited tiny gardens filled with blossoming rhododendrons, azaleas and feral cats. Gary refused to ask directions however, so it was late at night that we finally found a beloved hole-in-the-wall soup shop near the legendary Suntory Hall. A signed poster of the OSM's 1992 visit was still on their wall.

Considering that I almost decided against accompanying Gary on this journey, I am extremely glad that I overcame my inertia, and fears and had this amazing adventure. For the OSM musicians' reactions to Japan, go to this website: <http://www.osm.ca/japonfr/accueil.cfm>

## **To all volunteers – occasional and regular!**

Now we are winding down for the summer I would like to take the opportunity to thank everyone who has volunteered this year! You have made a great contribution to our community.

Custodians keep the building clean and running smoothly - thanks to Helmut Strohmeier and his assistants: Ken Davidson, Rainer Diedrich and Niall Heath.

Fresh Air Ambassadors, organized by Bob Bassett (514-846-0783) are out front every Sunday morning to welcome regulars and newcomers with a smile and a kind word.

The garden, front and side, is coming into bloom thanks to the careful attention of Christine Rourke (514-761-0669) and her assistants.

Greeters, organized by Harvey Shepherd (514-486-6870), welcome everyone on Sundays.

Hospitality committee. What would special events be without the food and/or sweets organized by Rita Izzi (514-509-0586), Leslie Kaneb (514-486-9675) and Anna Virgini (514-595-3545).

Java Jivers, organized by Sue Montgomery (514-481-2403), make sure you have tea and coffee and a warm smile after services.

Midday Meal with Music crew, organized by Elizabeth Anglin (514-937-4095), make sure you have a delicious lunch and dessert the third Wednesday of the month, while Sandra Hunt (514-484-5559) ensures a delightful musical interlude in the Sanctuary after the meal.

The Newsletter crew, from the ones who set-up the first draft, to the proofreaders then to the technical crew who create the final pdf, and my TeleCrew volunteers who run off and collate, and last, but not least, Barbara Holubek's (514-485-2541) group of volunteers who come in to fold, stuff and stamp envelopes.

Rites of Passage files are kept up-to-date thanks to Tessy Tomasek.

The TeleCrew volunteers, organized by Elizabeth Anglin (514-937-4095), help with various office tasks which

allows me to spend more time on other matters.

The Week at a Glance, started by Linda Bouchard and now handled by Elizabeth Anglin (514-937-4095), and Lynne Beaudoin, is sent out every Tuesday as a reminder of the current weekly activities.

Do you think you might be interested in helping out either regularly or occasionally on one of the above committees, but not sure what is involved? Why not contact the person responsible and see just what is involved in the area that interests you – we welcome any and all helping hands!

Thank you again, for your dedication, patience and hard work.

Have a wonderful summer everyone.

Verna Litwack,  
Church Administrator

## **Some updates...**

### **Share-the-plate**

The success of this initiative to give away the loose cash in the Sunday collection has surpassed expectations. As this newsletter goes to print we do not have the final totals for May, but we can report that the total given away since September 2007 is over \$10,000!

In April, a total of \$711 was raised to buy layettes for new mother's arriving at the Covered Garden refugee centre. And on Earth Day Sunday, \$248 was collected for Rainforest protection.

For May, the Social and Environmental Concerns committee set a target of \$1,500 to buy Solar Cookers for Darfuri refugees. Furthermore they have organized "Christmas in June for Darfur" on June 1 to raise additional funds.

During the month of June we will Share-the-Plate with Her Street/La

Rue des Femmes, a bilingual multicultural community-based resource for homeless women. [www.laruedesfemmes.com](http://www.laruedesfemmes.com)

### Condo Development next door

Things are gradually getting back to normal in our back lot. Now that the resurfacing has been done, there will be a bike rack installed near the Claremont entrance. There are some landscaping details to be worked out, but we're getting there.

### Empty Bowls 2008

The Empty Bowls project is a beautiful and simple idea that brings many communities together to help individuals and families have nourishing meals. This year, the Congregation Dorshei Emmet and the Unitarian Church of Montreal partnered in a joint project that each had previously done alone. Together we raised \$13,400 for eight city organizations that provide nourishing meals and food baskets to those in poor circumstances.

An umbrella committee composed of members of both congregations met regularly during the winter and early spring to plan publicity, contact potters and identify potential donors. We are so grateful for the many beautiful bowls that were donated.

The UCM committee rallied more than 40 volunteers to pick up donations, chop vegetables, make soup, set up the tables, greet our guests and wash bowls. "Tired but happy" sums up the general feeling.

Plans for Empty Bowls 2009 got underway when the umbrella committee met this May at UCM for coffee and dessert. Our success and the enjoyment of working together were palpable. And with Sue Montgomery's offer to head the UCM Empty Bowls 2009 committee, we're off to a fine start.

