

Unitarian Church of Montreal Église unitarienne de Montréal



Newsletter

May / mai 2008

From the Minister's Study

What a Sunday it was, as the banners unfurled across the chancel and the whole community saw and heard these words for the first time:

*As a spiritual community,
We welcome and nurture,
We inspire and challenge,
We take action in the world.*

Call it a mission. Call it a vision. This is a statement of who we are, who we dream to be, and where we are going.

Consider each phrase as a chapter heading in a book yet to be written. It's up to us to write the book and the truth is we are already writing the book. The more we've engaged in the process of crafting our future, the more amazing the things that have been happening around here. I'm proud of the work we're already doing filling in each chapter. The question is what we want to add to give greater depth and clearer direction to our future.

This will be our challenge in the months and years to come. We have many dreams to live into, and many dreamers who are looking to join us. On April 13, after we introduced this newly

proposed mission statement, several visitors with tears in their eyes said that they had been searching for a community like ours for a long time. These words resonated, and they couldn't believe they had found us.

My thanks to all of you and to the Crafting Our Future team: Denis Barsalo, Eleanor Beattie, Tara Bissett, Aline Deckers, Shawn Dohring, Nicole Guerrier, Alison Hall, David Kersulis, and Kirstin McKeown for organizing and facilitating the process that has led to this statement.

For now, we can call these words our proposed mission statement. It will go to our annual general meeting on Monday, June 2 for a final approval. I hope you will be there

to share in the decision.

In faith,
Diane

Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the Unitarian Church of Montreal will be held on Monday, June 2, 2008 at 7 pm in the Sanctuary.

Slate of Nominees for the 2008-09 UCM Board of Management

This church operates with a very small paid staff; all other functions and activities are carried out by us, members of the congregation. Some of the most important responsibilities undertaken are those of the members of the Board of Management.

In preparation for the Annual General Meeting to be held on Monday, 2 June 2008, the Nominating Committee has been seeking one or more candidates for positions for the 2008-09 Board of Management. Listed here are the board positions and the proposed slate. Note that as of Sunday, 13 April 2008 there were two positions still open. Any suggestions for persons to fill the open positions are most welcome — contact any member of the Nominating Committee.

Also note that the By-Laws allow any eight (8) church members to submit names of members and the office for which they would stand. Such



nominations (for any position) must be in writing and signed. Persons nominated must agree to serve, if elected, by signing the submission. Completed nominations are to be submitted to the Nominating Committee on or before 19 May 2008.

If you have any questions about the nominating process or the mandates for the board positions, contact any member of the Nominating Committee.

President's Message

Our congregation has recently received gifts from the family of Dr. Sydney Snow. Martin Frosst, grandson of Dr. Sydney Snow, is the son of Alice Frosst who was a lifelong and very active member of this church. Dr. Snow was minister here from 1920 to 1926, and went on to a very distinguished career in the United States. We are grateful to Mr. Frosst for the two important additions to the Heritage Library, as well as the beautifully hand-lettered and decorated farewell tribute from the church to Dr. Snow, and the framed doctorate awarded to him by a Hungarian University in 1938, together with a medallion from the city of Kolozsvár, the capital of Transylvania. They are now hanging in the foyer on Level 4. I encourage you to take a moment to look at them. They are wonderful treasures that help to preserve our connection to this congregation's rich history.

Crafting Our Future continues...

Fourteen words. More or less. That's what unfurled on the banners on Sunday, April 13. Four phrases to serve as our compass, a

2008-2009 Board Nominees

President.....David Kersulis
 Vice-President.....Petrina Lee Poy
 Treasurer.....Bob Edgar
 Board SecretaryJanine Cobb
 Associational Affairs.....Diana Marvel
 Building & PropertyOPEN
 CommunicationsOPEN
 Congregational Programs.....Linda Bouchard
 MembershipAnna Virgini
 Past PresidentAlison Hall
 Religious Education.....Shawn Dohring
 Social & Environmental.....Mary-Louise Engels
 WorshipDimitra Bernard
 Wardens (2) ..Phyllis Greggain & Sylvia Heuckendorff

Submitted by the 2007-08 Nominating Committee:

Elizabeth Anglin	514-937-4095
Frank Greene	514-426-4170
Kirstin McKeown	514-344-9232
Denny Meyer	514-762-3698
Anna Virgini.	514-595-3545

Worship Calendar

Services start at 10:30 am, unless otherwise noted

May 4

The Gifts We Bring – New Member Sunday

Rev. Diane Rollert

With music from the Yellow Door Choir.

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

May 11

A Day without Judgement

Rev. Diane Rollert

May 18

Open to the Mystery, TBA

May 25

10:30 *A View from Across the Oceans*

Special guests Mary Bennett, Executive Director of the Canadian Unitarian Council and Jean-Claude Barbier, General Secretary of the Assemblée fraternelle des chrétiens unitariens, with Rev. Diane Rollert

12:30 Célébration en français

Invité : Jean-Claude Barbier de l'AFCU, de France

touchstone, the chapter headings of a book we are writing, living and sharing with the wider community. From the beginning of this process to craft our mission the intention has been to have it guide our actions and resources (human, physical and fiscal) over the next five years. With this in mind, during the service, Rev. Diane Rollert asked us to respond to three questions. With our yellow, blue and green index cards in hand, she asked us:

1. Over the next five years, what would you, yourself, really like to see this community do, for you and for others, that **WELCOMES AND NURTURES**?
2. Over the next five years, what would you like to see this community do, for you and for others, that **INSPIRES AND CHALLENGES**?
3. Over the next five years, how would you like this community **TO TAKE ACTION IN THE WORLD**?

