

# Unitarian Church of Montreal Église unitarienne de Montréal



Newsletter

March / mars 2009

## Worship Calendar

Services start at 10:30 am, unless otherwise noted

### 1 March

*Loving Our Whole Lives*

Rev. Diane Rollert

Emanuel Freitas, musician

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

### 8 March

*The Great Surmise*

Guest Minister, Rev. Roger Butts,

Unitarian Church, Davenport, Iowa

Sandra Hunt, musician

### 15 March

*Being Muslim in Montreal*

Rev. Diane Rollert and Guests

Sandra Hunt, musician

### 22 March

10:30 a.m.: *The Seven Deadly Sins*

Rev. Diane Rollert

Sandra Hunt, musician

12:30 pm: *La Paix*

Invitée : Pascale Frémond

Musique : Chœur pour la Paix

### 29 March

*Too Close to Home: dealing with problems in our own backyard*

Young Adults

Sandra Hunt, musician

## From our minister

After a peaceful week of retreat during the first week of February, I returned to face two sad endings. They were book-ends to my first week home, old and young, fulfilled and incomplete, lives to honour and to understand.

On Sunday, 15 February, we celebrated the life of Clayton Gray, father of Susan Gray and husband of Ruth Gray. Clayton had lived to his 91st year, and while his last years were not easy, he leaves behind an amazing legacy. The next time you walk through the Vieux Port, take a moment to give thanks to Clayton for his passion for this city and its history. Together with David Stewart (president of the MacDonald Tobacco Company and founder of the Stewart Museum, now housed in the arsenal on Ile Ste. Hélène), Clayton established the historical preservation movement in Montreal during the 1950s and 60s.

Less than a week after Clayton's service, I led a memorial service, on 20 February, at the Mount Royal Chapel to honour the life of Justin James Lindsay, grandnephew of the late Andy Hugessen. With 650 people in attendance, many of them youth, it was the largest service Mount Royal has ever held. Justin was only 15 when he chose to take his own life.

With Justin's parents' permission, I share with you an excerpt from a letter they wrote to Justin's fellow classmates. They hope that you will pass on these words to someone who needs them.

*Dear friends,*

*Derek and I would like to let you know that Justin died peacefully yesterday, Friday afternoon (13 February). He fought hard for several days but there came a point when he and the doctors could do nothing more. He was surrounded by his family and friends that love him...*

*Justin took his own life. We would like to share this fact with our community in hopes that he can help others to talk and listen and learn about suicide. If Justin's experience can help raise awareness for people who need help, then we will be very proud of that huge gift.*

*If you know of a kid who might need someone to talk to, please tell them about available services like Kids Help Phone (1-800-668-6868) [www.kidshelpphone.ca](http://www.kidshelpphone.ca) or Suicide Hotline (1-800-621-4000). Many of the kids who use these services are well-functioning kids who are just trying to deal with the*

*everyday problems of growing up. It would be a miracle to know that just one kid has found hope where they thought there was none. Justin has given this gift to our community...*

*Justin brought our extended families together so that we could be with him these past few days. He has reminded us how much we love each other and how important it is to say and show it. We will worry less about the many trivial things that can consume us day to day and we will enjoy the company of the people we love more often. We had the gift of Justin in our lives for 15 years. We all learned from him: about love of animals, caring for the environment, love of the outdoors, the value of humour, hard work and perseverance against difficult odds...*

*If you wish to send something, please consider a donation to Kids-helpline, Suicide Hotline and/or the Montreal Children's Hospital Pediatric ICU (they make miracles happen).*

*Lys Hugessen and Derek Lindsay*

Justin's family is very grateful to the Montreal Children's Hospital and Transplant Quebec. Thanks to their efforts, Justin's body will bring new life to many others. This is a topic we don't often like to talk about, but this is a good time to think about signing that donor card. We never know how we might make a difference in someone's life.

In humility and awe,  
Diane



## Getting our money's worth

[This is the text of Petrina Lee Poy's contribution to the Worship Service on February 22.]

My name is Petrina Lee Poy and I am vice-president of the Board of Management of this church.

A few weeks ago I gave you an update on our 2009 pledge campaign and asked you to increase your pledge if you had already pledged or to make your pledge if you had not yet done so. We needed to raise a minimum of \$185,000 and we were at \$173,000.

Well, that evening, my husband, John, said "I heard your message this morning and I guess we need to increase our pledge." So we had a conversation about how much we could increase our pledge and at the end John said: "Tell Diane to make sure that we get our money's worth!"

