



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

## **JANUARY 2017**

**JANUARY 8<sup>TH</sup> - 10:30 am.**

**SHARING IN HOME AND CULTURE**

**Holly Fleming**

"Perhaps travel cannot prevent bigotry, but by demonstrating that all peoples cry, laugh, eat, worry and die, it can introduce the idea that if we try and understand each other, we may even become friends."

**- Maya Angelou**

I have been hosting international language students for the last 3 years, partially as a way to have income and partially to learn about people and their cultures. When I was younger the idea of a bed and breakfast appealed to me, welcoming and nurturing travelers along the way, sharing cultures, making their trip a little easier. I have lived in 5 different cities, towns and the people I have met along the way helped me connect to the places I called home. The recent decision of the Unitarian church to sponsor Syrian families has made me even more aware of home being a refuge!

**Service Leader: Dan Amstutz**

**Musician: Kerry-Anne Kutz**

**Hospitality: Sheila Laursen**

**Nancy Graham**

**JANUARY 15<sup>TH</sup> – 10:30 am.**

**STRUGGLING TO SAVE LIVES**

**Mehmet Deger**

Mehmet Deger and the other members of the Dorval Mosque have a long history of struggling to save the lives of people in war zones. It started a long time ago, with Russian Glasnosts, then those affected by the Bosnian and Serbian war, after that, the Syrian and Iraqi war. They are still trying to do their best to save one person - or a family. The best deed that a human being can do is to save a life.

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

**Hospitality: Dori & Peter Abbott**

**JANUARY 22<sup>ND</sup> – 10:30 am.**

**EMBRACING THE DARK**

**Curtis Murphy**

We are in the midst of the season of darkness, moving slowly toward spring sunlight at a pace that may feel too slow. Is there a way to embrace the darkness we find ourselves in? This Sunday we'll explore the gifts of darkness in our lives, and how it may even be something we need.

*Bio:* We welcome again, Curtis Murphy who is in the final year of his Masters of Divinity at the Montreal School of Theology. He did a ministerial internship at the First Unitarian Congregation of Toronto, and is currently doing a field placement at *La Présence*, an experimental new ministry in Little Burgundy.

**Service Leader: Nancy Schmidt**  
**Musician: Kerry-Anne Kutz**

**Hospitality: Dan Amstutz**  
**Chris Bassett**

**POT LUCK TODAY** – Please bring some nourishing food for us all to share so we can sit down together and enjoy each other's company.

**Pot luck crew is: Dori Abbott, Monique Riedel, Rob Lutes and Christopher Thomson**

**JANUARY 29<sup>TH</sup> - 10:30 am. EXPLORING THE CONCEPT OF SPIRITUALITY:  
TAKE 2**

**Susan Czarnocki**

In October, Timothy Byrnes gave a moving testimony to the positive impact he experienced from pursuing spirituality in his life. He encouraged each of us to open ourselves to experiencing spirituality. In contemplating what he was experiencing, he concluded that the main quality of spirituality was the simplicity of its essence. In this presentation, purposely being provocative, I will raise the dissonant question, "Is that all there is?"

**Service Leader: Michael Rooker**

**Hospitality: Sari Kelen**

**Musician: Kerry-Anne Kutz**

**Philip Prince**

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**THE SPIRIT OF THE HOLIDAY**

"*The Spirit of the Holiday*" was the name of our service on December 18th. The children and youth led us through it, beginning with singing "Rudolf" and "Jingle Bells" by the delightful Little Maestros. **Isabella, Olivia** and **Ariel** sang "The Spirit of the Christmas Tree", written by Joyce Polley, a UU composer. **Vanessa** spoke of the logic of calling Christmas "Present Exchange Day". **Rob** and **Cormac Lutes** charmed us as they sang, "Christmas Time is Here". **Talia** and **Olivia** danced a graceful and original choreography. The skit "*Pass It On*" showed a series of acts of kindness of strangers, presented in the fashion of "paying it forward". As the play was entirely created by the Youth group, we are very grateful for their cleverness and spontaneity.

