

Unitarian Church of Montreal Église unitarienne de Montréal



Newsletter

November / novembre 2008

Worship Calendar

Services start at 10:30 am, unless otherwise noted

November 2

All Souls: The Rite of Passage

Rev. Diane Rollert with Lay Chaplains Noline Guerrier and Ann Beer;
Sandra Hunt, musician

Bread communion, candles of memory, and dedication of the Memorial Book. **Daylight Saving Time ends.**

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

November 9

Remembrance Day Service: The Generations Remember

Rev. Diane Rollert, with special music featuring Toby Harper (son of Brian Merrett), Sylvan and Lily Lanken (children of Anna McGarrigle and Dane Lanken) and Kathleen Weldon. More info, page 11.

November 16

Commitment Sunday: More Than Money No Matter What

Rev. Diane Rollert; Sandra Hunt, musician, with the Parts in Peace Choir

Please join us for a celebratory brunch immediately following the service.

November 23

The Power of the Word(s)

Shuvo Ghosh and Kirstin McKeown
Sandra Hunt, musician

12 h 30 *Célébration en français*

November 30

Beyond All Solitudes

Rev. Diane Rollert
Jean Séguin, musician



From Our Minister

"Diane, angels?" One of my many favourite people around here gently tapped me on the arm and looked at me with great worry in his eyes. "Angels???"

Yes, indeed, a beautiful carved wooden angel is now hovering over the children's stairwell, suspended by a thin metal rod. She was a gift, given to us by Helen Krutz-Weil on the occasion of her retirement as a Lay Chaplain last year.

But this is no ordinary angel. After the fateful fire and loss of our former building in 1987, Helen had attended a fund-raising event for the construction of our current building. Emotion had compelled her to purchase a box of charred bits and pieces that may have been the remains of one of the two wooden angels that had graced the old sanctuary.

Not quite sure what to do with this collection of scorched wings, face and body, Helen stored the box in her basement for the next twenty years. She was sure that a day would come when she would know what to do with this promise of a precious artifact.

That day did come, thanks to last year's Wardens (Pierre Godin, Dorothy Clarke, Barbara Jackson and Denny Meyer, with support from the previous year's senior warden, Mary Bassett) who commissioned the angel's restoration. Through the exquisite work of artist and craftsman, Deni Blanchet (he spells his name with no "s"), the angel was meticulously reconstructed piece by piece. It became a labour of love that took months.

The angel returned to us whole and beautiful, still showing some of the scars of her sad experience. We had all agreed that we didn't want Deni to erase her story by restoring her to perfection. When we saw her, it was clear that her rightful place was with the children of this congregation.

In her glory days, the angel (*cont'd on pg. 2*)

(cont'd from pg. 1) had perched with her sister (or was it her brother?) in the old sanctuary, looking down on the pulpit. Together they had been silent witness to our past. Today this lone surviving angel perches over the children's stairwell, as witness to our future.

"When that angel flies," my favourite sceptic says to me, "I'll believe." I laugh at his joke, but I assure him that I'm not asking him or anyone to believe in angels.

What I do see in the return of this angel is a reminder that no matter how much loss, pain and disappointment we experience in life, there is always the possibility of becoming whole again. There are painful memories attached to the angel's past, yet her presence reminds us that we can always begin again with love. What an important story to tell our children.

We never do know what the future will hold for us. In times of uncertainty, we need each other. We need reminders, like reconstructed angels, that with patience and the care of others, we can begin again with love.

In faith,

Diane

Church Library now open again on Sundays

I would like to announce the re-opening of the church library on Sunday, October 9th. We hope you will feel free to browse and to sign out books at any time. You may be interested in religion, biographies, fiction, environment or self-awareness. There is no charge. I wish you a good winter. Thank you.

Christian Nielsen



Would You Like to Join a Covenant Group?

Two covenant groups have launched. One focuses specifically on Spiritual Practices and meets on the second and fourth Mondays of the month from 7-9 pm at church. The other meets on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month from 7-9 pm at church, and focuses on a variety of subjects of interest to its members.

