

September Worship Calendar

September 5

Presenter Kirstin McKeown

What Makes Us Human?

September 12, 2010

Returning to the Source

Water Communion

Rev. Diane Rollert

Sandra Hunt, musician

Whether you stay home or travel far this summer, bring back a very small container of water to represent a summer experience and to share in our annual homecoming ritual. Don't forget to boil any water that comes from ponds, rivers, etc.

First Sunday collection of non-perishable food for the NDG Food Depot (exceptionally on second Sunday).

September 19

Rev. Diane Rollert

The Love People

Sandra Hunt, musician

September 26

Rev. Diane Rollert

Behind Every Good Man

Sandra Hunt, musician

A Message from Our Minister

Coming home...

As I write, the sun is shining and Montreal is dressed in green and adorned with flowers. It is so good to be home.

My travels took me far away this summer and I have come back renewed in body, spirit and especially in faith. In June I witnessed the remarkable rallying of the American Unitarian Universalists around issues of immigration at the General Assembly in Minneapolis. Our principles of inherent worth and dignity have launched our American cousins into remarkable action.

In July my travels took me to the Netherlands where I met with 60 Unitarian and Universalist ministers from around the world. It was our first-ever international gathering. Again, the energy and the deepening sense of purpose were electrifying.

During that same week, I joined with clergy and lay leaders in a theological symposium that challenged us to consider what we have in common across our many borders. There are many differences across our varied expressions of our liberal faith. Yet there is so much that unites us, each of us bringing our passion for human dignity and rights, and our love for this earth.

Coming home, I find that our community is already abuzz with activity. Throughout the summer, members have shared their considerable talents, and the summer services have been vital. Thank you to everyone who made worship possible this summer. Several teams have been meeting and working on deepening connections and supporting the future of this congregation. There is much planned (already!) for the months to come.

There's something in the air here. Something is happening that is truly counter-cultural in a wonderfully inspiring way. Come find out more! Join us as we gather together in homecoming on September 12. It will be a joy to see you.

Namasté,
Diane

Memorial Flowers

Sept. 5 - Dr. Ellen Terry

Sept. 12 - Ronnie Terry

Sept. 19 - Stan and Jean Cumming and their son Peter Cumming

Sept. 26 - The families of Grazyana & Juan Vera

Please contact Maychai Brown 514-487-3236; or Christine Rourke 514-761-0669 if you would like to remember a friend or loved one in this special way. The cost of the flower arrangement is \$50. At the moment, the dates of Dec. 5 and Jan. 30 are open.

Welcome and Nurture

Welcome Unitarians

Sunday Service Greeters are needed for September. If you have not been a greeter before, don't worry. There are easy to follow instructions available. Please contact Petrina Lee Poy, membership coordinator, at 514-485-5555 or petrina_lee_poy@yahoo.com or put your name on the sign-up sheet in Phoenix Hall.

The Caring Network

The Caring Network is looking for new volunteers: if you would be willing to visit someone in hospital or someone housebound, drive someone to a doctor's or hospital appointment, deliver food or make a telephone call to make sure someone is all right, we would like to hear from you. Please send an email, specifying what you would be willing to do, to Janine Cobb janine.cobb@gmail.com or call her at 514-938-9617.

SEPTEMBER COORDINATOR:

Nancy Hovey at 514-694-2302 nhovey@aei.ca

Membres du Groupe francophone, svp communiquez avec Francine Desmarais au 450-332-3994 ou par courriel au fdesma@gmail.com

Eastern Regional Gathering *Embracing Change* November 5 to 7, 2010, Unitarian Church of Montreal

This is an opportunity to build and renew networks and friendships. The weekend also offers participants a chance to learn more about other congregations and practical matters relating to congregational life, training, and personal spiritual enrichment opportunities.

Information concerning workshop proposals will go out soon. Workshops and activities that address issues related to change from a practical to a spiritual level, including the support available to congregations engaged in change, will be featured. Activities for children and youth will also be featured.

We'll be looking for volunteers to help organize and support the ERG. For further information, please email Margo Ellis or call her at 514-572-8669.

Entre Nous

With several families rejoicing in or expecting new arrivals, our Religious Education programs will soon need more rooms!

Congratulations to **Jeff Bailey and Angela Doerksen**, and big brother Leif, on the arrival of **Celeste Brienne Bailey** on August 24. We welcome her to this caring community.

We welcome the arrival of **Ole Crane Sweetnam**.

