

LAKESHORE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION

5065 Sherbrooke Street,
Lachine, QC. H8T 1H9
514 - 637- 6974



December 2018

December 2 - 10:30 a.m.

**PoWR - PARLIAMENT OF WORLD RELIGIONS
Susan Czarnocki**

Big signs in the hallways saying **PoWR** 2018 are eye-catching – and with over 7000 attendees chanting, praying, ranting – one would have thought that peace on earth would have broken out for sure. But alas it was not to be....

Leaving literalist quibbles aside, however, there was much that was thought-provoking and inspirational. The theme of this seventh Parliament was "The Promise of Inclusion, the Power of Love: Pursuing Global Understanding, Reconciliation and Change." Part pep-rally, part engaging intellectual forum, part 'total immersion' into our human yearnings for oneness with the infinite, PoWR was an engaging experience, that I would like to share with all of you!

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

Hospitality –TBA/Paul Sullivan

BELIEVE IN GOOD

BAZAAR, BAKE SALE & RAFFLE – DEC 9TH!

December 9 - 10:30 a.m. THE NARCISSIST WHO STOLE CHRISTMAS
Our LUUC Youth and Children

This multi-generational service will be put together by our LUUC youth. There will be readings, singing, and the youth will perform a play called "The Narcissist Who Stole Christmas". We hope to see everyone there to celebrate and welcome in the holiday spirit!

Service Leader - Erin Berry
Musician - Kerry-Anne Kutz

Hospitality – Karine Dechamps
Christopher Thomson

BAZAAR

POTLUCK! POTLUCK! POTLUCK! Bring some wonderful festive food and share a happy luncheon together. **Sheila Laursen with Monique, Rob, Gaetane and Timothy.**



December 16 - 10:30 a.m. Lighten the Darkness with Music and Poetry
Members and friends of LUUC

Lakeshore musicians, Dori, Hélène, Karine, Kerry-Anne and Rob will bring us music and song to lighten our lives amidst the darkness of winter. Paul, Christopher and others will add poetry to the mix. Lets us recall that shortly we will pass the winter solstice and we can celebrate with anticipation the joy of the returning sun.

“Friends, Lakeshorers, country-persons lend us your ears. We have come to bury the winter, not to praise it.” (Apologies to Wm. Shakespeare.)

Service Leader - Christopher Thomson
Musician - Kerry-Anne Kutz

Hospitality – Selina and
Michael Rooker

BELIEVE IN GOOD

DECEMBER 23 - NO SUNDAY SERVICE

December 24 - 5:30 p.m.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE
Kerry-Anne Kutz and Monique Riedel

Friends and families are welcome to join us for this evening service of carols and other songs, and stories that warm our hearts. A reading of "T'was the Night Before Christmas" will remind us all of the magic and wonder of this holiday season.

Service Leader - Monique Riedel
Musician - Kerry-Anne Kutz

Hospitality – Margaret Godbeer and
Toni Smith

DECEMBER 30 - NO SUNDAY SERVICE

WE'LL WELCOME IN THE NEW YEAR JANUARY 6, 2019

TO KARINE – WITH LOVE



During the Joys and Sorrows section of our Sunday Service on November 18th **Karine Deschamps** shared a very special ambition of hers. She told us that she had always wanted to be a singer, and that now, her first recording with her name on it is about to be launched. Karine, together with her Mother and Sister are presenting four concerts, two of which are in the Montreal area:

1. Sunday 25 November at 3:00 pm - Cabaret Lion d'Or, 1676, rue Ontario Est, Montréal, QC H2L 1S7 - 43 \$ (taxes & fees incl.)
2. Saturday 8 December at 8:00 pm - Centre communautaire Roussin, 12 125, rue Notre-Dame Est, Pointe-aux-Trembles, QC H1B 2Y9 - 30 \$

Bonne chance chere Karine – we wish you huge success!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Providing Christmas Cheer:

Every year since I have been part of the Lakeshore, some form of community outreach has been organized for the winter holiday season. For many years we would request names from West Island social services, who had lists of clients that wouldn't have a Christmas celebration without some outside help. When we moved to Lachine we realized that we are right next to a school which has a large contingent of families who fall into that category. There were several organizations that were providing Christmas baskets for these families, and for the past two years we were given names from off their list, but this approach had several drawbacks: it required a lot of organization, and each group tended to have their own 'shopping list' creating somewhat uneven results. This year Corrine Guy, the outreach worker, came up with an approach that solves those issues. She has convinced the local St. Vincent de Paul Society, who already prepare about 100-150 food baskets every two weeks for families in Lachine, to take over preparing all the Christmas baskets for Maple Grove School. In return the school has solicited those who can afford it, to make a cash donation to the St. Vincent de Paul Society. She has suggested that we could help in the same way: instead of collecting food and cash for baskets that we deliver, we are being asked to collect funds to donate to the St. Vincent de Paul Society – simplicity in itself. We will include a note that this donation comes from LUUC to support their generous offer to help our next-door neighbour, Maple Grove School.