Well that had me thinking about what we individually and as a family get from the Unitarian Church of Montreal...

Both of our children are enrolled in the RE program and since January have been participating in the Our Whole Lives program. John and I are thrilled that we now have some expert guidance on sexuality education for our kids. In one of the sessions they asked the children what makes them special and Matthias, our 8-year-old, replied "Being part of this caring church makes me special." That's worth a lot.

John recently joined the choir and now every Monday after choir practice he comes home singing. As they say in the MasterCard commercial – Priceless!

I participate once a month in a collective kitchen. This venture gets me to try recipes that I would not usually look at. Last week it was

Tofu Stroganoff. To be honest with you, it is actually very good.

Also, I am on the Board of Management, which I enjoy because I get to learn about how our church operates and also how to deal in a respectful manner with a variety of opinions--and believe me, there are a variety of opinions! My experience on the Board has been invaluable in my professional life.

Lastly, I was still a newcomer to this church when my father died and it was the words of wisdom from Ruth di Giovanni that helped me through a very, very sad time in my life. Ruth told me that it would be hard but that it would become less hard. Ruth, you were right.

I know that we are getting our money's worth, so Diane don't worry.

Oh, and by the way, we have raised \$185,213, so we did achieve our goal. Thank you.

## An Interesting Opportunity to Contribute to the UCM

The Archives Section of the Heritage Committee is looking for a new chair and new committee members to work on our collection. Our most recent project is to put our collection in a database. We are ably assisted by our McGill library student volunteer, Cailinn Burns.

No experience is necessary, but some computer skills would be helpful. A lot of work has gone into setting up this archive; now it only requires filing new material that comes in, and occasionally responding to requests for information.

If you are interested, please speak to Barbara Jackson or Carol Cumming Speirs, or leave a message at the Church Office 514-485-9933.

## Entre Nous

### A Note of Thanks from Shaheen Ashraf,

Shaheen was our guest on 15 February, as part of our series "Our Muslim Neighbours." She sends these words of thanks:

Peace and Blessings of The Almighty be upon you and yours. My email today is to extend a special thanks to you for making last Sunday so memorable. I actually had a very good time meeting so many good people... Please thank your congregation on my behalf next Sunday (insha Allah). They are wonderful...

I am always impressed with the beauty of your Sanctuary. God Bless your Sanctuary too. God guide us all to the right path - amen.

Lots of love and thanks coming your way.

Yours,

Shaheen

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### Volunteer's Office Resident Unwell

Do you have an extra PC? The one in the Volunteer's Office is very slow and frail and we're looking for a healthy replacement.

Please contact Verna Litwack, Church Administrator

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### Exciting News: New Website

Please visit [www.ucmtl.ca](http://www.ucmtl.ca) to view our new and improved website.

The site has been designed to provide up-to-date info on church activities and programs. Plan to refer to it regularly!

#### Check out:

**The Week at a Glance** — the popular weekly notice can be viewed online anytime

**Our Calendar** — lists all upcoming events and regular activities. View by week, month or in agenda format (see link on right side)

**Newsletter** — current and past newsletters are available as PDFs to download (see Newsletter under WHO WE ARE on left side)

**Sermons** — Did you miss a Sunday Service or want to read a sermon that impressed you? (see HOME page or "Sermons" under WHAT WE BELIEVE)

Explore the website. We welcome your feedback.

Write to the web editorial board (Sue Montgomery, Diane Rollert, Alison Hall) at [ucmtlweb@gmail.com](mailto:ucmtlweb@gmail.com).

Appreciation goes out to our Web team:

David Rollert for design and organization; Alison Hall for design advice; and Sue Montgomery, our writing wizard. Diane Rollert had the vision which was adopted by the Board and resources were allotted; and the Communications Committee members were behind it all the way.

Carol Cumming Speirs  
Communications Chair

### Phoenix Hall Display Areas and Appointment of Nancy Lorimer

Would you like to post announcements on Phoenix Hall Bulletin Boards? How about mounting a display in the centre section of the Wall Unit? Check with Nancy Lorimer. Nancy has agreed to oversee the Board-approved policy for the use of the available Phoenix Hall bulletin boards and the large wall unit on the east wall. Some of the bulletin boards (for example the one on the north wall and the round kiosks) are reserved for administrative purposes. The glass cupboards in the Wall Unit

are also reserved for the use of the Wardens and their display of our historical treasures.

