

Unitarian Church of Montreal Église unitarienne de Montréal



Newsletter

July–August / juillet–août 2008

Our mission:

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

President's Message

What a pleasure it has been during the last few weekends to stand outside and greet people arriving for church on Sunday mornings. It is a highlight of my Sunday seeing all these smiling friendly faces, one by one. I must confess that I sometimes find the crowd at coffee hour a little overwhelming especially when Phoenix Hall is packed to the rafters. You will probably see me going around collecting coffee cups and dishes, making myself busy, rather than engaging in conversation. This will change over the next few months as I get used to my new role as President of the Board of Management. For now, one-on-one greetings at the front door are my cup of tea! I invite

more of you to enter the building from the front door, especially now that the sidewalk in front of the church has been liberated!

Our Mission Statement was voted in by the congregation at the AGM on June 2. This is great news. The mission task force met on June 15 to discuss further action. We are planning a congregational workshop and retreat from Friday, 19 September to Sunday, 20. (See page 8 for details.) I invite you to sign up to participate in this event that will see us identify and prioritize what we want to do as a congregation in order to "Welcome and Nurture, Inspire and Challenge, and Take Action in the World". Sign up sheets will be in Phoenix Hall.

Summer services are being held again this year thanks to the coordination efforts of David Horan, Aldyth Harrison and the volunteers from our congregation who will be leading the services. Every Sunday in July and August has a service scheduled, something not seen in the last few years. Bravo to all who are helping to keep this church open and active all year round. I will be attending with you all but a couple of Sundays in July. I look forward to greeting more smiling faces!

Worship Calendar

Services start at 10:30 am.

June 29

The Peace Dividend: Promise and Reality
Blair Rourke. Musician: Louise Halpern

July 6

Why Me ?
Kirsten Mc.Keown Musician: Louise Halpern

July 13

Dreams and Incidents: Places in the Web of life
Aldyth Harrison. Musician: Emanuel Freitas

July 20

Bible Blues, Mary Mag's Bao Rap
Lynne Beaudoin, Betty Pielte. Musician: Brian Brice

July 27

Subject T.B.A. Cym Gomery Musician: Brian Brice

August 3

A Look at the Theology of the Hymns We Sing.
Emanuel Freitas

August 10

T.B.A.
Gwen Spurll Musician: Brian Brice

August 17

Religion And Geography .
David Horan Musician: Shawn Dohring

August 24

T.B.A.
Mark Abley Musician: Louise Halperin

August 31.

Poetry and Music. Bring a Poem
Aldyth Harrison Musician: Shawn Dohring

We wish to thank all the leaders and musicians who are giving their talents and time. Bless you.

A special thank you to our now “Past President”, Alison Hall, for the wonderful work she did over the last two years. Her legacy will not be forgotten: successful pledge campaigns, a mission statement, a Sunday choir, and a task force to examine our governance structure, just to name a few. We are very fortunate to have her on the governance task force. She will bring to it her experience being on the Board, and her amazing insight into how we could lead ourselves in the future. Bravo Alison!

We’re all set to welcome our new DRE Caroline Balderston Perry in August (see page 6 for details).

I’m sorry to hear that Nancy Lorimer is stepping down from her leadership role on the Green Team. Thank you, Nancy, for your many years of service in this important role in our congregation. The next time I look up for inspiration from the spirit, I’ll be reminded of your dedication through the compact fluorescents lights you helped to get installed in the building.

At the June 18 Board Meeting, we were all asked to summarize in one sentence what our role is on the Board of Management of this church. My answer came to me earlier that day during my lunch break, and I quickly scribbled it down: “The President’s role is to provide leadership in the administrative and pastoral care of the congregation and its resources through dialogue and action with the Executive, the Board, the employees and the congregation at large”. With that, I close by expressing my sincerest gratitude to the members of this Church for trusting me with this important role. I will do my best!

David Kersulis

From the Minister’s Study

Vernal clouds have turned, the star-wheel summer is upon us...

As the star wheel turns, I am grateful for the time this community grants me each summer for rest and renewal.

