

Unitarian Church of Montreal Église unitarienne de Montréal



Newsletter

September / septembre 2008

Our mission:

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

Worship Calendar

Services start at 10:30 am, unless otherwise noted.

September 7

The Bridge Over These Waters

Rev. Diane Rollert

Homecoming Sunday and Water Communion

(Be sure to boil your water if it comes from an exotic place.)



Welcoming Caroline Balderston Parry our new Director of Religious Education. Please join us for a festive social hour after the service to meet and greet Caroline.

September 14

Nearly Gen X

Rev. Diane Rollert

September 21

International Day of Peace: Let it Begin Here

Rev. Diane Rollert

September 28

Celebrating the New Year

Worship Committee and others

12 h 30 : Célébration en français

'*La rencontre et la douleur d'être*', animé par Christopher Thomson

From Our Minister

The end of an evening concert, Carleton, Quebec. The community pours out through the doors of the cathedral and into the warm, glowing light of a late July sun setting across the Baie-des-chaleurs. After weeks of rain, this is a welcome sight. White clouds are splashed with red across a backdrop of deep blue. Night is descending quickly and we have no time to lose.

"Allons y," my host says as she gathers me and three friends into her car and swiftly drives us up to the top of Mount St. Joseph to watch the final shards of red disappear across the bay.

Two days later, my host and I are driving home after an evening meal with her family in the country. A large and rare full red moon appears before us on the road and she takes a sudden detour.

"Allons y. À la plage," she says, and we descend to the beach to marvel at a moon that seems nearly close enough to touch as the waves wash across its brilliant reflection.

Oh the joy of responding to those rare moments of awe, when we step out of the ordinary routine and into splendour. That is what I hope for us, as we gather together this fall.

As we shift from the slower summer pace into the fall calendar, we'll be flowing back together with some exciting changes ahead. I'm especially looking forward to working with Caroline Bladerston Parry our new DRE as we deepen our commitment to intergenerational community. I hope you'll join me in welcoming her on September 7th.

That same morning, we'll celebrate our water communion. As you can imagine, there are as many ways to celebrate a water communion as there are Unitarian congregations. This year, we'll be trying something new to engage the whole community and honour the many ways we have each experienced the summer, through musical moods and quiet reflections. Come with an open mind and spirit. Also, don't forget that we have been granted a "reasonable accommodation" by the city of Montreal: Please boil your water.

Over the past two years, we worked hard to define our mission. This year we'll be engaging with our mission to make its words come alive. I hope you will join me, the board, and others for a retreat on Friday and Saturday, September 19th and 20th as we roll up our sleeves and get to work on concrete objectives. See the enclosed flyer for more details.

Here's to the wonder of a new year. (Con't on page 2)

(Cont'd from page 1) May we be open to the beautiful and unexpected as we gather once again to engage our mission and to be together in community.

In faith,

Diane

Introducing Caroline Balderston Parry, our new DRE

In the midst of a busy fortnight that included good byes to her friends and colleagues at First Unitarian Universalist Church in Columbus, Ohio (where she had been Interim DRE for two years), a six-day van trip to Montreal with her 'stuff', and a first meeting with Diane Rollet and Shawn Dohring, Caroline bicycled over to the Westmount Library courtyard to talk about her adventures, careers, and her new appointment as UCM DRE.

I had read Caroline's CV and browsed in her website, so commented early in our conversation that she seemed to have gypsy blood. Caroline was firm in her denial. Yes she had trav-



Taken last summer at Mitranietan, in Kerala, S. India, where Caroline volunteered.

eled to India as a young woman but to a paid volunteer job (not along the hippy trail of some of her contemporaries) and she had been a camp counselor in the American West on the Ute Indian Reserve in the 60s, plus more recently has done maypole research in England. But in this moving around she always needed to feel connected, anchored to a solid base. For many years this base has been Ottawa, where her late husband worked for the Museum of Civilization.

In 2002, feeling burned out with the demands of freelance performance and artist-in-the-schools workshop work, and an ever worsening financial situation, she was delighted to discover the position of Interim DRE at Ottawa First Unitarian Church was vacant. She was hired and stayed for three years, recognizing that a director of religious education could be her encore career. As she says "DRE happened to me," and she attended the UU Leadership Training Institute (now CUUL School) plus many RE training modules to more learn about UUs. From 2005 to 2007 she was IDRE in Columbus.