The baskets were overflowing as we collected the cards after the service. In small groups after lunch, participants tackled the stacks of cards to determine common themes and identify what ideas resonated with them. There was such a richness of response that we are still digesting it all. However, some of the clear trends that emerged on Sunday were:

To **WELCOME AND NURTURE WE WANT:**

- a strong caring network
- to welcome a diversity of people,
- newcomers to easily engage in congregational life.

TO INSPIRE AND CHALLENGE we want a wide range of opportunities

- for spiritual development
- theological exploration
- deep connections.

TO TAKE ACTION IN THE WORLD we want

- to strengthen our outreach and
- to move beyond charity to empower others

All the cards are in hand and being typed up to capture the responses in one legible document. As was expressed in at least two groups, "We could spend a whole day on this!"

The board agrees and we are starting to plan a congregational retreat at the beginning of the next church year designed to translate the ideas into concrete actions, programmes and initiatives. In the meantime, many initiatives have already taken hold, in part as a result of the process begun a year ago. Our Phoenix has indeed risen from the ashes and taken flight.

The mission statement will be proposed for formal adoption at the Annual General Meeting on Monday, June 2, 7:00 pm.

Governance that supports the mission

Over the last 10 years or so the board has, at various times, considered the governance structure of the church and looked at how well it works and where there is need for improvement. During our interim year with Peter Boulatta this discussion became more focused, and during the last year, the board has continued the dialogue. It has become clear to us that what is needed is a dedicated task force to examine our needs, get congregational input, look at possible structures and work with the congregation to implement the change needed to create a governance structure that supports our mission and the goals and programmes it inspires. If you

are interested in serving on this task force please contact Petrina Lee Poy, secretary (see details on page 9).

The Task Force will be presented at the Annual General Meeting for approval by the congregation.

The Banners

What's going to happen with the banners some have asked. Stay tuned!

In faith,

Alison Hall
514-636-8406
ar.hall@sympatico.ca

Entre Nous

Congratulations to Bob and Mary Bassett who celebrated their golden wedding anniversary on April 19.

Bob co-chaired with Harriet Campbell the committee that raised the money to build our new church. Mary is a lifelong Montreal Unitarian and was on the committee that designed the church kitchen. She served recently as Senior Warden. They have four children, Christine, Keltie, Karen and Robert, and five grandchildren.

Stephanie Lilly's book launch celebration was well-attended on Sunday, April 13. Her book, *Conquering the Mountain: My Approach to Staying Positive* sold out its first printing. More copies of the \$20 book will be available. To order, call Lucia at 514-630-0887 or email luciafederico2004@yahoo.ca.

Roseann Millin is at home with health problems. We are sure she would appreciate receiving cards or letters, but please do not phone as she is resting a lot.

Activities

Book Discussion Group

Date: Wednesday, May 21

Time: 7:30 pm

Location: Thomas Room

Contact: Kathy Douglas, 514-488-9608

Never was the choice of a book more prophetic than *The Law of Dreams*, selected a year before today's food riots and famine predictions. Peter Behrens' novel, based on his Irish ancestors, is set during the 1847 potato famine that devastated Ireland, killing millions by starvation and forcing the emigration of millions more. Young Fergus survives shocking murder and brutal misfortune when he's forced off his subsistence farm and becomes a homeless orphan tramping across Ireland and England, eventually making his way to America.

Carmina Choir

Dates: Tuesdays

Time: 7:30 pm

Contact: Brian Brice, 514-843-6497

Do you hear the people sing?

Are you longing to join in?

Come to CARMINA Choir

And sing with all your soul and heart's desire.

Carmina is looking for voices, particularly male, to join them. No audition. The ability to read music is not necessary. Solo possibilities, if desired. Bring a sense of humour and good will—with a black binder if possible.

Fifth Friday Potluck

Date: May 30

Time: 6:00 pm

Location: Phoenix Hall

Contact: Kirstin McKeown, 514-344-9232, caitlin@openface.ca

The Social and Environmental Concerns Committee (SECC), inspired by the belief that francophones are better cooks, is delighted to join with Le Comite Francophone to host this Friday potluck. Bring along some food to share, and celebrate with us the arrival of spring!

You will be invited to make a free-will contribution to buy solar cookers for Darfuri women refugees and their families. (see p 9)

At 7:15, SECC will show the award-winning Venezuelan film, *Tocar y Luchar* (To Play and to Fight), about the power of music and hope in the lives of Venezuelan schoolchildren. (see p 6)

Midday Meal with Music

Date: Wednesday, May 21

Times: 10:00 am Scrabble and Bridge; 12:30 pm Lunch; 1:30 pm Music

Cost: \$5.00

Contact: Ruth di Giovanni., 514-934-4956

Please call Ruth at 514-934-4956 by Sunday, May 18, to reserve a seat.

Newcomer Gathering

Sunday May 4, Noon

Are you new here? Would you like to know more about our community, meet other newcomers, or find out about becoming a member? Come join our minister, Rev. Diane Rollert, for a light brunch.