Just before I take my break, I’ll be in Fort Lauderdale, from June 23-29, for Ministry Days and the Unitarian Universalist Association General Assembly. There I’ll catch up with colleagues from the US and Canada, as well as deliver my sermon for the Dana McLean Greeley UU-UNO award.

My summer leave begins on the first of July and I will return at the end of August. This year, I’ll spend one week in a French immersion program in the Gaspésie, as I continue in my quest to understand as much French (and as many French accents) as possible. The rest of the summer will be spent with family and friends, as well as doing some singing in the US, and some travelling in Quebec.

Throughout the summer, the office and members of the board executive will know how to reach me in case of emergency.

I’d like to extend a special thanks to all those who have stepped forward to lead our Sunday worship services for the months of July and August. This is the first year that we will have continuous services throughout the summer. What an accomplishment. It is nice to know that wherever I go this summer, UCM will be alive with warmth and energy.

Whether you stay here or travel far this summer, may your days be graced with brave new adventures and loving connections.

In faith,

Diane

Entre Nous

Andréanne Beaudoin, young woman going places

Andréanne is embarking on a busy summer. In early July she will represent Quebec at the national dancing competitions in Victoria.. Two weeks later she leaves on a tour of China. This all-expenses paid trip, organized by the Chinese Embassy, is awarded to Canadian senior high school students who have been studying Mandarin. Andréanne was nominated for this prestigious award by the Head of The Study where Andréanne has been a student for 11 years. She has been studying Mandarin for three years.

In the spring Andreanne was one of 17 high school students awarded the Lieutenant Governor’s Bronze Medal for Community Service.

Jean Symons Cumming celebrates her 95th birthday

After the service on June 15 members and friends met in Phoenix Hall to celebrate Jean Symons Cumming’s 95th birthday. She and her daughter Carol Cumming Speirs I were delighted to have the UCM community share her ‘this special day.. Jean was touched to have so many friends, old and new, wish her a happy birthday, individually and in song.

Jean’s connection with UCM has lasted almost 80 years. She served on the Women’s Alliance, Unitarian Service Committee, and the Cordner Committee among others and was active in the AUA, attending the “May Meetings” for many years. Both her father and husband served on the Board of Management. She and Stan Cumming were married in the church and their three children were

baptized there. Although her eyesight is failing, vision Jean counts the Sunday worship service as an essential highlight of her week.

Remembering Jan Safdie

Jan Safdie, who was church office secretary in the late seventies and mid eighties died of ovarian cancer in Toronto on June 4.

Jan was hired as the secretary at the Simpson Street church after Joyce Foley resigned. She always had a flare for the aesthetic. One of my first memories is of Jan teaching me the fine art of duplicating documents by using the old Gestetner machine. Her choice of brown ink—unusual in that era—gave all UCM publications a distinguished look. She and Charles Eddis were enthusiastic proponents of computers and by the time she retired, the office was computerized. Although she did not become a member of the church, she attended many of the East coast Unitarian summer camps and made many Unitarian friends.

She eventually decided to try her hand at other pursuits after her retirement in the mid-eighties. She worked as a horticultural technician and a cook and finally found her calling working for Penny Loafers, a convention shoeshine concession in Toronto where she had moved in the early nineties. She affiliated with Toronto First Unitarian Church and became an enthusiastic yearly participant at Unicamp.

Throughout her long illness, Jan remained optimistic, curious about the world around her and engaged in living. Among other things, she will be remembered for all the teddy bears she knitted for children in Central America after she became ill.

Jan is survived by her husband, Michael McNulty of Toronto and her

son Jason Safdie of Granby, Quebec. Segments from her memorial service at Toronto First can be viewed on line at www.jansafdie.com.

Maychai Brown

Lynne Beaudoin retires

On June 15 we feted Lynne Beaudoin as she retired from her position as a Lay Chaplain after 11 years of service. As Lay Chaplain, Lynne officiated at many rites of passage, especially weddings, as well as memorial services and child dedications, for people outside of our community seeking spiritually meaningful celebrations of life's milestones. As her colleagues attested, Lynne was a superb mentor to new chaplains.