The open shelves, plus two of the bulletin boards, are available for the use of Church committees and members. Committees are also invited to mount visual displays for a month at a time in the centre section of the Wall Unit. Please consult the Board-Approved Guidelines (posted in the centre section of wall unit) if you are unsure whether your submission meets the criteria and contact Nancy Lorimer or Carol Cumming Speirs before filling the space.

Carol Cumming Speirs  
Communications Chair

### On-line giving

#### Make a contribution on-line to the Unitarian Church of Montreal.

You are now able to donate to the church or fulfill your pledge on-line. Please go to the Church's website- [www.ucmtl.ca](http://www.ucmtl.ca) and click on "Donate Now".

This will take you to the Canada Helps website. Just follow the steps. It's easy, safe and secure. The website accepts credit card payments and issues a tax receipt directly. This is a great way of accumulating points on credit card air miles programs, if applicable.

In the privacy preferences section of Canada Helps, please provide your name so that the church office can keep track of your donation. UCM incurs a 3% service charge on each Canada Helps transaction. By adding the equivalent amount to your online contribution, you can help defray this cost.

Have any questions? Please contact Petrina Lee Poy, vice-president, at 514-485-5555 or via email at [petrina\\_lee\\_poy@yahoo.com](mailto:petrina_lee_poy@yahoo.com)

# Activities

## SUNDAYS

### Religious Explorations Group

Date: March 1  
Time: 12:30 pm  
Location: Children's Chapel  
Contact: Elizabeth Anglin, 514-937-4095

The participants at the last meeting agreed to change the name of the group to "Exploring the Intangible".

Subject: What do we really mean by "Love"? All are welcome.

### Social and Environmental Concerns

Date: March 8  
Time: 12:15 pm  
Location: Thomas Room  
Contact: Mary-Louise Engels: 514-487-2665, mlengels@sympatico.ca

We will be discussing current and future projects including two probable upcoming events with the Montreal Dialogue group. Bring your coffee and a snack, if you wish. All are welcome to attend this meeting.

**Please notice change of time from the third Sunday to the second Sunday this month.**

### The Best "Time for All Ages" Ever: A Story-Telling Workshop

Date: March 15  
Time: 12:30-3:00 pm (lunch provided)  
Contact: Nancy Eddis, eddis@ucmtl.ca or Caroline Balderston Perry, dre@ucmtl.ca

Do you love to tell stories? Do you have a knack for the dramatic? Do

you want to help make our "Time for All Ages" on Sunday mornings even more fun and inspiring for everyone? Come join Nancy Eddis, Caroline Balderston Parry and other really effective tellers for a workshop on how to create stories that engage all ages and go beyond reading from a picture book.

We'll gather to share tips for telling stories to a wide age range, to practice, and to get feedback from the group. Proper microphone use will be a part of the session. Please let us or the office know you will attend before March 13.

## MONDAYS

### Parts in Peace Choir

Dates: Mondays  
Time: 7:30 pm  
Location: Sanctuary or Children's Chapel  
Contact: Sandra Hunt, 514-484-5559

We have a good and faithful crowd of about 20 members, with attendance for each rehearsal around 12 to 15 warblers every week. But we would like to be more numerous! We just love the sound of harmony in large quantities. Our choir is really fun - come and try us out: 6:15 pm for potluck dinner in Phoenix Hall, 7:30 pm for rehearsal in the Sanctuary.

### Mindfulness Meditation Practice

Date: Monday March 11, Wednesdays, March 16 and 30 (March 25 meeting is cancelled)  
Time: 6:30 - 8:30 pm  
Location: Children's Chapel  
Contact: Allen Lobo 514-484-3014, radiantandfree@gmail.com

The Mindfulness Meditation Prac-

tice is open to both those who are new to the method and also those who may have meditated before. Included in the practice will be an explanation of Mindfulness Meditation; a period of sitting meditation; some stretching (during which are also included massage and laughter, etc.); guided meditations; walking meditation; and a period for questions, sharing and singing.

Mindfulness Meditation is especially useful for busy people, and those who wish to bring more awareness and enjoyment into their stressed lives.

## TUESDAYS

### Seeking the Sacred in Stories

Led by Rev. Diane Rollert  
Monthly Brown Bag Lunch Group  
Dates: Tuesdays, March 10, April 14, May 12 and June 9  
Time: Noon to 1:00 pm  
Location: Garden Room (formerly known as the "Former Ministers' Room")

We meet in the Garden Room on the first lower level of the church. Bring a brown bag lunch. This month we will read "Lying Under the Apple Tree" by Alice Munroe, from her book, *The View from Castle Rock*. For more information, contact the church office.

