

LAKESHORE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION

5065 Sherbrooke Street,
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514 - 637- 6974



SEPTEMBER 2018

WELCOME TO LAKESHORE A NON-RELIGIOUS SPIRITUAL COMMUNITY

**We believe in love and justice
We're a radically inclusive community, of all backgrounds, ages,
sexualities and abilities
We work towards a fairer, kinder world
We create space for personal growth and reflection
We nurture a community that is caring and supportive
Welcome to our non-religious congregation.**

As a non-religious spiritual community, what do we actually believe in? Quite a lot actually. We believe that although today's world is riven with injustice, we always hope and work towards a kinder, fairer world.

We believe that there is potential for good in every person, no matter how wounded they may be, or how buried that potential may lie. We believe that the world can be good and can grow even better and that this responsibility lies firmly in our hands.

SUNDAY SERVICES

Our regular Sunday Gathering offers an opportunity for wisdom, joy, solace and community, followed by a healthy dose of caffeine, cake and conversation.

Services include live music, a story for children, singing, poetry, literature, a talk and a time for sharing our joys and sorrows.

The overarching theme for this year's Sunday services will be **Spiritual Journey**. Although not every service will be on this topic, the S.S. Committee is planning that most if them will.



SEPTEMBER 2018

September 9th – 10:30 am.

**HOMEWARD BOUND
Christopher Thomson**

Christopher Thomson, one of our members and a long-settled immigrant in Québec, will talk about the personal journeys we make in our lives. After leaving our first home to go into the world, we may find ourselves homeward bound by discovering in our heart the place where we belong.

And a heart full of gratitude on finding its place in this world can then hear the call of others on their own journey, who now stand on our doorstep and ask to be invited in, to make this place their home.

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

**Hospitality: Sheila Laursen
Chris Bassett**

September 16th – 10:30 am.

**TWO SPIRITUAL MASTERS
Rev. Heather Fraser Fawcett**

Two women talk one day and mention that their husbands need to get more exercise. Two spiritual masters talk one day and tell each other that their wives are after them to exercise. This reflection is about what happens next.

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

Greeter: Heather Falconer

POTLUCK! POTLUCK! POTLUCK! For our first Potluck Luncheon this season, please bring something wonderful for us all to share. **Selina** will head the potluck team with the assistance of **Michael Rooker, Toni Smith, José van Amerongen** and **James Sisley**.



September 23rd – 10:30 am.

**THE FRAGILITY OF LIFE
Rabbi Sherril Gilbert**

We welcome Rabbi Sherril Gilbert to Lakeshore for a third time. She will tell us how, during the Jewish holiday of Sukkot (beginning on the eve of September 23), Jews all around the world build small outdoor temporary huts. The impermanence of these structures helps deepen our recognition of our vulnerability as human beings.

Dwelling in our little huts within the natural world, we are reminded of the fragility of our environment and our planet. We also are obligated to invite both friends and strangers into our huts. The lesson here is that the more vulnerable we feel, the more we realize that we need each other, and should live together in such a way that promotes peace, cooperation, and respect for each other and the universe that sustains us.

**Service Leader: Christopher Thomson
Musician: Kerry-Anne Kutz**

**Hospitality: Monique Riedel
Annelise Ogle**

September 30th – 10:30 am.

**TALES FROM A BOOK OF LIFE,
PART 2: PATHWAYS
Michael Rooker**

Further to Part 1 (presented last April), Michael will continue to explore our collective spirituality through two more intriguing international tales and reflections from his family's "book of life" that they've experienced over the years. He will then add a fresh story to illustrate deeper aspects of our spiritual journeys and the pathways that intrigue us to walk along.

In exploring life's puzzles we'll be going beyond our traditional five senses, and will set out instead along new pathways of our individual imagination. Scientific advances are mentioned to help us gain a true perspective of our journeys. This is the interim presentation of a planned trilogy. Research for and drafting of the final part entitled "Reflections" is already underway.

Service Leader: Sheila Laursen
Musician: Kerry-Anne Kutz

Hospitality: Peg Wooley
Gary Spiller

CHILDREN'S PROGRAM



The children begin their time in the Sunday Service and adjourn to their own space after their story. There, the group is divided according to age where they explore different themes that will help the children make ethical decisions and discover their own way through life. These themes are approached through art, craft projects, stories, music and movement.