She brought to her work great warmth, deep spiritual passion and exceptional willingness to think outside the box. Who else could have been so daring as to marry a couple as they shared their vows in full ski regalia on the summit of Mont Tremblant one New Year's Eve? Thank you Lynne!

Diane

Hairstyle debut at Midday Meal with Music

Gary Russell showed off his new coiffure to an appreciative audience at the June Meal with Music event. Gary sacrificed his locks in aid of the recent Defi Leucan challenge and by doing so, raised a nice \$705 for the children's leukemia foundation. The Orchestre symphonique de Montreal musicians made a total of \$8,750 and all are keen to do it again next year.

Gary's cut at time of writing seems to be somewhere between that of an American marine and a 1950s back-to-school scalping.

Note from Gary: Thanks for your moral, monetary and fashion support.

Hear Ye! Hear Ye!

Bob Edgar sent along the following update on the renovations to the Sanctuary and Phoenix Hall sound systems.

I am afraid that not much has happened yet. We have a report from the consultant that we are trying to decipher. When that is done, we will purchase some equipment, move the speakers and install some acoustic baffles in the Sanctuary and possibly in Phoenix Hall. Stay tuned.

SOUL Singers

The SOUL Singers (Singers Of United Lands) enriched and enlivened our worship service on June 22. These four professional musicians have been singing as a group for five months, in several venues in the USA. They are from Brazil, Czech Republic, Zimbabwe and the Republic of Georgia. Each led a song from their home country.

Ana stood out with her sparkling soprano voice, Tinashe led with great spirit, Lashahas a beautiful soulful bassvoice and Lenka led us into her song after our meditation.

The tour manager, Masashi from Japan, is currently a music student in the USA, staying for another three years to obtain a master's degree.

The other four will return to their home countries at the end of this month.

Many thanks to Nancy and Gordon Lorimer, Genevieve and Donald Patterson, and Diane and David Rollert, who were hosts for these five international musicians.

I feel greatly privileged to have had the opportunity to meet with them and experience their spirit of peace.

Mickey van Riel

Activities

(for the summer and beyond)

Parts in Peace

Potluck Party, Meeting and Sing-In

Monday, 25 August, any time after 6:00 pm at Denis and Alison's place: 225 Neptune Blvd in Dorval

Bring your favorite dish and a potential chorister, if possible. Phone Sandra at 514 484 5559 if you need details or encouragement, or a ride (although we are trying to sell our car).

Parts in Peace First Rehearsal

Monday, September 8 at 7:30 pm in the Sanctuary

Parts in Peace first Sunday Service: September 14

Meet at 9:30 am for Warmup



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.

News and Updates

350+ Solar Cookers for Darfur

Our sale of solar cookers for Darfuri refugees in May went over the top!

Our target was to raise enough money from the May collection plate and the June 1 sale of gift cards to purchase 100 cookers (\$1,500).

Instead, because of the congregation's enthusiastic support, we raised \$5,390.50 and donations are still coming in. We will therefore be able to send more than 350 cookers to women in the Chad refugee camps.

People gave generously because they understood the dire situation of the refugees, mostly women and children. Members also liked the practical, hands-on nature of the gift: solar cookers enable women to carry out meal preparation without leaving the camps in search of fuel and water, thereby incurring the same dangers of sexual and physical brutality which they faced in the homeland they fled.

A cheque will be sent to Jewish World Watch in California, the organization which has been coordinating the North American Darfuri solar cooker campaign. So far, more than 15,000 cookers have been distributed. In charge is Rachel Andres, who this year won the Charles Bronfman Humanitarian Award of \$100,000 for her dedicated efforts in "transforming despair into hope for thousands of surviving victims of Darfur genocide". The first woman ever to win this award, she will use it all to expand and publicize the campaign.

Special thanks are due to:

Frank Greene. He designed and produced the beautiful gift cards

with their photos of Darfuri women using the cookers.

Francine Desmarais, who produced the translation for the French cards.

Board of Management, which agreed to donate the May collection.

Members of the Social and Environmental Concerns Committee, for their year-long collaboration on our Darfur project.

