

Sunday Worship Service Themes

October 4

**Turkey to Transylvania,
Part II**

Rev. Diane Rollert

Music by Sandra Hunt

October 11

**Thanksgiving Sunday
Paulus, A Portrait of Sceptical
Theologian Paul Tillich**

Rev. Charles Eddis

Music by Sandra Hunt

October 18

**The Cat Tied to the Tree
Rev. Diane Rollert**

Music by Sandra Hunt

On this day we will encourage contributions to the UU-United Nations Office, as well as prepare for the International Day of Climate Change Action on October 24.

October 25

The Keys to this Kingdom

Rev. Diane Rollert

Musician to be confirmed.

Share-the-Plate

For the month of October, all the unidentified cash in the Sunday offertory will be given to Mile End Community Mission www.mileendmission.org

Message from the Minister

Welcome to the new newsletter of the Unitarian Church of Montreal. Here we have gathered to share and celebrate the work we do to fulfil our mission as a spiritual community. Gathered here, we welcome, nurture, inspire, and challenge each other to think, to care and to take action in the world.

“To gather” is an important word in our Unitarian tradition. It means that we are individuals who come together to share equally in community. Gathered here, we each have a voice. Deepest gratitude goes to all the voices and busy hands that have made this newsletter possible. (See message from Carol Cumming Speirs on page 2)

May these pages keep you informed, uplift your spirits, touch your heart and inspire you so much that you want to leap out of your chair and head to UCM to get involved.

Happy gathering, Rev. Diane Rollert

The President's Very Personal Message

This summer proved to be more trying for me than expected. A much-anticipated three-week vacation in Cacouna, Quebec with my partner William was interrupted within the first week with the news that my father was in the hospital dying of cancer.

He had been hospitalized a week before I left on my trip, but there had not yet been a diagnosis. On June 30 he was told that he had a large tumour in his colon, and cancer in the liver and the lungs.

He died peacefully in palliative care on July 10.

I have nothing but great admiration for our UCM Caring Committee, whose representative for July was Barbara Jackson. We communicated via e-mail, a medium that I found very therapeutic. Writing down what I was experiencing before and immediately following my father's death was, as I realized later, a very important step in the grieving process.

My father was cremated in Ontario, and brought back to Montreal for a memorial service. The phone calls and cards of condolence that I received from my UCM community and the large turnout at the memorial service was more than I ever expected. I'm so grateful for those who make the UCM not just a gathering of people but also an extension of a loving family. Thank you. It meant a lot to me, and it meant a lot to my mother to see that her son is well cared for.

My second term as your president is now well underway. As promised last year, I look forward to greeting you each Sunday morning out front. I encourage all of us to use the front door in a gesture of solidarity in making our front entrance a place of welcome to all.

David Kersulis



Message from Caroline Balderston Parry

Let the water flow...

Our theme in our first few weeks in Religious Education classes is water.

After the September 13 water communion in the sanctuary, our RE children adjourned to the chapel to have a water-themed opening program. They shared joys and concerns, sang “Deep Blue Sea”, drank tap water for snack, found pictures of water in many forms for the bulletin board in the stairwell, and listened to a wonderful spoken word/song piece called “Bottle This!” written by my daughter, performer Evalyn Parry. You can read her words on the same board, or listen to what she has to say about “Water is a human right, not a luxury at www.evalynparry.com/recordings/

We also launch Spirit Play this fall.

The children will have their own water communion ceremonies in their classrooms, as well as drinking water for their feast. (We’ve decided not to serve juice any more, in hopes of protecting our new foam interlocking mats). For the water communion, they’ll speak lines ending with the phrase, “This is the water of our community.” After exploring some wondering questions such as “I wonder how your water is the same as the others?” as a group, they will have time to explore their learning in their own work spaces, such as painting with water colours, tracing a finger labyrinth, writing a water poem, or doing underwater scene puzzles.

We are setting up a “Church Corner” in each room with various accoutrements of a church service, which is where the tray for the water ceremony items will be kept, along with hymnals and a chalice. If anyone has any garments to make or donate that would resemble a minister’s formal robe or stole, let us know.

The Junior Youth teachers and leaders, Ivy Trudel, our new RE assistant and Youth Programs Coordinator and I are all busy planning sleep overs and related programs for our youth. It should be a great year.