Parts in Peace Choir

Dates: Mondays

Time: 7:30 pm

Location: Sanctuary or Children's Chapel

Contact: Sandra Hunt, 514-484-5559

The Unitarian church of Montreal's newly designated Sunday Ser-

vice Choir commits to sing once a month in the 10:30 am Sunday service. The group loves to sing in parts from both Unitarian song books.

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.

Prisoners of Conscience

Date: April 20 (3rd Sunday of each month)

Time: After worship service

Location: Phoenix Hall

Contact: Geneviève Patterson, delmaspatterson@mediamonitors.org

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

Rainbow Soul Matters

Date: Tuesday, April 29

Time: 7:30 pm

Location: Youth Group Room

Contact person: Rosanne Baatz 514-482-6046

Come and share your spiritual journey with other LGBT persons. Theme TBA.

Religious Explorations Group

Date: Sunday, May 4

Time: 12:30 pm

Location: Children's Chapel

Contact: Christine Rourke 514-761-0669

Topic: Man is a credulous animal, and must believe something; in the absence of good grounds for belief, he will be satisfied with bad ones.

Bertrand Russell, npopular Essays (1950), "Outline of Intellectual Rubbish".

Note: The April discussion will be continued at a later date.

Sacred Texts Discussion Group

Date: Sunday, May 11

Time: 11:45 (15 minutes after the service) until 1:00

Location: Thomas Room

Contact: Brian McGill, mail@brianmcgill.org or 450-672-6900

We will discuss texts from earth-centred beliefs. Grab a cup of coffee and come join us. This will be our last meeting.

Seeking the Sacred in Stories

Led by Rev. Diane Rollert

Monthly Brown Bag Lunch Group

Date: Tuesday, May 13

Time: Noon to 1:00 pm

Location: Former Ministers' Room

This month we'll reflect on several stories read out loud during our session. This will be our last session for the year.

Social and Environmental Concerns

Date: Sunday, May 25 (note that this is fourth Sunday of May, not third)

Time: 12:15 pm

Location: chez Mary-Louise, 377 Claremont

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

Enjoy a glass of wine and light refreshments while we review this past year's activities, and start planning for next year. RSVP.

Soul Time Mid-week Worship Service

Come and join us at 7:30 pm in the Children's Chapel on Thursdays, May 8 and June 12.

Tai Ji: Active Relaxation

There will be no Tai Ji during the month of May.

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.

Young Adult Group

Date: Sunday, May 11

Time: 12:15 to 1:00 pm

Location: Youth Room

Contact: Kirstin McKeown, 514-344-9232, caitlin@openface.ca

Special Events

Chamber Music Concert for L'ABRI EN VILLE

Sunday, May 4 at 3:00 pm

Program includes works by Beethoven, Johann Cruceell, Hans Gal, Darius Milhaud, & Olivier Messiaen

Suggested donation \$20.00, \$10.00 for students

For further information: 514-844-6027

Perennial Plant Sale for Africa Aids Relief

Date: Saturday, May 31 (rain or shine)

Time: 9:00 am to noon

Location: 225 Neptune Blvd., Dorval (between Carson and Lake-shore)

Now in its fifth year, 100% of this fundraiser's proceeds go to the Stephen Lewis Foundation which funds grassroots projects aimed at alleviating the suffering of women and children affected by HIV/AIDS in Africa (www.stephenlewisfoundation.org). All the plants are healthy and home-grown, either from my garden or those of friends (including many Unitarians) who have joined in this effort. The selection includes hostas, day lilies, ornamental grasses, aquatic plants and a wide variety of perennial favourites. If you would like to contribute plants, please contact me. Info: Alison Hall 514-636-8406



Film: Tocar y Luchar (To Play and to Fight)

Date: Friday, May 30

Time: 7:15 pm (following the pot-luck supper in Phoenix Hall)

Location: Thomas Room

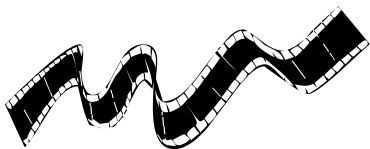
“A transcendent film journey that showcases the power of music and its ability to promote positive social change”.

Many films about social justice and social change are dark and dispiriting. This 2006 Venezuelan film is different.

The winner of numerous awards last year for “best documentary”, *Tocar y Luchar* (English subtitles) tells the captivating story of the Venezuela Youth Orchestra System. This extraordinary network of hundreds of orchestras formed within most of Venezuela’s towns and villages was initially designed to expose rural children to the wonders of music. It became one of the most remarkable music phenomena of our time.

The film follows the daily lives of the young musicians, many from impoverished homes, as they practise, travel and perform around the world. It also traces the inspiring careers of world class Venezuelan musicians trained within the system, and shows musical superstars like Placido Domingo and Claudio Abado who have worked with the youth orchestras and been transformed by them.