### Carmina Choir

Dates: Tuesdays  
Time: 7:30 pm  
Location: Phoenix Hall  
Contact: Keith Robinson 514-931-9028 or Brian Brice 514-843-6497

Carmina is looking for voices, particularly male, to join them. No audition. The ability to read music is not neces-

sary. Solo possibilities, if desired. Bring a sense of humour, good will—and a black binder if possible.

### 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.

## WEDNESDAYS

### Mindfulness Meditation Practice

Dates: March 16 and 30  
Time: 6:30 - 8:30 pm

See *Mondays*.

### Midday Meal with Music

Date: March 18  
Times: 10:00 am Scrabble and Bridge; 12:30 pm Lunch; 1:30 pm Music  
Contact: Ruth di Giovanni., 514-934-4956  
Cost: \$5.00

Please call Ruth by Sunday, March 15 to reserve a space.

### Book Discussion Group

Date: Wednesday March 18  
Time: 7:00 pm  
Location: Thomas Room  
Contact: Kathy, 514-488-9608

At a moment when every compassionate eye is focusing on Australia, Peter Carey's *True History of the Kelly Gang* tells the story of Down Under's legendary outlaw Ned Kelly, who was executed at

the age of 26. This novel shows us how a tough kid with an attitude and too much energy gets driven deeper and deeper into crime by constant oppression. It takes the form of letters written by Kelly, in lyrical language, to a baby daughter he would never see.

### Play Group

See *Tuesdays*.

## FRIDAYS

### First Friday Pot Luck and Film

Date: March 6  
Time: 6:00 pm Pot Luck, 7:00 Film  
Location: Phoenix Hall (Pot luck), Thomas Room (film)  
Contact: Nancy Lorimer, 514-482-3205

*Hijacked Future* – a provocative new documentary film – illustrates why we should be concerned about the future of seeds.

Millions of those tiny parcels of life are in danger of being hijacked by the current industrial food system. Farmers are sidelined as huge multinational corporations dictate the species and conditions that reap profits from seeds but prevent regeneration. Soil quality suffers as patented pesticides and chemical fertilizers are applied for maximum yields.

While the system provides an abundance of food today, it may well be unable to provide for us in the future. The good news is that informed consumer choices and monetary aid to third world farmers could help to prevent a global food catastrophe.

*Hijacked Future*, introduced by USC officer Brian McFarlane, will be shown Friday, Mar.6, Thomas Room at 7 p.m. Come at 6 if you wish to share in a pot luck supper.

## SATURDAYS

### 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.

### Soul Collage

Soul Collage Opportunities continue March 14, 10:00-4:00 pm.

Caroline will again be the anchor for six hours of time to work with collage materials (generally supplied; bring any images of personal importance). Drop in for as many hours as fit your schedule on that Saturday; bring a friend if you want and lunch if you need it. Background information and encouragement happily supplied!

### Memorial Flowers

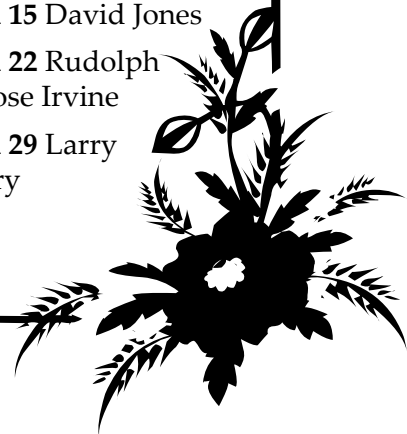
**March 1** Barbara Keats

**March 8** Henry Thomson and Catherine Moir

**March 15** David Jones

**March 22** Rudolph and Rose Irvine

**March 29** Larry O'Leary



## Special Events

### And now for something spirit-expanding!

The Social and Environmental Concerns Committee (SECC) is sponsoring a trip to the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts (MMFA) for a free lecture on Art and Islam. We will meet in the lobby of the Michal and Renata Hornstein Pavilion (North Pavilion) of the Museum at 5:45 pm on Wednesday, March 11. The talk begins at 6 pm. The same presentation will be given in French on Wednesday, March 4 at 6 pm.

The speaker, Shahram Nehidim, is a lecturer in the Faculty of Theology and Religious Sciences, Université de Montreal, and research assistant to the Canada Research Chair on Islam, Pluralism and Globalization, also at the U of M.