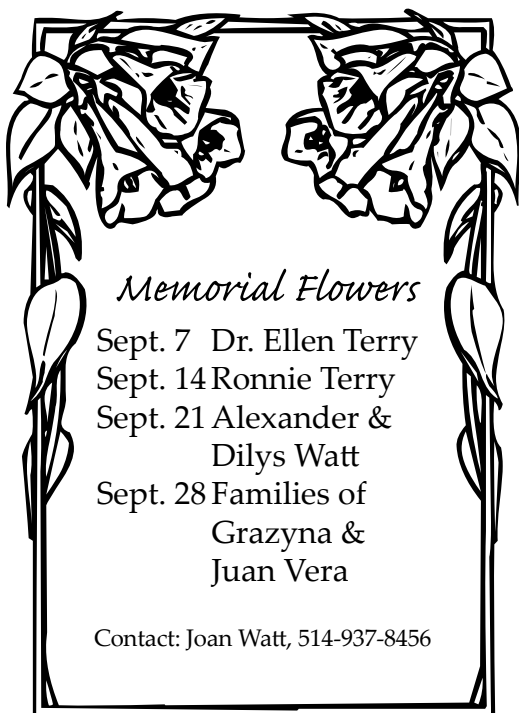
Caroline smiles as she talks about the beauty of our church (she attended the Eastern Regional Meet-

ing here in 2005), particularly the Sanctuary, Children's Chapel and the bright nursery. She is looking forward to being a member of an RE team, along with her assistant Rita Izzi, and all the RE Committee members plus volunteer teachers, and to belonging to a UU community where she will be able to know almost everyone by name. But for now she's planning to be still and to listen, a not surprising decision for a Quaker.

Diane calls Caroline our "mail order DRE" since plans for an interview at the Ottawa CUC didn't happen. But like many other organizations, conference calls and emails sufficed.

Caroline has two children. Her daughter Evalyn Parry is a "song-writer, poet, theatre artist and ironic social commentator" and lives in Toronto. Her son, Richard Reed Parry lives in Montreal, plays and composes on the double bass, and is a member of both Bell Orchestre and Arcade Fire.

To learn more about Caroline – dulcimer player, author, story teller – visit her website <http://caroline.openconcept.ca/>



Memorial Flowers

Sept. 7 Dr. Ellen Terry
 Sept. 14 Ronnie Terry
 Sept. 21 Alexander & Dilys Watt
 Sept. 28 Families of Grazyna & Juan Vera

Contact: Joan Watt, 514-937-8456

Entre Nous

In Memory of Len Picard

*To go down to dust and dreams,
knowing that the world is a wee
bit better, and that even a single
life breathes easier because we
have lived well, this is to have suc-
ceeded.*

—Ralph Waldo Emerson

Sadly, Len Picard passed away on the morning of August 16 at the age of 94. Although he was born Rudolphe Leonard Miller Picard, we knew him as Len, a man loved for his gentle kindness and his beaming smile. He was a role model for us all, full of life and energy to the very end. As late as a year or two ago, he was still riding alone by bus to church on Sundays, always happy as he arrived to greet his beloved community.

Len's connection to this church goes back to his marriage to his wife Mary Turnbull in 1942, officiated by Rev. Angus Cameron. He was extremely proud of Mary's family's ties to the church that went back to its earliest history. Len deeply grieved his loss of Mary, who passed away eight years before him. Still he lived with determination, rejoicing in the closeness he shared with his daughters Marilen and Penny, and with his five grandchildren, his five great-grandchildren and their extended families.

Len was a teacher and a navy man, having served in the Royal Canadian Naval Reserve. Len's dream had been to live long enough to attend the 100-year anniversary of the Royal Canadian Navy in 2010. Had his cancer not taken its final course, he surely would have made his goal.

Even as he became ill in his last months of life, his care and concern

always shone on others. He gave counsel and support. He shared his positive outlook on life. Each day, his daughters are amazed to learn of yet another person who saw Len as a mentor or a surrogate father. By Emerson's measure, by any measure, Len was a tremendously successful man. How blessed we were to know him all these years.

A memorial service will be held in the sanctuary on September 5th at 2 p.m., Rev. Diane Rollert officiating.

Tessy Tomasek is slowly recovering from surgery for a ruptured spleen and is presently convalescing and looking forward to coming home. Tessy would love to hear from you. Send cards and letters to her home address:

4765 St. Kevin Street, #6
Montreal H4A 2Z9.

Our condolences to **Elizabeth Speyer** and her family on the death of her brother in Texas, July 8, 2008.

On Thursday, September 25, at 6:00 p.m., you are invited to a vernissage of **Gwen Spurrill's** watercolours at Galerie Mile-End, 5345 avenue du Parc. The exhibition, of ten artists, runs from September 26 to October 5 and is open from 1 to 8 p.m., Wednesday to Friday; from 1 to 5 p.m., Saturday and Sunday

Best wishes to Roseann Millin who celebrated her seventieth birthday in August. A happy group of friends attended Roseann's "Seventy Tea Party."