Above all, as Director Alberto Arvelo affirms, this is a film about hope, and about the power of hope in our lives



Yellow Door Choir Concert

Yellow Door Choir: Shades of Peace and Tranquility

Benefit concert for Saint Columba House Literacy Day Camp and Camp Cosmos

Featuring the Every Kid Choir

Saturday, May 31 at 7:30 pm

Ticket Prices: \$20/ \$10 for students and seniors

The Yellow Door Choir, directed by Eleanor Stublely and now in its 25th anniversary season, is pleased to present a benefit concert on Saturday, May 31 at 7:30 pm at the Unitarian Church of Montreal, to help children from low-income families go to summer camp. The concert, entitled, “Shades of Peace and Tranquility,” will feature the Every Kid Choir, a multi-faith, multi-ethnic children’s choir directed by Alison Carpenter. Proceeds from the concert will go to Saint Columba House Literacy Day Camp and Camp Cosmos. Special thanks to the Unitarian Church of Montreal for contributing the space for this concert. The concert promises a springtime evening filled with songs of peace, hope and love.

Saint Columba House Literacy Day Camp and Camp Cosmos serve children from low-income families in the Point Saint Charles and downtown areas. Saint Columba House is a community organization dedicated to providing affordable high quality services to all families. They are committed to offering employment and training opportunities for youth living in Point Saint Charles. Their Literacy Summer Camp provides a fun and educational environment for children and is accessible to all. Camp Cosmos is an ecological summer camp that welcomes children from refugee, immigrant, single parent

and low-income families. It also offers a job training program to teenagers from low-income families and has an integration program for children with special needs.

For more information, please call Shelley at 514-575-4669

Broadway Extravaganza

Date: Saturday, May 24

Time: 8:00 pm

Location: U.C.M.

Two exceptionally talented young singers: Alyssa McGuigan and Daniel Le Roy (students of Kerry-Anne Kutz).

Cost: \$10.00; children Free For further details call: Kerry-Anne 514-624-2307.

Council meeting re: in-house group space use

A Council Meeting will be held in the Children’s Chapel on Saturday June 7, from 9 to 11 am. Representatives of the groups who use church space for their activities are invited to participate in this bi-annual meeting. Our goal is twofold:

- increase our awareness of the activities that take place in this congregation
- coordinate scheduling and room allocation to avoid conflicts and overloading of time periods.

Doors will be open at 8:30 am. Come and mingle, enjoy coffee and bagels. The meeting will start at 9 am sharp. Thank you, David Kersulis and Linda Bouchard



Book Launch

Date: Tuesday, May 13

Time: 6:30 - 8:30 pm

Location: Librairie Paragraphe, 2220 Av. McGill-College, Montreal (just south of Sherbrooke St.). Tel. 514-845-5811.

Everyone is welcome to attend the launch of Mark Abley's new book "The Prodigal Tongue: Dispatches From the Future of English." One of the people quoted in the book is UCM member Shuvo Ghosh.

For those living in the West Island, a similar event will be held at Librairie Clio in Pointe Claire on the afternoon of Sunday, May 25.

Please contact Mark for further details at: markabley@hotmail.com

Religious Education

In praise of OWL

Imagine a sex-education program where young teenagers get to see and feel the belly of a very pregnant mother-to-be. Where they get to ask questions of a lesbian, a gay man and a bisexual woman. Where they get to hear about sexually transmitted diseases, not in a scaremongering fashion, but from the youth-oriented people at Head and Hands.

This program was given at the UCM over four weekends between November and April. Six members of our youth group took part. The program goes by the name OWL, short for "Our Whole Lives."

OWL was developed in the United States. To quote the UUA website, it "helps participants make informed and responsible decisions about their sexual health and behaviour. It equips participants with accurate, age-appropriate information in six subject areas: human development,

relationships, personal skills, sexual behaviour, sexual health, and society and culture."

Everyone involved in the four weekends owes a huge debt of gratitude to Prue Rains and Hannelore Poncelet, who guided our teenagers through the program.

Thanks also to all the other UCM members who helped out in one way or another. Trudy Blumstein, Elizabeth Charbonneau, Sylvia Krutz and Melani Litwack generously acted as overnight chaperones.

On the last weekend of March, the UCM youth group played host to a gathering of young Unitarians who braved our roads and our terrible weather.

Teenagers from Toronto, Rochester, Ottawa, Fredericton and Saint John joined us for the 2008 QuOM CON (why are Unitarians so devoted to acronyms?) - the Quebec, Ontario and Maritimes Conference. An exhilarating, mostly sleepless time was had by all.

Mark Abley

Annual Conference and Meeting in Ottawa this year has lots of children's and family events!

Those of you who have already attended one of the Canadian Unitarian Council's annual conferences and meetings know how fun these events can be! I attended my first ACM last year and was blown away by the quality of the workshops and by the general camaraderie and joie de vivre all around me. It was a bit like summer camp for adults! And I met lots of wonderful Unitarians from all over Canada, too.

For any of you who have never attended an ACM before, this could be a great year to do it!

The meeting is in Ottawa this year so it is an easy drive. And there are lots of children's and youth events planned. Susan McKeown, the Director of Religious Education in Ottawa, is fabulous! So I can only imagine the children's programs will be too.

The ACM is from May 16-19, and you can get more information, including a registration form, at www.cuc.ca/conference/2008, so be sure to check it out now!

Youth Group activities

In November, December, February, and April, the youth had four junior O.W.L. sessions at the church, thanks to Prue Rains and Hannelore Poncelet. Thanks also to all the parents and other volunteers including Elizabeth Charbonneau, Trudy Blumstein, and Melanie Litwack, who took care of sleepovers and meals.

The youth also served soup after church one Sunday, and raised over \$80! A big thank you goes to David Horan and John Pike for making the soup! The youth have acquired a new clock and a white board for announcing events and projects, as well as for brainstorming.