Covenant groups are a good way to meet new people at a deeper than usual level, and to become known by them. They are also a good way to learn more about people you thought you knew well! Both of the current groups have room for new members. If you are interested in joining one, or would simply like to know more about what covenant groups are, feel free to contact me. I am also collecting the names of people who would like to join a covenant group but cannot meet at the times currently available.

Contact Prue Rains at prue.rains@mcgill.ca, or 514-481-8653

SOUL Singers – home hospitality needed

Would the congregation be interested in having another experience with four "Singers Of United Lands"? They are ambassadors for peace with songs from their various countries. This year they are coming from Chile, Kenya, Latvia and South Korea. I have yet to hear which month they hope to visit us. Before I commit our congregation to inviting them, I would like to hear from you (in principal) who would be willing and able to be host to one of them. If you are unable to offer a bed but would still be interested in getting involved in this rich experience, having a meal for the group at your home

would also be an idea. You would be greatly rewarded by a wonderful evening. Please give me a call or send me an e-mail.

Contact: Mickey van Riel, 514-637-3347, orangeblue@videotron.ca

Remembering Breen Marien

Breen's accomplishments were vast. Veteran, brilliant surgeon, professor, squash, tennis and golf champion, avid skier. But the true measure of his life is the legacy he leaves as a kind and generous father, grandfather, husband, and friend and the many lives he touched as a true gentleman and caring doctor. He loved to compete, but he also knew humility. He was teacher, a storyteller, and a lover of jokes to the very end.

For all the brilliance of his career and his joie de vivre, the last chapter of Breen's life was not easy. Still he managed to find many moments of happiness, with his grandchildren, his children and through the attentive care of his wife, Joan.

When the end came it was gentle in a way that any good doctor would wish for his patients. He slipped away quietly, letting go exactly as he lived, with dignity and elegance, in control in the very last moment.

Even as Breen's body is gone and buried in peace, his spirit lives on, its legacy greater than any obituary, CV or eulogy could ever express.

Upcoming Budget Meeting

The Congregational Budget meeting will take place on Sunday, November 30th, in the Sanctuary at 12:30 p.m.

Only members whose names appear on the voting members' list will be permitted to vote.

Janine Cobb

UCM Board Secretary

Entre Nous

We remember...

Elizabeth Morton whose father died unexpectedly on October 6.

The family of **Breen Marien** who died on September 30.

The family of **Zdenek Dobrovolny** who died on October 9.

The family of **Peter Landry** who died on October 15.

Florence Stevens whose son, Michael Cushen, died on October 18.

Alison Hall whose great-uncle died in Scotland this past month.

Petrina Lee Poy whose grandmother died this past month.

Jim Nagy and **Helen Krutz-Nagy** on the death of Jim's mother.

Anna Virgini whose mother died on October 27.

We rejoice with **Nicoline Guerrier** who successfully passed her review before the Regional Subcommittee on Candidacy (RSCC). This marks Nicoline's official acceptance as a candidate in preparation for the Unitarian Universalist ministry.

A Joyous Occasion

On Sunday, October 19, members of this congregation joined together to mark a very special event, the 90th birthday of **Dorothy Clarke** and her 60 years as a member of the Unitarian Church of Montreal.

Thank you from Tessie Tomasek

I would like to thank all of you who sent me cards during my six weeks in the hospital. For a long time I could not cope with visitors or phone calls, but your support, written notes, and good wishes meant a lot to me.

Hope to be seeing you again soon..

Tessy Tomasek

First Friday Socials

This relaxed gathering, centered around a potluck meal, happens only if there is a sponsor. The RE folks successfully sponsored a First Friday social in October. If you are interested in being a sponsor for a First Friday, please check with the office about availability (office@ucmtl.ca) before advertising the event in the monthly newsletter and in the Week at a Glance e-mail (telecrew@ucmtl.ca).

Linda Bouchard, Congregational Programs Chair

Wow! What a Birthday Party!! and it was for me !!!