Congratulations to Sandra Hunt and Gary Russell who celebrated their silver wedding anniversary this summer.

Roseann Millin's Seven Tea Party

How to celebrate a 70th birthday? Lots of possibilities but Roseann Millin came up with a winner. Have a "Seven Tea Party" and invite lots of friends.

The event took place on a lovely sunny Sunday afternoon in Phoenix Hall, decked with flowers, balloons and wishing candles - and of course a buffet table of savouries and sweets in abundance. And yes, there were seven teas, each brewed in a china teapot.

Friends from Roseann's Dawson College years as a counselor, from her Tai Chi classes, from the Unitarian Church of Montreal, neighbours, and members of the Carmina Choir found old friends and made new connections. They needed no urging to accept Roseann's invitation to "Come Sing a Song With Me" and gleefully joined the Carmina Choir in some "Hot Summer Hits." The pianist was Bill Brice, who had written new lyrics to accompany a special arrangement of a Tchaikovsky melody:

We who today have gathered here

On this your seventieth year

*Wish for you good health and all
good cheer.*

There was a lovely tranquil interlude when Roseann led a group of 20 or so friends in the Tai Chi Wu Hsing (Dance of the Five Elements).

Particularly welcome guests were Val and Doug Cousins, former UCM members, who drove down from Ottawa for the party. Val was one of Roseann's first friends at UMC.

Roseann was overwhelmed with offers of help, including Caroline Ryser (one of her Dawson students who acted as MC), Elizabeth Anglin, Brian Brice, Carol and Frank Greene, Louise Halpern, Kirstin McKewon, Patricia Philip, and Christine Rourke

Activities

MUSIC

Carmina Choir

Dates: Tuesdays (beginning Sept. 9)
Time: 7:30 pm
Contact: Keith Robinson 514-931-9028 or Brian Brice 514-843-6497

More and more, singing is being appreciated for the spiritual health and well-being it offers. Tuesday nights in the Phoenix Hall, the Carmina

Choir, offers you the opportunity to experience for yourself those benefits and joys of singing in a fairly informal atmosphere.

Rehearsals will focus on music for their now traditional, ever popular, Christmas Sing-A-Long Concert which will be on Saturday 6th December at 8:00 pm in the Church.

The featured work in the first part of the concert will be a work especially created for Carmina and the Unitarian Community.

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.

Midday Meal with Music

Date: Wednesday, September 17
Times: 10:00 am Scrabble and Bridge; 12:30 pm Lunch; 1:30 pm Music
Contact: Ruth di Giovanni., 514-934-4956

Parts in Peace Choir

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

The UCM choral season has already begun with a recruiting party at Alison Hall and Denis Barsalo's beautiful house in Dorval.

Our next sing-together will be the first rehearsal in the UCM Sanctuary at 7:30 pm on Monday, 8 September. Hungry at that time in the evening? We'll have our usual pot-luck in Phoenix Hall starting at 6 pm.

As for those of you who may not think of yourselves as choristers, ask yourselves, "Do I love music?" and "Can I commit my presence to a rehearsal a week (with exceptions for the occasional play? Take note, Bob Bassett, Andy Hugesson and Charles Eddis!) and one church service a month. That's all it takes to be eligible to join our group.

Our specialty is four-part harmony and the mastery of songs from the Singing the Living Tradition and Singing the Journey hymnals.

We commit to perform once a month at a chosen Sunday service and, in a less formal way, lend our support to the singing of hymns new and old at each Sunday service.

Contact our conductor and UCM Church Musician, Sandra Hunt at 514 484-5559 or Sandra.Muriel.Hunt@gmail.com for more information or encouragement.

ISSUES

Social and Environmental Concerns

Date: Sunday, September 21
Time: 12:15 pm
Location: Thomas Room
Contact: Mary-Louise Engels: 514-487-2665, mlengels@sympatico.ca

You are invited to attend our first meeting of the season. Whether or not you are already a member of SECC, you are welcome to come and help us plan for the year ahead.

In line with the new UCM mission statement which affirms that "We take action in the world", the committee will discuss the responses that church members made last spring to the questions: How should the church act in the world, and what should our priorities be? (See p..... Act in the World)

Join us in choosing our action priorities for the upcoming church year! Cookies provided to aid concentration.

MIND / BODY / SPIRIT

Book Discussion Group

Date: Wednesday, September 17
Time: 7:30 pm
Location: Thomas Room
Contact: Kathy Douglas, 514-488-9608

Are you seeking better textual relations?

Fed up with binary communications?

Love to read but want more than a dotcomrade?