And most of all, **to the generous people in our congregation**, who opened their hearts to families in a troubled land far away.

Mary-Louise Engels

Case with picketer resolved

Dear Members and Friends of the Unitarian Church of Montreal,

Our case with Robin Edgar, our picketer outside, has been completed. The judge has granted us a peace bond effective June 11, 2008 to June 11, 2009. Mr. Edgar is barred from being in front of the church for the entire year.

More specifically, Mr. Edgar may not be inside the area bound by de Maisonneuve, Decarie, Sherbrooke and Victoria streets, nor appear within a radius of 300m of the residence of our minister, Diane Rollert. He is also prohibited from communicating directly or indirectly with Diane or any of the members of the Board of Management of this church.

If anyone should see that Mr. Edgar appears to be breaking the rules of this judgment, please seek out a member of the Board of the church and they will take the necessary steps to contact the authorities. The file/dossier number is 500-01-001104-071. The police will have this number in their files and

are obligated to respond.

Many thanks to all those who provided support during this challenging time.

David Kersulis

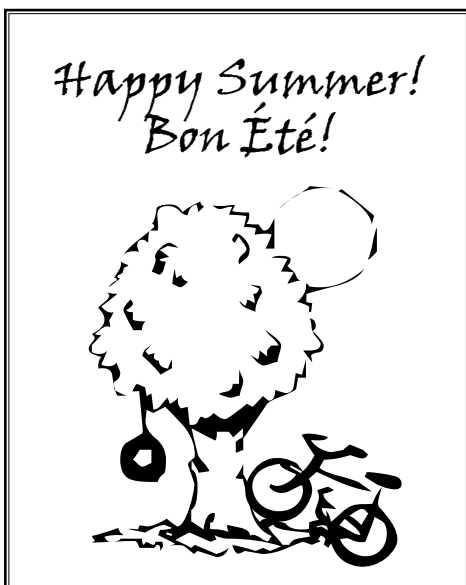
Press Release: June 16

A Quebec Court judge has ordered Robin Edgar to stop picketing the Unitarian Church of Montreal, ending a 10-year protest by the disaffected former member.

Judge Rolande Matte issued the restraining order June 11, effective immediately, through to June, 11 of next year.

Edgar is not allowed in the area bounded by DeMaisonneuve, Decarie, Sherbrooke and Victoria streets, nor may he appear within a radius of 300m of the residence of the minister, Diane Rollert. He is also prohibited from communicating directly or indirectly with the Minister or any of the members of the Board of Management of the church.

It comes as a relief to the members who have tried for years to accommodate Edgar, but grew frustrated with his increasingly aggressive and hostile stance, including a blog on which he posted his views and photos of church members.



Not your usual annual meeting report

Here is the script of the choral report of the CUC ACM, performed at the Chalice Lighting on June 8:

We light this chalice in honour of the 30 members of this congregation who participated in the Canadian Unitarian Council Annual Conference and Meeting in Ottawa this May.

Here are some of the things we've brought back with us:

- A reminder that we are part of a national movement with passionately dedicated members who have much in common and much to learn from each other.
- A new joy and awe in the power of music, especially choral music, to support spiritual growth.
- Sacred circle dance as a form of prayer.
- Ideas for expanding our website.
- Affirmation that flaming chalices are always better than battery-operated chalices.
- The inspiration and renewal that comes from
- Reconnecting with old friends,
- Making new friends,
- Getting to know fellow church members better.
- Broader perspectives and greater clarity.
- The warmth, the inclusion, the openness.
- The joy of being someplace where being a woman married to a woman is just normal.

- All the workshops and the sharing of information.
- The inspiration that comes from attending five workshops in French for the first time.
- The many contributions of women ministers when not so long ago there were almost none.
- The vibrant energy of 120 youth from all over Canada,
Who know their stuff
Who are open-minded to ALL religious traditions
Who are ready to fight for environmental and social justice
- The knowledge that the future of Unitarians in Canada is in good hands across the land.