For their dedication and hard work, we want to express our thanks to them and to the teachers, **Erin Berry, Vanessa Soldano** and **Thomas Diekmeyer.**

**- Sari Kelen**

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**Mary writes...** **Samantha Lustig** gave a very eloquent talk about what it is like to be gay. She gave out rainbow stickers to all of the Sunday School people. Samantha brought along her beautiful partner and Samantha's father attended.

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Well, it seems another year has come and gone... rather too quickly, I might add!

This is the time of year where I sit down for a few moments and take a look back at the last 12 months: What were my accomplishments? What could I have done differently or better?

As I reflect on these moments, it is important to remember to give myself a well-deserved pat on the back for the things I've achieved. Sometimes, I let my successes, big or small, wash over me without a second thought. I think it's important to give a little credit where credit is due; to be proud of the things I've achieved. After all, it's that feeling of success that helps me strive for new challenges, and helps me to set my bar a little higher.

On the other hand, I think it is even more important to look back on my failures. Instead of feeling badly about missed opportunities or unsuccessful endeavours, a post-mortem is really an opportunity to turn a negative experience into a positive one. This reflection allows me to learn from past mistakes and to find new strategies to achieve my goals. Personally, it's taken me a long time to learn how to accept a missed opportunity (or failure) as a stepping-stone to achieving success, but it's a lesson I am happy to have finally learned.

As we wave good-bye to 2016, I encourage everyone to participate in a similar exercise, although I am sure most of us do something similar every year. Let's give ourselves the well-deserved pats on the back, and let's learn from our mistakes. Having made these reflections, we can now look ahead at the coming year, confident with the plans we're ready to set in motion.

2017 promises to be a big year for Canada and Montreal, which are celebrating their 150th and 375th anniversaries respectively this year (this is my Canadian Heritage plug!). There is no reason why 2017 cannot be just as momentous for LUUC and ourselves. I wish each and every one of us a very Happy New Year, and may all our wishes for 2017 be fulfilled. Cheers!

**- Irene**

**ANTHONY FALCONER**

How kind of you all to send me your good wishes, cards and e-mails at this very sad, sad time for my family. We really appreciate your LUUC support. We are holding an LUUC Celebration of Life service for Anthony on:

**Saturday January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2017  
at 2:00 pm  
at the Union United Church, 24 Maple Avenue,  
Ste. Anne de Bellevue.**

**- Heather**

**REV. FRED'S SERVICE**

**Rev. Fred Cappuccino's** service on December 4<sup>th</sup>, ***Courage and Foolhardiness*** really hit the spot as it came just after Donald Trump was elected as next US President. Fred has kindly sent me a few copies of his sermon. Let me know if you want a copy so that you can re-read his wise words. In closing his service, he read this poem by *Roddy Languedoc*. Roddy was one of the original LUUC members and she devised and ran a very successful R.E. program. At the time, this program was used as a model for all the children's religious programs across Canada – an example where LUUC took the lead in our early years.

**- ed**

Sing me an island - across the bright water  
Fly me a gull on the wind's careless string

Lap me a lullaby wavelets and splashing  
Lispings of leaves - beat of hummingbird wing

Starlight and lamplight – firelight and noon  
Fun me a rock of the shoreline at noon

Incense and wood smoke - tall pines a-blowing  
Lichens and mosses to soften my going

Laugh me a loon - a last lonely blue  
Mist me some wings when my journey is through.

**- Roddy Languedoc**

## JOSE'S BIRTHDAY – A DELIGHTFUL EVENT

Celebrating agelessness having reached the age of eighty: On the 19th of November a musical evening was orchestrated with the help of family and friends. The evening was full of surprises. **Rob Lutes** filled the hall with his spirited voice, creating a warm ambiance. I loved the songs and poems that made people laugh with joy. The evening started with a delightful Entrée - prepared by Family and friends, that followed with a Mexican feast. Courageous **Stuart Forbes**, brother of **Catherine**, donated his talent and time to create a carefully designed dish, with the help of **Olivia** and **Bella Gavanski**.