Our Treasurer, Christopher, will be adding your donations for this cause to your other donations to LUUC, so they will be included in your total donation for this year. Put what you feel motivated to give as cash or a cheque in a signed envelope and give it to Christopher, or leave it in the basket labeled Maple Grove School.

Fin de l'année

2018 has marked the waning of precious aspects of our public life, for example the seeking of consensus and showing respect for the inherent worth and dignity of every person. As we move forward into 2019, we must be unwavering in our expectation that such qualities are the minimum we expect in anyone worthy of social esteem.

-Susan Czarnocki, President

BELIEVE IN GOOD



BAZAAR TIME

Plans for our **Mini-Bazaar** are well underway. Our ladies will bake, bake and bake some more – so you can fill up your larders – (make that your freezers) – with delicious goodies – all in time for Christmas.

We'll also have an **Attic Treasures** table for those last-minute gift opportunities and tree decorations.

And of course, a '**Champagne Raffle**' that you won't be able to resist!

Come one – come all – and enjoy the Service on **Sunday December 9th** when our children and youth will perform a play, followed by a festive feast and the Bazaar.

It will also be an opportunity to pick up the **Christmas Fruit Cake** you ordered from Sheila.

MITTEN TREE

Mittens, Scarves and Hats! These items are needed for our Mitten Tree. ***Peg Wooley*** is co-ordinating this – so please bring to the church all these warm and toasty articles to her. They will be donated to the Maple Grove elementary school next to the church, where I'm sure they will be much needed and appreciated.



Silent Night, Holy Night – All is calm, All is bright!

BAZAAR, BAKE SALE & RAFFLE – DEC 9TH!



Treasurer Report

TREASURER'S REPORT

As we draw nearer to the end of the calendar year, we know that beyond the Holiday season, we will face not only two or three months of cold weather, but also taxes! So right now is a good moment to check if you have made all the pledge contributions you wanted for 2018.

Don't hesitate to email me if you are uncertain about how much you have given Lakeshore so far this calendar year. If at all possible, please hand in your final contribution for the year by the multigenerational, potluck service on 9 December, because you never know if a last minute contretemps will keep you from attending the last regular service of the year on 16 December 2018. (We don't normally take a collection at the Candlelight Service on Christmas Eve.)

As I forewarned both at the Stewardship presentation in April and at the AGM in June, we have withdrawn at the end of October 5 000 \$ from our endowment fund, held with Lester Asset Management. And it remains possible that we will need to withdraw another 5000 \$ before the end of the Financial Year on 30 April 2019. That being said, I should note the wonderful efforts by Lakeshore members to raise more funds.

The Bake Sale at the end of October raised 133,50 \$ and the Kerry-Anne's benefit concert for Suitcases for Africa at the beginning of November raised 250 \$ for Lakeshore. You may remember that through Suitcases, Lakeshore sponsors the schooling of two kids in Kenya so please continue, during coffee hours, to leave a coin or two in the ceramic pot that Jean Merrifield set out for our Suitcase scholarship donations. Thank you.

Christopher Thomson, Treasurer

Hark the Herald Angels Sing – Glory to the New Born King

NOTES FROM THE BOARD



The **Lakeshore Board** met on November 20th, 2018 to discuss the following:

The **Little Maestros** are going very well with eight tiny tots attending, together with their parents – and plans are being made to start a follow-up class in January. The sessions last 45 minutes for ten weeks and cost \$50.00.

The **Lakeshore Choir** is rehearsing madly for the Christmas Season – they have several venues where they are arranged to sing and bring holiday cheer.

Our 'Man of Property' - **Paul Sullivan** was the only person to help the Norwegians with their annual clean-up. The Board found this regrettable - as the Norwegians are fair and obliging landlords. We must improve next year.



