

**LAKESHORE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION**  
5065 Sherbrooke Street,  
Lachine, Qc. H8T 1H9  
(514) 637-6974

**APRIL 2016**

**April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2016 - 10:30 a.m.**

**DEMYSTIFYING ISLAM**

**Shaheen Ashraf**

Shaheen Ashraf is an active member of our West Island community. Born in Karachi, Pakistan, she came to Canada in 1976 with four young children. Currently in the process of retiring, Shaheen volunteers for several organizations locally, including Dialogue and Advocacy groups, and is a Board member for the Canadian Council of Muslim Women. She believes in justice for all and will go all the way to achieve it.

Shaheen plans to demystify our ideas about Islam, and states, "Here is the chance to ask your questions about whatever you want to know of the Religion that is associated today with Terrorism."

**Service Leader: Sheila Laursen**  
**Musician: Kerry-Anne Kutz**

**Hospitality: Chris Bassett**  
**Nancy Schmidt**



## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

It's officially Spring and a few brave crocus are poking their pretty little heads out of the ground in our garden. But it snowed today – so as usual our weather is a mixture of this and that - rather like our church. We have a mixture of things coming your way.

This month we launch our annual **Financial Campaign**. Last year we aimed high – and I'm very happy to tell you that as of now - (with only one month to go before the end of the fiscal year) – we are still in the **black!** Certainly this is the first time this Century – and for many years prior to that – that we have operated without borrowing from our investments. We hope you will continue to support us with your astounding generosity to keep our *little church that could* going. You will soon receive a letter asking you to support our annual financial campaign.

We are working on a **Sunday Service Survey**. Our attendance has increased over the past couple of years – and we would like your opinion that we are going in the right direction.

Now that **Paul Sullivan** has returned from building community centres in the Caribbean, he will concentrate on the **Nominating Committee**. The Board has to be replenished every year – good Board Members with ideas are essential for our future. So please contact Paul and consider serving on the LUUC Board.

**New Members' Ceremony** – we plan to hold our annual New Members' Ceremony in May. If you are interested in becoming a member – please contact **Catherine Forbes**.

As always we have a lot going on, including a special Sunday service honouring Rev Charles Eddis and his wife Nancy. Charles was our first minister from 1958-1966.

We are an open Board – willing to consider any and all your ideas to improve the quality of our LUUC Life.

*- Heather*

## **SUPPORTING THE IRISH MONUMENT PARK FOUNDATION**

On February 28<sup>th</sup>, Fergus Keyes, a Director of the Montreal Irish Monument Park Foundation, came to LUUC to present the Foundation's goal: to build an appropriate Memorial to the thousands of Irish who died from typhus and hunger in the port of Montreal in 1847.

He began by recounting the saga of the Great Hunger in Ireland (1845-1848), as landowners exploited the desperate situation of their starving tenants to send them off by ship to British North America. In these overcrowded ships, with inadequate food and water, large numbers contracted Typhus during the voyage. In the summer of 1847, thousands of weakened and diseased Irish arrived at Quebec City and eventually, Montreal. Many Montrealers, including the mayor and many Grey Nuns attended to the sick, became infected and died. Children were left without parents and many Quebec families took in orphaned Irish children, and raised them as their own.

It is estimated that upwards of 6000 men, women and children died and were buried in mass graves along the riverbank, on the Montreal side of the Victoria Bridge. At this time, the only monument to this tragic event is "The Black Rock" which was erected through the demands of the workers building the bridge, who were shocked to find that they were uncovering mass graves.

A large piece of land adjacent to the Rock is currently owned by the Federal government, and used as a parking lot. Hydro-Quebec is believed to be interested in purchasing the land. The Montreal Irish Monument Park Foundation hopes to convince the Federal Government to give the land to the city for a Memorial Park. Fergus brought with him an architect's drawings for the area: a properly designed cultural park, including sports facilities; a beautiful and positive project for Montreal. If work began soon, it would be an appropriate project as part of the commemorations of the 375<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Montreal in 2017.

In response to Fergus' impassioned recounting of this tragedy, the LUUC Social Action Committee prepared a letter appropriate to send to our local MP's and to the Mayor of Montreal to voice support for the project.

**- Susan Czarnocki**

## WE ARE CANADIANS

For our service on March 13<sup>th</sup> – *We are Canadians* - four of our own members told us why they came to Canada.

