



## LAKESHORE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION

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### JANUARY 2018

**January 7 - 10:30 a.m.**

**The Prospect of Writing & Publishing  
Michael Rooker**

Both our Unitarian Church and this, our special sanctuary, can be profoundly served by congregation members who take to writing and publishing. It's how we can anchor our thoughts and discussions, making key records in our collective search for spiritual truth and meaning - and to wider pursuits of knowledge, happiness and fulfilment. But do you have the motivation and capability for either local or more global writing? In which "genres" do your passions lie?

With some success at home and in international publishing channels, Michael will explain what's what, including "the power of the pen" and modern realities. His actual experiences, stuffed into a big nutshell, should intrigue and stimulate you.

**Service Leader - Christopher Thomson  
Musician - Rob Lutes**

**Hospitality - Susan Czarnocki  
Karin Deschamps**

**January 14 - 10:30 a.m.**

**Community-building by "Letting Go"  
Baskar Goswami**

Although born a Hindu, I consider myself more of an 'Undo'! Undoing habit patterns that are causing suffering. The organization that I have co-founded, [daana](#), is all about community building, and making wellness practices accessible to all.

**Service Leader - Karine Deschamps  
Musician - Kerry-Anne Kutz**

**Hospitality - Rob Lutes  
Tanya Drouin**

**January 21 - 10:30 a.m.**

**Building Community Amongst Diversity.  
Clifford Lincoln**

We welcome back Clifford Lincoln to our congregation once again to speak about his experiences in regards to our general theme this church year. Clifford's native land is the island of Mauritius, an independent island state with very few natural resources, and yet seems to thrive quite well economically.

He believes; "that prosperity and equitable living are tributaries to social peace and harmony, regardless of colour, tongue or faith".

**Service Leader - Paul Sullivan  
Musician - Kerry-Anne Kutz**

**Hospitality - Sheila Laursen  
Nancy Graham**

**January 28 - 10:30 a.m.**

**Kith and Kin and Congregation  
The Rev. Dr. Stan Sears**

The term "beloved community" is often used to speak about congregations. What I have found, particularly in smaller congregations, has been an emphasis on developing healthy relationships among the members. This is not as easy as it may sound; and, in some cases it means finding the delicate balance between so much closeness that it repels (or terrifies!) newcomers, while finding ways of enabling the congregation to grow.

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

**Hospitality - Monique Riedel  
Annelise Ogle**

### **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**



**Surprise! 2018 has finally made its appearance! And it brought freezing temperatures along with it... Ugh!**

Before we wave good-bye to 2017, I just want to highlight all the fundraising efforts LUUC achieved in the last month or so before the holiday break. Thanks to our tireless effort, we busily contributed to raising money for Suitcases for Africa, we contributed to making Christmas festive for two local families, Sheila's fruit cake campaign was another successful achievement as well as the bazaar. Christopher will outline in greater detail the results of our combined efforts, but I just wanted to give all those who contributed their time, energy and a few dollars from their pockets a heartfelt THANK YOU. We may be a small community, but when we're motivated, we can move

mountains! (OK, maybe not a mountain, but a hill...?)

Now, it's time to put 2017 behind us and look ahead to 2018. This is a time where we set new goals and resolutions for ourselves. We always start the new year with the best of intentions, but most of the time, Life get's to the best of us and our goals take a backseat. I want to take a moment to remind everyone to make these goals a top priority. We need to look after ourselves and our needs, so that we can better help those around us. It may sound selfish, but ultimately it's part of an important balancing act towards good health and well-being.

That being said, I'd like to wish you all a very Happy New Year, where 2018 brings the fulfilment of all our most profound wishes. Cheers! (and remember to bundle up before going outside...!)

*~Irene*

### **Congratulations to Lakeshore Fundraisers**

In the last two months since the end of October 2017, the Lakeshore community has done a sterling job of raising money for good causes as well as for our own functioning, which is a really good cause too! The benefit concert on 28 October raised 540 \$ for Suitcases for Africa, with about half going directly to this charity working in East Africa and the other half going to Lakeshore to finance the scholarships we offer to children through Suitcases for Africa. **Nancy Graham** through her assiduous recycling efforts raised another 217 \$ for our Suitcases for Africa scholarships. Bravo!

We are a generous group of people and 495 \$ (plus some non-perishable foods) was contributed by various members to finance Christmas baskets for two local families.

The Christmas bazaar team led by **Peg Wooley** raised 697 \$ for the Congregation through the sale of home-made foods and gift items, following the multi-generational service of 17 December. **Sheila** reports elsewhere in this issue on the great success of her marvellous fruitcake sales for the benefit of Lakeshore.