Susan Czarnocki and **Christopher Thomson** reported on their attendance at the **CUC Eastern Regional Gathering** in Kingston, Ontario. A full report can be found in this newsletter. While on the subject of conferences – on December 2nd, we will hear of Susan's experience at the World Parliament of Religions Conference (PoWR) which she attended last month.

Heather Falconer reported than plans are underway for the Bazaar on December 9th – and also that a new Directory is 'in the works.'

-Heather Falconer, Board Secretary.



We have six birthday wishes for December – the first is for long-time member **Nancy Graham** whose birthday is on the 2nd. Every Sunday after the service, Nancy checks the pews to make sure we have not left anything behind – and generally tidies around the altar area. Happy Birthday Nancy!

Happy Birthday to **Helen Cimon-Auer** on December 6th. We are all pleased that Helene's wrist has improved enough for her to play for us again on Sundays.

Sari Kelen is now happily settled in Ste. Anne de Bellevue and is in fact a near neighbour to me – but we have both been too busy to meet for coffee. Happy Birthday Sari on December 9th – and continue to enjoy SAB.

Happy Birthday to **Irene Hausknost** on December 18th. Irene is our choir co-ordinator – and we all look forward to hearing her sing for us over Christmas.

Talia Sanchez-Rooker and **Annelise Ogle** share a birthday on December 22nd. Happy Birthday to you both – and a Merry Christmas!

SE NEWS!



In November, the younger group talked about the meaning of Remembrance day and the symbolic meaning of poppies. The children listened to a short story on this topic. They also made their own beautiful little poppies with recycled materials and paint.

The Youth Group discussed the spread of narcissism and its increase in society in recent years. They then began to brainstorm ideas for the youth-led service, which will be on **December 9th** – Not surprisingly; the title of the play they've come up with is ***The Narcissist Who Stole Christmas***.

NOTE TO PARENTS: The Youth Group will have a sleepover the night before the service, more information on this will be provided at a later date.

-Erin Berry, SE Coordinator

BAZAAR, BAKE SALE & RAFFLE – DEC 9TH!



CARING

CARING CONCERNS? - please call **Dori Abbott** at 514-630-4264

The Caring Committee has made a list of members in our congregation who are living alone. We thought it would be a good idea if we had a contact person for each of these nineteen LUUCers in case we have concerns about their well-being. We plan to speak to these nineteen people who are living alone to compile the contact information. Of course this information will remain confidential.

Get well wishes to **Lois Read** who recently had an operation on her eye. She is recovering at her home in Kirkland Manor.

-Dori Abbott

Congratulations to young **Alba Santos-Deschamps** for her math skills. During the children's section of the Service on November 18th, she answered all the questions put to the kids by Tim Byrnes. We were all so impressed!

MARY HUNTER

Reverend Steve Gillam, minister of Dorval-Strathmore United, wrote this in the Lakeshore Players' program of their recent production of The Miracle Worker:

Mary Hunter, a long-time member of Lakeshore Players, passed away in July.

She was involved in the company in many ways, usually quietly behind the scenes. Mostly however, she will be remembered for her smiles, stories, and support. Mary was one of those people who put the "community" in community theatre, and she will be missed.

-Steve Gillam

VIOLA DESMOND



November saw the launch of a new \$10.00 bill – unique in several ways. Viola Desmond is the first Canadian woman to be on a Canadian note. Also, the note is viewed vertically, rather than horizontally. Viola was an innovative entrepreneur – who sold make-up for black women and travelled around her province selling her special beauty products. While in New Glasgow, NS in 1946, she decided to spend an evening at a movie. She bought her ticket and then sat in the *whites only* section of the theatre in Nova Scotia – (yes, Nova Scotia not Mississippi!) She was asked to move to the black section and when she refused to leave her seat, she was dragged out and jailed. Later Viola was fined \$26.00 for tax evasion – because the seat she had selected cost 1 cent more than a seat in the black part of the theatre. This was a decade before Rosa Parks did her thing in Alabama.

I'm trying to imagine the conversation of the good burghers of New Glasgow as they attempted to dream up a charge for this huge one-cent transgression of their laws!

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A PACT FOR THE TRANSITION – FROM WORDS TO ACTION

Last month, our artistic community has announced *le Pacte pour la Transition* which combines a personal commitment to reducing our ecological footprint and slowing global warming with a vigorous lobby to press the Legault government to act collectively to meet our Paris Climate Agreement goals.