**Heather Falconer** told the children's story, highlighting the differences she noticed between London, England and Western Canada. How the policemen in Winnipeg wore buffalo robes, the winters were brutal, the sight of the waving golden wheat was spiritual, the big sky was blue, blue, blue and that everyone spoke with an accent! She did exaggerate a bit when she said the mosquitoes were as big as horses – but they didn't deter her from wilderness camping, hunting the plentiful game and catching lots of fish.

**Gabor Matyas** was a child in Hungary, when the people revolted against a Soviet invasion, as the world stood by. He, together with his parents and younger brother walked out of their country with what they stood up in. They managed to escape into Austria through an unguarded part of the border. They were now refugees. It took a while – but they were offered asylum in Canada – and had to start their lives over from scratch. It must have been tough. In later years, Gabor's father said that going to Canada was the best thing he ever did – and Gabor says that he would never have met his lovely wife Kathy, had he not come to Canada.

**Jean Merrifield** came to Canada for a totally difference reason. Her only child had moved to Canada – so after Jean's husband Bernie retired, they came to Montreal and quickly settled into the West Island. She still has some wistful feelings for England – particularly the beauty of the Lake District in North/West England – but coming to Canada was the right choice for her. She would have missed the company of her daughter, her grandson and the joy of the triplets – who had the temerity to make her a great grandmother.

**James Sisley** was a Londoner and had graduated as an engineer. Fifty years ago he applied for a job in Canada – and got it – and so began his life-long love of Canada. He felt at home right away - and has no regrets about leaving England. Yes, he likes to visit once in a long while – but his heart is here.

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**Jose van Amerongen** had the spirit of adventure in her heart when she left her native Holland as a young woman. Europe was still suffering from the effects of the Second World War, when goods were very short and restricted and some stuff was still rationed, while Canada offered a much brighter future. So Jose answered an advertisement and the next thing she knew, she was on her way to Canada. There are so many people of different nationalities here – that Jose marvels at the richness of our lives.

- *ed*

### **NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

**PRIORITY:** Please consider serving on the LUUC Board. Good Board members are the key to our future. Anyone interested in being on the Board of our great **CONGREGATION** contact **Paul Sullivan**, [plsullivan@sympatico.ca](mailto:plsullivan@sympatico.ca)

### **DISCOVER MONTRÉAL'S GREAT PARKS SATURDAY MORNINGS**

Every Saturday, a group of mainly retired Montréalers gather together from 10 AM to 10:15 for a 60 - 75 minute walk. We brunch and chat afterwards, then choose which park we'll do the following Saturday. We go all over Montréal Island and occasionally near off-island. Contact **Christopher Thomson** 514 634 5916 or during coffee time for more info.

\* \* \* \* \*

**PS:** I made a right mess of Christopher's message last month – sincere apologies to all.

- *ed*

## A VISION FOR CANADIAN UU'S

The March Newsletter contained announcements about the 2016 CUC Annual Meeting in Vancouver and the Report of the Vision Task Force. No one has come to me with any expressions of interest in these major denominational activities. However, since I will be going to the meetings, I thought perhaps a simple presentation of the main thrust of the Visioning report might stimulate some reaction. If anyone has any comments about this effort, I would be glad to chat about it.

### Vision Statement:

As Canadian Unitarian Universalists, we envision  
a world  
in which our interdependence calls us to love and justice.

Based on this Vision Statement, the Task Force developed 5 aspirations to add to our 7 principles and 6 sources

Seven principles guide our choices, Six sources nourish our spirits,  
Five aspirations help us grow:

As Canadian Unitarian Universalists, we aspire to be:

### ***Deeply Connected***

We strive to foster healthy relationships amongst and within  
UU communities, with the broader world and with all life.

### ***Boldly Inclusive***

We strive to create hospitable, diverse, multi- generational communities.

### ***Actively Engaged***

We strive to work joyfully for a just and compassionate society,  
experimenting with new forms of community.

### ***Theologically Alive***

We seek to be ever-evolving in our understanding, open to new knowledge

### ***Spiritually Grounded***

We seek transformation through personal spiritual experiences and shared ritual.

Here is a link to the report: <http://cuc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/CUC-Vision-Task-Force-Report-AGM-2016-Final.pdf>

**- Susan Czarnocki**

### BIRTHDAYS AND CARING

It's **Catherine Forbes'** birthday on April 13<sup>th</sup>. She is our ideas person, on the Board, does half of the treasury works and fills in those great pictures in the newsletter. Happy Birthday Catherine – and we hope this will be a happy year for you.