My family with great enthusiasm insisted on decorating the room in secrecy. Everyone was enthralled with the romantic ambiance, created by the coloured lights and decoration.

**Christopher Thomson** arranged the musical activities with his unique Scottish humour, while everyone delighted in wine and food. Many kind helpers made this event possible, generously giving their time and energy. I am still overwhelmed with the tender love and kindness I received.

Our spunky **Jean** insisted on making two trifles for the occasion. BRAVO JEAN!

We planned the evening to be a fundraiser. Everyone generously contributed - LUUC received \$115.00 and Amnesty International \$95.00.

Thank YOU all for the generosity of spirit and funds. I will do it again in ten years.

- **Jose**

**GET YOUR DANCING SHOES READY – WE ARE GOING TO HAVE ANOTHER SQUARE DANCE AND SPEGHETTI DINNER - IN FEBRUARY.**

**SQUARE DANCING - SQUARE DANCING**

## CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

The Ladies of LUUC held their mini-bazaar on December 4<sup>th</sup>, cakes, cookies, loaves and squares of all description were on sale – including a ‘rustic’ chocolate and zucchini cake. For the first time we also offered frozen soup and chilli – both items were very popular particularly with singles. **Peg Wooley** and I did a roaring trade after the Sunday service. A big thank you to all the bakers who generously donated the goodies, raising \$273 – with a bit more to come in. **Jose van Amerongen** and **Dori Abbott** took care of the attic treasures table, which netted \$43. We thank **Jean Merrifield** for donating one of her famed trifles for the Christmas raffle that brought in \$58 - and many thank yous to **Bella and Olivia Gavanski** who sold the raffle tickets. These efforts contributed **\$374.00** to our coffers to date – with a bit more to come.

We are grateful to **Conny Belanger** for acting as our ‘money lady’ - and to **Paul Sullivan** for putting up tables for us, something we cannot do ourselves. Thanks to both of you.

At the same time **Sheila Laursen** sold her Christmas fruitcakes – a long standing tradition at LUUC – she had the cakes wrapped in foil - all lined up in rows looking like silver ingots – and silver ingots they turned out to be - they netted an astounding \$604 this year! This is beyond excellent – congratulations and well done Sheila.

*-ed*

**Sheila sends this message to fruitcake lovers everywhere!**

Thanks to the 30 people who purchased fruitcake this year, we have raised **\$604** for our LUUC coffers! Those of us who love fruitcake, love it a lot!

Special thanks to **Kerry-Anne Kutz** and **Conny Belanger**, who helped me chop many, many pounds of sticky fruit and figs. I hope it is enjoyed by everyone during the holidays.

*- Sheila Laursen*

**HEALTH AND HAPPINESS TO ALL FOR 2017**

## NEWS FROM THE BOARD

January will find the Board preoccupied with arranging all the 'moving parts' involved in scheduling for 2017. Much of the preparation is done, but crucial details remain to be finalized. Choir rehearsals don't mix with pot-lucks, and special fund-raisers need to be scheduled to maximize participation, so filling the calendar is challenging.

We have scheduled a special Saturday Board Meeting for January 7th to review the year so far, and address stewardship and budgetary issues going forward.

The SE program seems to be going well, but we realize that we now have teenage youth who are ready to take on challenging content, and greater responsibilities, to keep them engaged. This realization, plus the ever-present desire to attract new members has prompted interest in starting an LUUC blog. Tomas Valettini, our web-designer, is willing to set one up for our website. Members will then be invited to write short commentaries and opinion pieces which could be published on the blog. At least to begin with, the Board would take on the responsibility to vet submissions. This will be discussed further in the New Year.

In all our planning, we recognize a prime responsibility is to be responsive to concerns of the members, so please offer us your feedback.