## Travellers

### Westward, Ho!

Phyllis Greggain to Saskatoon; Mary-Louise Engels to Calgary; and Diane Kohl to Vancouver. All report fine visits (though not always fine weather) with family and friends.

### The Old World

Mary and Bob Bassett are back from an Italian tour that took them to hill towns, Rome and Venice amongst other delights. They report wonderful buildings, good companions and fine meals. Also, a lot of walking.

Florence Stevens is spending the summer in Paris.

### The New World

Well, actually Colombia.

Aline Deckers and Jean Freed are visiting Columbians whom they hosted as foreign students a few years ago.

They will have two stays in Bogotá, a few days beside the ocean and a visit to a mud volcano at Cartagena. Then on to the students' parents' in the small city of Ibagué.

Jean comments "They are young and very proud of their country, so we are worried that they will run us ragged trying to show us everything!"

### The Far East

Read Sandra Hunt's "Amazing and excellent adventure: Japan, April 2008" on page 7.

## In Memoriam

Lucia Ann Hunt  
March 10, 1957 – April 30, 2008

Ann was born Lucia Ann Gilbertson, coming from a long line of Lucias dating back more than 200 hundred years. But we knew her simply as Ann Hunt. In the 1970s, Ann left behind her college and university studies in her home state of Maryland to complete her nursing degree

at McGill University. Here she met and married Hugh Hunt, worked as a nurse, and gave birth to her two sons, Paul and Daniel. Always proudly American, she was pleased to become a Canadian citizen in 2003.

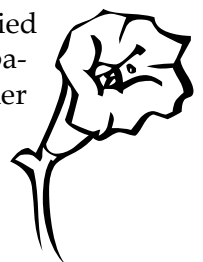
Ann was a great mom. She had an exuberant spirit and could celebrate anything at the drop of a hat. After she recovered from a first bout with breast cancer, she became part of the original Breast Cancer Survivor dragon boat team here in Montreal, inspiring her sons to become dragon boaters as well.

Going back to school was one of her greatest joy in life, and this she did several times: first taking a course in Family Life Education so that she could teach courses to new parents. Later she returned to school to study biology at Concordia.

Ann was a cancer survivor and a cancer warrior. In the last four years of her life, she dedicated herself to treatment. She wanted to last as long as she could to see her sons grow, but she slipped away faster than anyone expected. She left this world with the greatest blessings there are, seeing her both her sons home safe, and surrounded by family and friends. She was an inspiration to our entire community.

McGill University has set up a scholarship fund in Ann's name for mature women studying science. Cards to make donations to McGill in Ann's memory are available at the church or through her friend Ingrid Berker, [ingrid.birker@mcgill.ca](mailto:ingrid.birker@mcgill.ca), tel: 514-398-4086 ext. 4094.

**Antoinetta Izzi** died Tuesday, our sympathy to Rita and her family.



## Proposed Mission Statement

*Who we are and what we do.*

On Sunday, April 13, 2008 the following proposed mission statement was unfurled. It will be presented for formal adoption at the Annual General Meeting on June 2.

*As a spiritual community,*

*We welcome and nurture,*

*We inspire and challenge,*

*We take action in the world.*

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**The UCM/EUM Newsletter is published 11  
times a year by the Newsletter Collective.**

## July/August newsletter submissions

E-mail your submissions to [news@ucmtl.ca](mailto:news@ucmtl.ca) or place them in the mailbox upstairs. Please include your name, phone number and email address to your article or notice so that we can get in touch if there are any queries. If you host a regular event, let us know of any cancellations or changes.



**Deadline: Wednesday, June 18 at  
5:00 pm**

Please note that the Newsletter e-mailbox ([news@ucmtl.ca](mailto:news@ucmtl.ca)) is for articles and notices only. It is not opened before the deadline.

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# JUNE 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 10:30 am Worship 11:45 am Christmas in June for Darfur 12:30 pm Religious Explorations Group	2 7:30 pm UCM Annual General Meeting	3 10:00 am Play Group 7:30 pm Carmina Choir	4	5 10:00 am Play Group	6	7 10:00 am Walking Group 8:00 pm Carmina Concert
8 10:30 am Worship	9	10 10:00 am Play Group	11 6:00 pm Book Discussion Potluck	12 10:00 am Play Group 7:30 Soul Time Service	13	14 10:00 am Walking Group
15 10:30 am Worship 11:45 am Prisoners of Conscience	16	17 10:00 am Play Group	18 10:00 am Midday Meal with Music	19 10:00 am Play Group (last one before the summer break)	20	21 10:00 am Walking Group
22 10:45 am Picnic Service in Westmount Park	23 <b>UCM office closed</b>	24	25	26	27	28 10:00 am Walking Group
29 10:30 am Worship (Summer schedule)	30 <b>UCM office closed</b>					