You might like this old-fashioned activity called a book discussion

group. It's flesh-and-blood people discussing a novel they've all just read. They sip tea, sprawl comfortably in the Thomas Room, hold real books printed on paper, share maps, even screen occasional movies. There's laughter, companionship and a warm welcome for newcomers.

The book group's 2008/09 program and reading list are posted on the kiosk in Phoenix Hall.

First book of the season is Wayson Choy's *The Jade Peony*. Grandmother Poh Poh's carved pink jade amulet represents Old China to the four Chen children growing up in Vancouver's Chinatown before and during World War II, as they struggle to deal with violence and prejudice in Canada while keeping their cultural heritage alive.

Religious Explorations Group

We will not meet in September. First meeting will be on Sunday, October 5.

Contact: Christine Rourke 514-761-0669

Seeking the Sacred in Stories

Led by Rev. Diane Rollert
Monthly Brown Bag Lunch Group
Dates: Tuesdays – September 16, October 7, November 4, December 2
Time: Noon to 1:00 pm
Location: Former Ministers' Room

We gather on a monthly basis to read short stories, share lunch and struggle with the question "What is sacred?" This year we'll begin by reading short stories from "Island" by Alistair MacLeod. Copies of the stories will be available from the office, however participants are encouraged to purchase or borrow a copy of the book.

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.

S O C I A L

Play Group

Dates: Tuesdays and Thursdays, beginning Thurs., September 4
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.

S P E C I A L

Pathway to Membership 2008

Three Sundays this Fall
September 14: What Do We Believe?
October 5: Our Unitarian and Universalist Heritage
November 9: The Meaning of Membership
12:30 – Lunch and fellowship
1:30-3:30 Learning and activities
Would you like to know more about

Unitarian Universalism and the UCM? Come join our minister for a light lunch and an opportunity to meet others seeking a spiritual home. If you are a newcomer, stay for lunch or for the whole program and get to know us better. If you would like to become a member of this congregation, we ask that you participate in all three learning and activity sessions. The sessions will be repeated in the winter and early spring. This coming year, we'll welcome new members during worship services on January 11 and May 3, 2009.

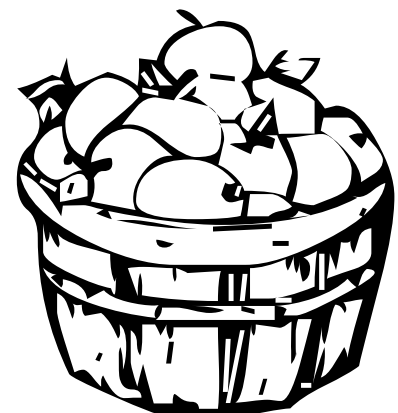
Save the Date!

Weaving Our Worship

October 17-20, 2008

Friday 7:00-9:00 pm, Saturday 9:00 am–5:00 pm and Sunday 12:00-2:00 pm

This full weekend program will engage and inspire experienced and new worship leaders as we consider congregational diversity, logistics, flow and the purpose of worship in congregational life. The workshop will be open to the UCM congregation as well as other UU congregations. This is a new Canadian Unitarian Council program, codeveloped by UCM Lay Chaplain Nicoline Guerrier.



Religious Education

Namaste from your new DRE!

Words are inadequate to convey how pleased I am to be joining the staff of this thriving church, and how much I love religious education (or “RE”), but I can tell you this: six years ago I was in search of a satisfying part-time job to anchor my very fluid life. Now, at last, I trust that this position is that firm, fulfilling base.

My two previous terms of service as a full-time Interim DRE were wonderfully engaging and inspiring, but often overwhelming in scope and hours. Here in Montreal I plan to find and keep more balance in my life, and when I am not absorbed in my DRE role I intend to continue with a number of projects. Writing and collage are at the top of my list; more computer, scanner and camera skills call out to me; organized management of my book sales and the rental of my home in Ottawa will take time and discipline. In addition, I want to move more slowly than of late, and to savour my friends and family — plus have more chance to sing with others and move in tai chi or contra or sacred circle dances.

In order to try to keep my realms separate, I will be doing most of my DRE work at the church, rather than from home, and I will mainly use the downstairs RE Office, aiming to put in three approximately six-hour days per week, from about 1 to 7 pm on weekdays. Once the start up of our flourishing RE program calms down, expect me here most Sundays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Drop by if you can—I look forward to meeting each and every one of you!

By the way, it will be a terrific help if you can all — children AND adults — wear your name tags on Sundays to help me get to know you.

Religious Education: a collaborative adventure

After Sarah Marx McGill’s excellent leadership last year, I suspect many of you know more about what a DRE is/does than previously. However, as I begin this DRE-ship, I have been consulting a standard “bible” for DREs and RE Committee members, called the “RE Road Map.” The opening words of the 1999 edition (partly crafted by one of our senior DREs in Canada, Lynn Saborin of Vancouver’s North Shore Unitarian Church) seem to sum up this role superbly, so I adapt them here as a review, or for your information — and inspiration!

