

LAKESHORE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION

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

MAY 2015

May 3rd – 10:30 a.m.

Helen Jensen

**THE ORIGIN AND EVOLUTION OF CULTIVATED PLANTS: WHERE
BIOLOGY AND CULTURE INTERMINGLE**

Today we grow hundreds of plants essential to our survival that provide us with, among others, food, oil, fiber and medicines. These plants often have very different properties. Over the past 12,000 years, human societies have selected and transformed many wild plants to make them edible, easier to grow and harvest and to respond to specific cultural needs. As part of this talk we will explore the fascinating history of these crops through time and across cultures, including the current state of Canadian seed security.

Service Leader: Paul Sullivan
Musician: Kerry-Anne Kutz

Hospitality: Selina Rooker
Peg Wooley

May 10th - 10:30 a.m.

**OPENING OUR EYES TO THE SPIRITUAL
IMPERATIVES OF OUR TIME
Rev. Frances Deverell**

We know what we have to do, but we're not doing it. Why not? What is stopping us? Is the problem out there – with the politicians? Or is it within ourselves? If we are committed to spiritual growth, what spiritual characteristics do we need to develop in order to face the challenges of climate change and the political and economic state of the world?

**Service Leader: Susan Czarnocki
Musician: Kerry-Anne Kutz**

**Hospitality: Nancy Schmidt
Margot Barclay**

LUNCH SPECIAL! Ogden Gavansky will led the Men's Brigade to provide lunch as a special treat for Mothers' Day.

* * *

May 17th. No Service at LUUC today. At the MUC, Kirstin McKeown will speak: ***A Service Commemorating the International Day Against Homophobia.***

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May 24th - 10:30 a.m.

**I'D LIKE TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT THE
THINGS WE LOVE
Keith Baxter**

Is Unitarian Universalism in Canada thriving? Lots of people like us. Others can't be bothered. What's going on? Where is the excitement exactly? Let's start by talking about the things we love. Keith will highlight an exciting new vision for UUism in Canada. There will be a **special collection** today to support the Canadian Unitarian Council's ***Sharing Our Faith*** program.

**Service Leader: John Foulds
Musician: Kerry-Anne Kutz**

**Hospitality: Nancy Schmidt
Nancy Graham**

May 31st - 10:30 a.m.

ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTH IN 2015

Gary Spiller

The use of environmental principles to try to choose healthy food despite a patchwork of regulations, strong industrial lobby groups and new studies on what is and is not healthy for us to eat. Links between glucose-fructose, mercury, pesticides and health concerns. Why climate change and loss of biodiversity are aggravating the problem. Solutions including forest farming and locally grown produce will be discussed. Traditional foods are being re-introduced into our diet, while our choices are expanding as immigration introduces us to more food cultures from different countries.

Gary Spiller is an Environmental Scientist with experience in the Asia-Pacific and Africa. He will present his perspective on the relation between environmental management and health issues.

Service Leader: Jon Foulds

Hospitality: Nathalie Hainaut

Musician: Kerry-Anne Kutz

Jose van Amerongen

The service will be followed by **THE TALENT SHOW** – and a lunch.

We're the first generation to feel the impact of climate change and the last generation that can do something about it. - Jay Inslee

AMAZING SERVICE - THE FOURTH PRINCIPLE

Wow! **Calogero Cumbo**, a member of the Ottawa Unitarian Fellowship, knocked it out of the park with his April 19 talk “The Fourth Principle.” Heads nodded and smiles of appreciation sprung up as he described our fourth principle, “A free and responsible search for truth and meaning,” as the cornerstone of our belief system. Strength and wisdom, he said, comes from asking questions, re-evaluating our beliefs, and respecting the beliefs of others—*and* from helping our children to do the same. It’s not easy, but oh so satisfying! Wise words from one outstanding speaker. - **Nancy Schmidt**

For information on Calogero’s personal journey to Unitarianism – please turn to page 12.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

April was a busy month for our congregation. We raised money - hunted for eggs – climbed the beanstalk, which was a giant bean can - our choir sang glorious anthems to us – we altered the by-laws – endorsed the new Board - listened to some excellent speakers who send us home thinking deeply – our little Maestros played on – we had two nice sunny days – and a little sparrow joined us - flying high up into the ceiling – then swooping down low – he liked to perch on the 'Bluenose' - all this on Sunday mornings.

Meanwhile, we at the Board are steadily working towards ensuring a healthy and relevant future for us. We have pondered over finding a treasurer – and secretary – and a teacher for next year – Casey is leaving – and we will miss her – she has cared for the Sunday school for the last 4 years. By the time you read this – 5 new members will have joined our congregation in a special ceremony.