Sessions are non-dogmatic and encourage the children to think for themselves.

This year we have two experienced and popular teachers. We welcome the return of **Erin Berry** who will be working with the youth group – and **Elsa Chavez** who will again teach the younger children.

- ed

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

RIP: Mary Hunter

Without a doubt it is death that confronts us most directly with the eternal unknowns of human existence. Isn't that what lurked behind that sharp breath that you drew when you heard about Mary Hunter's sudden death?

As UU's we listen to, and tell endless stories about life – but it seems to me that we tell only one story about death: it is the Great Unknowable. To our credit, I think, we neither fear it, nor sugar-coat its impact. Our message to ourselves, and to the world is to focus our energy on improving the conditions of our lives in the here and now.

Mary's lot in life was not one of ease and comfort and good health. She battled through many personal difficulties. In my version of her life's narrative, they were the result of the changing intersection between her idiosyncratic biochemistry, and the state of knowledge in the medical world about dealing with the complex chemistry of the human brain. In Mary's case, this was a precarious intersection, and she would sometimes lose sight of the guideposts. When Mary needed help, it was often LUUC members who put aside their own concerns to step in and do what needed to be done.

Observing the ebb and flow of her participation in this congregation, underlines for me why LUUC is important. It is an example of the power of community, when the basis of that community is the application of unconditional love.

In coming together to care for others, we provide a part of an answer to the questions raised by our own fragility in facing the Great Unknowable.

- ***Susan Czarnocki, President***



Susan's Green Little Subaru – or – “The Resurrection”

Rear-ended, dead and towed away;
On the third day it was resurrected from Rosemont,
...And now sits demurely on the right hand edge of Susan's driveway...

S.Cz

KNITTING IS NOT JUST FOR LITTLE OLD LADIES!



Everyone welcome – the young and the not so young – male and female! The cooler weather will return soon and we plan to begin our afternoon knitting sessions on September 18th at 2:00pm at Peg Wooley's home in Beaconsfield. Call Peg at 514-630-1512 if you wish to attend. Potential projects include hats and scarves for the local school, socks for the homeless, preemie and newborn hats for the hospital, lap blankets and muffs for the elderly, dolls and finger puppets for hospitalized children in war zones and bazaar items.

- ed



TONI SMITH

The Board is pleased to announce the appointment of **Toni Smith** as our new office secretary. She will start in September. Toni has a long history with LUUC. Many years ago when her sons were young, she worked hard on the SE programme – as well, she was our office secretary when we were located in Beaconsfield. Toni moved off island for several years but now is residing in Pointe Claire – within easy reach of our LUUC building.

To begin with, Toni will be in the office one-half day a week. Please welcome her when next you see her.

- ed

LATEST GADGET FROM DOWN UNDER

Some clever clogs has invented a self-stirring mug. No kidding – no spoon necessary. Just put the coffee, cream, sugar – whatever - into your mug – activate a little button on the handle – and the contents, whiz around and around like whirling dervishes – and voila – a perfectly stirred mug of coffee!

- ed



Happy Birthday to **Bella Gavanski** September 3rd. Bella has enjoyed working at the Hudson Village Theatre Box Office this summer but unfortunately had to spend much of her downtime recuperating from a bout of mono. She's feeling much stronger now and is excited to see all her friends and return to her studies at Dawson College in the 'fall.

Happy Birthday to **Brianne Amstutz** on September 7th, who will be entering Grade 9 at Westmount High School this 'fall. Over the years, we have watched "Bree" grow into a caring and confident young person – and we wish her good luck in the coming school year.

Happy Birthday to **Lois Read** on September 27th - a long time member of LUUC. We don't see much of you these days – but **Lois** – we hope you enjoy your special day with your family.

Happy Birthday to **Cormac Lutes** who will be 10 on September 28th - he'll be going into Grade 5 at Clearpoint Elementary in Pointe Claire. Cormac's Mum kept him very busy this summer. He took a variety of courses with the local parks programme - and even tried his hand at cooking! **Cormac** – your many, many talents always amaze me! **- ed**



THANK YOU JAMES

A big thank you to **James Sisley** who kindly took over as the newsletter editor last season and willingly and cheerfully stepped up to the plate when needed. An editor's life is all deadlines and waiting for last minute articles – and if those articles don't arrive on time – then the editor has to write them himself! It can be both frustrating and rewarding. Thank you **James** for keeping our sixty-six year-old tradition going.