Parents: **Krin Maren Haglund & Christopher Sweetnam Holmes**

Born: July 17, 2010

Baby status update: Content, often hungry, smiles regularly, likes to be cuddled, cries occasionally.

Parent status update: Elated, surprised, happy, sometimes tired, somewhat bewildered, always joyful (except at 3:00am).

Are you interested in a jigsaw puzzle exchange? If so, please send a note to **Janine Cobb** or call her at 514-938-9617. Puzzles would be brought to the Volunteers' Office and you could then choose which one or ones you would like to borrow. Let's discuss the possibilities. More details to follow in the October newsletter.

Rosalind Moquette died on Friday, August 13 at age 89. Henri and Rosalind were active members in the 1960's, when Henri was Treasurer of the Board. They left Montreal for foreign fields in about 1969. Rosalind returned in the 1980's and was a member until about 1997.

Roslyn Macgregor of the Mile End Mission sent a letter of thanks for our contributions to the SolidHaïti efforts earlier this year. The full letter with an update on the project is posted in Phoenix Hall.

From **Stephanie Lilly**: I will participate in Rendez-vous Arts, a West Island Citizen Advocacy project where West Island artists share their skills with handicapped persons. I am handicapped and participate in this art project at Bayview Center in Pointe-Claire. I will have five watercolour paintings displayed and for sale at an exhibition on Sunday, October 3, 2010 from 12 pm to 4 pm at the Surrey Center, 1945 Parkfield in Dorval.

Meet Our New President, Marlo Turner Ritchie

It is with great pleasure that I have joined the hard-working volunteer team at the UCM. The position of President of the Steering Committee at the UCM (part of the new governance structure in its trial year) is quite the honour.

I've been involved with this church since 2007 and did the Pathways to Membership program last year, where Petrina and Diane inspired me even more to get involved. Growing up in the Okanagan, B.C., I was introduced to a Unitarian Fellowship circle, and for the first time felt like I had found a spiritual community where my questions and entire self were welcomed.

That feeling stuck with me and I'm ready to give back to a community that has given me so much in such a short time. Currently, I am the Executive Director at A deux mains / Head & Hands - a 40 year-old-youth organization based on empowerment and holistic health.

I feel that my 15 years experience in non-profit management and grassroots activism will lend itself well to our mission, though I have much to learn from those who have gone before me, and am feeling confident about our current volunteer team & staff. Don't hesitate to contact me if ever you have questions or suggestions.

Looking forward to getting to know you better! Phone me 514-369-5701 or email me at marlodiamond@headandhands.ca

Marlo Turner Ritchie
President



Come and Groove with us at BidNite 2010



BidNite, the UCM annual auction, will be held on Saturday, November 20 at 5:30 pm in Phoenix Hall.

The theme will be a 1960s 'Love-In' so get out your tie-dye clothing and peace beads! Offer forms will be available starting this month in the church kiosk in Phoenix Hall and included with this newsletter.

Need some ideas as to what to offer?

Here is a sample from last year's BIDNITE:

1. NINETY-MINUTE YOGA CLASS. Fixed price: \$25.
2. TWO DOZEN GINGERBREAD MEN! Delivered at BidNite. Silent bidding started at \$8.
3. PARIS HOLIDAY:

One week stay in a 6th floor apartment. Live bidding started at \$300.

If you have any questions, please contact Petrina Lee Poy, Chair of the Membership and BidNite Committees. E-mail or call 514-485-5555. BidNite committee members: Maychai Brown, Eleanor Beattie, and Nancy Kleins.

Message from the Treasurer Church Operating Costs Increasing

An early estimate for the cost of running our church and its activities in 2011 is \$342,000, representing an increase of 2%. This level of expense represents an average of more than \$2100 per existing contributor, after allowing for revenues from other sources.

While many of you do not have the means to contribute at this level, it will soon be time take a hard look at what you can do. If you didn't make a financial commitment in 2010, and you have the resources to do so, we can use your support, both this year and in 2011.

Imagine how healthy this church would be, how many programs we could run, how many community organizations we could work with, and support, how our staff could be bolstered if we all gave until we felt it. This church is more than the lights that we turn on, the grounds that we keep. This is your community.

We are very grateful to each of you who made financial commitments for 2010, in support of all that we do and stand for.

Bob Edgar
Treasurer

What's going on...