For further information:

Mary-Louise Engels  
514-487-2665  
mlengels@sympatico.ca

### UCM Hosting First Annual Spirit Play Conference,

April 30 to May 2, 2009, with Advance Training April 25

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. Spirit Play involves telling sacred stories to children, with the aid of various objects, from a place of deep reverence and wonder. It was developed by Nita Penfold, D. Min, along with Rev. Ralph Roberts and Beverly Leute Bruce. They developed Spirit Play as the UU version of "Godly Play", a program evolved over the last 40 years by author, teacher and Episcopal priest, Jerome W. Berryman, who founded a research center to study

and write about the spirituality of children.

In recognition of UCM's hard work in hosting this conference, on Saturday, April 25th, Nita Penfold will be training an exclusive group of UCM people to be able to lead Spirit Play sessions for RE. To secure your place in this training, please contact Shawn Dohring by March 8th, dohrings@yahoo.com, or tel: 514-461-1388.

We are expecting people from all over the US and Canada to attend. UCM conference leaders are looking for volunteers to help with food preparation, home hospitality and other details. Please let us know if you can help. Many hands make for light work....

For more information on Spirit Play visit <http://www.spiritplay.net/>

### Note of thanks

Dear Friends,

We are writing this message to thank you for your support in our Noah's Pudding organizations this year, in 2009. As members of Dialog Foundation and members of Turkish Muslim community in Montreal, we would like to thank you on behalf of your organization for providing everybody the opportunity to share the pudding for peace. The organization was very professional and you have been extremely helpful for establishing unforgettable friendship. In the cold winter of Montreal, we have been warmed by your welcoming kindness and hospitality. We feel that you are among our best friends here in Montreal.

Thank you

Sincerely from the heart,

Fehmi Kala  
Executive Director,  
Dialog Foundation

## Religious Education

### Religious Education Committee changes!

We greatly regret that John Pike has had to resign from RE Committee due to health problems, but before he laid down all his responsibilities, I asked him to write about his roles in RE, because it's time to recruit some more volunteers. John replied:

*"Why I was RE treasurer? Well I have never been treasurer of any anything. I have always been involved by being an executive of an organization, or by sitting on or chairing a committee. Being Treasurer is simple, hands-on work. It means keeping track of what is being spent, which is a piece of cake what with the built-in support of the Church treasurer and the office, and the DRE. It means drawing up a budget over the summer, having it approved by RE and submitting it to the church treasurer in the fall. It means attending a monthly evening meeting with other lay members of our church who are deeply committed to the education and well being of our children and youth, and having a DRE who provides professional input and support. Frankly, it's plain fun!*

*Why am I a part of RE? I was asked that very question by Ray Drennan when he visited as a ministerial candidate many years ago. Without hesitation I replied, "because the children of RE let me into their world, full of wonder and unabashed curiosity. Their world has yet to be coloured by society's expectations and requirements. They joyously express themselves, are full of questions, and look to us to show them how to decide the path they will take throughout their lives. They smile without reserve, and are quick to express how they feel. They take joy in the simplest of things. I have always considered it a privilege to be allowed in and for a time to be one of them."*

At the February REC meeting, Bob Barnes (currently Registrar and photographer) agreed to add Treasurer to his portfolio (hurrah!), but we still need members at large. Committee members' pleasurable duties include attending our monthly meeting, taking a turn to be a Sunday morning Greeter, about every six weeks, and reading several informational emails each week (a few require a response). REC members stay attuned to what's going on in RE and with our families, liase or report on what they hear and experience, and pitch in with various practical tasks.

Our RE Chair, Shawn Dohring, finishes his three year term in June, so we're looking for someone to fill his very big boots. Also, Zak Long and his family are leaving us this summer, because he has a tenure track appointment in North Carolina, so we need to replace him, too. He has been a faithful helper with jobs such as registration, and Amy, his wife, has been a creative snack supplier (tried her yummy muffins?).

Won't you join us? No need to be a parent, but we want UU folks interested in children's multi-faceted growth and well-being.

### **DRE's Thoughts on Books**

When my late husband found work at the Canadian Museum of Civilization in 1990, we moved from Toronto to Ottawa. The movers, a company used to federal government clients, usually dealt with light-travelling military families. I remember their shock that the bulk of our belongings was books. In fact, in our new home we turned the fireplace room into a lovely library, with floor to ceiling bookshelves, and we still had more books upstairs. To me, a cozy, book-lined room is an invitation to browse and learn . . . even today, when I can quickly look most information up on Google, I prefer to dig through real

pages, and hold handsome books in my hands.

Perhaps that's why I have been trying, not only to expand our RE library, but also to entice more users to check out our books. Have you borrowed any yet? Remember that part of being a Unitarian Universalist is knowing there are no final answers, so we ask questions. Books can be a great part of that process!