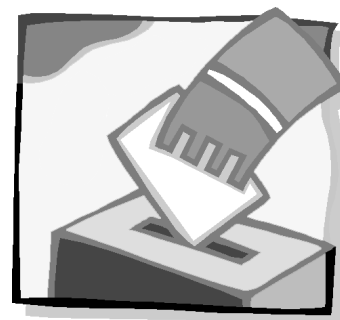
Intergenerational Activity

Become a Mystery Friend

You’ll get to know other people of all generations in our congregation through the exchange of cards, riddles, pictures, books, movie recommendations, and fun hints about your true identity.

Every week, messages are dropped in a “Mystery Friend Mailbox” located in the main entrance to the church. You must commit to writing at least once a week and attending the Mystery Friend Luncheon (which falls on Valentine’s Day this year), where you get to meet your mystery friend and celebrate!

To be a Mystery Friend, please fill out and drop off the application form on Sunday mornings (forms are in the Mystery Friends Information area in the main church foyer). Applications accepted until October 18. For questions or info, contact Hendrik Boom, the Mystery Friend Coordinator, at (514) 918-6007 or by email at hendrik@topoi.poog.com.



What's going on...

Family Fun Day

Sunday, October 4, noon to 3pm

Phoenix Hall

Folks of all ages are invited for an afternoon of face painting, balloon animals, music and crafts. Lunch will be provided and childcare available in nursery until 3pm

Please RSVP to Petrina Lee Poy at petrina_lee_poy@yahoo.com or 514-485-5555 **no later than September 30.**

Fair Trade Holiday Bazaar

Saturday November 14, 10 am to 4 pm

Shop for the holidays while supporting USC Canada's Seeds of Survival Program.

Fair Trade vendors and artisans include: UNICEF, Zatoun, Mama Afrika, Dix Milles Villages, OXFAM Equita and so many others.

Buy unique gifts, jewelry, toys, soaps, accessories, candles, ornaments, and fair trade food products, and don't forget to visit the bistro for a light lunch and homemade sweets.

And if you'd like to volunteer for this wonderful event, contact Susan Gyetvay sgyetvay@sympatico.ca 514-369-8192 or Trudy Blumstein tiblooms@videotron.ca 514-486-2567

Monthly Groups and Programs

Exploring the Intangible

Sunday, October 4, 12:30 pm

Children's Chapel

Contact: Christine Rourke: 514-761-0669

Topic: Our church is the umbrella for a number of religious options. Are we always as tolerant of the beliefs (or non-beliefs) of others as we are supposed to be? If not, what should we do about this?

All are welcome.

Drumming Circle

Thursday, October 15, 6:30 – 8:30 pm

(third Thursday each month)

Phoenix Hall

Contact: Ann Beer, 514-426-1204
or Alan Lobo 514-484-3014

Social and Environmental Concerns Committee

Sunday, October 18, 12:15 pm

Thomas Room (upstairs)

Topic: Consultation with the Governance Task Force. Committee members and those interested in our social justice work are encouraged to attend so we can give a clear picture of our ambitions for the future.

Midday meal with Music

Wednesday, October 21

Lunch: 12:20 pm; Music: 1:30 pm

Please call Ruth di Giovanni

To reserve: 514-934-4956

Book Discussion Group

Wednesday, October 28, 7 pm

Thomas Room

Peony in Love by Lisa See is probably the most astonishing novel you'll ever read.

Contact: Kathy Douglas, tel 514-488-9608

Seeking the Sacred in Stories

Tuesdays October 27

12:00 - 1:15 pm

Facilitated by Rev. Diane Rollert

Bring your own brown bag lunch and join this ongoing group, as we deepen in community and search for meaning in the stories we read. All are welcome. We meet in the Garden Room on the first lower level of the church. Copies of the stories are available from the office.

Pathway to Membership

Saturday, October 17, 2009

9:30 am – 12:30 pm

Would you like to know more about Unitarian Universalism?

Would you like to become a member?

Join our minister for our new member orientation program to learn about our Unitarian and Universalist heritage and the meaning of membership.

New members will be welcomed during a 10:30

Sunday service on November 8, 2009.

RSVP to Petrina Lee Poy, petrina_lee_poy@yahoo.com

Weekly Groups and Programs

Parts in Peace Choir

Mondays, 7:30 pm

(except Thanksgiving Monday, Oct. 12)

Contact: Sandra Hunt, director, 514-484-5559

The Sunday service choir rehearses weekly at in Phoenix Hall after an optional potluck dinner (around 6:15pm). The choir's main purpose is to perform at least once a month for the Sunday service and to help the congregation gain confidence and joy in singing. You do not have to read music to join, but we need committed choristers to fulfill our purpose. Bring a black binder for your music and a pencil for notations.