Carmina Choir

Tuesdays, 7:30-9 pm starting on September 7
Phoenix Hall

Rehearsals to prepare for a December 4 concert will include 'Alexander's Feast, or the Power of Music,' a work by Handel especially arranged for Carmina, as well as a selection of seasonal and popular music. New members in all voices are always welcome. The ability to read music is not necessary and there is no audition. Bring a sense of humour and good will, and a black binder if possible.

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

Snacks, Sandwiches and Sweets

Sunday, September 12

After the service. See details from Hospitality Committee on page 7.

Play Group

**Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10 am to noon
beginning September 14**

In the Nursery

We welcome children under five 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 \$3/session per family is suggested.

Mid-Day Meal and Music

Wednesday September 15

Everybody is welcome to be part of our meal. Bridge or Scrabble at 10:15, lunch at 12:30 pm music at 1:30 pm

Cost \$5.

Please call Ruth at 514-934-4956 to reserve a place.

Book Discussion Group

Wednesday, September 15, 7 pm

Thomas Room

Prodigal son? Misunderstood hero? Or simply "born bad"? Come share your thoughts on Jack and his return to his home town and clerical father. In Home, Marilynne Robinson continues to explore the saga begun in her earlier novel Gilead.

Contact: Kathy Douglas, 514-488-9608

Mindfulness Meditation

**Wednesdays, starting September 22, 6:30 to 8:30 pm
Children's Chapel**

Sessions are open to both beginners and those who 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, laughter, etc.), guided meditations, and a period for questions, sharing and singing.

Contact: Allen Lobo at 514-484-3014

"Economic and Environmental Solutions: The Potential of World Federalism"

**An illustrated talk on by Sara Hayward
Phoenix Hall.**

Thursday September 23, 7 pm

Sara will be relating her experiences as a delegate to the 27th International Seminar on Federalism, bringing together youth from around the world in Ventotene, Italy. The meeting is open to the public, free of charge, and takes place in conjunction with the Annual General Meeting of the Montreal Branch of the World Federalist Movement-Canada.

Information: Carol Greene, 514 426-4170.

Soul Collage

Saturday, September 25

Caroline will resume leading monthly six-hour open workshops from 10 am to 4 pm. All are welcome.

Contact: Caroline Balderston Parry

Loaf'n'Ladle lunch

Sunday, September 26

After the service. See details from Hospitality Committee on page 7.

Seeking the Sacred in Stories

Facilitated by Rev. Diane Rollert

Tuesday, September 28, 12:00 to 1:15 pm

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. Copies of this month's story are available from the office. All are welcome. We meet in the Garden Room on the first lower level of the church.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Eastern Regional Gathering (ERG)
Friday, November 5 to Sunday, November 7
Unitarian Church of Montreal

Our congregation will host this annual gathering of UUs from congregations in the Eastern Region (Kingston to Saint John's). Watch for details in September's newsletter. Plan to attend! Plan to get involved! Contact Margo Ellis (Vice President) for details 514-572-8669 margo.ellis@bell.net

OUTSIDE OUR WALLS

Shared Purpose: A Religious Response to the Climate Crisis

A talk by Reverend Canon Sally Bingham
 Tuesday, September 28 at 6 pm
 Moyse Hall, 853 Sherbrooke Street West
 McGill University

UU Connections

Volunteer Construction Trips to Central America

The First Unitarian Congregation of Toronto has been working on development projects in Central America since 1997 with the goal of building understanding between people and improving the social, economic and living conditions in the poorest areas. We have helped build schools, houses and training and community centers.

Trips are planned for November 2010, and January, February and March of 2011. For details contact **Richard Kirsh**, richardkirsh@sympatico.ca (416) 767-5837

Like Water for Spices

A UU Journey to SOUTH INDIA, March 11 - 27, 2011
 Travel across southern India with us from Chennai to Kochi via Pondicherry, Trichy, Madurai and Periyar/Kumarakom. We'll visit Unitarians in Chennai and at a Child Haven. Rev. Wayne Walder enhances the experience with his insight as well as guided meditations in captivating places. We'll have a full-time escort and specialist guides along the way. We'll have a Kerala cooking lesson and try our hand at Tanjore painting! 24 people, 17 days. For info contact Beverly, 416-939-4007 Neighbourhood Unitarian Universalist Congregation in Toronto.

A Poetry Chapbook (a small book of poems not exceeding 48 pages) is being compiled for the CUC's 50th anniversary next year. If you wish to submit a poem(s), please send it(them) to: poetry-chapbook@cuc.ca

Le Groupe francophone

Il n'y a pas de célébration du dimanche en français au mois de septembre.