- ed



WHO DOES WHAT at LUUC

Susan Czarnocki – President: Publicity/Facebook; Denominational Affairs; Music programme; (Social Action).

Paul Sullivan – Vice President: Chaplain's Liaison Committee; Long Range Planning Committee; NCA Liaison; Property.

Christopher Thomson – Treasurer: Website; Fundraising; Mutual Aid Fund; Stewardship, (Sunday Services).

Heather Falconer – Secretary: Admin. Secretary Liaison; Newsletter; (Hospitality, Telephone and Caring Committees);

Rob Lutes – Director A: Spiritual Exploration.

Timothy Byrnes – Director B: Communications committees; (Membership and Responsible Membership Committee.).

If you feel you would like to contribute/join any of the above committees, kindly contact the Board member involved.

NON-BOARD MEMBERS WHO HEAD COMMITTEES

Dori Abbott – Hospitality/Knitting Group

Jose van Amerongen – Caring

Constance Bélanger - Telephone

Kerry-Anne Kutz - Musical Director

Sheila Laursen - Sunday Services, Social Action

Monique Riedel - S.E.

James Sisley - Responsible Membership Committee

Peg Wooley - Membership

BELIEVE IN NEW BEGINNINGS

MARY HUNTER

We learned of the devastating news of **Mary Hunter's** sudden death in July – a member of our congregation since her childhood. It will take us some time before we can reconcile ourselves to the fact that Mary is no longer with us. Mary always spoke fondly of being part of the LUC Youth Group – and the times she spent at the **Cappuccino** home in Pointe Claire - a place where she always felt welcome.

When she married Farlan Gray, she lived in Pierrefond and had two daughters, Emily and Christine – now grown. Later, she and Farlan parted, and **Mary** moved into the Villa St. Louis, although they continued to be on friendly terms.

Often plagued with ill health, **Mary** did her best to cope with her difficulties and remain cheerful. Recently she attended two of our summer BBQs where she joined fully in the fun and seemed to be well and happy.

Mary learned to knit with the LUUC Knitting Group and specialized in dishcloths and scarves. The dishcloths went to Father Paul of Suitcases for Africa in Kenya – and many of her scarves were donated to the local school as part of a Christmas Basket..

Mary was also a great baker and for many years she supplied our LUUC coffee hour with her delightful goodies – lemon loaf, soda breads, chocolate Easter eggs, pumpkin gateau, chocolate cake, cookies galore and my special favourite, cinnamon loaf. Then one day she just stopped baking – and nothing would persuade her to take it up again.



Mary contributed to our monthly newsletter... **Mary Writes...** and like her father, **Bruce Hunter**, she was a talented writer when she was younger.

Left to mourn **Mary** are: Farlan, Emily and Christine, her two daughters and Jimmy and Paul, her two brothers – as well as all her friends at LUUC. She was always there – an enduring, yet often quiet presence in our congregation. LUUC will never be quite the same without her - and we will surely miss her unique personality.



- ed



HOSPITALITY NEEDS HELP!!!

The Hospitality Committee has run into a few challenges. Of the 32 'active' members listed in our directory – more than 1/3 of the people feel they are unable to partake in the hospitality program.

To limit everyone's participation to only 4 times each per year – we need 5 potluck crews of 5 – with at least 2 men in each to help with the tables; and enough 2-person hospitality/greeter teams to cover approximately 40 services.

Now, we just don't have enough people to nearly cover all this – and we are loathed to ask the same people over and over again – just because they are kind and considerate and want to keep up our traditions. We have not included the youth in these calculations.

This is no longer a Hospitality Committee problem – it is a LUUC problem – and we would like to hear some solutions. Are you willing to be on a potluck team – or a greeter team? Would it help if we use paper plates and cups? Should we scrap the program altogether? Your input will be much appreciated.