I don't know how I can thank everyone sufficiently. Wasn't that cake memorable? Thanks to Verna and

Nancy. To Frank for the pictures and to young Sarah for the lovely bouquet of red roses and heather -- my wedding bouquet in 1939. To Elizabeth, Laura and Charles for all their kind words. And to Florence who arranged and managed the whole procedure. We are close friends, but I didn't realize that she was prodding me into talking about my past. I thought she was just letting an old lady reminisce. My thanks to all for your presence, the cards, and all the hugs. I had intended to write notes to each of you, but I would be writing until the end of next month. My deep appreciation,

Dorothy Clarke

* Ankur Kala * Artistri * Co-op La Maison Verte * Dix Mille Villages * Empty Bowls *
* Kakiri * Kyanayawara * Mama Africa * Oxfam Equita * Pashmina * Planete Monde *
* Punku ** UNICEF * Vamos * Zatoun *

Foire d'artisanat

Équitable

Cadeaux exceptionnels, bijoux, textiles, jouets, savons et bougies, aliments équitables. Repas légers, desserts et café équitable.

Samedi 8 novembre
10 h - 16 h

Église unitarienne de Montréal /
Unitarian Church of Montreal
5035 de Maisonneuve Ouest (MÉTRO VENDÔME)
www.ucmtl.ca

Holiday Bazaar



Unique gifts, jewellery, fabrics, toys, soaps, candles, ornaments, Fair Trade food products. Light meal, desserts and Fair Trade coffee.

Activities

SUNDAYS

Religious Explorations Group

Date: November 2

Time: 12:30 pm

Location: Children's Chapel

Contact: Christine Rourke 514-761-0669

Topic for discussion: How have childhood religious education and experience shaped your life?

L'Abri en Ville Annual Card Sale

November 9 and November 16

During coffee hour, Phoenix Hall

Beautiful note cards and seasonal greeting cards featuring artwork and designs by L'Abri en Ville residents. Proceeds help to support special outings and recreational activities.

Contact: Juan Vera at 514-482-5745 or juan.vera@mcgill.ca

Pathway to Membership

Would you like to know more about Unitarian Universalism?

Would you like to become a member?

Join our minister for lunch to learn more and meet others seeking a spiritual home...

Sunday, November 9, 2008

The Meaning of Membership

Time: 12:30-3:00 pm

Location: Thomas Room

New members will be welcomed during worship services on January 11 and May 3, 2009. Note that the December 7 session has been postponed. Join us instead for a relaxing workshop about unplugging the Christmas machine. See page 10 for details.

Contact: Anna Virgini, Membership Chair 514-595-3545

Social and Environmental Concerns

Date: November 16

Time: 12:15 pm

Location: Thomas Room

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

At our last meeting, members voted on a project to adopt during the year ahead. It was not easy to choose among the many excellent suggestions, but the final favorite was: Getting to Know Our Muslim Neighbours. The idea is two-fold:

- to become more knowledgeable about Islam and the Muslim community in Quebec and Canada, through speakers, readings, and film/DVD showings
- to develop an interfaith social service/anti-poverty action project with a local Muslim group

The impetus for this project came from the UCM congregation last spring, when members cast their votes for: more interfaith activity, more community outreach, more local social action. "Our Muslim Neighbours", we think, offers an opportunity to respond to all of the above.

Other actions planned for the near future include: participating in the annual NDG Food Bank's Christmas food drive (see p.); a First Friday potluck sponsored by SECC, with a film to follow; Amnesty International signings; and a collective letter-writing campaign on

a current egregious social/environmental injustice.

Join us at our November meeting. Newcomers and friends welcome, come and check us out!

Groupe francophone

Le dimanche 23 novembre 2008 à 12 h 30

Une célébration en français au Sanctuaire (le thème et l'animateur à confirmer)

Le mois de décembre, comme d'habitude, on fait relâche. Le comité francophone souhaite de joyeuses fêtes et une bonne année à tout le monde.

Christopher Thomson, *secrétaire, Groupe francophone*

Spiritual Development Group

Sunday, November 9 at 12:30 pm

The Spiritual Development Group set up during the September Crafting Our Future workshop will be holding its first meeting in the Garden Room.

Our mandate is to look at ways in which our community could be informed of paths already available here to deepen and enhance our spiritual lives as well as looking into the possibilities of creating new programs or activities in this direction.