Le vendredi 10 septembre à 17 h dans la Salle Thomas : Réunion de travail du Comité francophone afin de préparer nos activités. Si vous êtes intéressés, venez nous rencontrer et partagez vos idées. Pour plus d'informations, communiquez avec Hannelore.

Le vendredi 10 septembre à 18 h : Souper communautaire (apportez un plat à partager) dans la salle Phoenix.

Le vendredi 10 septembre 19 h : Cercle de discussion sur le thème " La volonté universelle selon Arthur Schopenhauer" dans la Salle Thomas. Notre invité est Jacques Grenier. Venez nous rejoindre et amenez des amis. Pour plus d'informations, communiquez avec Hannelore .

Les dimanches 5 et 12 septembre 10 h et 11 h 45 : Venez voir notre kiosque dans la salle Phoenix pour découvrir nos activités en français à l'église unitarienne de Montréal.

Les lundis 13 et 27 septembre 18 h 30 : Groupe de conversation française animé par Francine Desmarais pour les gens qui maîtrisent le français au niveau avancé mais avec un manque de vocabulaire et de fluidité et certaines lacunes au niveau de la grammaire et de la formation de phrases (nombre de participants est limité). Vous pouvez, si vous désirez, partager votre souper à 18 h dans la salle Phoenix. Pour rejoindre francine .

Les lundis 20 septembre et 4 octobre 18 h 30 : Groupe de partage animé par Francine Desmarais pour les membres de l'église unitarienne qui veulent participer avec d'autres à créer des liens plus intimes et à partager ce qui donne un sens au chemin qu'ils empruntent tout au long de leur vie (nombre de participants est limité). Vous pouvez, si vous désirez, partager votre souper à 18 h dans la salle Phoenix. Pour rejoindre Francine .

L'éducation religieuse pour les enfants sur le thème de La spiritualité amérindienne débutera le dimanche 17 octobre.

Responsable: Hannelore Poncelet au 450-653-5694

Notes from DRE Caroline Balderston Parry

An inspiring summer

My summer weeks away from Montreal have been very rich, and I'm returning for my third year as Director of Religious Education, feeling greatly refreshed.

I began my time away by running a program for 7 & 8 year olds for six mornings at a Quaker gathering in Ohio. The children came from disparate states and Quaker meetings, and so most didn't know one another previously. Nor did I know them, but I loved the opportunity to work closely with children and their parents, plus volunteer staff, in a consistent, day-after-day manner - something our Montreal life attendance patterns do not permit. The gathering-wide theme was "Accepting Gifts of the Spirit", and I received many. Plus I was delighted to teach my staff and children our UU hymn:

*From you I receive,
to you I give;
together we share,
and by this we live.*

This song quickly became well-loved. As so often happens, there's an easy overlap between Quaker and UU attitudes.

I saw this sense of our common territory borne out in the words of a British friend and [Quaker] teacher who had come to learn from this North American conference, too. He spoke of "Spirituality as an awareness of what's deepest within us," and how our task is

"to seek to accompany children, always being person-centered." He emphasized that simply "how we are with children is what helps them develop spiritually and become fully who THEY are."

I was inspired and want to extend an invitation to YOU to get involved on that level with our young people this year! Please contact me or RE Committee members if you're interested in further exploration.



Saturday September 11 RE-connection Day and Spirit Play Work Bee

Welcome one and all to reconnect with our religious education programs.

Part 1: 9 am to 12pm

Teacher Development and Training

Part 2: 1:30 to 4:30 pm

Spirit Play Work Bee (making story boxes)

Please RSVP by morning of Friday, Sept. 10.

Childcare available if you reserve by Thurs., Sept. 9.

The day will be full of RE meetings and activities and everyone is welcome, even without previous experience working with children, youth or religious education. But you must RSVP.

In the morning, I will coordinate various training, development and administrative activities, with hand-outs full of details, for everyone working/leading/helping in RE, and then we'll share a potluck lunch.

In the afternoon, all current and future Spirit Players will have a work bee using materials at church, refurbishing existing story boxes or baskets, and creating new ones for this year. Ivy (our former RE Assistant), volunteers and I did a spring clean-up of our supply cupboards, so they are beautiful and ready for use.

NOTE: If you are new to RE, we require you to have attended for at least six months before working with our young people, and to supply two references; we will also arrange for a police record check.