- The Hospitality Committee, Dori, Peg, Heather

ORGANIZATIONS WE SUPPORT

CHILD HAVEN INTERNATIONAL – a series of 9 orphanages in India, Nepal, Tibet and Bangladesh - run by **Rev. Fred and Bonnie Cappuccino**.

FAIR TRADE COFFEE – Our Sunday morning coffee is always Fair Trade, purchased at Dix Mille Village, Pointe Claire.

SUITCASES FOR AFRICA – educational support for two children in Kenya.

THE SYRIAN KERNAZI FAMILY – now safely in Canada and sponsored by LUUC, Summerlea United and Beaurepaire/Union United Churches - who provide ongoing emotional, practical and financial support.

WEST ISLAND ASSISTANCE FUND FOOD BANK – organized by **Nancy Graham** – providing non-perishable food items.

LUUC KNITTING GROUP – makes useful items for various charities.

- ed

ROB'S MOTHER'S DAY SONG

At the Mother's Day Luncheon provided by the LUUC Men's Brigade – **Rob Lutes** composed and, together with his son **Cormac** and the **rest of the men**, sang a song for us. It was called The Mother's Day Song. Many thanks for this special surprise Rob.



The first wind that moved the trees
The first light on the morning breeze
The first arms that ever carried us away

The first eyes we ever saw
The first art we could draw
The first music that we ever learned to play

She set the lines we would cross
She caught the balls that we tossed
She fed us and she led us to the well

She scolded us and molded us
When we did good, she made a fuss
And she picked us up whenever we fell

CHORUS

And when we turn around we see her everywhere
In little lights and memories only she can share
Cause she's the one who saw it all
She knew us big, she new us small
And we all know that no one ever can compare

She was a steady, calming force
She was the centre and the source
We held out our cup and she filled up the world

She gave us everything she could
Raised us and praised us and taught us good
Mom, you know, you really are a pearl.



CARING FOR LUUCERS

Several of us had a wonderful time one Sunday in July, with our Service Auction event at the home of **Tim and Gaetane** - who are warm and gracious hosts. We enjoyed a swim in the pool, a delicious meal of roasted pig and a perfect afternoon and evening in their company.

Sari Kelen is gradually moving into her new home in Ste. Anne de Bellevue and enjoying exploring her new community.

Our dear **Jean Merrifield** recently had a bout of poor health when her physician changed her medication. It has now been changed back again – and Jean is feeling much better.

It is sad to hear that **Dorothy Anderson** has died – she was never a member, but always supported us most generously. Many of us remember when she purchased a much-needed piano for us in memory of her husband, long time member **Don Anderson**.

The Caring Committee take turns in heading the Caring Team. For September and October **Constance Bélanger** will be in charge. You can reach her at 514-695-2376.
- **Sheila Laursen**

CASEY STAINSBY

Casey Stainsby is now a new member of the CUC staff team, as the Youth and Young Adult Program and Events Coordinator, and will work alongside Asha Philar, Youth and Young Adult Ministry Specialist. Casey will concentrate on youth and young adult event coordination across the country, and provide support for youth and young adult communications. Casey can be reached at casey@cuc.ca.
- **Sheila Laursen**

**L'ACCUEIL INTERNATIONAL POUR L'ENFANCE
CHILD HAVEN INTERNATIONAL
SOIRÉE BÉNÉFICE BENEFIT EVENING**

vendredi le 12 octobre 2018 – 18h Friday October 12, 2018 – 6:00 pm



Homes for destitute children in India, Nepal, Tibet & Bangladesh

Indian cuisine/Cash bar

**Karnak Shriners Hall
3350 bou. des Sources, Dollard des Ormeaux, QC H9B 1Z9**

**45\$ avant/before le 5 octobre - 50\$ après/after
8 ans ou moins gratuit / 8 years or under free
9-17 ans/years \$20**

**Vente aux enchères et tables de trésors de l'Inde, du Népal, du Tibet et du
Bangladesh \ Silent auction and Bazaar treasures from India, Nepal, Tibet and
Bangladesh**

INFORMATIONS Conny Bélanger 514 542-3381

**Reserve by paying before October 5 at www.childhaven.ca
(click on Montreal dinner) or phone 613-527-2829**





THANK YOU SAMANTHA

A big thank you goes out to ***Samantha Lustig*** for her diligent service as administrative secretary over the last two years. We wish you the best in your studies and success in all your endeavours.