Our youth have been regular participants in several Sunday services, doing readings, lighting the chalice, etc. And we can't forget the Intergenerational service (in the middle of a snowstorm!), where youth did readings, lit the chalice, passed the collection plate, etc. Three amazing Kings with a bit of a different take on their voyage to see Jesus, surprised us at the end of the service!

In January, four of the youth went to a youth conference in Buffalo, New York, where 95 youth and adults attended. It was a great experience, and lots of fun meeting

youth from many other UU churches.

We have had two “bring-a-friend” pizza and movie nights, on first Fridays in February and April.

In March, we had our very own QuOMcon, with 28 in attendance! We had elections, participated in workshops, had two awesome worship services, saw a bit of Montreal, celebrated Earth Hour by candlelight, and generally had a blast!

In May we will be attending the CanUUdle conference in Ottawa.

We are always looking for additional drivers and chaperones to add to our roster of adults for conferences and other events. If you are interested, please contact Elizabeth Charbonneau e_charbonneau@sympatico.ca or 514-342-5221 for more information.

Green Corner

Ethanol: Hungry cars taking precedence over hungry mouths

Help mother Earth...

This past weekend I was fortunate enough to be a part of something truly unique. I hosted a band and doc film crew doing a Canadian tour by railway in order to entertain while promoting sustainability. A little known fact is that taking the train uses up to 70% less energy and causes up to 85% less air pollution compared to aircraft. This paradox is common throughout society, since we are forever searching for fresh and innovative ways of being “green” instead of returning to traditional ways. Nuclear energy and ethanol are examples of new approaches sold as sustainable sources of energy.

Ethanol has received enormous amounts of hype lately, with the Bush administration endorsing production

of this “green” technology. However, this technology is not sustainable and could do irreparable damage in the long run. Three major problems need highlighting when addressing the disadvantages of ethanol.

Ethanol actually uses more energy in production than it saves. Proponents of ethanol will argue that in time, the technology will improve and the cost benefit will improve but this is highly speculative and does not take into account other wastes. The production of ethanol, like other modern farm practices, is harmful to the environment, as it puts undue pressure on the water supply (irrigation) and introduces excessive amounts of chemicals in the form of pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizers. This leads to the third, and perhaps most critical problem pertaining to ethanol production. Using land for fuel production removes valuable food production capabilities. This past week there were riots in Haiti as food prices rose. Food prices are rising throughout the world, with the price of wheat, maize, and rice doubling in the last year. Is it right to make the choice of fuel over food? If you think not, then please write your MP and tell others to do the same. Sustainability is about long-term objectives that are good for everyone globally, not just those who can afford it.

Kathy Abbs



Nouvelles du comité francophone

International visitor at UCM

The General Secretary of the Assemblée fraternelle chrétienne unitarienne (AFCU) of France will be our guest speaker on Sunday, May 25th at 12:30. Having been invited to the CUC-ACM by the president of the ICUU to facilitate a workshop, Jean-Claude Barbier also accepted graciously our invitation to address the Francophone group here in Montreal. He has been, for many years, the editor of *Correspondance unitarienne* in France. Let us give him a great welcome. Everyone is invited. Bring a friend.

Visiteur de France

Jean-Claude Barbier, secrétaire général de l'Assemblée fraternelle chrétienne unitarienne (AFCU) de France, sera notre conférencier, dimanche le 25 mai, à midi et demi. Ayant été invité au CUC-ACM par le président de ICUU pour animer un atelier, Jean-Claude Barbier profitera de ce voyage pour prendre la parole ici devant le groupe francophone de l'église de Montréal. Il est le rédacteur de *Correspondance unitarienne*, depuis plusieurs années. Offrons-lui un accueil chaleureux. Soyez le bienvenu, si possible en invitant aussi une autre personne.

Voici quelques dates à retenir pour nos activités en français :

Dimanche, le 11 mai à midi, rencontre du comité francophone dans la salle Channing pour préparer nos activités en français. Cette réunion est ouverte aux intéressés.

Dimanche, le 25 mai à 12h30, la célébration en français. Les participants, qui assistent aussi au service en anglais, sont invités à casser la croûte avec nous au Phoenix Hall vers 12h00, afin de combler le petit creux à l'estomac avant la célébration en français. Notre invité, Jean-Claude Barbier, secrétaire

général de l'Assemblée fraternelle des chrétiens unitariens de la France, nous fera connaître la mouvance unitarienne internationale.

Vendredi, le 30 mai à 18h00, venez partager votre souper avec le comité de "Social and Environmental Concerns"; le but est de ramasser des fonds pour acheter des cuisinières à énergie solaire pour les familles du Darfour, en Afrique.

L'éducation religieuse pour les enfants reprendra au mois de septembre. Si vous avez besoin de gardien pour vos enfants pendant nos activités, communiquez avec Hannelore.

Pour avoir plus d'information sur l'UUisme en français, visitez notre site web www.uuqc.ca.

Contact : Hannelore Poncelet, 450-653-5694 hanniponcelet@hotmail.com

Social and environmental Concerns Committee

The Social and Environmental Concerns Committee (SECC) is happy to announce that the loose collection received at the May Sunday services will be used to purchase solar cookers for Darfuri refugees.