Even if you have not already signed up for this group, your participation is welcome.

For more information, contact Christopher Thomson at 514-634-5916.

MONDAYS**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 Service Choir commits to sing once a month in the 10:30 am Sunday service but practices weekly and informally supports the congregational singing at other Sunday services. We meet at 6:00 pm for potluck before the Monday rehearsal begins. We are a very fun and loving group of people, and we sound fantastic, so come and try us out!

Mindfulness Meditation Practice

Dates: 2nd & 4th Mondays starting November 10; 1st & 3rd Wednesdays starting November 19

Time: 6:30 - 8:30 pm

Location: Children's Chapel

Contact/Facilitator: Allen Lobo, 514-484-3014

The Mindfulness Meditation Practice 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.

Sustainability Speaker at Coop La Maison Verte:

Date: November 10

Time: 7:00 pm–9:00 pm

The Social and Environmental Concerns Committee joins with Coop La Maison Verte to sponsor guest speaker, Mike Nickerson at the Coop, located at 5785 Sherbrooke Street West (near Wilson Ave.), tel. 514-489-8000.

Mike Nickerson, a well-known speaker on issues regarding sustainability, is a former Green Party candidate, and has written several books including: *Life, Money and Illusion* and *Planning for Seven Generations*. This promises to be an exciting and informative evening. Do plan to attend.

For further information, please contact: Patricia Philip, 514-342-6118, trish_philip@yahoo.ca

TUESDAYS**Seeking the Sacred in Stories**

Led by Rev. Diane Rollert

Monthly Brown Bag Lunch Group

Dates: November 4, December 2

Time: Noon to 1:00 pm

Location: Garden Room (formerly known as the "Former Ministers' Room")

Bring a brown bag lunch. This fall we'll be reading short stories from the book *Island* by Alistair MacLeod, (Toronto: Emblem Editions, 2000). On November 4: "*The Golden Gift of Grey*." On December 2: "*The Return*." Copies of the stories are available from the office, or from Diane's mailbox.

**The Responsibility to Protect (R2P): "Making Atrocities History"**

Date: November 18,

Time: 7:30 pm

Location: Phoenix Hall

Speakers: Warren Allmand, Patricia Philip, Bill Hartzog

A year ago, the world helplessly watched the brutal suppression of the protesting monks in Myanmar. At the time, a well-known Chinese professor told an American newspaper "Morally, China is doing no better than Myanmar, and we are in no position to tell them what to do. China has used tanks to kill people on Tiananmen Square (in 1989). It is Myanmar's sovereign right to kill their own people, too. Only the UN Security Council can decide who can intervene." R2P is an attempt to provide a challenge to that norm, to provide an alternative response to massive human rights' violations. R2P, adopted unanimously by the UN General Assembly in 2005, states that when sovereign states fail to protect their own people, either through ill will or incapacity, it is the collective responsibility of the international community to take appropriate action.

Can we meet the challenges of applying the R2P concept, appropriately limited in scope, using military force only as a last resort? Bring your questions, concerns, and hopes to our discussion. The meeting is sponsored by the Montreal Branch of the World Federalist Movement-Canada..

Information: Carol Greene, cgreene@sympatico.ca

Carmina Choir

Dates: Tuesdays

Time: 7:30 pm

Contact: Keith Robinson 514-931-9028 or Brian Brice 514-843-6497

Rehearsals are being held on Tuesday nights in the Phoenix Hall at 7:30 pm for a Christmas Sing-A-Long Concert which will be on Saturday, December 6.

New members in all voices are very welcome. The ability to read is not necessary and there is no audition. Audio aids are provided to supplement rehearsals.

Bring a sense of humour and good will—with 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: 2nd & 4th Mondays starting November 10; 1st & 3rd Wednesdays starting November 19

Time: 6:30 - 8:30 pm

Location: Children's Chapel

Contact/Facilitator: Allen Lobo, 514-484-3014

See the entry under **Mondays** for a full description.

