

LAKESHORE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION

5065 Sherbrooke Street,
Lachine, Qc. H8T 1H9
(514) 637-6974

APRIL 2015

APRIL 5TH – 10:30 a.m.

**RETURNING TO LIFE
Rev. Nicoline Guerrier**

Easter is a time to celebrate returning to life, even though in our northern climate, signs of new life to come are not always easy to find! If your heart is heavy after a long winter, or if you are just happy to anticipate spring, join us as we celebrate Easter and a return to new possibilities.

Our speaker today is **Nicoline Guerrier** - a recently credentialed minister with the Unitarian Universalist Association. Her ordination will be celebrated this May in Montreal. We look forward to her sermon – and are so pleased she has come to us to do one of her first services.

**Service Leader: Heather Falconer
Musician: Dori Abbott**

**Hospitality: James Sisley
Nancy Graham**

**Scavenger Hunt and Easter Eggs for the SE
Bake Sale after the service.**

APRIL 12TH - 10:30 a.m.

**DISCOVERING YOUR ZEN SPOT
Lianne Bridges**

Discover the place where your purpose, passions and gifts combine to bring you great abundance. Do you feel the strong calling to live with meaning and connection, but are not sure what that looks like? Maybe you have done vision boards in the past, but still you aren't clear on what your true path looks like? Lianne Bridges, business coach for conscious and creative entrepreneurs, created an approach based on 30 years of experience working with many different types of organizations and the process that she used for her own personal transformation. She calls it, "Discovering Your Zen Spot," and it's designed to help individuals find the place where work and life combine to bring incredible meaning, joy and abundance.

**Service Leader: Irene Hausknost
Musician: Kerry-Anne Kutz**

**Hospitality: Chris Bassett
Jose van Amerongen**

LUUC SPECIAL FUNDRAISER
April 12th -- Noon

PANTO: FUN! FUN! FUN! Jack and the Beantin - *When well-meaning Jack swaps the family cow for a tin of magic beans, he has no idea it'll lead to fortune and a family reunion!*

About 45 minutes long – meals served during the performance.

\$8.00 adult - \$6.00 children - \$25.00 a family

Concession Style Lunch today – Everything \$1.00 each

APRIL 19TH - 10:30 a.m

THE FOURTH PRINCIPLE
Calogero Columbo

Of our seven principles, the fourth one, "A free and responsible search for Truth and Meaning," is the hinge: the first three principles anchor it and the remaining three swing from it. In his talk, Calogero argues for the primacy of the search over the finding, of the question over the answer, and shows how our first three principles ground our search and the final three allow us to act regardless of what particular answers we might come to.

Service Leader:

Musician: Kerry-Anne Kutz

Hospitality: Sheila Laursen
Paul Sullivan

ELECTORAL MEETING to follow the service.

APRIL 26TH 2015 - 10:30 a.m **ON BECOMING...AND BEING A UNITARIAN**
UNIVERSALIST

Peter Abbott, Kerry-Ann Kutz, Rob Lutes, and Peg Wooley

This special Sunday service will include a *Welcoming Ceremony* for new members of our congregation. And some of our current members will share reflections of their "pathway" to Unitarian Universalism and to LUUC, and what keeps them coming.

Service Leader: Sheila Laursen

Musician: Kerry-Anne Kutz

Hospitality: Allan Strong

Nancy Schmidt

LINDA McGILL

On March 21st, LUUC held a funeral for **Linda McGill**, wife of **Allan Strong**. Linda had not been well for about 3 years, and as she was not a member of the church, we didn't see her very often. But we all remember her petite stature, her quick wit and her lovely smile. Several of her friends gave moving eulogies – and it became very clear that Linda was proud of her Irish background, that she loved music and lived life fully. At the same time, we learned that she had been a leading house-mother for troubled youth - and that she took this part of her life very seriously.

Rob Lutes and Charlie MacLeod, one of her friends played several lilting Irish songs on their guitars – with the congregation joining in. I think that Linda would have approved. - **ed**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

When it's my turn to be on the clear-up crew for the pot-luck luncheon – it is a mixed blessing - all that lovely food, conversation and companionship – and then - horrors – there's washing up for thirty five people to do!