For now our RE library is in the Darwin Room downstairs. Is that too far to go, or is it too isolated to be inviting? Our RE librarian and I hope our books will be used, and we would love your thoughts on the subject. . . We have many new books, and there's a library book list coming on our RE web pages, too!

### **Le Groupe francophone**

Le 15 février à 10 h 30 : Nous avons eu une excellente participation à notre quatrième leçon en français avec 18 enfants et 4 adultes; encore un record ! Cette fois, nous avons exploré ensemble des pistes sur le sens de la vie. Les enfants se sont exprimés à travers une discussion en groupe, ont décoré leur propre personnage en « pain d'épice » (en papier) selon ce qu'ils aiment dans la vie et ce qui les représente personnellement. Nous avons aussi écouté un extrait du roman d'Antoine de Saint-Exupéry, *Le Petit Prince*.

Le dimanche 8 mars à 9 h : Réunion du Comité francophone pour préparer la célébration du 22 mars, entre autres. Vous êtes tous et toutes invités à y participer.

Le dimanche 15 mars à 10 h 30 : Tous les enfants de 4 à 13 ans sont invités à notre programme d'éducation religieuse en français (habituellement le 3e dimanche du mois), animé par Lisa et Rita. Au cours de cette

cinquième leçon, nous explorerons des concepts de Dieu. Les petits et ceux qui ne désirent pas participer en français peuvent participer à un programme bilingue/en anglais.

Le dimanche 22 mars à 12 h 30 : Lors de la célébration en français au Sanctuaire (toujours le 4e dimanche), nous aurons le grand plaisir d'accueillir Mme Pascale Frémond, membre de l'organisme « Religions pour la Paix », qui nous parlera de la paix. De plus, son groupe vocal « Chœur pour la Paix » chantera lors de la célébration.

Soyez les nôtres en grand nombre le dimanche 22 mars ! Communiquez avec Rita à rita\_angelina2002@yahoo.ca si vous avez besoin des gardiens pour vos enfants, et ce, avant le mercredi 18 mars, afin qu'elle puisse réserver les gardiens.

### **Associational Affairs: Checking out the CUC**

by Diana Marvel

As board member responsible for keeping our congregation updated on the various happenings in our member organizations and associations, I often visit the website of the Canadian Unitarian Council (Canada's national Unitarian organization) in order to get a handle on what is happening in UU congregations across the country. The CUC site is a wonderful resource, especially for newcomers interested in getting a broad perspective of the UU movement. On the CUC site you can find information on the panoply of programs and resources in leadership training, social action and worship, as well as information on UU congregations, sermons, history and current events.

Of particular note now: the CUC has put together a National Identity task force to address the ques-

tion: What does it mean to be a Canadian Unitarian? The goal of this initiative is to clarify our identity as Canadian UUs in order to become better at living out who we say we are and at reaching out to others. You can respond to their query, join in the discussion and share anecdotes directly on the CUC website. The task force will continue the conversation and share results at this year's Annual Conference and Meeting (ACM) on May 15-18 in Thunder Bay. This year's ACM theme is "Answering the Call/Répondre à l'appel. The conference schedule, list of workshops and events and registration forms are available on the CUC site, as well as on the Associational Affairs bulletin board in Phoenix Hall. Registration fees increase after March 31st, so register early! If you have any questions about participating in the CUC's National Identity initiative or ACM feel free to contact me at [diana.marvel@gmail.com](mailto:diana.marvel@gmail.com) or check out the CUC website at [www.cuc.ca](http://www.cuc.ca).

## **Opportunities to serve on the UCM Board!**

There are many ways to contribute your time and talents to ensure the healthy functioning of our programs, activities and congregational life in general. Serving on the Board of Management is one way. It is a very rewarding experience as well as an opportunity to take on a leadership role within our community.

The Board of Management is the governing body that has general control of the management of the church. It consists of the President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, Minister, Past President, Warden and nine portfolio chairs.

The following Board Portfolio positions will be vacant at the end of this church year:

Vice President (1 year term leading to 2-year term as President)

Building and Grounds Committee Chair (currently vacant)

Congregational Programs Chair

Membership

Religious Education Chair

Social and Environmental Concerns Committee (SECC) Chair

Worship Committee Chair

The Nominating Committee is responsible for proposing a slate of candidates for these positions, to be voted on at the Annual General meeting in June 2009.