“As the religious educator. . . in this congregation, I am an organizer, facilitator, enabler, communicator, nurturer, public relations person, teacher of teachers, friend of young people, and advocate of religious education for all ages. I aspire and conspire to stir up minds — all in an effort to help children, youth and adults make sense of their lives. This mixture of skills — from organizational to visionary — makes me somewhat of a Renaissance... woman. And what I do is a ministry: loving and interacting with an open heart in a collegial manner with people of all ages. I hope this will be a meaningful and joyful experience for all of us in the years to come!”

With these stirring words, I hope you not only increase your grasp of this important work, but also hear a clarion call to join others who labour in our flourishing fields of religious education. Sarah has recruited a number of able teachers already, but we still need a few

more, especially non-parents. You could make a difference in terms of person-power, so that no teacher has to miss worship (and worshipping together is central to being a spiritual community) for too many Sundays.

My best practices model is a team of four teachers for each class/age group, with two of the four serving each Sunday, on a rotation they work out amongst themselves. They could share leadership equally, or in other ways. It could be there are people who would be willing to be the relationship-holders, the familiar anchor-face for a specific group, but they’d rather leave the content-teaching to others. If you are one of these, imagine the pleasure in the continuity of relationship you could build with some of our young people! Conversely, if you love the curricular aspect of RE, think of how fun it could be to present a subject in depth for a limited period of weeks, without having to think about “managing” your RE class!

In either capacity, you will additionally contribute to our ability to be what is called a “safe congregation”. We need to ensure that there are always two adults present in any group of children and young people that meets in the church. It’s part of my job to promote this safety—but we need your help!

Won’t you join us? Please be in touch with me (or members of the RE Committee) to discuss the roles you might play — my new e-mail is <dre@ucmtl.ca>

P.S. Huge thanks to Shawn Dohring for setting up the “new” computers in the RE office, and to Rosanne Baatz for the computer hutch/table. They greeted me as I began work on the 18th.

Caroline

RE Registration starts Sunday, September 7

RE registration for the 2008-2009 year will run every Sunday from Sept. 7 to Oct. 5. You'll notice a less harried registrar this year, in part because we've decided to eliminate the \$10 registration fee.

Our research has shown that the actual cost per child in the RE program is more than \$1000, including the virtual dollars of volunteer hours and actual costs. Certainly, parents and friends volunteering their time to make our program possible is a huge part of its success and saves the church tens of thousands of dollars each year. However, having the funds to afford resources such as highly qualified staff, training opportunities and supplies, is also extremely important.

So after much deliberation by the RE Committee and after discussions with Caroline, our new DRE, we've agreed to streamline the registration process and eliminate the registration fee. We encourage parents to reflect on the value of our RE program and to consider increasing their pledge to the UCM come canvass time.

Thank you. Peace.

Shawn Dohring
RE Committee Chair

News and Updates

Pow-wow know-how

I recently seized the opportunity to gain some "pow-wow know-how" along with some other UCMers by attending Kahnawake's 2008 Pow-wow on Saturday, July 12. Actually it was Louise Halperin who sent out a general email inviting UCMers to join her in this experience, and so it was that my Alain

Pierre Bacheongi, Louise and I met up in front of the church on a sunny Saturday morning to join Montreal's neighboring First Nations Mohawk community in their annual celebration.

Before I go into the details though, a little vocabulary: A pow-wow is a gathering of North America's Native people. The word derives from the Narragansett word pow-waw, meaning "spiritual leader". Modern pow-wows allow both Native American and non-Native American people to dance, sing, socialize, and honour American Indian culture. There is generally a dancing competition, often with significant prize money awarded.

The Kahnawake Mohawk Territory is an Indian reserve on the south shore of the St. Lawrence. Although most individuals refer to residents of Kahnawake as "Mohawks," they call themselves Kanien:keha'ka (the "People of the Flint").

Upon arrival at the pow-wow, I was struck by the number of people there—there must have been at least a thousand—and the beauty of the traditional costumes worn by native dancers who were scattered all over the grounds, awaiting their turn to participate in the ceremonies and dance competitions. There were dozens of kiosks where artisans and other locals proudly displayed their wares, and at the centre of the action, a grassy area ringed by bleachers which were already almost full to capacity.