At March's pot-luck the food was indeed scrumptious - and quite by chance an equal assortment of hot dishes, salads and deserts. We lunched on chicken, shrimp, meat pies, lasagna, scalloped potatoes and veggie stew. And to top it off there were fruit pies, other dainties and then **Jean Merrifield** excelled herself - not only did she make her signature trifle – but also a heavenly apple cake – topped off with cream - yummy!

Then...groan! It was time for the clear-up. I rolled up my sleeves and **Sheila** had already rolled up hers as we contemplated the hills of dishes. Then out of the blue, four gorgeous young teenagers took over the sink duties. Tall, elegant and with long hair flying, **Ariel, Bella, Olivia** and **Talia** patiently washed every last plate and cup, laughing all the time – I think they were actually enjoying it! While dear little (although not so little now-a-days) **Brianna** swanned around the hall picking up all the dirty plates.

Girls - thank you – you have no idea how much we, **Sheila, Kathy, Gabor, Susan** and I appreciated your dedication and kind efforts.

We at LUUC are so fortunate to have these wonderful reliable children with us on Sundays - and the encouraging thing is that the SE is growing. Several of the

Maestros stay after their musical morning and are part of the teeny ones class – we have two new boys who joined the middle age group – and of course our youth group. What a blessing.

- Heather

Wherever you go, go with all your heart - Confucius

FIRST 2015 LUUC DINNER FOR 8 OVER DELIVERS

In attendance were: Sheila, Danny, Mary, Luc & Jessica, our host Sari, choir members Amy & Rafael, Catherine & me.

Well, it was all that was promised and more... For example, it was billed as a dinner for 8 but there were 10 of us! Sari's hospitality made everyone feel completely comfortable and relaxed. Kudos to the chefs who provided a veritable United Nations of culinary delights and again to Sari whose Hungarian hazelnut cake almost caused a riot. We all got to know each other more intimately through the humorous and touching personal stories that flowed almost as freely as the fermented grape juice. And to top it off, the evening was incredibly educational -- as one would expect from a UU event. Among many other pearls of wisdom, we learned how to trade a carburetor for a swimming pool; how to avoid high pressure sales tactics and NOT get roped into buying a timeshare in Florida; how to convert someone to Christianity on a street corner at midnight and, perhaps most importantly; how to live like wild turkeys!!! Don't ask -- you had to be there...

~ Ogden Gavanski

CHANGES AT NCA?

We have heard from NCA that they are hoping to have another renter following us on Sunday afternoons. It is an idea very much in the exploratory state at the moment – and should it come to fruition, I will let you know. The NCA are very reasonable people, and we can certainly understand that they would like more renters to help pay the cost of heating the building. They have also assured us that they do not want to upset/inconvenience us in any way.

- Heather Falconer

FUND RAISING

We have a very active Fund Raising/Fun & Frolics committee at LUUC – and we will be busy fun-raising until the end of the church year – trying to add to our coffers in an entertaining and enjoyable way. Just to let you know that we work by committee - and try to be open in all things – and obviously we don't want any activities to clash. If you have an idea you want to pursue – kindly let our committee know. As you will see from the schedule below, April will be a very full month. Do join in and enjoy yourselves. **- ed**

APRIL IS A BUSY MONTH AT LUUC

**APRIL 5TH – Scavenger Hunt/Easter Eggs for the SE
Bake Sale** after the service.

APRIL 12TH - A PANTO – Jack and the Beantin.
Join in the fun and games! - **see page 2**
\$8.00 adult - \$6.00 children - \$25.00 a family
Concession Style Lunch – Everything \$1.00 each

APRIL 19TH - Electoral Meeting after the service to elect next year's Board

APRIL 25th – A Musical Evening – fundraiser for LUUC and SFA- at our church

Kerry-Anne has again offered to stage a concert for us – entitled “**Songs from the Movies.**” Refreshments and bake table.

Saturday APRIL 25TH

Doors Open at 6:30 pm – Concert starts at 7:00 pm

Cost – suggested minimum of \$10.00 at the door.