If you are interested in any of these positions or would like to know more about what is involved, please contact any of the Nominating Committee members listed below. Also, members of the congregation are invited to submit names for consideration. These should be submitted in writing to the Nominating Committee, no later than Sunday, March 8. After this date, as stipulated in the church's Standing Rules, the following procedure must be followed:

Any eight Church members may submit to the Nominating Committee names of members, and the offices or portfolios for which they are standing. Such nominations must be in writing, signed, and submitted no later than the first Sunday in April. Persons nominated must agree to serve, if elected, by signing the submission.

In addition, after the slate has been posted and at least two weeks before the start of the annual general meeting, any eight Church members may submit to the Nominating Committee, as additions to the slate, the names of members and the offices and/or portfolios for which they are standing. Such

nominations must be in writing and signed. Persons nominated must agree to serve, if elected, by signing the submission.

The proposed slate of nominations will be posted in the church on Sunday, April 12 and will appear in the May newsletter.

Alison Hall, Past President, Chair of Nominating Committee  
514-636-8406 [ar.hall@sympatico.ca](mailto:ar.hall@sympatico.ca)

Prue Rains [prue.rains@mcgill.ca](mailto:prue.rains@mcgill.ca)

Elizabeth Anglin, [elizang@sympatico.ca](mailto:elizang@sympatico.ca)

Anna Virgini, Membership Chair  
[annav1@live.ca](mailto:annav1@live.ca)

Phyllis Greggain, Warden  
[norm.greggain@sympatico.ca](mailto:norm.greggain@sympatico.ca)

## **Say "NO" to the Alberta Tar Sands Project**

Join us in a letter-writing/petition signing campaign against the Alberta tar sands on Sunday, March 1, after the service in the Sanctuary, between 11:30 and 12:30.

This action is in response to a letter from Jean Pfleiderer, CUC President, forwarded to all Unitarian Social Responsibility Committees across Canada. Her letter, addressed to Prime Minister Harper and other federal and provincial government officials, strongly requested that they respond to a recent pastoral message published by the Most Reverend Luc Bouchard, Roman Catholic Bishop of St. Paul Diocese, Alberta. In it, she announced CUC support for the bishop's position.

Mary-Louise Engels  
514-487-2665  
[mlengels@sympatico.ca](mailto:mlengels@sympatico.ca)

## Our Youth to Travel to Thunder Bay!

CanUdle, the Youth Conference held during the Canadian Unitarian Council (CUC) Annual Conference and Meetings (ACM), will be in Thunder Bay this year, from May 15 to 18. Several of our UCM youth want to attend, including Shannon Horan, who writes:

*"Going to CanUdle last year in Ottawa was one of the best youth conferences I have ever been to. It felt great to connect with other youth groups from across Canada and to feel as though I was part of this large, open community that wants to effect a good change on the world. I learned a lot in that one weekend, and I don't want to pass up the opportunity to experience it again, this year in Thunder Bay. We have found out that we could travel by bus for \$250 (round trip) and get there in about a day's time. We are still brainstorming more ideas to fundraise, but already the youth serve soup once a month, and we'll most likely do a few pancake breakfasts, too."*

Please enjoy soup as well as coffee in Phoenix Hall after the service, and contribute to the travel fund for our youth! Watch for further

funding news . . . and if you are a youth between the ages of 14 and 20, let our Youth Program Coordinator, Elizabeth Charbonneau, know that you want to "Answer the Call" (that's the theme of this year's ACM)! Look for CanUdle details on <http://cuc.ca/conference/2009/youth.htm>

## Young card tables needed

When we opened this building we were gifted with six well used card tables. We use them every week during a variety of activities. Unfortunately, living in the church was not enough to spare the card tables from the ravages of time. Unstable legs and faces that not even a mother would recognize are their major disabilities.

Now, with spring beckoning, it's a good time for you to donate card tables that are still in their youth. They will have a good home and get lots of use. Please contact the Kitchen Committee (514-426-4170) to arrange to drop off your card table or for assistance in transporting tables to the church if needed. Many thanks.

## Music Committee Revival!

An information session will be held on March 8th at 12:15pm in the Darwin Room for all those interested in taking part in the UCM Music Committee revival!

The Music Committee oversees all things musical at the UCM: Sunday piano music (with Sandra or guest), instrument preservation and maintenance, Parts-in-Peace choir, and the planning and running of concerts held in our sanctuary.

The committee plays a key role in supporting our Sunday musician, Sandra Hunt, so that she can concentrate on producing the beautiful piano and choral music that she provides for us throughout the year.

The committee also plays an important role in continuing our legacy of outreach to the wider community by providing concerts.