Mindfulness Meditation

Wednesdays, 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm

Children's Chapel

Contact Allen Lobo 514-484-3014

The sessions are open to all. This meditation practice helps those who are stressed and those who may be considered easygoing; it builds self-confidence, acceptance of all life/feelings without judgment. It facilitates "Present Moment living."

Play Group

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10 am – noon

Nursery

We welcome children under five on a drop-in basis accompanied by a (grand)parent or care giver. Pack a snack for your child(ren). Coffee is provided.

Open to all, whether church member or not. No charge, but a donation of \$3/session per family is suggested.

Carmina Choir

Tuesdays, 7:30pm

Phoenix Hall

Contacts: Keith Robinson 514-931-9028, Brian Brice 514-843-6497

CARMINA is preparing for a concert on Saturday, December 5 entitled "Let there be light!" Music by Handel, Haydn and Mendelssohn and the ever-popular Christmas Carol sing-a-long are being prepared this season. New members are always welcome. Bring joyful voice, a sense of humour and, if possible, a black binder. The ability to read music is not necessary.

New Program

Spirit of Life Workshops

Information session October 4.

The Spirit of Life workshops offer participants space, time, and community to explore their Unitarian Universalist spirituality. Each focuses on a different aspect of the spiritual life, framed by the lyrics of Carolyn McDade's song "Spirit of Life." Like the song, the Spirit of Life workshops are designed to be welcoming to Unitarian Universalists of many spiritual and theological persuasions. Participants are invited to claim an inclusive definition of spirituality and to recognize the spiritual aspects of their lives.

In these workshops, participants will reflect on the questions, "What experiences or moments have you had of feeling "wow"—feelings of oneness with the earth, feelings of connection with the mystery and wonder of the universe, or a sense of God or the Spirit of Life?" "How have celebrations and rituals helped express your spirituality, and help you connect with the Spirit of Life?" "What calls out for your care and compassion?" "How does your spirituality relate to the earth and our natural environment?" "In what ways do you show care, love, and respect to yourself? To others?" "What are the roots that 'hold you close' and the wings that 'set you free'?" "If you could reach your full potential as a person in touch with the spirit of life, what would you be like?" Reflection will help participants grow spiritual in awareness and connection.

Four sessions will be held this Fall on alternative Sundays starting October 18 at 12:30. (Oct 18, Nov. 1, Nov. 15 and Nov. 29).

Maximum 10 participants so sign up early if interested. In order to maintain the integrity and intimacy of the group, we ask those who register to commit to attending all four sessions.

Want to know more?

An introductory meeting will be held on Sunday, October 4 at 12:30 following coffee hour. Please contact any member of the team to register. The Spirit of Life team: Dima Dupéré (dimadupere@videotron.ca), Roseann Baatz, Tara Bissett

Message from the Treasurer

Funding our mission

The financial statement for our church through August shows that we are on budget for the year to date for both income and expenses. But I'd like to give you a little more background and some food for thought.

Each year our expenditures are always more than our income. We cover this deficit by withdrawing the requisite amount from our endowment fund. From 2004 through 2008 our deficit amounted to roughly 15% of our total expenses. This year it is 31%. We will have to withdraw nearly the full amount from the endowment fund as permitted by our bylaws. Thus we are on the edge of our capabilities to fund our activities.

The reasons? Income is expected to decline by \$34,000 in 2009 and expenditures are expected to be up by \$19,000 (all as salaries and employment contracts).

We started the year with a dark cloud over the economic sky. Today the uncertainty has declined considerably (if you are employed) and the stock market has rebounded. If we had a lower deficit to fund, there would be more money available to take action in the world and be true to our mission. As we come to pledge season I hope you this keep in mind.

Bob Edgar, Treasurer

Taking Action in the World

Peace Film Days @ Cinema du Parc

Cinema du Parc has agreed to screen "Peace Film Days" from September 28 to October 7 as part of the festivities of the International Day of Peace and the official visit to Montreal of the Dalai Lama. One of the films, sponsored by the World Federalist Movement – Canada, will be *The Strangest Dream*, a documentary about physicist and Nobel Peace Prize winner Joseph Rotblat.

The Dalai Lama will speak at the Bell Centre on Oct. 3, at 2:30 p.m. on "Educating the Heart: The Power of Compassion". Tickets range from \$20 to \$60. Tickets may be purchased on-line at: www.geg.ca/en/show/event/3148.

For further information, please contact Carol Greene cgreene@sympatico.ca or Patricia Philip trish_philip@yahoo.ca

Climate Change Demo - Join us!