Nancy Graham managed to have the LUUC signs taken down from the Beaconsfield streets – and she has them securely hidden under a cover in the back seat of her car - you are invited to take a look! Thank you Nancy.

There is a lot going on in our little church at the moment! May will be another busy month! The Sunday Service Committee has arranged for an eclectic line-up of interesting speakers. **Ogden's** Men's Brigade, will cater lunch to all the Mums on Mother Day – (May 10th) - and we'll hold the **Talent Show** – (May 31st) when we'll serve a 'finger-licking' lunch for you all. I hope you have all polished up and prepared your acts – we are expecting world-class entertainment here.

Let's prove that **LUUC's Got Talent**. Catherine is calling for all divas, closet singers, dancers, poets, actors, musicians, magicians, stand-up comedians, and circus performers to enter our talent show - groups and soloists, professional and amateur all welcome! Call Catherine at catforbes@gmail.com letting her know the type of act, name of the act, exact duration and if any special set up is required.

- Heather

Love is a more powerful force for good than fear - Universalist motto

SPRING EGGSTRAVAGANZA!

Last month, the LUUC kids celebrated the convergence of three important holidays: Easter, Passover and Ostara!

Pop Quiz: What symbol shows up in all three of these holidays?

Answer: the humble yet mighty EGG!

Here's how: *In Greek Orthodox Christianity, there is a legend that after Christ's death on the cross, Mary Magdalene went to the emperor of Rome and told him of Jesus' resurrection. The emperor's response was along the lines of "Oh, yeah, right, and those eggs over there are red, too." Suddenly, the bowl of eggs turned red!*

In Pre-Christian Europe there may have been a goddess called Eostre, whose name gives us both Ostara and Easter. The Venerable Bede describes Eostre as a goddess with fertility associations, which loosely connects her to both rabbits and eggs... In European folklore, the rabbit connection to eggs is one based on confusion. In the wild, hares birth their young in what is known as a form -- basically, a nest for bunnies. When the hares abandoned a form, it was sometimes taken over by plovers, who would then lay their eggs in it. The locals would then find eggs in the hare's form.

And finally, the egg is one of the special foods of a Passover Seder, representing the sacrifice at, and later the destruction of, the Jerusalem Temple.

To mark this not-so-coincidental coincidence, we scavenged colourful eggs from their hiding places inside and outside the building. Then there was a puzzle to rebuild, for inside each egg was a piece of a story and fun facts, either about Easter, Passover, or Ostara. Once the stories were complete, they were put on posters for all to read, and everyone got a few chocolate eggs. Thanks to all who participated!

- Casey Stainsby - S. E. Facilitator

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2015/2016

At our Electoral Meeting on April 19th, the Nominating Committee proposed that **Irene Hausknost** replace Margot Barclay on the Board as Director B and that **Catherine Forbes** stay on as Vice President. It was not possible to fill the role of treasurer, due to our By-Laws restrictions that state that after 6 years on the Board, a person has to wait 2 years before going back on again. It was voted that, in an emergency and at the Board's discretion, this restriction could be removed.

The New Board will consist of:

President – Heather Falconer
Vice President – Catherine Forbes
Treasurer – to be determined
Secretary – Peg Wooley
Director A – Sari Kelen
Director B – Irene Hausknost

Responsible Membership Committee

Paul Sullivan
James Sisley

We welcome **Irene** to the Board and **Paul** and **James** to the RMC. Thank you very much for offering to serve – and we look forward to benefiting from your ideas, wisdom and energy. **- Heather**

LIBRARIAN

The Board would like a couple of people interested in books to take over our library. It is looking a bit unhappy at the moment – some books could be recycled and newer ones donated or purchased from Nova's Books shop in Ste. Anne. (\$1.00 per book) **- Heather @ 514-630-4206**

JACK AND THE BEANTIN

A certain madness permeated LUUC after church last Sunday. We put on a **Panto – Jack and the Beantin**. We had pulled out all the stops and found ourselves in a church filled with 75 people and 27 children – and then there were some latecomers – so we lost count.

The Panto was enjoyed by all ages – with Jack looking like Robin Hood, his mother looking like Widow Twanky, a fee-fie-foe giant who was a dwarf, a bean stalk that was a giant tin of beans and a cow – well the cow looked like a cow. Of course the story line was somewhat confused – but who cared? The children shouted out loud and laughed out loud – they were enthralled.