After making the rounds of the vendors, we headed over to the bleachers where the opening ceremonies were just about to begin. The MC was a jovial and very voluble fellow, but it was the singers and drummers behind him

that kept us mesmerized as the ceremonies unfolded. As the ceremonies progressed, I was struck by how the rhythmic movements of the costumed dancers parading around the perimeter of the field probably induced the same clear mental state as that experienced by spiritual seekers walking a labyrinth, doing yoga, chanting, practicing tai-chi, or any of the dozens of such physical gateways to a spiritual dimension that exist in human societies and religions all over the world.

I came away from my pow-wow experience with a better understanding of a neighboring community, and a sense of awe considering that this display of ancient traditions had revealed that, when it comes to human spiritual seeking and spiritual practice, communities and peoples share the same longing; it is just the manifestation that varies.

Cym Gomery

Note: Cym sent some wonderful photographs. We hope to display them soon.

Sandra Hunt Attends the UU Musician's Network conference in Boston

Excerpts from the report by UUMN President, Keith Arnold:

Who are we, in this conference where the registration is the highest ever? "We" as individuals is a bit different from who we are as an organization. One by one, we are troubadours and choir directors and ministers and music committee chairs; we serve congregations full-time and once a month. We play keyboard instruments and string instruments, instruments that are struck and those that use electricity and those that are hundreds of years old.

Together, as an organization, we share information and resources on an e-list, we network at conferences, we are raising professionalism of UU musicians. Together, our network is undergoing a governance transition, we are building bridges to other UU professional organizations, and we are wrestling with questions of how to program music that honors those who created it.

Dialogue and Action: a conversation with David Kersulis, President, UCM Board of Management

As I read through the notes I had made during a pleasant evening's conversation with David, I recognized three recurring themes: his need for, and delight in, being member of a spiritual community; his heartfelt conviction and principle that to be a member of any community requires attention to the well being of the community; and, along with his appreciation of being invited to accept the position of President of the UCM Board, this is not for him a burdensome task but an opportunity to lead and build.

David's first spiritual community was at St. Willibrord Church in Verdun. This was the seventies and as a teenager he sang in the choir, played the guitar at mass, and went to summer camp in the Laurentians, run by the Montreal English Catholic diocese. By the time he finished high school the parish and the diocese were changing and he no longer felt at home there. So, Marianopolis and then to McGill for an engineering degree. A couple of jobs, the latest with Stephens Equipment, 13 years and counting, along with increasing responsibilities and challenges as a young adult trying to establish a foothold in life, socially and economically.

Fast forward to the fall of 1997 when he came to UMC for a Yellow Door Choir concert. He noticed the rainbow flag in the foyer and thought to himself "I should check this place out." In November he came to a service where Ray Drennan's presentation was on Calvin and Hobbs. David says "Although I came as a visitor, I felt welcomed." He was hooked and in May 1998 he joined UMC. A vintage year — Alison Hall and Denis Barsalo joined at that time.

David became a member of the Worship Committee and later its chair, which meant that he attended Board meetings. In due course he headed the 2000 fund raising campaign, became a member of the choir and



a liturgist, and hosted BidNite dinners. (David is a great cook and Joy of Cooking is his standby.)

In 2007 he was asked to be Vice President, a post that would automatically lead to the post of President. David emphasizes that he is President of the UCM Board, NOT the president of the Unitarian Church of Montreal.

The examples that David used during our conversation revealed that his training as an engineer makes detailed planning his way of thinking and working. While recognizing the need for vision, he knows that for a building or a bridge or a

power station to go from the imagined to the concrete requires intensive, diligent and well prepared plans and a clear understanding of each player's responsibilities.

David has little patience, in fact no patience, for individuals who make selfish preconditions to their involvement. "Responsible ownership" was a recurring phrase, one that encompasses a commitment to finding common ground, to making connections, to taking the time to think through problems, to embarking on planned change. In three words "Dialogue and action."

I asked David what he liked to do in his spare time. Two word answer "fix things." When he bought his first brand new car two years ago (a silver VW) he overlooked the fact that it would not need "fixing." Luckily, his partner William's car is going on five and provides David with lots of scope for his favourite hobby. Not limited to cars. He recently did an emergency repair on the UCM dishwasher, rewired the dining room light fixture at the Cacouna parsonage — William serves as one of the ministers at St. James the Apostle during the summer months.

David has a strong and supportive family. His parents live in Brantford and his two grandmothers in Montreal. Both emigrated to Canada as young women, one from Lithuania, one from Scotland. Now in their nineties, David is very much a part of their lives.



An Important Announcement from the CUC Board

The Board of Trustees of the Canadian Unitarian Council announces that it has accepted with regret Mary Bennett's resignation as Executive Director, effective September 17, 2008. We are deeply grateful to Mary for her leadership over these eight years of the organization's re-birth and redevelopment. She has built a lasting legacy, and we wish her all the very best as she moves on to new opportunities.