- Irene Hausknost



PETER RECOMMENDS: ***Peter Abbott*** has just finished a book called The House of Islam – A Global History by Ed Husain, 2018. He got it from Beaconsfield Library – and highly recommends it.

HELP BUILD HOMES IN HONDURAS this winter – for more information contact:
<http://worldaccord.wixsite.com/wa-expedition>.

MOVIES AT POINTE CLAIRE LIBRARY: Tuesday September 18th at 1:30pm “**Red Sparrow**” starring Jennifer Lawrence.

HOW'S THIS FOR A UBI? Do you know that it is impossible to lick your elbow?



SUPPORT FOR OUR SYRIAN REFUGEE FAMILY

While Bilal, the father of the family, took English classes during the summer, his wife Farah began her French immersion classes. And our Summerlea Refugee Support Coalition was able to get two of the boys, Abdullah (10) and Baraa (6) into the Cartierville YMCA's Summer Day Camp (thanks to a generous subsidy....) where they had great fun every day while making new friends - in French and English!

Farah also began a process of dental work to repair one tooth, and to replace another that had broken and had to be removed. So her summer wasn't all fun.....but getting this begun was needed.

Farah, and her sister in law, Basma (Salman's wife) made many dozens of delicious Syrian pastries in spite of the heat - which they contributed to Action Réfugiés Montréal's fundraising Summer Fair. Their hard work and scrumptious delicacies raised \$60 for ARM!

Like all families with school age children, they are now reviewing school supply lists and getting everyone ready to get back to classes!

HELPING A HAITIAN REFUGEE FAMILY

Thanks to financial support from another refugee sponsorship group that had extra funds, the costs for Johanne's 2 sons to be in the Montreal North summer day camp program were covered for the full 8 weeks of the summer. This allowed their Mom to work 4 days a week as a caregiver at a Residence Soleil in Montreal to support them, while they were having fun and improving their oral French skills with the other children.

BELIEVE IN NEW BEGINNINGS!

ASYLUM-SEEKING FAMILIES MOVING TO THE WEST ISLAND

Individuals and families continue to cross the "irregular" border at Roxham Road - seeking asylum in Canada. We have been working with The Welcome Collective to offer some basic furniture, clothing, bedding, dishes, and kitchen tools to the families that have been processed and deemed eligible for a refugee hearing. Once that is done, they must move out of the government's supported shelters and find an apartment in the Montreal area.

Over the past several months (Spring through Summer), several LUUC members, along with other West Islanders have directly helped 12 families, all with children, to furnish their new homes. That meant picking up furniture, etc that was offered and then matching (or storing temporarily) items needed by the newly-arrived families, and then delivering them in a borrowed van or truck - and sometimes, helping to carry them up 3 flights of stairs! The joy and gratitude of the families (and the blessings they bestowed on us) make that hard and sweaty work worthwhile.



We also connected with a group in Hemminford called Bridges not Borders, that has seen these hundreds of people pass by their homes. They organized a country picnic on August 11 at the farm of one of their members, who lives mere steps away from the Roxham Road crossing. We brought 3 Nigerian women and their children from the West Island, who we have been helping with furniture and other support, to the picnic. There we were

greeted by about 50 local residents welcoming us with a bountiful and delicious picnic, and the 7 children were able to play games and meet the farm's sheep, pigs, horse, cat, rooster and hens while their Moms relaxed and conversed in the shade of a giant Catalpa tree! That magical summer day dispelled any difficult memories they may have had of coming along that road during the winter...

- Sheila Laursen

I am in awe! While I've spent the summer feeling sorry for myself what with the heat and a repaired knee – LUUCers have been rushing hither and yon trying to provide basics, hope and joy for people who do not even have a country to call home. As a child in London – with a war raging all around us – we saw newsreels of total devastation and destruction in Europe - my Mother always trotted out her favourite quote ... "There but for the grace of God go I" ...

Well done Sheila and Co.

- ed

WELCOME TO LAKESHORE
A NON-RELIGIOUS SPIRITUAL COMMUNITY

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NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: **September 22nd, 2018**

OUR WEB-SITE: www.LUUC.org

BELIEVE IN NEW BEGINNINGS