Then I heard an older voice yelling – Jack! Jack! Jack! It was **Jean Merrifield** – the enthralment was catching. The play was preceded by a concession-style lunch – you know all those unhealthy things we love to eat from time to time – like hot dogs and chips – followed by healthy stuff like fruit and juice.

The Panto was the brain-child of **Catherine Forbes** – many thanks Catherine. We all had a good time – and raised well over **\$850.00** gross. A big thank you everyone!

- ed

TEACHER NEEDED

As **Casey Stainsby** will be graduating from University this spring and moving on, our Board of Directors in looking for a person to work with our young people in the Spiritual Exploration Program for two hours on Sunday mornings. This is a paid position and we are seeking a warm caring person who has a rapport with children and who likes being part of a team. If you have a baby-sitter or know of a young person who would fit the bill - or if this description fits you (this is a great way to learn about Unitarian/Universalism). Please contact Peg:
Tel. # 514-630-1512 or e-mail: wooley@videotron.ca

BITS FROM THE BOARD

At the March Meeting the Board looked at the problem of our sound equipment should the Norwegians wished to purchase, should they rent the premises (not on our time) to other people. After input from **Kerry-Anne** and **Paul** it was decided not to sell it. We now using very little space in our storage locker and in order to save money it was decided to clean out the locker and store our belongings at the church.

Since **Monica Warren** has left the position of Church Secretary and Treasurer, all Board Members have pitched in to help with the various jobs. **Susan Czarnocki** has proven to be a fantastic support as she has been busy completing unfinished financial reports as well as looking after day-to-day finances. She even managed to produce completed monthly reports for the March meeting! Susan is committed to helping LUUC until the end of June, but we will have to have a Treasurer as well as a Church Secretary next year.

As the Nominating Committee members have been unable to find anyone who is able to act as Treasurer for 2015/16 they submitted a request to the Board to amend the by-law requirements for holding a position on the Board. After much discussion, the vote for this amendment was carried. It will be voted on by the congregation at the April 19th electoral meeting.

The fun(d)-raising events approved of are: May – plant sale; June – garage sale and Talent Show.

As a couple of people have donated money in memory of Irma Rigby, Susan suggested that LUUC purchase an item such as camera or tape recorder. Susan is willing to look after this, and members will be notified via Newsletter.

The Young People's programs have been well attended this year, and with three people acting as animators the group has been split into three: High School Age – with **Casey Stainsby**, Elementary School Age – with **Vanessa Soldano**, and Pre-schoolers and younger with **Karli Warren**.

- continued

As Casey heads the whole group and will be leaving in June, steps are now being taken to find a replacement. Some of the high school group are headed to the CUC Annual Meeting in Ottawa where they will meet with other young Unitarians, and the Board has decided to offer some financial support for this trip.

*Peg Wooley,
Secretary, LUUC Board*

PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF DATE!

PLANT SALE – SATURDAY MAY 24th

Our plant sale will be on **Saturday May 24th at Margot's house**. We have had to move the date on one week, as spring is very late this year. We will need:

PLANTS

POTS

PEOPLE

As I write this, there are not many signs of plant activity in the garden – but with the sun – the plants will come popping up. They always do!

Let me know what plants you can provide for us – how many pots you can supply – and if you are willing to ‘man’ the stalls!

Give me a call

Heather – 514-630-4206

EASTER BAKE SALE

We held a very successful **Bake Sale and Raffle** after the church on Easter Sunday – adding **\$297.00** to our coffers.

CARING NEWS

Both **Gary Spiller** and **James Sisley** have had eye surgery - we wish them well and a complete recovery. We hope **Jean Merrifield** is feeling better - as she has been unwell recently. **Lois Read** is glad that the weather has improved – now she can drive her car again. **Mary Hunter writes:** One of my talented, beautiful daughters, Emily Gray, can be found online! Youtube: Search Emily G's Music & more. Emily is a McGill graduate and plays the clarinet, among many other instruments. Christine Gray is doing fine, too!

375TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FIRST CROSS ON MOUNT ROYAL

Our history tells us that on January 6th 1643, a dangerous flood from the Saint Lawrence River threatened the burgeoning colony of Ville-Marie. The Governor, de Maisonneuve then promised God that, if the colony were spared, he would plant a cross on the Mountain. This historical event was reported in 1643 by the Jesuit, Father Barthelemy Vimont, who confirmed that, as the waters receded, de Maisonneuve kept his promise. So on the Wise Men Day, he took a heavy cross on his shoulders and trekked over a distance of one league, or about 5 km. It corresponds to the distance between the Old Montreal and a place on Cote des Neiges Road, above the Grand Séminaire de Montréal. The truth about the first cross comes from Marguerite Bourgeoys' (1620-1700) personal diary published in Montreal in 1818. It tells us that de Maisonneuve erected it in 1640. Recognized as a devout Catholic, an ascetic and a mystic, she founded the nuns Congregation Notre-Dame de Montréal devoted to the education of Indian and French girls. She was canonized in 1982.