All members and friends of the UCM are welcome. For any additional information, please contact David Kersulis at [david.kersulis@videotron.ca](mailto:david.kersulis@videotron.ca) or leave a message for me in my mailbox upstairs.

## Empty Bowls 2009

Dorshei Emet Congregation and Unitarian Church of Montreal  
Joint Sponsors of annual fundraiser for Montreal organizations  
providing food for the hungry

Unitarian Church of Montreal Saturday, April 18 11:00 to 2:00

Dorshei Emet Congregation Sunday, April 26 11:00 to 2:00

Choose a bowl crafted by a Quebec artist, enjoy a bowl of soup,  
help Montreal food agencies

Cost \$20.

## Wounded Word of the Month

Here's a fun topic: What does the word SIN mean to you?

Send your thoughts, reflections, musical and artistic expressions to Rev. Diane Rollert. Your responses will be incorporated into a Sunday worship service on 22 March.

## Unitarian Church of Montreal/ Église unitarienne de Montréal

5035, boul de Maisonneuve O.  
Montréal QC H4A 1Y5

Tel.: 514-485-9933  
Fax: 514-485-7999  
Email: office@ucmtl.ca  
Website: www.ucmtl.ca

Mouvement unitarien universaliste au Québec:  
www.uuqc.ca

### Key People at the UCM

Minister: Reverend Diane Rollert 514-485-7654,  
dianerollert@ucmtl.ca

Minister Emeritus: Reverend Charles Eddis  
514-934-1535, eddis@ucmtl.ca

Administrator: Verna Litwack 514-485-9933,  
office@ucmtl.ca

Director of Religious Education: Caroline Balderston Parry, dre@ucmtl.ca

Church Musician: Sandra Hunt 514-484-5559,  
sandra.muriel.hunt@gmail.com

Custodian: Helmut Strohmeyer 514-485-9933

Memorial flowers: Joan Watt 514-937-8456

### Lay Chaplains:

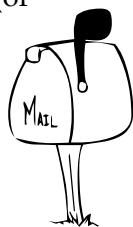
Ann Beer 514-426-120, ann\_beer@hotmail.com  
Nicoline Guerrier, 450-458-5860, nguerrier@hudson.net

### April 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.

**Deadline: Wednesday, March 18 at 8:00 pm**

Attachments must be in Word (or plain text), *but we prefer that you put your article in the body of your email.* Please note that we can't open WordPerfect docs or edit PDFs.



### CARING NETWORK

The coordinator for March is:

**Phyllis Greggain** at 514-366-0618 or [norm.greggain@sympatico.ca](mailto:norm.greggain@sympatico.ca)

If you know of someone in our Unitarian community who needs help, please get in touch right away.

We have over 20 people who are registered as carers – individuals happy to make hospital or home visits, make telephone check-up calls, prepare and/or deliver food, or act as chauffeur. If there are other needs, we will do our best to satisfy them.

If you would like to be part of this network, please contact the coordinator.

### UCM Board Members

#### President:

David Kersulis  
514-365-3191,  
[david.kersulis@videotron.ca](mailto:david.kersulis@videotron.ca)

#### Vice President (interim)

Petrina Lee Poy  
514-485-5555  
[petrina\\_lee\\_poy@yahoo.com](mailto:petrina_lee_poy@yahoo.com)

#### Treasurer

Bob Edgar  
514-767-1283  
[bob.edgar@sympatico.ca](mailto:bob.edgar@sympatico.ca)

#### Secretary

Janine Cobb  
514-938-9617  
[janine.cobb@gmail.com](mailto:janine.cobb@gmail.com)

#### Associational Affairs

Diana Marvel  
514-704-5462  
[diana.marvel@gmail.com](mailto:diana.marvel@gmail.com)

#### Building & Property Management (vacant)

#### Communications

Carol Cumming Speirs  
514-989-1397  
[carol.speirs@mcgill.ca](mailto:carol.speirs@mcgill.ca)

#### Congregational Programs

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#### Membership

Anna Virgini  
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#### Religious Education

Shawn Dohring  
514-461-1388  
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#### Social & Envir. Concerns

Mary-Louise Engels  
514-487-2665  
[mlengels@sympatico.ca](mailto:mlengels@sympatico.ca)

#### Worship Committee

Vacant

#### Senior Warden

Barbara Jackson  
514-488-5877  
[bejackson@sympatico.ca](mailto:bejackson@sympatico.ca)

#### Past President (Nominating Committee Chair)

Alison Hall  
514-636-8406  
[ar.hall@sympatico.ca](mailto:ar.hall@sympatico.ca)