Finally, the rental of our Hall to **Karine Deschamps** and her family for their family show, Notre Noël, on 9 December, brought in another 150 \$. And what a pleasure it was to enjoy their wonderful show and see our Hall packed with about 160 people.

What is so nice is to see people pitching in and having a good time raising funds for our own community and for others. My thanks to all who made, collected, prepared, bought or sold in these various fundraising activities.

*~Christopher, Treasurer, Chair Finance & Fund-raising.*

## THE BLANKET EXERCISE AND FIRST NATIONS LUNCH

Thanks go out to everyone who participated in our special First Nations service on December 3rd. It was clear that taking part in the Blanket Exercise was a very powerful experience for us all (ages 6 through to 101!) as we shared our thoughts and feelings in the Sharing Circle that followed. We had each taken a big step towards greater understanding, compassion and commitment.

Chef Marlene Hale nourished our bodies as well as our souls with her delicious Corn Chowder soup, 3 Sisters salad, Bannock and Fruit Compote. And then she began to drum, and before we knew it, **Jose Van Amerongen** was up dancing to it, and then **Sari Kelen** and **Nancy Graham** sang to the beat of the drum!

~Sheila Laursen

## LIGHTING OUR CORNER OF THE SKY

I was thrilled to be asked to participate in the wonderful play Lighting our Corner of the Sky for the Youth/Children's Service on Dec. 17th, (along with the other narrators, **Elsa, Timothy, Catherine, Rob and Susan**). The play consisted of small scenes that joyfully showed how five of the world's great religious traditions, Pagan, Jewish, Christian, Kwanzaa and Unitarian, celebrate this time of the year. **Jean, Nancy Graham, Heather Falconer, Peg and Irene**, delivered the various religious messages. I understand from **Catherine** that the script was based on a story written by the Reverend JoEllen Willis. **Catherine** turned it into a script in 2009, but **Bella** gave it a rewrite this year to make it relevant - and included some very comical dialogue and situations. As an example, when the angel, **Reverend Heather**, informed Mary that she would call her son "Jesus", Mary considered, "Jesus... catchy. I like it!"

I had the opportunity to narrate the Jewish scene, when there was great battle between the army of the Maccabees and that of King Antiochus. **Henry** was decked out in full armour, slashing away with his foam rubber sword. The fight was interrupted by an announcement, a *real* one from Irene, about the bazaar and the upcoming candlelight service, followed by the command to go back to the fighting! As soon as the Jewish Leader **Cormac** was hauled off stage, he returned instantly as "the fastest courier". His job was to search the audience for oil for the lamp and **John** stood up in costume to deliver his line, "Oy vey! Hey, Kid- is *this* what you're looking for?"

In the Christian scene, it was very clever when our treasurer, **Christopher**, dressed as Emperor Caesar, pointed to the audience and instructed us to, "Pay your taxes", and immediately **Kerry-Anne** played, *From You I Receive...* **Eli** was very brave to take on the role of Joseph, opposite **Bella's** very dramatic Mary. The audience was full of anticipation when Mary exclaimed: "Oooh, I think the baby's coming!" People were wondering how a virgin birth was going to happen in a church! It was a joyful surprise when the doll came tumbling out! I'm *still* laughing! **Alba**, as the star "shining in the night", beckoned Shepherds and animals to the manger, including a magical unicorn **Simone**. **Michael C.** trumpeted in the Chorus of Heavenly Angels, lead by **Karen and Brianne**, and **Kerry-Anne** introduced the Three Kings **Michael, James and Gabor**, who arrived majestically. Gabor's comedic timing was impeccable when he delivered his lines, "I got him the new Return of the Jedi Deluxe Lego set. Just kidding, they were all out... I had to settle for this myrrh."

Every child and youth acted with all their hearts. From the smallest child **Luna** holding a silvery crescent moon, to the pugnacious hammer-holding Maccabee **Damian** who said he was proud his name meant "Hammer", every actor had a unique take on his or her role. All the while, **Phil and Alain** kept things moving seamlessly behind the scenes. In the end, **Olivia and Talia** gave the moral of the story when they summarized the words of the Great Spirit **Sheila**, "As a Unitarian Angel, Angelica, learned that in her corner of the sky, she could just be who she is, honestly say what she thought and believed what she felt to be true". When **Ariel** gave the closing words, I was sad it had all come to an end.