“If you stand still, people can push you down, but if you keep walking they have to follow you.”

***- Princess Reema
Mission to Empower Saudi Women***

NORTH HATLEYS ANNUAL PICNIC

North Hatley's Annual Picnic has been scheduled for July 5th this year. Coffee is served in the church from 9:30; Worship in the church at 10:30; followed by picnic and games and swimming in the pool at the home of Joey Marosi, on the other side of the lake from the church. Keith Baxter of North Hatley says, "It's fun when some of you Montrealers take the trouble to come out to the country and join us for 1 day a year."

NEWS FROM THE SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE

1. I would like to welcome **Karine Deschamps** to our committee! She was moved to join when she saw the collection being made for the Native Women's Shelter of Montreal. Throughout the month of March people brought in clothing, linen, food and hygiene products which Susan and I delivered on March 29th. Thank you, everyone, for your generous donations. They were much appreciated.

2. We have a Canadian Erin Brockovich, an Alberta woman named Jessica Ernst. She blew the whistle on Encana for poisoning the ground water as a result of fracking. She's been fighting Encana and the Alberta Government in court and her lawsuit will be heard in the Supreme Court this year. You can google *ernst fracking* to keep up with her struggle.

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/technology/fracking-criticism-spreads-even-in-alberta-and-texas-1.3002287>

3. There was a Climate Change march in Quebec on Saturday April 11th prior to the Premiers' meeting there the following week. The march web site is <http://act-on-climate.ca/> The CUSJ is a participant. 25,000 people marched! Premier Couillard was the host and the only topic on the agenda is climate change. Where were you, Mr Harper?

- Sari Kelen

Moses dragged us for forty years through the desert to bring us to the one place where there was no oil.

- Golda Meir

CALOGERO CUMBO

I was born into a Roman Catholic family, and was a devout child, reading the bible every day and attending daily mass. My devotion was in part, fuelled by my brother's agonizing over God's existence, which he insisted I prove to him, even into the late hours of the night. It was in an attempt to finally get a good night's sleep, that I pursued that question of his. To that end, I sought out a spiritual director who, among other things, directed me towards Mysticism. Thus did I embark on a research project of biblical proportions, which ended up in me trying my hand, at turns, first at becoming a priest and then later a monk. But both attempts ended in the negative, I having decided that celibacy was not for me. And further along, after our first child was born, I came to reject the very idea of God. Ironically, when I finally agreed with my brother that I didn't believe in God he turned and became a devout Catholic.

From there, our spiritual journey took Renate, (my wife) and I to Sacred Circle Dance and, through a Sacred Circle Dance workshop, fortuitously located at Unicamp, we were introduced to Unitarianism.

Through all that time, I supported our family by being a Computer Analyst/Programmer, first in Canada and then in the US, having worked a year and a half in Minnesota, and a subsequent year and a half in Ohio. That ended abruptly in 2001. After the attack on the World Trade Centre, work for non-Americans dried up. So we made our way back to Canada and I tried to eek out a living on two-month contracts, which practice I tired of quite soon, in favour of the stability of joining the military.

So now I am a major in the Royal Canadian Air Force. My trade is Communications and Electronics Engineering, but I have spent most of my military career as a computer Analyst/Programmer, having worked 2 years at the NATO Programming Centre in Belgium, and four subsequent years at the Information Technology wing at the NATO Air Base in Germany.

- Calogero Cumbo

THE UNITARIAN PASSAGE TO INDIA **THE REV. STANLEY SEARS, D. MIN**

When I first heard years ago that there were Unitarians in Northern India, even whole villages of them, I was absolutely fascinated. I had always hoped that one day I would find out how this came to be. **Rev. Stan Sears** came to "fill the bill" at LUUC. According to two people I have spoken to, Stan's talk was memorable, passionate and intellectually challenging, and so expressive about why we are Unitarian. One of these people said, "He held my attention all the way through". Because I feel that this aspect of the history of Unitarianism can't easily be put into a short résumé, I will divide it into two. You may look for Part 2 in June's newsletter.

Part 1

There are two distinct groups of Unitarians in India. One calls themselves Unitarian. The other, the Brahma Samaj, has its roots in Hinduism, but then was transformed through its interactions with British Unitarianism.