Since **Rev. Dr. Heather Fraser Fawcett** joined our congregation several years ago – she has become a minister and gained her doctorate. Such an achievement! Happy Birthday Heather on April 21<sup>st</sup>.

**Ogden Gavanski** is a fun Dad, a film producer and extremely good at putting on a Mothers' Day Lunch. Have a Happy Birthday on April 23<sup>rd</sup> Ogden – and lots of good luck for the coming year.

Happy Birthday to **Gord Koller** on April 24<sup>th</sup>. We miss you Gord – and don't see enough of you!

A very Happy 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday to **Elizabeth Alexandra Mary Windsor** on April 26<sup>th</sup> .

**Lois Read** is recuperating in the Catherine Booth from a broken pelvis. Her daughter **Susan** says that Lois is doing fine but might need to stay there for quite some time. Susan reads the Church Newsletters to her and keeps Lois up-to-date with our LUUC news.

We are so sad to hear that **Nathalie Hainaut's** Mother has died. She had been unwell for sometime and had recently moved into a nice sunny apartment in Villa Beaurepaire. To **Nathalie, Jasmine, Justin** and **Terry** – we send our sincere condolences and love.

**Catherine Forbes** is due back in Montreal at Easter. She has been in Vancouver taking care of her Mother, who is recovering from a severe heart attack. On Catherine's return home, her brother Stewart will take over nursing their Mother. We hope for good news. - ed

### **OUR PAPER PRODUCTS**

**Why not win your Toilet Paper?** Everyone supporting the Paper Products Fundraiser from January 16<sup>th</sup> until Mother's Day on May 8<sup>th</sup> will get a chance to win a case. If you buy either a case of TP or PT you'll receive 10 raffle tickets toward winning a free case of TP; buy ½ a case and receive 3 raffle tickets or buy one pack and receive 1 raffle ticket. When your supplies run low – contact **Susan – susan.czarnocki@mcgill.ca**

### **TO COFFEE OR NOT TO COFFEE.....**

I had just one response to my plea for more help in the hospitality department – so I gathered that the interest in the Hot Gossips Café was minimal ..... then..... the following Sunday, the coffee urn failed and there was panic! Fortunately **Christopher Thomson** came to the rescue and the normal happy and animated coffee hour continued as usual. Perhaps we can persuade a couple of Irish leprechauns to make coffee for us every Sunday. **- ed**

### **FROM COMPASSION TO ACTION**

It has been exciting and heartening to be involved in the West Island Refugee Network. Compassion for the plight of Syrians seeking safety from war and new opportunities in Canada has launched a flurry of sponsorship applications. In addition to the family of 6 that will be sponsored by the Summerlea Refugee Support Coalition (formed by Summerlea United Church, Merging Waters, and Lakeshore UU), another family of 6 will be supported by Cedar Park United Church, and a multigenerational family of 5 will be welcomed by the Catholic parishes of St. Veronica's and Resurrection of our Lord. The Dorval mosque is busy settling 6 refugee families that have already arrived in Montreal.

**- Sheila Laursen**

### **THE BURNING BUSH**

I like that huge marvellous carving upon the front wall of our church - the Burning Bush of the Old Testament.

Moses, high on the mountain top, saw the Bush on fire, but not consumed by the flames licking around its fresh green leaves. So he asks "Are you God?" The Voice from within it answers, "I am Who I am." This Old Testament story is held dear by Jews, Christians and Moslems and is now appreciated by me - a Unitarian! Scientifically it could really have happened - the Burning of the Bush was St. Elmo's Fire!  
- **Nancy Graham**

### **HISTORICAL NOTE ONE**

While working in my bookshop in Ste. Anne's, I came across a 1980s recipe book published by the Ladies Guild of St. Andrews's Presbyterian Church, Lachine, Quebec. This is now 'our' building. It gave the following history:

"St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Lachine, a congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Canada, was formed in 1817 and the first minister Rev. Hugh Kirkland, from Ireland, was inducted in January, 1818. The church and the manse were gifted to "The Scotch Congregation of Lachine" by Mr. Robert Grant and Mr. James Charles Grant.