Youth Advisor Training November 5 to 7 at UCM (ERG)

A Basic Youth Advisor and Leadership Training program will be part of our Canadian Unitarian Council's Eastern Regional Gathering (ERG), to be hosted by the Unitarian Church of Montreal.

Music Ministry at UCM

Music is part of the spiritual fare offered at the Unitarian Church of Montreal. There are ways you can actively contribute your voice:

1. Join the Parts in Peace choir. It meets every Monday night at 6:30 pm for potluck and at 7:30 for rehearsal in the Phoenix Hall. First rehearsal is Sept. 13. Bring a black binder and pencil. We sing for church services at least once a month. Check out our new brochure in the foyer. Speak to Sandra Hunt, Church Musician and Choir Director.
2. Enroll your child in the Children's Music Program. Choir Director, Marie-France Boisvert
3. Join the Music Ministry Collective that supports and sponsors Music Ministry at the UCM. Our first meeting is on Sept. 12 at 12:15 in the Darwin Room.

Music Ministry Collective (MMC) Members:

Carol Cumming Speirs, MMC Coordinator; Sandra Hunt, UCM Musician and Choir Director; Margo Ellis, performer, Concert Production Chair; Shawn Dohring, Performer, past Coordinator for RE Music; Patricia Phillips, Francophone Liaison pro tem; Elizabeth Forbath, Survey and Outreach; Erika Lehnen-Sgroi, Performer; John Pike, Treasurer and UCM Past President; Ruth DiGiovanni, Concert Assistant and Hall Rental Liason.

4. Attend concerts and musical events the church sponsors. This year we are planning a choir for the Eastern Regional Conference in November, fund-raising concerts for our instrument renovation, and the usual Senior Luncheon Music at Midday, where gifted students from the major music faculties in town try out their new repertoire! A special weekend with Ysaye Barnwell, singer and expert in African-American music, is being planned for the Spring 2011.

Please complete our survey!

As a newly formed group, to promote and support music offerings at the Unitarian Church, the Music Ministry Collective has drawn up a short survey to assist in planning future music programs either as part of Sunday Services or as separate venues. Paper survey available from the collective.

Summer Service Success

Thoughtful and inspiring services were led by presenters John Dealy, Blair Rourke with speaker Rodrigue Tremblay, Richard Gendron, Rod Solano-Quesnel, Hendrik Boom, Emanuel Freitas, Hari Thakur, and Michelle Holliday with the assistance of liturgists Hannelore Poncelet, Noline Guerrier, Margo Ellis, John Pike, and Shoshanna Green. Beautiful music to complement the spoken words came from Brian Brice, Cheryl Braganza, Louise Halperin, Emanuel Freitas and Shawn Dohring.

Thanks also to our team of child care providers, Sam Gyetvay and Marie Zahradnik with Curtis Murphy and Shannon Horan filling in to allow for vacations.

Behind the scenes: Francis' dedication, cheer and energy kept coffee hours lively, Christian Nielsen oversaw greeting cards for absent members and opened the library to seekers of knowledge (or just a good read), Aldyth Harrison and Pierre Godin took care of the collection, Sylvia Heuckendorff provided lovely floral arrangements and Marlo Turner Ritchie stepped in wherever needed.

And of course, thank you to Kirsten McKeown for organizing all of the above!

Hospitality Corner

Hospitality Committee adopts Mission

As part of the UCM mission to welcome and nurture and take action in the world, the hospitality committee focuses on nourishing and thus nurturing UCM members, friends and visitors through food-related activities. We do our utmost to promote local, seasonal and sustainable food practices. We believe that by sharing our time and energy, as well as the fruits of our labour, we can build a stronger community.

Showcase Chef for September: Mila Guillory

Sunday, September 12

A snacks, sandwiches and sweets lunch will be served after the Water/ Ingathering/Homecoming Ceremony.

Sunday, September 26

Mila will serve her fiery fuchsia-coloured cold borscht soup after the service. Mila's signature soup will be accompanied by an apple vichyssoise, home-baked breads and desserts prepared by the hospitality committee.

Unitarian Church of Montreal Église unitarienne de Montréal

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To receive the electronic version of the newsletter by email, please send your request to Verna Litwack, office@ucmtl.ca

In the event of any concern related to sexual harassment, contact the minister or Carol Cumming Speirs (514-989-1397) or Jack Cobb (514-938-9617).

**Next newsletter deadline:
Wednesday, September 15**

Email submissions to: news@ucmtl.ca
Please include your name and phone number.

Steering Committee

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