The church of the first one has a flaming chalice painted above the door, welcoming fellow Unitarians. The story of how it got there is over 230 years old. There are two parallel stories. The group that calls itself Unitarian had its origins with William Roberts, a Tamil orphan who was sold into slavery as a boy in the 1780s. He was sold to an officer on an English ship. When the officer died, the ship's captain took an interest in him and brought him to England.

From a historical perspective, this was the era when the first Buddhist and Hindu writings were being translated into English. At the same time, Europeans were trying to convert Indians to Christianity as a way of "civilizing" them. Even the most scholarly Hindus were led to believe that their religion was inferior to Christianity. It was in this context that William Roberts was exposed to Christianity.

Along with other Unitarians throughout history, Roberts was perceptive enough to realize that the Christianity that he was being taught in the creeds was not the Christianity of the Bible. He made many trips between Madras and England and acquired various tracts and books on Unitarianism from Thomas Belsham, one of the leading Unitarian thinkers of the day. Roberts translated these tracts into

Tamil and then, in 1813, started a congregation in Madras which has been continuously active since then! The other Unitarian based group, the Brahma Samaj, was begun by Rammohun Roy, a member of the Brahmin caste. Both Roberts and Roy emerged from their encounters with Christianity as monotheists. They found the teachings of Jesus profound and transforming but felt that the notion of the Trinity that made Jesus into a god was untenable. While Roberts maintained a strong Christian Unitarian perspective, Roy took the idea of the oneness of god and applied it to the Hindu Vedas, or old writings.

Rammohun Roy confounded the leading thinkers in the England and the United states because he did not cross the line into a theological belief in Christianity. He had no interest in saving souls for Christian churches. He was more interested in using the teachings of Jesus to transform society; he sought to use Christianity to create greater happiness, equality and prosperity among the people of India.

In our current era, we hear of UU-hyphenates: UU-Buddhists, UU-Christians, UU-Pagans and other mixtures of Unitarian Universalism. Almost two hundred years ago Roy was the prototypical Unitarian Hindu. In other words, he combined the Unitarian notion of the oneness of God with Hinduism. Eventually he moved away from Christianity and founded a group called the Brahma Samaj. This group remains a strong and viable presence in India.

Rammohun Roy is often called “the father of modern India”. Living in a misogynistic society, he stood for the rights of women, freedom of the press and the need for cast reform. Although he was a Brahmin, he called for granting greater powers to the members of the lower casts.

Roy’s religion, the Brahma Samaj, has three qualities. The first is the emphasis on monotheism, the notion of there is one God, rather than the pantheon of Gods in the Hindu religion, or the Trinity of Christianity. The second is that morality is the essence of all true religion. Roy focused on the moral teachings of Jesus and neglected the story of the death and resurrection. This angered the missionaries who were trying to convert the Hindus to Christianity. The third is that rationalism is the key to understanding religious teachings. Roy asked whether religious teaching made sense before asking people to believe them.

While Roy disappointed Christian missionaries, there were Unitarians who were intrigued by his melding of Unitarianism and Hinduism. Among the people who came across Rammohun's teachings was Ralph Waldo Emerson. He began incorporating Hindu teachings into his Transcendentalist philosophy. Henry David Thoreau took the Bhagavad Gita to Walden Pond to meditate on Hindu teachings.

In Part 2, I will discuss perhaps the greatest writer in Indian literature, Rabindranath Tagore. In our Hymns of the Spirit there are some of his poems. His transcendent spirituality leads us to feel the awe of what it means to be alive.

- Sari Kelen

Ste. Genevieve United Church, 4697 Boulevard St. Jean, D.D.O. is hosting the **Senior's Mobile Legal Clinic Workshop**, a programme of the Montreal City Mission which offers specialized legal information to a migrant population aged 55 and up. **May 7th** at 10:00 to noon – on basic needs and housing, covering topics such as income security, resources for seniors, seniors, tenancy law, and its application to long-term care housing. **May 14th** 10:00 to noon - on health and loss of independence, covering consent to health care, loss of capacity and the right to die with dignity. Individual consultations will be available after each workshop if desired. For more information contact the church office between 8:30am – 11:00am Monday to Friday at 514-626-4795 or e-mail donna.stegennys@gmail.co

- Sheila Laursen

The greater love is a mother's; then come dog's; then a sweetheart's.

- Polish Proverb

LAKESHORE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION

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Our web-site: www.LUUC.org

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!

APRIL SHOWERS BRING MAY FLOWERS