Water Communion

Sunday, September 7

Don't Forget to Boil Your Water

Every year, on Homecoming Sunday

Whether we've stayed home or travelled far,

We each bring back some water to church in a tiny, tiny jar.

We pour it into a communal bowl

And share a phrase or two:

How has the summer transformed you?

But per the Department of Public Health,

This year, your water you must boil, boil, boil.

Thus our right to this watery celebration

You will not spoil, spoil, spoil.

—Rev. Diane Rollert

Layettes for newborns at the Covered Garden

Two newborn baby boys at the YMCA refugee centre, have already received attractive layettes – gifts from our congregation.

Money from the April Sunday collection plates was allocated to the Covered Garden. On the advice of Director Tanya Ghanem, a fund was set up with this money to purchase layettes for babies born while their mothers are in residence there.

The first layette went to a Haitian mother. It was selected by UCM refugee co-ordinator Bob Wright, who confessed he had never imagined making such a purchase at this stage of his life's journey. Christina Duvander enjoyed buying the second, for a South African baby named Wilberforce (Will). Will's parents explained they had named their son after William Wilberforce, the famous nineteenth century British abolitionist.



There will be another baby born at the refugee centre soon, and a layette will be ready and waiting, thanks to the generosity of our UCM congregation.

The Sunday visiting program at the Covered Garden is suspended over the summer months. It will resume in September.

The Refugee Subcommittee extends its warmest thanks to its volunteers and to the congregation for their outstanding support throughout the past year.

Mary-Louise Engels

Greening Our Sacred Space

As a co-presenter of Greening our Sacred Space, I was able to present our accomplishments and compare struggles with the experiences of Ottawa First Unitarian Congregation and, like the Ottawa presenters, I enjoyed hearing from other groups involved in greening.

While support for green projects was fully endorsed, several attendees questioned the value of following the UUA Green Sanctuary program and seeking UUA accreditation. Opinions varied. Although resource materials prepared by the UUA Ministry for Earth provide excellent guidelines and suitable resources, many suggested that Canadian resources such as Faith and the Common Good (an inter-faith organization) and Canadian Earth Institute provided relevant and economical literature plus invaluable networks. The Ottawa Environment Working Group reported that the energy and water audit undertaken by their congregation received professional and financial help through Faith and the Common Good.

Suggestions for improving the green status of a congregation included:

- Buy only fairly-traded flowers for memorials and decoration. For example, Sierra Eco Flowers.
- Lobby to ban plastic water bottles in all public places.
- Provide racks for magazine exchanges.
- Share private garden space with landless gardeners.
- Practice the 4 R's: Rethink, Reduce, Reuse and Recycle.

Nancy Lorimer,
Green Sanctuary Chair.

Religious Education

New DRE and Teacher Training

We are pleased to announce Caroline Balderston Parry as our new DRE. She will take up the appointment in August. Caroline was the DRE in Ottawa for three years and for the last two years she has been the Interim DRE in Columbus, Ohio.

Both volunteers and teachers should put "Teacher Training" on their schedule now for the end of summer. Caroline will lead the teacher training session on Saturday, 30 August. Keep an eye out for more details later by e-mail.

I would like to thank Sarah Marx McGill, our outgoing DRE, and everyone who helped make our 2007-2008 RE year a great success. We look forward to another great year with Caroline starting in September.

Peace & Blessings to you all for a great summer.

Shawn Dohring
RE Committee Chair

Unsung Hero

Now we have the opportunity to recognize this year's unsung hero among us. Our heroes are recognized because they have a history of being helpful to others and unsung because they may not already be recognized for such activities by most of the congregation. The mandate for selecting possible unsung heroes reads "At the giving of this award, the members of the congregation should say, 'Wow. I didn't know that. What a good person.'"

This year's unsung hero fulfills this mandate, is probably unknown to many of you, performs acts of heroic dedication to this commu-

nity weekly, most often behind the scenes. Our honouree would like to come to more Sunday services, but often spends the time upstairs catching up on weekly tasks.

The nature of those tasks is celebrated in the words of song # 358 in "Singing the Living Tradition: "Rank by rank again we stand". The second verse goes:

Ours the years' memorial store,
honored days and names we reckon,
days of comrades gone before,
lives that speak and deeds that beckon.