More information – Heather at 514-630-4206

APRIL 26th - New Members’ Day – a service to welcome our new members.

UP-COMING PLANT SALE

We will be holding a plant sale at **Margot’s** home in Pointe Claire on May 16th – the long weekend. When the snow goes and your plants pop up – let us know if you have any that need dividing – and we’ll come to help you. Also – we would like to have empty pots or plastic containers. **- Heather – 514-630-4206**

Other planned activities include - Talent Show, Garage Sale and Picnic in June.

We are hoping that the plant sale and garage sale will bring in revenue from non-church members. We will need all the help we can get: donations of articles for the garage sale – and plants for the plant sale - as well as people to sort and price the goods before the sales and sellers on the day.

AHMAD EL - KHATIB

We had an extra visitor at LUUC on March 15th. His name - Ahmad El-khatib - and after the service and he told us his compelling story.

He was born in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, of Palestinian parents and therefore, he is stateless. He has come to Canada to claim refugee status. This he has been refused – but Ahmad has another hearing – and is hoping that he

will be successful the second time around. He is a very personable young man – well received by our congregation - and he told his story well.

He writes that ... “members of the church lifts me.” And, “...thank you for reassuring me about the community, you can consider me part of it now.” He thanked us too for suggesting that he join the choir...“it was lovely to hear and would be a fun-learning experience for me, and I will sing with all my feelings!” He adds that he will be a volunteer at the Festival de Voix.

- **ed**

CARING NEWS

We welcome **Paul Sullivan** back from his annual sojourn to the Dominican Republic, where with the help of public-spirited high school kids, he built two community centres.

Farlan Grey had routine surgery on March 17th. The operation was successful and he is recovering well at home.

Sari is sunning herself on a lovely warm beach – we hope you have a good rest Sari – maybe the ocean breezes will perk up your spirits.

Maud Bonnier is waiting for the winter to be over, so she can go for short walks again. I’m with you Maud – I think we are all waiting for this winter to end.

Good to see **Helene Auer** looking very well at church last week.

An accumulation of clothes, toiletries, canned food and household linen is being collected for the Native Woman’s shelter. This is an initiative by our **Social Action Committee**, who are concentrating their efforts to help, learn and advocate more about Native women’s issues.

The ladies of the **Caring /Knitting/Try to do Everything Club** – went to see the film, *The Second Best Marigold Hotel*. Not quite as good as the first, they say, but still worth seeing.

We are very fortunate at LUUC that **Dori Abbott** offered to be our musician while **Kerry-Anne** is away masterminding her Festival de la Voix. Thank you Dori – we are very appreciative of your talents.

A fund has been started in Irma Rigby’s name, with a view to purchasing a lasting gift for the congregation, (i.e. a digital tape recorder?) Should you wish to contribute – kindly contact **Susan Czarnocki**.

BITS FROM THE BOARD

Sunday Services – have been plotted until June 21st when we close for the summer.

Fund raising – events in planning stages are Easter bake Sale, Panto, Kerry-Anne's concert, Garage Sale, Plant Sale, Catherine reported that the publicity for the Panto is now underway.

Cheque exchanges – Anyone wanting a cheque exchange – should check with the treasurer first and ask for Board approval.

Website – Susan and Catherine continue working on this – good news is that it will be ready soon.

Fun & Frolics: Nancy Schmidt is now heading up the Hospitality Schedule and has reported that it is difficult getting volunteers as we have so few people. She herself is filling in a great deal.

Dinners for 8 – The February dinner was very successful – we are looking for hosts for April and May.

SE – Vanessa Soldano has been hired to work with one group. Karli Warren does childcare for the youngest children. We will need to replace Casey, who will not be returning in September.

Replacing Treasurer on Board – Susan Czarnocki is working very hard to get the statements up-to-date and will present fuller information to the Board at the March meeting.

New Members – we will hold a new members welcoming service in April.

Social Action Committee – is working hard collecting items of food, clothing, linen and toiletries for the Native Woman's Shelter.

C. U. C.

Join us in Ottawa for the CUC Annual Conference and Meeting. Held at Algonquin College, May 15th – 17th. This year's theme will bring us workshops and streams delving into the ongoing quest of **Seeking Justice in a Changing Land**.