***Susan Czarnocki, Secretary***

## SUITCASES FOR AFRICA

As we have mentioned on previous occasions, **Nancy Graham** does a wonderful service by collecting tin cans, redeeming them and donating the proceeds to us to be forwarded on to SFA. These revenues pay for the education of 2 children. To date, Nancy has raised an astounding **\$410** – but this is \$90 short of the total school fees. When you see the SFA 'suitcase' box that Nancy puts out in the lobby every week - perhaps you will consider adding to it to make up this shortfall. Many thanks.

**- ed**

## THE CHEERY CHERRY RED SCARVES

The Caring/Knitting group has finished a dozen scarves commissioned by the Choir Director – and still more to go. The Ladies worked hard and quickly, despite arthritic fingers and preparing for a mini-bazaar, to get the **Reds** ready in time, and we have heard that the choir members are pleased with them.

**Nancy Schmidt** says:

I'm knitting away on my scarf this afternoon, so I can eventually contribute to the wonderful collection our knitting group has made thus far. Just a note of appreciation to you for the scarf initiative and to everyone who has made one or more scarves to date. The choir looked terrific today in their cherry reds. The length of the scarf is perfect and it really pulls the choir together visually.

**James Sisley** says:

Saw the scarves at Pointe Claire tree lighting, bravo knitting group.

**Sheila Laursen** says:

The red scarves look fabulous on the choir members - whether indoors or outside! I am sure they also helped to keep their necks warm when they sang on the outdoor stage in Pointe Claire Village...and they looked equally smashing when they sang for us in church at a Sunday service. That was a great idea; they are fun to knit, and I am sure the scarves will become a treasured accessory of our choir members!

**Chris Bassett** says:

A great colour thanks to the knitting group.

\* \* \* \* \*

## THIS IS SOMETHING WORTH CELEBRATING

A note of congratulations to **Nancy Graham**, who celebrates **33** years of sobriety on January 1<sup>st</sup>. Well done Nancy!

### SECRET PALS AT THE S. E.

It's "Secret Pals" sign-up time!!.....Are you interested in connecting with an LUUC member of a different generation? Here is your chance to do just that! The Secret Pal Program is designed to bring people (young, old, and in between) of LUUC to meet someone they may not otherwise meet. On January 15th you will receive your secret pal's code name... This year we will be pairing the names of animals – for example, if your secret pal's name is Colt your secret name will be Horse; you must keep your code name a secret.

This is a fun intergenerational activity that links pairs of one child and one adult over the course of 5 weeks. Beginning on January 15 and ending on February 26 the children will be paired with adult secret pals. To participate, the adults will send weekly letters to their young pals with stories about themselves and clues to help the children guess their identity. The children will respond with poems, drawings or write about their hobbies, pets, favourite foods, etc. You may also exchange small gifts (something from the dollar store).

- Erin Berry

### LATE NEWS IN HEADLINES

**CHRISTMAS EVE MUSICAL EVENING** – Wonderful – 60 people attended; **Kerry-Anne** and so many LUUCers giving of their musical/recitation talents; choir sang like angels (complete with red scarves); great apple cider afterwards!

**CHRISTMAS BASKET** – **Peg Wooley** and **Paul Sullivan** staggered under the weight of the gifts they took to the recipients of our Christmas Basket. Thank-you LUUCers for your generosity.

**MITTEN TREE** – **Sari Kelen** delivered a huge pile of the mittens, scarves and hats to the Maple Grove School – all well received.

**DECEMBER RAFFLE** – **Peg Wooley** was very pleased to win the basket of Italian delights at the December Pot luck.

**TOILET PAPER** – **Susan Cz.** still has a small supply of toilet paper and towels – don't forget to stock up on your supplies. **- ed**

## GRANNY POWER

Four LUUCers went to see **Sheila Laursen's** film ***Granny Power*** at the Pointe Claire library. The film documented the beginning of the Raging Granny movement in Victoria, BC – and how it spread across Canada and into the US. Our own local gaggle, including Sheila, was pictured - among other activities - singing a ditty they had composed, into the mail box of then Prime Minister Paul Martin. Others kayaked out into Victoria Harbour to object to US nuclear subs in BC waters, and the New York group were arrested, cuffed, carried off in the paddy wagon and put on trial for sitting in the street – and peacefully “disturbing” the peace. We are talking about women some of whom are well into their eighties and nineties being cuffed by burly NY policemen – well fed on doughnuts – and little grey-haired grannies with their walkers! The film's director was on hand to answer any questions.