Some day, all of us will be part of this community's memorial store. As you have perhaps guessed, the keeper of this store is Barbara Jackson, UCM archivist and this year's *Unsung Heroine*.

Barbara began working in the Archives, first alongside Dorothy Clarke, then assuming responsibility when Dorothy semi-retired. Their close collaboration continues.

Dorothy says, "Barbara came in about 20 years ago to join me working in the archives. It was a great relationship. We worked so well together, and accomplished so much after coffee and catching up."

Dorothy recalled that once she and Barbara embarked on a big project, which could only be done by sitting on the floor and spreading all the materials out. When the task was finished, they looked at each other, and realizing that neither of them was able to get back up, collapsed into a fit of giggles. A sense of humour helps.

As archivist, Barbara spends countless hours behind the scenes, including keeping weekly files up-to-date. These files include not only our official documents, but

also news articles, letters-to-the editor, and obituaries involving our church and its members and friends. Barbara works closely with our ministers and others interested in our church's history. I'm sure she can also tell many interesting stories about the queries she and Dorothy have received, from far and near, from people seeking family records, requesting documents, or donating their family papers. One of the more unusual requests they honoured was to be interviewed by a film maker working on a documentary about the destruction of the Simpson Street church by fire.

Barbara has considerable history as a Unitarian herself. She has been interested and involved as a Unitarian at least since the 1950s. Charles Eddis believes she must have been a member of the Channing Club of university students during the 1960s. She was married in the Simpson Street church, and after moving to the West Island, was very active in the Lakeshore Congregation, which was then so large they had two services each Sunday. More recently, after retiring as an English teacher at Centennial College and moving back into the city, Barbara signed the UCM membership book in 1991. She was Board Secretary from 1998-2000. Petrina Lee-Poy, president at the time, often needed to be away and says that Barbara's competence helped to keep things running smoothly during Petrina's absence.

Barbara did weekly stints on the Telecrew from 2004-2007. She has been a Warden since 2007. She founded and shepherded the Heritage Committee, which encompasses the Heritage Library and the Archives and collaborates with the Wardens in looking after our

physical memorials.

One other thing you should know about her is her number one priority, her devotion to her family of four wonderful adult children, two granddaughters, her sister Norreen, and a widely scattered and most interesting extended family of numerous cousins, aunts and uncles, including, I believe, a Russian countess.

In order to document her own family stories, Barbara bought a computer just a few years ago and learned to use it so well that now she creates family records in both text and graphics. She uses her computer to keep up with worldwide goings on, current political and social events. I often look to her e-mails for her take on world affairs in general, and in particular, on the latest twist in the Hillary/Obama contest.

Other things you may be interested to know about Barbara. During World War II, she joined the Canadian Women's Army Corps, did her basic training in Alberta, and was later stationed in Halifax where she was a cipher clerk. She is a proud alumna of McGill, where she made many life-long friends.

It gives me great pleasure to present this *Unsung Hero Award* to Barbara Jackson, and add to her work-load of things to file in the archives. Her name will be inscribed on the *Unsung Heroes* plaque in the Thomas Room.

Carol Greene



Andy Hugessen remembers the Helsinki Games

Helsinki 1952, Beijing 2008

Separated by thousands of miles and over half a century, the Helsinki Olympic Games remain vivid in Andy Hugessen's mind's eye. And every four years, as he watches yet another Olympic Opening Ceremony, he remembers the proud — and as it turned out wet — moments of the Helsinki event.

Andy and his crewmate Doug Woodward won in the national Star dinghy trials in Toronto and earned their place on Canada's Olympic team. Their journey to Helsinki began in early July and ended one month later. Luckily Andy decided to keep a detailed record of those weeks, which he faithfully transcribed in 2006.

On the day of the opening, the Canadian team mustered at the practice soccer ground in the pouring rain. Andy continues,

"The rain eased up somewhat as we formed up and marched into the stadium, doffing our raincoats on the way to display our Canada blazers. We lustily sang "Oh Canada" as we emerged into the huge amphitheatre, but were soon drowned out by the cheers of 70,000 enthusiastic spectators and the army band which played much too fast... We plodded around the muddy track once and took our station in threes.