Book Discussion Group

Date: November 19

Time: 7:00 pm

Location: Thomas Room

Contact: Kathy Douglas, 514-488-9608

In the Arctic, where the sun never sets in June and the only way in or out is by air, life takes on a certain urgency. Harry falls in love with a voice. Gwen creates her own voice. Eddy's voice is cruel. All work at a Yellowknife radio station. All flew north over the 60th parallel, but all still carry the baggage of their southern lives. When summer comes, four venture by canoe into the harsh wilderness of the Barrens ... we'll discuss Elizabeth Hay's *Late Nights on Air*.

Midday Meal with Music

Date: November 19

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, November 16 at 8:00 pm so the cooks will buy enough food.

THURSDAYS

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.

Soul Time

Date: November 13

Time: 7:30 pm

Location: Children's Chapel

*Come and find the quiet centre
in the crowded life we lead,
find the room for hope to enter,
find the frame where we are freed:
clear the chaos and the clutter,
close our eyes, that we can see
all the things that really matter,
be at peace and simply be.*

...so goes the first verse of one of my favourite songs that we sang in my "old" church, and for me, they speak to the core of a "worship service." I know the very word "worship" is troubling to some, redolent as it may be to them of certain harsh, theistic views. But in our church, as in many liberal Christian, Jewish and Muslim circles these days, what "worship" is all about is taking time to connect with what matters most, however we understand that.

This song certainly sums up what our monthly, mid-week service focuses on: taking time to "clear the chaos and the clutter" in an intimate, relaxed, informal setting. What do we do in this time? We do what works for those who choose to come. Right now we meet in the Children's Chapel. We use lots and lots of candles and turn the lights down low. We always include a short time of meditation and a time of sharing with the circle (but this sharing is entirely in your control – you don't have to say a word if you don't want to). Sometimes someone may bring their drum, sometimes some people will sing quietly. It's entirely a lay-led group, and we try to share leadership. It's a small group, usually about six of us, but we may get a little bigger. It can be a great way to renew your spirit and recharge your

batteries; it can also be a great way to be part of a small group without making a commitment to always be there.

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.

Special Events

Leadership Development Conference for Youth and Adults

November 28-30, Mississauga

This is a super, energizing conference, designed for youth and adult youth leaders, who want to develop their skills and confidence as leaders. I attended this conference last year in Saint John, N.B., and I highly recommend it. This year, it is being held in Mississauga, Ontario. It would be great to send an adult or two, particularly those not parents of youth presently in the youth group; they would have the rewarding experience of sharing what they learned in our community, particularly, as youth allies. We'd also like to send one or two youth who are interested in this empowering experience, and who would like to use what they've learned, and be a positive enriching force in our community. For further information on the possibil-

ity of attending, contact Elizabeth Charbonneau at e_charbonneau@sympatico.ca; at 450-464-3597; or 514-755-7756.

Creating a Caring Network

The Unitarian Church of Montreal has long been known as a caring place and many of you have long been involved in gestures of caring to members and friends of our congregation. This may have involved acting as chauffeur, visiting others in hospital or at home, preparing or bringing food, sending cards or notes, or just calling to check in.

Our hope is to add structure and an element of coordination to this informal Caring Network to strengthen our outreach while lightening everyone's load through the help of many hands. To do this, we ask you to please come to a meeting after Sunday services in the Thomas Room on:

Sunday, November 2, at 12:15 pm.

If you know of others who might like to be involved, please bring them along.

If you cannot be present but would like to have a report about what takes place, please get in touch with Janine Cobb at 514-938-9617, janine.cobb@gmail.com.

Mark your calendar! Eastern Regional Fall Gathering

November 7-9, 2008
Kingston Unitarian Fellowship
Kingston Ontario

Theme: **At The Confluence:
Réunissons Nous Où Les Eaux Se Rejoignent**

Join Unitarian*Universalists from the Eastern region of Canadian congregations (Kingston to Avalon) for a weekend of fellowship, learning, sharing, worship and

fun. There are programs for adults, children, youth and junior youth. Home hospitality usually offered. For details visit <http://cuc.ca/programs/gatherings.htm> or contact Diana Marvel, Associational Affairs Chair. Diana will help coordinate car-pooling to Kingston. Look for details also on the Information Kiosk and the Associational Affairs bulletin board in Phoenix Hall.