Linda Thomson, our Associate Executive Director, will assure the continuity of executive leadership as we enter this transition period. Known to many of you in her role as Director of Regional Services – East, for some time Linda has also worked alongside Mary in the Associate role and is well-prepared to move us forward. The CUC is fortunate, and the Board is very pleased, to have Linda's leadership at this time of change.

Jean Pfleiderer, President, for the Board of Trustees (jeanp@cuc.ca)

BidNite 2008

Welcome back members and friends! The summer is coming to a close which for many means back to work, back to school, back to church, and Back to BidNite! That's right Mesdames and Messieurs, mark your calendars for Saturday, Nov. 15 as BidNite, the UCM annual service auction. It is never too early to start thinking about what special talent or social event you would like to share.. Contact Elizabeth Anglin for more details. 514 937 4095 elizang@sympatico.ca

Act In The World

Social and Environmental Concerns

A passion for social justice is part of Unitarian DNA. That desire came to the fore last April when members and friends reflected on the church's new mission statement: "As a spiritual community, we welcome and nurture; we inspire and challenge; we take action in the world".

As the committee primarily responsible for "taking action in the world" the Social and Environmental Concerns (SECC) welcomed the scores of responses to the question on taking action in the world: what should our social and environmental priorities be?

Among the scores of ideas and comments received, half a dozen themes were repeatedly mentioned:

1. More of the Same

People liked the focus last year on one local project, and one international one. SECC members helped out at the Covered Garden, a local refugee centre, and the congregation got involved by generous donations of toys and games at Christmas, and winter clothing in January. This project will continue in the fall.

Internationally, our Study/Action program on Darfur culminated in outstanding congregational support for our fundraising project. More than \$5,000 was given to buy solar cookers for Darfuri women in refugee camps.

"Continue to maintain current projects, as well as building on this work with new programs. Give everyone a chance to be a part of or lead a project." "Support current programs and explore new ones"

2. Interfaith/Intergroup Initiatives

"Work with other religious denominations to see what common dreams and goals we share – and work towards them". "Continue our outreach programs – with other faiths, with various disadvantaged groups". "Interfaith exchanges, intercultural activities –connect".

3. Poverty/Hunger

"Continue to work closely with anti-poverty and refugee programs". "Food security, here and in the third world". "Focus on poverty in Montreal".

4. Publicity and Information

"Over the next five years, have a louder voice, be a spokesperson defending the rights of the weak". "Communicate in media our dedication to peace and justice". "Make the congregation aware of ways to get involved. Offer tips on various topics and practical ideas for day-to-day life, small steps to take..."

5. Outreach

"Be more present in the Montreal community first". "Agree on at least one community project of significant impact to do as a community. Help members to get involved with community groups as volunteers". "More outreach at local level".

How can we act together as a congregation to increase community outreach, especially with other religious faiths, to address poverty issues in Montreal and elsewhere, to make our efforts more widely known, and to involve every member of the congregation who wishes to make a contribution to social justice and environmental sustainability?

Add your voice to the conversation – or just come and observe the next meeting of the Social and Environmental Concerns Committee (p. 4)

Beautification Committee

Mary Bassett sends this update on the work of the committee. There are three members: Mary, David Rollert and Aurelian Guillory.

This committee was formed to make UCM more welcoming both inside and out. We hope you're pleased with the changes in the foyer. A paint job is also in the plans.

We are looking into restoring and erecting a second plaque which commemorates the men from UCM who died in both world wars. Where to place it has yet to be determined.

The exterior of the church is one of our ongoing projects. The hedges have been trimmed. The purchase of a new electronic sign is being looked into; it will be paid for by the Phoenix Fund.

A new sandwich board to publicize events is being designed by Jim Lewis.

If you have any questions or suggestions, or would like to help with the painting, please contact one of the committee members.

Mary Bassett 514 846 0783 r.bassett@sympatico.ca

Aurelien Guillory 514 933 9700 aurelian@colorsbyaurelian.com

David Rollert 514 989 9107 davidrollert@att.net

Covenant Groups Launch in October

During September, you will have an opportunity to join or rejoin a Covenant Group. As I write this in mid-August, it seems that there will most likely be three groups. One will focus specifically on spiritual practices; the other two will not have a specific focus, but if there is sufficient interest one of these may be reserved for those who are fluent in French.

Because there will be fewer groups, there will be less choice in terms of meeting times. The new facilitators and co-facilitators are to be trained by Rev. Diane Rollert in early September, and their schedules will determine when the covenant groups will meet. The groups will get underway in October.

In September, a new brochure will be available describing the purpose of covenant groups and how they work, as well as the times and orientations of the groups to be offered. The brochure will include a registration form on which to indicate your preferences.