"Pavvo Nurmi (the great Finnish distance runner) entered the arena, circled the track and lit the flame. The Games were declared open and thousands of pigeons or doves were released, wheeling out of the thundering stadium up into the rain laden clouds.

"The spectacle was all so breathtaking and awesome that the exact

sequence of events is confused in my memory. The deep-throated swelling ovation that greeted Finland's own team would not be easy to forget, however."

Book Discussion Group

Light summer reading...

Following a festive June planning-plus-potluck session, members of the Book Discussion Group headed out to spend the summer with fellow River Thieves, members of the Kelly Gang and feckless leader The Illuminator, while tracking the elusive Jade Peony on Soul Mountain by the light of an Almost Moon during Late Nights on Air, sustained by Water for Elephants carried, of course, in enviro-friendly stainless steel vacuum bottles.

Newcomers are welcome at every step. All will reunite in September to discuss *Jade Peony*.

Info: Kathy Douglas 514-488-9608.

In Memoriam

Robert Short died June 11, 2008.

Robert had been a friend of the congregation since 1941 at the Simpson Street church and continued to support us when we moved to our new home. Our sympathy goes out to Diane Short and her family. A Memorial Service to honour his life was held at UCM on Saturday, 28 June 2008.



AGM Gems

Barbara Jackson received a standing accolade when presented the 2008 Unsung Hero Award. (See page 6)

Two technical corrections to the By-laws were approved.

Interesting discussion of the 2007 financial report: slightly lower income, slightly higher expenses, but better investment returns means that we were better off at the start of 2008 than for the few prior years.

After considerable discussion about what the mission of a mission statement is and whether it represents a goal or a condition, the new mission statement was approved.

A standing committee (means approved by congregation rather than appointed by Board) was established to investigate possible chang-

es to the congregation's governance (means the structures of how the congregation rules itself: Board of Management; Executive; Standing and ad hoc committees; and possible By-law changes to allow more efficient functioning while retaining democratic control).

Evelyn Beaudoin was warmly thanked for her 11 years as Lay Chaplain.

Reports from the Minister, Minister Emeritus, and continuing Lay Chaplains were received with considerable interest.

The new Board of Management and wardens were elected and installed by covenanting and recognition of duties and obligations by both the Board and the congregation.

Having reached this grand level of mutual support between the con-

gregation and the Board, the meeting promptly adjourned.

Respectfully submitted, Drosophila melanogaster, "Your fly on the wall"

Summer Office Hours

July 1–18, August 11–29
Monday–Thursday,
10:00 am –2:00 pm

Friday 10 am to noon

July 21–August 9
Office closed.

Telephone messages will be picked up remotely on a regular basis. Emergency calls will be forwarded.

Have a good summer everyone, and see you in September!

Crafting Our Future 2008-09

Engaging with Our New Mission

WEEKEND RETREAT (at Unitarian Church of Montreal)

Friday, September 19 Pot-luck at 6pm (ending by 9:30 pm) AND

Saturday, September 20 Coffee & bagels at 9 am, workshop 9:30 am to 4:30 pm

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

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".

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

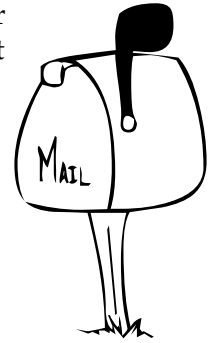
September newsletter submissions

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, August 20 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.



Unitarian Church of Montreal/ Église unitarienne de Montréal

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Website: www.ucmtl.ca

CUC (Canadian Unitarian Council):

Website: www.cuc.ca

Mouvement universaliste au Québec:

Website: www.uuqc.ca

Key People at the UCM

Minister: Reverend Diane Rollert 514-485-7654,
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Minister Emeritus: Reverend Charles Eddis
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Administrator: Verna Litwack 514-485-9933,
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President: David Kersulis 514-365-3191,
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