Contact: Diana Marvel,
diana.marvel@gmail.com

Inspirations From Lachine and The Lakeshore

October 31 through January 4

An exhibition of works by Deirdre McCay (UCM member) and Stewart Fletcher

Vernissage, Sunday, November 2 at 2:00pm

L'Entrepôt, 2901 boulevard Saint-Joseph in Lachine

Deirdre's work, inspired by the Lachine Canal landscape, includes paintings and pastel.

Information at 514-637-7587

Bidnite at King Arthur's Court!

Saturday, November 15

Dust off your gowns and crowns, jesters' hats and knight's armour and join members and friends at Bidnite on Saturday, Nov. 15th at the church. Doors open at 4:30, dinner and fixed-price auction begin at 5:00, live auction begins at 6:00, followed by dessert. Childcare and entertainment are enthusiastically provided. Please deposit your offers in the Bidnite envelope on the kiosk in Phoenix Hall or mail them to the church office by Nov. 9th. If you have any questions please contact Elizabeth Anglin at 514-937-4095 or Linda Bouchard at 514-849-2739. We hope to see you at Bidnite!

Fair Trade Holiday Bazaar

Saturday, Nov. 8, 10 am – 4 pm

The Unitarian Church of Montreal is sponsoring our annual Fair Trade Holiday Bazaar. There will be a diverse range of 15 artisans and organizations dedicated to selling Fair Trade products and crafts which support fair economic practices and anti-poverty initiatives in developing countries (among them: UNICEF, OXFAM-Equita, PUNKU, Dix Milles Villages, Co-op La Maison Verte, Mama Africa and --new this year-- Pachmina and Artistri). You can do your holiday shopping, have some delicious treats at our bistro and, at the same time, find out more about the Fair Trade movement and ethical buying. Don't forget to try the cookies, made with Fair Trade chocolate by the children in the Religious Education program. This event continues to support the Unitarian Service Committee's Seeds of Survival program through proceeds of the bistro, table rentals, RE cookies and Empty Bowls sale.

Contacts: Trudy Blumstein 514-486-2567, Susan Gyetvay 514-369-8192

Religious Education

Peace Peas Soup Project Very Pleasing!

On Thanksgiving Sunday, a day when there are usually low numbers of children and youth at church, we had an all-ages work session in the Chapel instead of our regular RE classes. About a dozen children and half dozen adults (some non-parent volunteers, too) worked to package up a total of 33 one pound Ziploc bags of green and yellow split peas, along with dried vegetable flakes and black pepper. Each bag (well sealed -- af-

ter I accidentally spilled the demo bag, and we had an unexpected teaching moment!) was tied round the "waist" with a bright ribbon, and then the children decorated and attached a card in which the recipe and this greeting was printed in both languages:

Our Religious Education classes have been learning how to be peacemakers. We made this soup mix together for you. We hope that you enjoy your peace peas soup!

Peace! The children of the Unitarian Church of Montreal

Thanks to the delivery services of Jack Cobb, the Peace Peas were donated to the Mile End Mission in time for their post-Thanksgiving food bank day – a worker there assured me their clients would be glad to cook up some peas-ful soup! We all enjoyed this project so much we might do it again next year – and the RE Committee is thinking about how to have the children contribute to and/or help collect the funds to buy the supplies, beforehand, so the whole lesson takes on an even fuller meaning for the our young UUs.

Sunday November 23rd: "Being Peacemakers" soup and film date for families: save this Sunday after church to have fun together. Further details to come.

"Being Peacemakers" Now in RE Hallway

Have you noticed the big wooden literature display rack in the downstairs hallway, outside the Children's Chapel? I have been wondering if anyone looks at it, and hope to attract more browsers there! I intend to keep the books in the rack fairly current and relevant to what is being taught in RE Classes or shared during the "Time for All Ages". For instance, after the 28th of September

service about Yom Kippur and Ramadan, a handsome public library book called Sound the Shofar! was added to our display of books about both faith communities. Anyone is welcome to borrow these featured books (for a limited time, of course).