Registration is now open:

Adults General: *Early-Bird – \$275 (until Mar 31), *Mid-Bird – \$300 (April 1 – 30), *Regular – \$325 (after Apr 30), One-Day Registration: Saturday \$175, *Sun – \$210.

**All registration include the Banquet Dinner on Sunday night, except One-Day Saturday. Online registration closes April 30.*

CanUdle (ages 14-21): Early-Bird – \$100 (until Mar 31), Regular – \$125 (April 1 – 30),

**All registration include meals. Registration closes April 30)*

Children (ages up to 14): Regular – Sat-Sun: \$100 / Fri-Sun: \$150 (until April 15),

**All registration include lunches. Registration closes April 15.*

Register by the **Early Bird Deadline (March 31st)** and you will be entered to win a free registration!

Happiness

Cannot be travelled to...

Owned, earned, worn or consumed.

Happiness is the spiritual experience of living every moment.

In love, grace and gratitude

Around the West Island:

60 MILLION GIRLS FOUNDATION

There are an estimated 60 million girls around the world who do not go to school. Basic quality education provides girls with access to health and nutritional information for themselves and their families. It provides a safe place to grow as they learn. It gives them the knowledge to provide economic support to their family. It delays marriage and pregnancy, thereby lowering infant and maternal mortality. And an educated woman is more likely to send her children - both boys and girls - to school, thereby increasing the likelihood of future generations receiving an education. Two representatives from this foundation will talk at Selwyn House School, 95 Chemin Côte St-Antoine, Westmount, Qc: on Thursday, **April 23rd at 7:30 pm**, speaking of their latest efforts to educate girls in Uganda and Liberia. Cost: \$5.00,

Please let me know if you wish to attend this lecture – (limited seating) - **Heather 514-630-4206**.

BICYCLE COLLECTION DRIVE

for families in the South

Saturday, April 18 2015

from 10 AM to 1 PM

West Island YMCA

230, Brunswick Blvd Pointe-Claire

Organized by: West Island YMCA

Any questions? Nathalie Bérubé 514-630-9622, p. 5210

To cover costs, a minimum donation of \$15 per bike is requested. In exchange, you will receive a tax receipt for the market value of the bicycle and cash donation. Repairable bikes, or in good condition, with 20" wheels or bigger.

- Sheila Laursen

EMPTY BOWLS – FUNDRAISER TO FIGHT HUNGER

Beneficiary: Bread-Basket Lac-Saint-Louis

Tickets \$25 sold at the door for a hand-made ceramic bowl donated by a Quebec potter. One serving of soup and bread. Children \$5 (under age 12, meal only)
INFO: Bread Basket Lac-Saint-Louis: (514) 694 - 5850

St-Columba-by-the-lake Church

11 Rodney Ave
Pointe-Claire,
H9R 4L8

Saturday, April 18th, 2015

Two sittings
11:30 am – 1:30 pm
5:00 pm – 7:00 pm

MURDER MYSTERY DINNER

The Dorval-Strathmore Players present their 9th annual Murder Mystery Dinner Show, "**Camp K'monawah Naslaia**". Five performances: **Saturday evenings April 11, 18, 25, May 2 & 9**. Doors open at 6:00 pm. Appetizers served/cash bar open. Show starts at 6:30 pm. You will be served a delicious 4-course meal, and be entertained with a murder mystery to solve, that includes lots of laughs.

Tickets are \$35 - \$30 for seniors & students. Tickets must be purchased in advance – no tickets sold at the door. Call Lorraine at 514-631-9879, or dorvalstrathmoreunited.weebly.com.

A SPECIAL HISTORICAL EXHIBIT IN DORVAL

An historical exhibit entitled "Across the Lake: The Shared History of Dorval and Kahnawake" will be on view at the Dorval Museum of Local History and Heritage, until August 2, 2015, as highlighted recently in the West Island Gazette.

INEQUALITY – A DEFINING ISSUE OF OUR TIME

I am delighted that major public figures like Pope Francis and President Obama are pointing to inequality as a defining issue of our time. This focus on inequality is long over due.