Over 250,000 refugees, mostly women and children, now live in refugee camps in Chad, across the border from war-torn Sudan. This area offers little security beyond the camp perimeter. Girls and women who leave the camps in search of firewood and water often meet the same fate they encountered in their Darfuri homes: they are raped, beaten, branded, and sometimes killed by Sudan-supported janjaweed militia.

The Solar Cooker Solution

Refugees are given simple solar cookers made of aluminum foil and cardboard that convert sunlight into heat

for cooking food and purifying water. After training, the women receive two cookers per family, one for rice or other starch, and one for sauce or vegetables. The use of solar cookers instead of wood not only reduces risks to women's lives. Solar power has the additional advantage of relieving pressure on a resource-poor environment.

The cost of two solar cookers is \$30.

What You Can Do

Here is something practical we can all do to help the victims of the ongoing genocidal Darfur conflict. We can donate \$15 for one cooker, \$30 for two, \$150 for 10... We would like to raise \$1500. during the month of May, so that we can buy 100 cookers, enough for 50 families. You can contribute by cash or cheque (to the Unitarian Church of Montreal, writing "solar cookers" in the subject line). You will have the opportunity to do so at every Sunday service in May, and at the Fourth Friday potluck on May 30.

Thank you for your generosity!

Information: Mary-Louise Engels, 514-933-0618, mlengels@sympatico.ca

Lay Chaplaincy accepting applications

The Lay Chaplaincy Committee is currently accepting applications for new Lay Chaplains. If you are interested, please contact Rev. Diane Rollert at (514) 485-7654 or dianerollert@ucmtl.ca or Noline Guerrier at 450-458-5860 or nguerrier@hudson.net.

CUC Conference 2008

Hello again, everyone!

The role of 'nurse' at our national youth conference (CanUUdle) is a critical one. Please consider applying if you are someone that has First Aid and CPR Training. We need to have this role filled at our youth conference, CanUUdle VIII, May 16-19, 2008 in Ottawa

Come and help create a safe community by putting your skills to use AND being in community with some amazing youth and adults from all across Canada. A small honorarium of \$200 has been allocated. You are required to stay on site with CanUUdle community and will be with the CanUUdle participants from start to finish.

You will experience some amazing group building and see youth empowered, both in spiritual deepening and in social responsibility!

Please consider this opportunity, or pass this along to someone who might be interested.

Thanks,

Sylvia Bass West
 Director of Lifespan Learning
 Canadian Unitarian Council - Conseil Unitarien du Canada
www.cuc.ca
 Lifespan Learning Office 519-472-7073
 CUC Toronto Office (toll free) 888-568-5723



Memorial Flowers

May 04 Lila van Toch

May 11 Isabel Agnes Hunt

May 18 Angus and Cary Cameron

May 25 Mary Frances Picard

Covenant Group update

Our first covenant group program was launched this past November. Thirty-six persons have participated. The six groups are facilitated every two weeks by Valerie Broege, Patricia Gordon, Nicoline Guerrier, Diana Kleins, Brian McGill and Kirstin McKeown.

The facilitators themselves have met as a covenant group once a month with Rev. Diane Rollert.

The purpose of a covenant group is to get to know others at a deeper level than is possible during the social hour in Phoenix Hall, and to contribute to each participant's personal and spiritual growth. Using a standard format that helps build comfort and trust, and a facilitator who helps everyone to stay on track, a covenant group provides the opportunity to get to know oneself and others better.

We are learning more about how to run covenant groups. One big lesson is that covenant groups should include more than six people, ideally nine. Everyone has to miss a meeting now and then (for winter vacations, life demands), but this has more of an impact when the group is very small to start with. This might mean bigger but fewer groups when we readjust our groups next fall.

What about the summer? Each group (including each facilitator and each participant) will decide how to participate during the summer, whether to take a break, meet on a more relaxed schedule or continue as usual.

We will be asking covenant group members to share their views of the covenant group experience. We will use their replies to adjust what we do, and to invite new participants in the fall. And we will be

asking facilitators to share their views of their own experience.

We are now inviting applications from potential new facilitators. If you are interested in facilitating a covenant group, you will need to fill out an application form (contact Prue Rains) and participate in a training session run by Rev. Rollert.

Contact: prue.rains@mcgill.ca, or 514-481-8653

Looking for hosts for a S.O.U.L. Singer

The music for our Sunday Worship Service on June 15 will be provided by the S.O.U.L. singers, a quartet of "Singers of United Lands". This year's singers are from Brazil, Czech Republic, Rep. of Georgia and Zimbabwe. You can learn more about them at their website: www.singersofunitedlands.org

They are touring the USA and Canada to spread the message of peace. They have been singing at several of our sister Unitarian Churches.

We are looking for volunteers who are able to provide accommodation

for three women (one manager) and two men, from Saturday, June 14 to Wednesday, June 18. Single rooms are preferred, and food should be provided, though prepared meals are not required. The group will arrive at our church toward the end of Saturday afternoon, June 14, to meet up with their hosts.

Two families have already come forward, so we still need three rooms. This will be a wonderful opportunity for a cultural and musical exchange.

Please contact: Mickey van Riel at orangeblue@videotron.ca or 514-637-3347



Empty Bowls Fundraiser

Saturday 3 May, noon to 3
Unitarian Church of Montreal
5035 de Maisonneuve West (Vendome Metro)

Sunday 4 May, 11 am to 2 pm
Congregation Dorshei Emet
18 Cleve Road, Hampstead



Wheelchair access at both venues

Help fight hunger. Enjoy a bowl of soup. Take home a bowl handcrafted by a Quebec potter. All for \$20.