Then our custodian, Helmut, produced an old set of horizontal painted shelves which just fit underneath the display rack, and an idea was born! Knowing how much young people like to handle things, I decided to ask our RE children and families to bring in three dimensional objects that have something to do with "Being Peacemakers", our current RE theme, so we can have a display area on those shelves (don't bring anything too precious, please).

For a start, we have the word PEACE made of large copper letters and hung on a string; a white china dove-of-peace lamp; an example of our Peace Peas Soup packets (perhaps in a few weeks we'll make the soup for snack); a box of yoga cards (because doing yoga is a way to help ourselves feel peaceful – this was reported by a member of the Junior Youth Group class recently); and some plastic "peace beads" sold by the Raging Grannies to raise money for helping combat HIV/AIDS in Africa.

So come and look at our display area, borrow books, and/or contribute some objet to set on the shelves for a little while. And while you're there, notice the beautiful quilt made of squares drawn by RE classes in BF ("before the fire"), and pieced together by the indefatigable Maychai Brown, then our DRE. Some of you might be interested to see if you can find your own – or your child's – square from years ago – check it out, and PEACE to you!

Report from Rhetta Parnas on teaching Peacemaking October 5th:

A collaborative painting was created by the junior youth and their teachers to explore how a group of individuals can come together and create something special. Each participant chose a colour of paint, and we took turns adding a single stroke to a large sheet of paper. Watching what developed was a surprise to all - there was no plan from on high! The painting turned out like "something in a museum", as one of the youth observed, and now hangs on our classroom wall. You can still see the individual colours and strokes, but together a beautiful piece of art was made.

Wounded Word of the Month

What does the word **FAITH** mean for you?

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

Wounded words are the words of religion that may have been used to wound us — or they can be words we love whose definitions have been co-opted by others. On October 19th, members of the congregation wrote down "wounded words" they'd like to discuss together each month. This word is the first in an ongoing series. If you'd like to know more, see Diane's sermon, "Reflecting on Wounded Words," at www.ucmtl.ca.

Our Whole Lives (OWL) news:

(OWL is the UUA-developed series of curricula for holistic sexuality education that we have begun to offer within this church's religious education (RE) programs)

- Two young adults were sponsored by RE to attend an OWL training session for Jr and Sr High teachers. The weekend took place at the Ottawa Congregation, and both Ivy O'Reilly and Lauren Delrio are excited about sharing what they learned.
- Congregants who have been trained in OWL are creating a new "OWL task force" under the leadership of Carlene Gardner, to oversee the development of OWL within UCM.
- Plans are afoot for an OWL class for our "Primers", or Gr 1-4 children. It would be held in the winter, with an intro session for parents early in January — ask questions and watch for details!
- Prue Rains has donated her Sr High OWL curriculum books to the Religious Education library, for which we are very grateful. The books are quite expensive and we are glad that the RE budget is big enough to buy more OWL materials this year.

Blessings,

Caroline Balderston Parry, *DRE*



2009 Pledge Campaign

Our pledge campaign to raise funds for 2009 is now underway. If you have not already received our pledge request and information, you should be receiving it soon. This year we chose to go green with a "less paper" campaign, and are contacting the majority of you by e-mail. For those who are not on our e-mail list, we have used traditional mail.

We hope that you will respond generously to our campaign. Our goal this year is to raise \$215 000. You can make your pledge by e-mail, traditional mail, or by bringing your pledge coupon to Commitment Sunday on November 16th. Our congregational budget meeting will follow on November 30th.

If in the next few days you still have not been contacted and you would like to make a pledge, please contact the office either by e-mail at office@ucmtl.ca, or by telephone at 514-485-9933 and we will be glad to send you a pledge card and information. We would also be delighted to take your pledge on the spot!

I wish you all a successful campaign.