Oh - and do you remember Sheila's Calendar Girl calendar of saucy nude ladies? - (including Ms. Laursen herself!) It raised \$20,000.00 to pay for the editing of the film. Altogether a fun film – but behind the fun – their principle came through loud and clear. Sheila has often said, that although the grannies dress up in silly clothes and do not take themselves seriously, they are very serious about their message.

**-ed**

## SIKH CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

The Sikh Community in Winnipeg, Manitoba have erected a huge billboard wishing a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all. Spokesman Kuldip Singh Sahota says, “When I came to Canada in 1972, we used to go up to a person, give them a hug and say *Merry Christmas* – it was a great thing. When you say *Merry Christmas*, you are pouring out your compassion, your love and your respect.”

'Happy Holidays' doesn't quite cut it with Kuldip because he has to shovel the snow, his car doesn't always want to start and his heating bills are high – and none of that makes him happy - (remember he lives in Winterpeg) – but saying *Merry Christmas* makes him feel warm inside. A Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you Kuldip!

**-ed**



**Happy Birthday greetings to all our January celebrants:**

to - **Kerry Anne Kutz** - our talented musical director - on January 24<sup>th</sup>  
 to - **Philip Prince** – who is always willing to help out - on January 26<sup>th</sup>  
 to - **Gaetane Parent** a new member and a very gracious lady - on January 28<sup>th</sup>.  
 to - **Nathalie Hainaut** – we miss your smiling face Nat - on January 29<sup>th</sup>.

**Farlan Gray** is down with the 'flu - and is hoping he will be recovered by Christmas. We wish you well Farlan. **- ed**

### **SOME FINANCIAL FUN FACTS FROM THE TREASURER**

As we approach the new calendar year, you can look forward to getting in February your tax receipts for any contributions totaling more than \$10 in 2016. Do you ever wonder how much the members and friends of Lakeshore contribute to its \$ 45 000 worth of annual expenditures? Here is a little summary breakdown of the contributions by the 42 recorded donors in 2016:

Under \$ 100 - 13  
 Between \$ 100 and \$ 1000 - 22  
 \$ 1000 or more - 7

Altogether, they provide nearly \$ 21 000 of the \$ 45 000 we will spend. The rest comes from the Sunday plate, fund-raising activities, marriages performed by our lay chaplains, the Choir and Little Maestros programs and dipping into to our endowment fund.

**- Christopher Thomson**

## VIEWS FROM THE PEWS

**Irene Hausknost says:**

My hopes for 2017 are that I could line up my little ducks (my priorities, that is... not necessarily my kids, though they're a priority too!) in neat little rows, so that I'm not chasing them all willy-nilly...!

**John Foulds says:**

My fervent but probably unrealistic hope for the next 4 years is that Mr. Trump greatly surprises us all and turns out to be a constructive force in the world.

**Gabor Matyas says:**

I hope that in 2017 everyone in our little congregation will enjoy good health and happiness.

**Susan Czarnocki says - 2017: The Long View:.....**

1497 John Cabot reaches the shores of current Newfoundland. 520 years ago

1500 About 500,000 indigenous people lived in Canada. 517 years ago

1535 Jacques Cartier 'finds' the Hochelaga on Montreal Island 482 years ago

1642: founding of parish of Ville Marie 375 years ago in Montreal

1667 founding of parish of La Chine 325 years ago in Lachine

1867 British North America Act 150 years ago - became CANADA

2015 Report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission 2 years ago

**2017 will be a year of anniversaries.** I hope Canadians will reflect on their past and on how their struggles and compromises have made this country a beacon of good will in a world dominated by fear, half-truths and ill-will.

**Dori Abbott says:**

The main hope I have for 2017 is "Peace on Earth". It is not very original but the world is in such a mess right now. I just hope that Trump won't make everything worse than it is already.