What would an economy and society founded on our religious ideals look like? First, it would have far, far less inequality. I do not believe in some romantic notion of complete equality. (I even believe that some economic inequality is a good thing. Incentive and rewards have their place.)

Second, we would have very different measures of success. What good does it do if we have rapid economic growth if that growth goes to a tiny portion of the population and is purchased at the expense of environmental degradation and mistreatment of workers? Why not measure progress by its benefits to ordinary people?

Building upon this, I believe people need to contribute in order to have dignity. I believe it is more moral to expand employment that to create growth.

Following that, I would be happy to trade growth for sustainability. In the society ruled by compassion and by responsibility to the interconnected web of existence, we would never allow damage to the environment in order to produce growth. Indeed, our entire obsession with growth strikes me as a kind of idolatry that ends up involving human sacrifice.

We UUs have a long tradition of taking our deepest religious values out into the arena of public witness. Recently we have stood on the side of love for LGBT people, immigrants and women. We stood for love and justice in the civil rights movement and in the struggle against slavery.

To day, I believe our faith calls us to bear witness to the poisonous effect of inequality.

- Peter Morales, President UUA of Congregations

AND NOW IN 2015, HOW ARE WE DOING ON GENDER EQUALITY?

Former UN Secretary General Kofi Annan said improving gender equality creates immediate benefits: “Families are healthier, they are better fed, their income, savings and reinvestment go up. And what is true of families is true of communities and, eventually, the world.”

When women and girls live free from violence, poverty, and rigid stereotypes that limit their potential, our neighbourhoods are safer, our economy is stronger, and our pool of future leaders is more diverse.

In 2014, the World Economic Forum report notes that healthy and educated women are more likely to have healthier and more educated children, “creating a virtuous cycle for any community or country.” Helping women and girls moves us all forward.

A study released in November 2014 by the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives on Canada's progress towards equality over the past five years was produced by 35 contributors, from 30 civil society, academic, Aboriginal, and human rights organizations, representing over three million members from every region of Canada.

According to the study, gender inequality has persisted or worsened in a number of critical areas in Canada, including violence against women, women's economic security, and the human rights of Aboriginal women and girls:

- Canada does not have a national action plan to address violence against women.
- Rates of sexual assault and intimate partner violence have remained persistently high in Canada. The issue of violence is particularly acute with respect to Aboriginal women and girls in Canada, with rates of violence at least three times higher than for non-Aboriginal women and girls.
- The last five years have seen little change in women's poverty in Canada. Overall, 13.3% of women live in poverty, however Aboriginal women and single mothers experience even higher rates, at 30% and 36% respectively.

Continued/...

- The Canadian gender pay gap is the eighth-largest among OECD countries. (in 2008, Canadian women earned an average total income of \$30,100 while the average total income for men was \$47,000.)
- Key women's groups lost funding under the Status of Women's Canada cutbacks in 2010, which is a major blow to women's equality and advocacy.

Kate McInturff, Senior Researcher at the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives noted, "Twenty years ago Canada ranked first amongst nations in international measures of gender equality. In 2014, Canada had fallen to nineteenth place in the World Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap Index.

The ways to improve are there....by implementing its existing commitments and ensuring that all of its policies address the specific challenges faced by women, Canada could regain its reputation as one of the best places in the world to be a woman."

- Submitted by Sheila Laursen

NEW SENSES FOR HUMANS

"In the Reflection I gave a couple of years ago on Future Life, I included the four questions of the Hopi Indians. 1. Who are we? 2. Where do we come from? 3. Why are we here? and 4. Where are we going?" This last question seems to indicate that through generations we are on a journey. With science more and more busy investigating measurement techniques, one small but intriguing step described on internet TED by David Eagleman "New senses for Humans" shows practical usage of brain research in designing better ways for understanding changes in our environment. I thought the video worth bringing to member's attention.

- Submitted by Peter Abbott

LAKESHORE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION

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DEADLINE FOR NEWSLETTER: APRIL 20th, 2015

Our web-site: www.LUUC.org

HAPPY EASTER EVERYONE!