Throughout the play, I was delighted with Angelica, a novice angel played by **Emalyn**, who was in every scene, gracefully flying about the "sky" with her lovely feathered wings. **Emalyn** was aware of every moment, listening to and reacting to every aspect of the play with a maturity that you wouldn't see in most children her age. Bravo!

Finally, it was amazing how it all came together at the end. I know this because I was at the rehearsal the night before! Kudos to **Catherine** and **Bella** for their brilliant direction, energy and creativity! And kudos to the actors of all ages, who showed us their talent and joyful unity.

*~With admiration, Sari*

~~~~~  
Here are the other actors that partook in this true multigen service: **Ariel** warmly welcomed us all. Adult Narrators (**Elsa, Timothy, Sari, Catherine, Rob** and **Susan**) and messengers (**Jean, Nancy, Heather, Peg** and **Irene**), moved the story along.

**Sheila** gave Angelica great advice. **Simone** as the Sun was adorable and played her part perfectly! Dressed for the part and taking on a Jewish accent, **John** gave a great performance as the Keeper of the Oil. **Eli** was very brave to play Joseph opposite **Bella** as Mary! **Rev Heather** was beautiful in a coral as the Angel. **Christopher** was impressive as Emperor Augustus Caesar. **Karen, Olivia, Talia, Brianne** and **Ariel** formed a beautiful Chorus of Heavenly Angels. Our 3 wise men, **Michael, James** and **Gabor**, aka, Mr. Comedy, closed out the humorous Christian scene and the **Rev Heather** did the same for Mary. **Talia** was the patient Kwanzaa mother who taught us all about this relatively new African-American holiday celebration.

All the while, **Phil** and **Alain** kept things moving seamlessly behind the scenes. And perhaps you agree with me that it was **Kerry-Anne, Michael** and the Lakeshore Community Choir who provided the heartbeat for the production.

*~Catherine*

# Spirituality for Montreal's Religiously Unaffiliated?

## Spirituality without Religious Identity?

In our Lakeshore community, there is a near constant discussion on the role of spirituality and regular ceremonial celebrations. We even debate what to call our “services.” Avoiding all ceremonial aspects could make the event seem too sterile. Alternatively, too much ceremony can weigh heavily and make it seem too “heavy.” Thanks to a devoted Sunday Service Committee, our **Lakeshore Congregation** Sunday services are filled with great speakers, songs and just the right amount of ceremony. But the best news is that – no matter how relevant or not a particular service may seem to you – the coffee and tea time conversation and fellowship afterwards are always great.

### When no belief is understood to be a belief unto itself

People who are grouped as being “secular” are not necessarily defined by lack of spiritual curiosity. Our **Lakeshore Unitarian Universalist Congregation (LUUC)** embraces people of all different beliefs. We view beliefs – including not believing – as being deeply personal and are to be explored rather than judged. Simply wanting to be part of a thinking, interesting, caring community is what draws people in Montreal to our Lakeshore UU Congregation.

The swing to secularism in Montreal contrasts sharply with the devout religious orthodoxy of the previous generation. As religious orthodoxy has declined across the province, the **role of community-based groups** – such as the **LUUC** are becoming more prominent. Our UU Congregation provides a way for Montreal's West Island youth, families, retirees and everyone in between to connect with each other no matter who or what. The where is **LUUC** and the when is (most) every Sunday at 10:30.

The essence of the Lakeshore community congregation is being unattached to any religion but connected to our community through spirituality explorations, discussions and charitable initiatives.

*~Timothy Byrnes, 2017-11-16*

## CARING CORNER

We have just learned that **Ted Hocking**, a long-time former member of our congregation, died in March 2016, in Powell River, BC, at the age of 102. Here are some excerpts from the obituary:

“**Ted Hocking** was born in Leyland, Lancashire, England on August 2, 1914, the day World War I broke out. He lived a long and active life. At the age of five Ted had part of a rib removed to drain and re-inflate his lung, a radical procedure at the time. It helped him to survive the 1918 influenza pandemic that killed millions of people globally. As a teenager his top marks entitled him to attend university with a full scholarship, but at 15 he had to leave school to support his family.

Ted's persistence in finding interesting work took him to Rolls-Royce and probably saved his life. His work on the engines for the Spitfire, Hurricane and Lancaster bombers was deemed critical in World War II, so he played a vital role in the war, but not as a soldier.