**Kathy Matyas says:**

My wish for 2017 is to have hope, to take time to enjoy beauty surrounding us, to appreciate small acts of kindness, and to appreciate all the different personalities of our LUUC community.

## SPONSORING OUR SYRIAN REFUGEE FAMILY

The news and images from Syria seem to worsen each day as Aleppo is being bombed to extinction, and remaining families try to survive there. Even fleeing has become deadly. While our matched family is safe in Saudi Arabia, the horror of the daily news from Syria must be devastating for all Syrians. And life in Saudi Arabia is not easy either.

Our family (Bilal, his wife and 4 children) fled Syria over a year ago and have lived in Saudi Arabia since then. However, Saudi Arabia does not recognize refugees, and Bilal and family have been there on Visitor Visas - which must be renewed every 3 months, with a fee. That fee has recently doubled in price. Also, since they are there as "visitors", the adults are not allowed to work, and the children are not able to attend school. They are surviving there on the contributions of their family members elsewhere....and so life is meagre and difficult.

We had high hopes of bringing Bilal and his family to Montreal during 2016; however, after approaching our Members of Parliament for help in determining their refugee process status, we have learned that it might take almost 2 more years before they are able to arrive in Montreal!

With that sobering news, our Summerlea Refugee Support Coalition are now exploring how we can help Bilal and his family while they are still in Saudi Arabia. We have learned that it is critically important for Bilal to have a good functioning cell phone with him at all times, as the first "interview" with a Canadian official in Canada - and is conducted over the phone. If that call is missed, the official goes on to the next refugee applicant.

So for 2017, we will try to find ways to raise funds to help cover some of their living expenses, and perhaps so the children can be tutored. We will also explore how we can begin to "teach" them French - with the help of a volunteer Arabic-French translator. The challenges are enormous, but our determination is strong, and with the support of the members of our 4 congregations, we are hopeful that we can make a positive difference to the lives of Bilal, his wife and children, well before they reach our country.

***- continued...***

***Continued...***

If you would like to help us develop some fundraising ideas, or if you would like to help this important project in any way, please contact any one of our LUUC members of the Coalition.

They are: **Sheila Laursen** (514 697-4195, [sheila.laursen@bell.net](mailto:sheila.laursen@bell.net)), **Susan Czarnocki** (514 773-1117, [susan.czarnocki@mcgill.ca](mailto:susan.czarnocki@mcgill.ca)) and **Sari Kelen** (450 458-6644, [sari.kelen@gmail.com](mailto:sari.kelen@gmail.com)).

**SUPPORT (and love) UGLY VEGETABLES!**

There is a new food distribution service now serving the West Island. "Second Life" ([www.second-life.ca](http://www.second-life.ca)) offers fruits and vegetables that don't necessarily conform to the size and blemish-free status that is often expected. Taste and nutrient content are not compromised, and that is what matters, not how the vegetable or fruit looks. Second Life receives its produce from misshapen or surplus inventory, and this reduces food waste.

Second Life offers bi-weekly baskets in 3 sizes: small (one person) for \$8, medium (two people) for \$12 and large (four people) for \$18. You can choose either a Local Basket (of Quebec produce or an International Basket (produce from all over the world).

If you are interested in receiving a basket, you order it on-line through the Second Life website. You can pay online, and choose one of the 3 West Island locations that is most convenient for you to pick up your basket on the delivery dates (usually every second Wednesday).

It's worth checking out how you too can enjoy (and love!) ugly vegetables and fruit! As the founders of this service say, "It's only the taste that counts!"

**- Sheila**

**SQUARE DANCING AND SHEGHETTI DINNER IN FEBRUARY – BE THERE FOR THE FUN!**

**LAKESHORE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION**

**5065 Sherbrooke Street, Lachine, Qc. H8T 1H9**

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**HEALTH AND HAPPINESS TO ALL FOR THE NEW YEAR  
2017 - THE YEAR TO CELEBRATE CANADA'S 150<sup>th</sup> BIRTHDAY.**