After the disruption of the Congregation by the Union of 1925, the 'continuing' Presbyterians of St. Andrew's, having lost their church and manse, became a joint pastoral charge with the Presbyterian Church of Montreal West and the services were held in the former Masonic Temple at the corner of Notre Dame and 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue. In 1927, the former bank building at the corner of Notre Dame and 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue was purchased and converted for use as a church. There, the congregation worshipped until 1955, when the building was sold and land was purchased for the present church.

From 1955 - 1957, services were held in Meadowbrook School, until the opening and dedication of the present building on April 5<sup>th</sup>, 1957."

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The photo on the front of the recipe book – called *A Baker's Choice* - is of the present building – but it seems to have a large closed-in porch on the front. I'll leave the book in the LUUC library if you care to glance through it.

The recipes are typical for the time – mainly pour a can of soup over a pork chop or two - and shove it in the oven. Some of the deserts are hopelessly gooey and dangerously laden with sugar – one such concoction calls for 1½ cups of icing sugar, 1¼ cups of brown sugar and 1 cup of coconut - all in an 8" square cake. How sweet it is!

- **ed**

### **HISTORICAL NOTE TWO**

I asked Rev. **Dr. Heather Fraser-Fawcett** to elaborate on the Burning Bush carving and she kindly sent the following –

“Before the Norwegians bought the church, it was called the St. Andrews Presbyterian Church. The symbol of the burning bush is from Exodus 3:2, and the burning bush has been used by the reformed church since the 1500's. The Presbyterian Church in Canada takes the lead from the Presbyterian Church of Scotland, which uses the burning bush as its symbol. It symbolizes God's presence and support throughout the life of the church and also throughout the lives of humankind.”

**Rev. Dr. Heather Fraser-Fawcett**

**PS:** **Rev. Heather** will give us a service on April 10<sup>th</sup>, on this very subject. – **ed**.

\* \* \* \* \*

**Mary says:** I really enjoyed **Rev. Stan Sears'** talk about the afterlife. I hadn't known that Eric Clapton had written a song about his late son, Connor. Also, I liked his take on "Love You Forever" for the children's story. I also enjoyed the potluck lunch. ~ **Mary**

**Mary Hunter** hurt her elbow recently and is now taking physio. Movement is gradually returning to her arm - but she is still typing with one hand. Good luck Mary! - **ed**

### UU-UNO SPRING SEMINAR PROGRAM

**Isabella Gavanski** has been participating in school-based Model UN programs for several years and was excited to learn about the UU-UNO Spring Seminar program, now that she is old enough to attend! The title of the 2016 seminar is "The Colors of Inequality: Costs and Consequences." It takes place on **April 7-9, 2016** in New York City. The seminar will focus on income inequality and racial discrimination around the world. It will consider Unitarian Universalist (UU) engagement with issues like:

- Rich versus poor disparities within countries and worldwide
- Globalization's impact on income inequality
- UN Sustainable Development Goals
- Poverty alleviation

Until students are 18 years old, they need an adult sponsor to be at the Seminar with them. **Susan Czarnocki** has volunteered to be a sponsor, and is equally excited about the prospect of re-visiting the UN. She was a UN intern while attending the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She and **Bohdan** attended the UU-UNO Spring Seminar in 2002. They were also UU-UNO delegates to the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, S.A. in August 2002.

Unitarians have been passionate advocates for peaceful resolution of international disputes since the horrors of World War 1 lead to the establishment of the League of Nations. Both the Unitarians and the Universalists were active in the League of Nations Association and later closely monitored the creation of the United Nations. Today, the UU United Nations Office holds United Nations Economic Social and Cultural Committee (ECOSOC) consultative status and Department of Public Information Non-Governmental Organizations (DP/NGO) status.

**- Susan Czarnocki**

**Don't stay where you are tolerated. Go where you are celebrated**

### **SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE**

Following our Sunday service given by Fergus Keyes, the Social Action Committee handed out copies of a letter to be mailed to Mayor Denis Coderre requesting that land be set aside for a park to commemorate the 6,000 Irish who died of typhoid at the time of the Great Hunger. (See page 4.) Please contact Sari: [sari.kelen@gmail.com](mailto:sari.kelen@gmail.com) or call at 450-458-6644 if you wish to send a letter yourself.

The Social Action Committee plans to deliver all the donated items to the Native Women's Shelter of Montreal on March 27th.