Thanks to the generosity of donors, all proceeds go to eight Montreal organizations that provide meals and groceries for families.

CUUL School

July 17-20, McMaster University,
Hamilton

The Canadian Unitarian Universalist Leadership school is an intense four-day residential program where participants learn about themselves as leaders, consider how to effectively work with others, learn about other congregations, explore some of the hot issues in Canadian Unitarian Universalism, gain a greater understanding of our history and participate in group learning processes. For more information, please contact Alison Hall or Rev. Diane Rollert.



We are updating our database

If you are a married woman who has adopted your husband's name, please help us complete a roster of the maiden names of members and friends. This can be useful when making enquiries about health status. Please call or write Janine Cobb (514-938-9617 or jcobbx2@aol.com) or Verna Litwack (514-485-9933 or office@ucmtl.ca) and let us know your maiden name. Thanks.

Share-the-Plate

In March, all the unidentified cash in the Sunday collection, a total of \$1,199.50, was given to the Old Brewery Mission. In April we had opportunities to be generous in our support of the Rainforest Alliance as well as the YMCA refugee centre's Covered Garden program. For the month of May we focus our giving on the women of Darfur. Please see page 9 for more about the positive impact of solar cookers on the lives of women and girls in this troubled part of our world.

A note from the Treasurer

Using your credit card to pay your pledge or to make additional donations to our church through CanadaHelps.org.

You can now go on the Internet and pay your pledge using CanadaHelps.org. Here is how:

1. Go to www.CanadaHelps.org
2. On their first page where it says "I want to give to:" type "Unitarian Church of Montreal"

Then just follow instructions. You will receive an e-mail receipt for tax purposes. Be sure to keep it, because the church is not able to issue tax receipts for amounts paid through CanadaHelps.

CanadaHelps is a not-for-profit charity portal that serves as an information resource about charities in Canada and seeks to promote and facilitate philanthropy through online giving.

CanadaHelps assesses a 3% transaction fee on each donation. This amount is deducted before the donation is sent to the charity. This 3% covers all credit card merchant rates, transaction fees, banking costs, receipting, reconciliation and disbursement.

For this reason we hope that most members and friends will continue to pay their pledges by check but there may be times when it would be more convenient for you to go on-line and pay with a credit card. Now you have that option.

Governance Task Force being formed

The Board of Management is currently seeking candidates to form a governance task force. This group of people will be responsible for stewarding the process of reflection, consultation and decision-making necessary to generate a new governance structure that will better meet the evolving needs of our congregation.

We would like to see the governance task force made up of people who

- come from diverse perspectives and experiences of congregational life,
- collaborate well as members of a team and
- are prepared to see this process through for a year or more.

If you are interested in being considered as a candidate for the governance task force, please write a paragraph explaining why you would like to be on the team and send it to Petrina Lee Poy, petrina_lee_poy@yahoo.com.

The deadline for applications is Tuesday, May 20.

**The Annual General Meeting of the Unitarian Church of Montreal will be held on
Monday, June 2 at 7 pm in the Sanctuary**

Two proposed by-law amendments will be brought before the congregation at this meeting. A majority of two-thirds votes cast is required to amend the by-laws and only Special Voting Members may vote on this item. As per our by-laws, the vote shall be by secret vote using paper ballot. Please see over for more details.

Text underlined: existing text to be replaced

Text in bold: proposed new text

ARTICLE XI: COMMITTEES
SECTION 1 BOARD OF MANAGEMENT, ITEM B

EXISTING TEXT

Subject to the By-laws, the Board of Management shall have general control and management of the Church and its departments. It shall have power to invest money belonging to the church and to change investments, provided that, unless otherwise directed by the donor, no money shall be invested in any security except as authorized by the Financial Institutions and Deposit Insurance system Amendment Act, provided that not more than 40% of the funds of the Church are invested in common stocks. It shall also have the authority to borrow money.

PROPOSED NEW TEXT

Subject to the By-laws, the Board of Management shall have general control and management of the Church and its departments. It shall have power to invest money belonging to the church and to change investments. **The Board shall employ the services of an established financial investment advisor group with a proven track record, pursuing conservative, low risk strategies.** The Board shall also have the authority to borrow money.

Reasons for requesting change:

The text as it stands is obsolete, irrelevant and erroneous. Obsolete because market conditions over the last decade made it undesirable to strictly limit a portfolio to a maximum of 40% common stock. Irrelevant and erroneous because the text refers to “the Financial Institutions and Deposit Insurance”, American legislation which does not “authorize” investments but provides insurance for bank deposits in the US (presently up to \$100,000). It does not apply to stocks or bonds and does not apply to Canada. The new text reflects our current investment policy and practice.

ARTICLE XIII: THE BUDGET
Section 2

EXISTING TEXT

Annual withdrawals from the endowment fund shall not exceed 4.5% of its market value at the end of the previous calendar year.

PROPOSED NEW TEXT

Annual withdrawals from the endowment fund shall not exceed 4.5% of its market value **calculated as the average of the year-end value for the last three years.**

Reasons for requesting change:

To reduce variations in annual payouts from the endowment fund.