In 1952, Ted moved to Montreal with his wife **Stella** and their four young children. He was chief draughtsman for Rolls-Royce Canada, but his real passions (shared with Stella) were theatre and the arts. The couple were mainstays of The Lakeshore Players, a celebrated amateur theatrical group on the West Island of Montreal.

During the early 1970s, Ted was finally able to go to university, earning a degree in English literature by attending night classes at Sir George Williams University (now Concordia University).

Over the years their four children moved to the West Coast; in 1994 **Ted and Stella** joined them, exchanging the harsh Montreal winters for the temperate climate of Powell River. "The best thing we ever did," they declared, and they took to their new community with enthusiasm..... To **Ted's** great sorrow, **Stella** died in January 2015, but he took comfort in knowing he shared 75 years with the love of his life.

Ted died peacefully with family around him on March 5, 2016."

*~Sheila*

**Jose van Amerongen, Dori Abbott, Sheila Laursen and Conny Belanger** form the "core" of our Caring Committee with **Gary Spiller and Rev. Heather Fraser Fawcett** as support.

If you know of someone in our congregation who is ill, lonely, or needs a helping hand, or a drive, please call us. For the month of January, **Dori Abbott** is the person to phone at [514-630-4264](tel:514-630-4264) or e-mail at [dorijabbott@gmail.com](mailto:dorijabbott@gmail.com)

*~Dori*

**Note from Gary Spiller** "Looking forward to returning to the snow! Lots of rain here in Malaysia and the Philippines."



Christine Gray on January 1

Farlan Gray on January 16

Ella Hachoud on January 20

Kerry-Anne Kutz on January 24

Philip Prince on January 26

Nathalie Hainaut on January 29

**.THANK YOU (and You, and You and You!)**

### **FRUITCAKE FUNDRAISER**

To Margot Barclay and Conny Bélanger, who helped me chop pounds and pounds of sticky fruit, and to all who love fruitcake, and buy it eagerly each year, I thank you. Together, we have raised **\$626** for the LUUC coffers!

Who said fruitcake is passé?? 32 avid fruitcake fans bought 86 pounds of fruitcake this year! Another two small cakes will be included with our offerings for our Christmas Basket families.

### **CHILD HAVEN DINNER**

Thanks to our wonderful LUUC members and other supporters of Child Haven, our Montreal fundraising dinner on November 25 raised **\$22,402** for that wonderful charity begun by **Rev. Fred & Bonnie Cappuccino**. 174 people attended this year, and all enjoyed the delicious Indian food catered by Sahib, the convivial company, and the attractions of the Silent Auction and the Eastern Bazaar.

*~Sheila*

### **APPRECIATION**

**Bravo to Heather Falconer-Russle** our industrious hero! She edited and even wrote our wonderful Newsletters since 1990!- Creating the main bond holding us all together - up beat and on time. Consistent hard work! Thank you! Merci!

We hope to thank you in person Heather on a Sunday morning - meanwhile, rest well!

*~Nancy*

## **DONATIONS TO FONDS DU DEPANNAGE**

On December 7th, I delivered our LUUC food to the waif, the "Fonds du Depannage" "Bakery" early! Thanks to your generosity my Honda Trunk was full!

The "Bakery" looked very bare - any food left there dose not rest there for long, but volunteers keep the front windows full of trees, shrubs & vines, all leafy greens to cheer the "customers" up in our freezing winters!

Newcomers to Canada really do suffer the cold & when tired with hungry this warm "Bakery" is an oasis!

In the New Year all your 'cans" are so necessary -spinach, beets, olives, corn, mushrooms, meats, sardines, cranberries, peaches - our new Canadians are surviving the most enormous upheaval non their lives, more even than the cold. These little cans are a must!

**Bring one each Sunday!**

*~Nancy*

### **Free film afternoons at the Pointe Claire Central Library**

**Tuesday January 16, 2018 - 1:30 p.m.**

#### **The Glass Castle**

Based on the best-selling memory, the inspiring story of Jeannette's poor but wildly adventurous childhood, raised by her free-spirited father and her mother, an eccentric artist. An uplifting story of unconditional love.

Starring Brie Larson, Woody Harrelson and Naomi Watts.

**Tuesday January 23, 2018 - 1:30 p.m.**

#### **Beatriz at Dinner**

An immigrant from a poor Mexican town and a rich and ruthless L.A. real estate developer meet at a dinner party, which leads to a culture clash of wildly comic proportions, and a night that will change both their worlds forever.

Starring Salma Hayek and John Lithgow.

*~Sheila*

**The Editor**

Hearty thanks to all the contributors to this Newsletter, it was produced in fits and starts though the holidays with the aim to get the news out before our first service of 2018 on January 7th.

Here's wishing you all good health and an enjoyable New Year

*~ed*

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