### **IT'S JUST AN OLD TIN CAN**

I really must comment again on **Nancy Graham's** tenacity in collecting tin cans. She gets them from all her friends, neighbours and even the Norwegians leave her cans after their parties. She marches them – (the cans not the Norwegians) - off to her local grocery store and redeems them one-by-one for cash – at 5c a pop. Over time this adds up of course – and earlier in March she presented me with \$49 in coin. Actually it was \$48.90 – and she inveigled **Gord** to give her the extra 10c to make an even amount. The beneficiary of this largess is Suitcases for Africa. Thank you Nancy – and the children in Kenya would thank you if they knew that you had their welfare so much at heart.

**-ed**

### **THE KNITTING LADIES**

This week **Maud Bonnier** ( 91 years Old) hosted our knitting group with delicious home made cookies. Nine ladies attended. Some knitted scarves for the needy, others made little dolls to go to Africa. The conversations ranged from politics to different funeral arrangements, erotic love to books and movies. There was lots of laughter, everyone had a good time.

**- Dori Abbott**

## FESTIVAL DE LA VOIX

I was so glad I went to one of **Kerry-Anne's** concerts– it was so uplifting and everyone seemed to enjoy it. A choir, under the direction of Bob Harvey performed several songs. The many harmonies of the “*Ticket to Ride*” was my favourite.

Next, we had a soprano who had lost her voice – so she promised to come next year and instead we were treated to Kerry-Anne singing “*Time to Say Goodbye*”, accompanied by pianist Paul Suchan of Saskatoon – magic.

Moving on we heard from a very talented young lad, Daniel Benedetti. He has mastered several instruments and chose to play swingy tunes on his accordion.

We all enjoyed the wonderful voice of baritone Garth Hampson, a friend of K-A's since her Mountie days. He sang songs from Brigadoon as well as a very funny routine of “*No, No a Thousand Times No*” and we, the audience had to hiss, boo and cheer where appropriate. His final song the “***Indian Love Call***,” from Rose Marie was a duet with **Kerry-Anne** – very charming.

The final act was George Doxas' with his Generation Band – and what a sound! They played several tunes and their soloist Meagan Griffin, (one of K-A's former students) was absolutely stunning. As it was so close to St. Patrick's Day, the band played the “*Londonderry Air*” aka “*Danny Boy*.” Now for some reason George had trouble with that – he insisted that it was the London Derrière – (naughty!) **Peter Freud's** son **Noam** is the band's youngest member and he plays drums. I could hear him well enough – but couldn't see him - he was stuck behind the saxophones.

This concert was one of five performed in the Festival de la Voix over the weekend. Congratulations **Kerry-Anne** – what an achievement! We are so proud of you and know we are so lucky to have you as our musical director.

- ed

## CUC ANNUAL MEETING AND CONFERENCE

Conference 2016 will focus on better connections among UUs, greater public awareness, and deepening spirituality—*on Bolder Ways of Being—Être et vivre avec plus d'audace*. Over the weekend of May 20–22, Unitarians will explore sharing, the risk (and rewards) of telling our stories, and connections. Registration is now open - [conference@cuc.ca](mailto:conference@cuc.ca) The conference is being held on the campus of the University of British Columbia. These conferences are the best way to get a sense what it means to belong to a denomination with deep roots across Canada. **Susan Czarnocki** plans to attend this conference in Vancouver. Anyone else?

## S.E. NEWS BULLETIN

I have enjoyed my past weeks meeting the children and working with **Karli** and **Venessa**. Everyone has made a good adjustment to Ivy's leaving. A super Easter Egg Hunt is planned for the coming Easter Weekend and will be great fun for everyone!

During the month of April, the Yearn to Learn Group will be learning about and discussing various social justice issues as well as other issues that may pertain to their lives. A suggestion box designed by the group will allow them to have a say in the direction they want each lesson to go – one suggestion has already been received!

The Wind Chimes will continue to explore various world religions and to compare their similarities and differences to Unitarianism.

*Erin Berry, SE Cordinator*

**REMEMBER: Its. Pledge Month – it's Nominating month – it's New Members' Month**

**LAKESHORE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION**

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**DEADLINE FOR NEWSLETTER:** April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2016

Our web-site: [www.LUUC.org](http://www.LUUC.org)

**DON'T FORGET TO HAVE FUN – IT'S SPRING!**