David Kersulis

President of the Board of Management



Memorial Flowers

Nov. 2 Roddy Languedoc

Nov. 9 *To honour the memory of those members of the congregation who gave their lives in war.*

Nov. 16 Anna Kalf

Nov. 23 Alexander and Dilys Watt

Nov. 30 Tom Hall

Remembrance Day Service: The Generations Remember

On November 9 Rev. Diane Rollert will officiate a Remembrance Day Service, with special music featuring Toby Harper (son of Brian Merrett), Sylvan and Lily Lanken (children of Anna McGarrigle and Dane Lanken) and Kathleen Weldon.

Please join us for a 25-year anniversary service recreating the music sung by Kate, Anna and Jane McGarrigle, Dane Lanken, Kenneth Mackenzie and Brian Merrett during the Remembrance Day service observed in our former sanctuary on Simpson Street and broadcast on CBC radio in 1983. Twenty-five years later, the children of the original singers will honour their parents, grandparents, and veterans by singing the same songs lamenting the emotional and physical costs of war.

You are needed: Christmas Food Drive in NDG, December 5

Place this date on your calendar now: Saturday, December 5, 2008. Please. That is when you can join other UCM friends and members in putting the annual Christmas food drive sponsored by the NDG Food Bank over the top!

Interested participants need to have a car – or to join another participant who has one. There will be two persons in each car – a driver and someone who can hop in and out to pick up the food. The food bank, which starts collecting the names of donors at the end of October, provides each car with a list of pick-up points. Your commitment can be for the morning, the afternoon, or all day. Let's help people in our neighborhood to enjoy Christmas dinner with their families and friends! Sponsored by the Social and Environmental Concerns Committee.

For more information, contact May Kersten at 514-769-9459.

Unplug the Christmas Machine: Intergenerational Gathering

Sunday, December 7, after service

Plan ahead to de-stress the holidays! Save December 7th after the service and come to a special gathering for adults who would like to "unplug the Christmas machine" (children's gingerbread-gift-making activity at the same time), led by Rev. Diane Rollert and DRE Caroline Balderston Parry.

Nominating Committee Update

Two positions to be filled immediately

Two portfolio chairs are currently vacant on the UCM board: Building Chair and Worship Chair. Serving on the board in any capacity is a very rewarding experience and a significant contribution to the life of our congregation. If you are curious about what either of these positions entails, or already interested, please contact one of the members of the Nominating Committee. We are very grateful to Bob Edgar who has been handling Building matters as well as the Treasurer's work in the last few months. For more information, please contact:

Alison Hall, Past President and Chair, 514-636-8406

Anna Virgini, Membership Chair, 514-595-3545

Phyllis Greggain, Warden, 514-366-0618

Prue Rains, 514-481-8653

Elizabeth Anglin, 514-937-4095

Turkish Riviera UU style

Travel with UUs and spend a week on the Mediterranean in Kas, on the Turkish Riviera, with a room of your own, May 4-11, 2009 Our charming 3-star hotel has a swimming pool and small pebble beach. Three days of excursions include a day-cruise on the sea in a gulet visiting Kekova, and visits to Saklikent Gorge, Xanthos, Patara, Myra, and Demre. Kas has many optional activities to offer — e.g., swim in the sea with dolphins. We need a minimum of ten people signed up for this to be a go. Please sign up by December 15, 2008.

Contact Beverly Carr bgcarr@rogers.com 416-939-4007.

Neighbourhood UU Congregation,
Toronto.



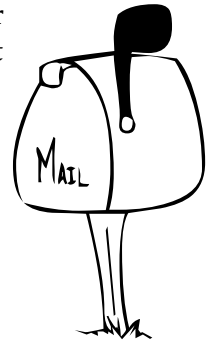
December newsletter submissions

E-mail your submissions to news@ucmtl.ca or place them in the mailbox upstairs. Please include your name, phone number and email address to your article or notice. If you host a regular event, let us know of any cancellations or changes. Please put the section title in the subject line of the email (ex.: "Item for Entre Nous").

Deadline: Wednesday, November 19 at 8:00 pm

We do not open the mailbox after the deadline date so if you have late-breaking news send an email directly to Marion Blake, marion.blake@sympatico.ca or Ann Howell, ann.howell@gmail.com

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.



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Mouvement universaliste au Québec:

Website: www.uuqc.ca

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Memorial flowers: Joan Watt 514-937-8456

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

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