I will be away from September 7 through 20, so if you have any questions, you will need to get in touch with me before or after (preferably by email).

Prue Rains, Covenant Group Coordinator. prue.rains@mcgill.ca, or (514) 481-8653

The Church Garden

(as distinct from the Phoenix Garden)

Abundant rain has made plants "explode" this summer and thanks to our volunteers and the UCM staff we have managed to keep our shrubs under control and weeds to a minimum. There is much work to be done in pruning and dividing plants this fall. Volunteers are urgently needed for a super fall effort to get as much as possible in order before the winter.

Many thanks again to all who turned up on Thursday evenings throughout the summer and a special thank you to Kathy Douglas who kindly supplied refreshments to the hungry workers. Watch for further announcements about working times, etc.

Contact: Christine Rourke 514-761-0669

Nouvelles du comité francophone

Voici quelques dates à retenir pour nos activités en français :

Le dimanche 14 septembre à midi, rencontre du comité francophone dans la salle Channing pour préparer nos activités en français. Cette réunion est ouverte aux intéressés.

Le dimanche 28 septembre à 12 h 30, la célébration en français. Le thème, 'La rencontre et la douleur d'être', sera animé par Christopher Thomson dans le Sanctuaire. Les participants qui assistent aussi au service en anglais sont invités à casser la croûte au Phoenix Hall vers 12 h, afin de combler le petit creux à l'estomac avant la célébration en français. Si vous avez besoin de gardien pour vos enfants pendant la célébration, communiquez avec Hannelore.

L'éducation religieuse pour les enfants aura lieu le deuxième dimanche de chaque mois. Donc, le dimanche 14 septembre à 10 h 30, nous attendons les enfants dans la Salle du Jardin. Si vous désirez animer les enfants, communiquez avec Elizabeth Charbonneau silverpen@sympatico.ca

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

Contact : Hannelore Poncelet, hanniponcelet@hotmail.com

September Calendar

Sunday, le 14 septembre à 10 h 30 : Éducation religieuse en français, salle du Jardin

À midi : Réunion du Comité francophone, salle Channing

Sunday, le 28 septembre à 12 h 30 : Célébration en français dans le Sanctuaire, 'La rencontre et la douleur d'être'

Crafting Our Future 2008-09
*Engaging with
Our New Mission*

WEEKEND RETREAT

(at Unitarian Church of Montreal)



Friday, September 19

Pot-luck at 6pm followed by opening workshop (ending by 9:30 pm)

AND

Saturday, September 20

Coffee & bagels at 9 am, workshop 9:30 am to 4:30 pm

Lunch provided.

We'll gather for meals, conversation and activities
to help us flesh out our objectives for the
coming year and the near future, inspired by our new mission statement
and by the ideas gathered during
the April 13 service when the mission statement was "unfurled".

Childcare available – please indicate your needs on sign-up sheet.

PLEASE SIGN UP on silver doors in Phoenix Hall

so that we can plan food and other resources accordingly.

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

ADOPTED JUNE 2, 2008

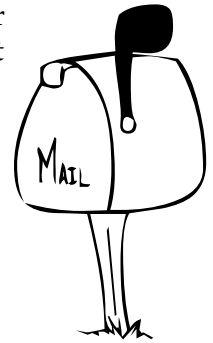
October newsletter submissions

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, September 17 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 Ann Howell, ann.howell@gmail.com or Marion Blake, marion.blake@sympatico.ca.

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

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SEPTEMBER 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4 10:00 am Play Group	5	6
10:30 am Worship	7:30 pm Parts in Peace Choir	10:00 am Play Group 7:30 pm Carmina Choir	10	11 10:00 am Play Group	12	13 10:00 am Walking Group
14 10:30 am Worship 12:30 pm Pathway to Membership 2008	15 7:30 pm Parts in Peace Choir	16 10:00 am Play Group 12:00 pm Seeking the Sacred in Stories 7:30 pm Carmina Choir	17 10:00 am Midday Meal with Music 7:30 pm Book Discus- sion Group	18 10:00 am Play Group	19 6:00 pm Crafting Our Future: Weekend Retreat	20 9:00 am - 4:30 pm Crafting Our Future: Weekend Retreat 10:00 am Walking Group
21 10:30 am Worship 12:15 pm Social and Environmental Con- cerns	22 7:30 pm Parts in Peace Choir	23 10:00 am Play Group 7:30 pm Carmina Choir	24	25 10:00 am Play Group	26	27 10:00 am Walking Group
28 10:30 am Worship 12:30 pm Célébration en français	29 7:30 pm Parts in Peace Choir	30 10:00 am Play Group 7:30 pm Carmina Choir				