A large demonstration to show the Government that Canadians are serious in their desire to see firm action on a comprehensive and binding treaty to prevent catastrophic climate change is planned on Parliament Hill in Ottawa for Saturday October 24. Our board has given its approval for us to use the The Unitarian Church of Montreal banner for this event. We hope to gather a strong group from all ages in our church to help bring this important message to our elected representatives. This demonstration takes place in anticipation of The United Nations' Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen, December 7- 18 2009.

Christina Duvander and Patricia Philip

For more information, see www.350.org or www.eco-justice.org (then click "Join the 350 Movement").

Come sleep with us!

Planning to come to the 2010 Olympics in Vancouver?

Beacon Unitarian Church in the Tri-Cities suburb of Vancouver, BC is offering in-home bed and breakfast, January through March, 2010. For information go to www.BeaconUnitarian.org or call registrar, Joy Silver at (604) 939-2213 or e-mail odetojoy@telus.net

Summer Services Thank You

This has been an excellent season. Sincere thanks to all who contributed and helped in many little ways.

Warm thanks to Gwen Spurril and Hendrik Boom, Hari Thakur, Cym Gomery and Alain Bacheongi, Louise Yard, Emanuel Freitas, Mark Abley, Allen Lobo, Kirsten McKeown for stimulating and soothing services. Often we went into overtime.

Carlyle said, "Who is there that, in logical words, can express the effect music has on us?" Louise Halperin voice and piano—memorable, Emanuel Freitas' lively piano, Marie France Boivert's warmth on the viola, Shawn Dohring's guitar and songs that encouraged participation and Brian Brice (Director of the Carmina Choir) who willingly filled in when we asked. Visiting musicians Cheryl Braganza (piano), Francine Jarry (songs and guitar) and Lana Tomlin (violin) were greatly appreciated. Thank you.

Finally the people who helped in other ways. Chris Neilsen (librarian) who made it possible for us to send messages to people who were unable to attend. Nancy Grundy and Rex Batten who helped with the collection and the refreshments.

Christopher Thomson for translating and Sylvia Heuckendorff for the lovely quiet floral arrangements. And to you who attended, thank you.

David Horan, Aldyth Harrison

Le Groupe francophone

Le vendredi 2 octobre à 18 h : Le cercle de discussion à l'Église. Apportez un plat à partager pour le souper. Notre sujet de discussion sera " l'éducation ou l'instruction ? " Tout le monde est le bienvenu.

Le dimanche 11 octobre à 12 h : La réunion de travail du Comité francophone afin de préparer nos activités. Venez nous rencontrer et partager vos idées autour d'un petit lunch dans la Salle Thomas.

Le dimanche 18 octobre à 10 h 30 : L'éducation religieuse pour les enfants porte sur le thème du bien et du mal. Lisa et Rita attendent vos enfants.

Le dimanche 25 octobre à 12 h 45 : Une célébration au Sanctuaire. Le thème Éclipse de la foi, un discours prononcé par Peter Morales, le président actuel de l'UUA, sera repris en français par Hannelore. La foi doit-elle disparaître ? Qui guidera nos coeurs et nos esprits ? Découvrez ce qu'en dit Peter Morales.

Soyez des nôtres le dimanche 25 octobre ! Besoin de gardiens pour vos enfants ? Communiquez par courriel avec Ivy avant le mercredi 21 octobre : irishivy@gmail.com

Le vendredi 6 novembre à 18 h : Le cercle de discussion à l'Église. Nous avons invité Bernard Lomberelle, auteur du livre *Quiproquo sur Dieu : 3500 ans pour élucider la véritable identité du " Seigneur " d'Abraham, l'ancêtre des trois religions monothéistes.* Le livre se trouve en librairie, et les éditeurs, ÉDITAS, seront aussi présents durant cette soirée. Apportez un plat à partager pour souper. Tout le monde est le bienvenu.

And...

A great big thank you to Aldyth Harrison and David Horan for organizing our Sunday services this summer. They've put in a tremendous amount of work and their service is greatly appreciated. Thanks also to those who led services, provided music for services, and helped with things like refreshments for after!

Kirstin McKeown, Worship Committee Chair

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Church Administrator: Verna Litwack
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Director of Religious Education:
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Memorial Flowers:
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cerourke@mail.com or Maychai Brown
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Lay Chaplains:
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Nicoline Guerrier
450.458.5860 nguerrier@hudson.net

October newsletter submissions

Email submissions to news@ucmtl.ca or place them (typed please) in the Newsletter mailbox at the church. Include your name and coordinates with your article or notice.

Deadline: Wednesday, November 18

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