Please see over for more details.

**The Annual General Meeting
of the Unitarian Church of Montreal
will be held on
Monday, June 2 at 7 pm in the Sanctuary**

The AGM (Annual General Meeting) will receive reports from the Treasurer and other members of the Board as well as from the Minister, Chaplains, and Wardens. (Copies of which will be made available by email and/or hard copies from the Church Office prior to the meeting). Elections for the members of the Board of Management 2008-2009 will be held. Other such business as may properly come before the assembly will be conducted. The meeting is open to members and friends. Addressing the assembly and voting are restricted to church members. [per By-laws: A CHURCH MEMBER is a person eighteen (18) years of age or over who has subscribed to the By-laws by signing the Church Membership Book and who makes an annual identifiable financial contribution to the operating funds of the Church.]

Proposed By-law amendments:

Two proposed By-law amendments will be brought before the congregation at this annual meeting. A majority of two-thirds votes cast is required to amend the By-laws and only Special Voting Members may vote on this item. As per our By-laws, the vote shall be by secret vote using paper ballot. (*see over for complete details*)

Note: To qualify as a Special Voting Member one must have signed the membership book at least 12 months prior to the meeting and must have made an identifiable contribution to the operating fund of the church within the past 12 months.

Approval of Minutes:

Members will be asked to approve the minutes of the last AGM and the Congregational Meeting of December 2, 2007. Minutes of these meetings were approved by the Executive and were posted at the time. As we will not be running off copies for everyone, extra copies will be posted on the Board's notice board so that you can read them before the AGM.

Approval of Mission Statement:

Members will be asked to approve the proposed mission statement:

**As a spiritual community, we welcome and nurture,
we inspire and challenge, we take action in the world.**

If you have any further questions about the AGM or voting rights, please contact Alison Hall, President (514-636-8406, ar.hall@sympatico.ca) or Petrina Lee Poy, Secretary (514-485-5555, petrina_lee_poy@yahoo.com).

*Please plan to arrive at the AGM in time to register and receive your voting paddle.
The meeting will begin promptly at 7pm.*

Proposed Mission Statement

Who we are and what we do.

On Sunday, April 13 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.*

Unitarian Church of Montreal/ Église unitarienne de Montréal

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CUC (Canadian Unitarian Council):
Website: www.cuc.ca

Mouvement universaliste au Québec:
Website: 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

President: Alison Hall 514-636-8406, ar.hall@
sympatico.ca

Director of Religious Education: Sarah Marx
McGill 450-672-6900, sarahmarx@yahoo.com

Church Musician: Sandra Hunt 514-484-5559,
grussel@sympatico.ca

Custodian: Helmut Strohmeyer

Flowers: Joan Watt 514-937-8456

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

June newsletter submissions

E-mail your submissions to news@ucmtl.ca or place them in the mailbox upstairs. Please note that if you host a regular event, the Newsletter Collective needs to know of any cancellations or changes.



**Deadline: Wednesday, May 21 at
8:00 pm**

If you have queries or comments before the deadline, please send them to: marion.blake@sympatico.ca

news@ucmtl.ca is for articles and notices only. It is not opened until after the deadline.

UCM Board Members

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david.kersulis@videotron.ca

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Social & Envir. Concerns

Mary-Louise Engels
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mlengels@sympatico.ca

Worship Committee

Dimitra Barnard
514-279-4728
oceanhalice@gmail.com

Senior Warden

Pierre Godin
514-486-3914

MAY 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	Coming up next month: Annual General Meeting (June 2, 7:00 pm)			10:00 am Play Group		10:00 am Walking Group 12:00 pm Empty Bowls
New Member Sunday 11:00 am-2:00 pm Empty Bowls (Congregation Dorsthei Emet) 12:00 pm Newcomer Gathering 12:30 pm Religious Explorations 3:00 pm Chamber Music Concert	5 7:30 pm Parts in Peace Choir	6 10:00 am Play Group 7:30 pm Carmina Choir	7	8 10:00 am Play Group 7:30 pm Soul Time Mid-week Worship Service	9	10 10:00 am Walking Group
Mothers' Day 11:45 am Sacred Texts 12:15 pm Young Adults	12 7:30 pm Parts in Peace Choir	13 10:00 am Play Group 12:00 pm Seeking the Sacred in Stories 7:30 pm Carmina Choir	14	15 10:00 am Play Group	16	17 10:00 am Walking Group
11:45 am Prisoners of Conscience	19 OFFICE CLOSED 7:30 pm Parts in Peace Choir	20 Governance Task Force: Deadline for applications 10:00 am Play Group 7:30 pm Carmina Choir	21 10:00 am MIDDAY Meal with Music 7:30 pm Book Discussion Group 8:00 pm June Newsletter deadline	22 10:00 am Play Group	CUC Conference (Ottawa)	
CUC Conference (Ottawa)	26 7:30 pm Parts in Peace Choir	27 10:00 am Play Group 7:30 pm Rainbow Soul Matters 7:30 pm Carmina Choir	28	29 10:00 am Play Group	30	31 9:00 am Perennial Plant Sale (Dorval) 10:00 am Walking Group 7:30 pm Yellow Door Choir Concert
12:30 PM Célébration en français	25				6:00 pm Fifth Friday Potluck 7:15 Film: Tocar y Luchar (To Play and to Fight)	