Numerous Québec artists, including Karine's parents, have signed, pledging to do their part. As Yvon says, *I dream of a White Christmas in a Green Québec*. So far over 500 artists, scientists and academics have taken the pledge and we citizens are invited to join in. I have. To learn more and sign up, if you choose, to go to:
<https://www.lepacte.ca/english.html>

-Christopher Thomson

JINGLE BELLS! JINGLE BELLS! JINGLE ALL THE WAY!



NEWS IN BRIEF

SOUP-POT CINEMA: at Union Church, Ste. Anne's – **December 5th at 7:00 pm.** *The Man Who Invented Christmas* – the story behind the story of Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol. - the timeless tale that redefined Christmas – starring Christopher Plummer. Call Susan Hawker for more info. 514-457-1793.

BAKE SALE – The Knitting Ladies were pleased with the results of their mini Bake Sale. Everything went – and we were able to add \$133.50 to the LUUC coffers. Many thanks to the bakers and those who supported us.

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LUUC/SFA CONCERT – The concert with Kerry-Anne's students raised a total of \$480 of which \$250 goes to LUUC. This money will go towards funding two students in Kenya.

THE MESSIAH: The Messiah by G. F. Handel will be presented by the Stewart Hall Singers at their Christmas concert in l'Eglise Saint-Joachim in Pointe Claire at 8:00 pm on Saturday December 1st, 2018. The program will also include carols and delightful arrangements of traditional Christmas songs. Tickets at \$20 are available from Geoffrey Quaid (514-694-0698).

VILLA BEAUPAIRE CRAFT FAIR: You're invited to the Annual Holiday Craft Fair, Thursday December 6th from 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm, located on Fieldfair, adjacent to Beaufaire United Church in Beaufaire Village. They will be hosting a variety of local vendors and artisans from in and around Montreal and provide networking opportunities for local businesses and business owners.

WE THREE KINGS OF ORIENT ARE – BEARING GIFTS WE TRAVEL SO FAR

BAZAAR, BAKE SALE & RAFFLE – DEC 9TH!

UPDATE ON OUR SYRIAN REFUGEE FAMILY

It is hard to believe that Bilal and Farah and their family have been in Montreal for 9 months now! Those months have flown by as the family became acquainted with their new home and community, and immersed in the process of integrating into new customs, activities and languages....and they are very grateful for the support and caring we have all offered them

For the past several months, Bilal has been taking English lessons, Farah has been learning French on a part-time basis, and their active 3 year old has gone to a French garderie while his Mom has her classes. The other 3 children (now ages 6, 10 and 12) began last Spring in special "classes d'accueil" for newly-arrived children within the local French elementary school. This Fall, they were eager to return to school to be with their friends. It will take many more months before they are all able to converse in their new second language, but they are already eager to test their listening and speaking abilities when they can.

The summer brought welcome warmth, and opportunities to make new friends for the 3 older children as the two boys attended the YMCA Cartierville Summer Day Camp program, and their older sister 'hung out' with her cousins enjoying the Ville St Laurent Park Program's youth activities.

With just 3 months remaining of our Summerlea Refugee Support Coalition's sponsorship for this family, the focus is now on helping Bilal to find work so the family will be self-sustaining by the end of our sponsorship funding. While Bilal worked as an electronic systems repairman for automobiles, and as owner of 2 car garages in Syria, entering that type of work here is not at all easy. He does not have the certification required by Quebec to work in auto mechanics, and his work experience in Syria was not as broad or thorough as what is a pre-requisite here.

However, Bilal recently passed the driving tests for a Category 5 (truck driver) Quebec license, and he is now actively looking for that type of work. If he can find a company to employ him, the Quebec government will subsidize the employer to support the integration of immigrants and refugees into our work force. So we are hopeful that Bilal will find such an employer and full time work this winter!

Farah is determined to steadily improve her French, so that once her youngest begins Maternelle, she can develop her dream of baking Syrian pastries for sale....and those of us who have tasted Farah's delicious offerings plan to be first in line to place our orders!

-Sheila Laursen



SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT FOR THE WEST ISLAND **MAKING THE INVISIBLE VISIBLE**

In general, the southern West Island population is considered as advantaged from a socioeconomic point of view. But at the same time, hidden poverty still exists in pockets across the region. Social problems are extremely complex and poverty and social exclusion are at the heart of many unmet needs.

Despite average to high revenue, each municipality of the region is home to people with low income. They represent 9% of the population; that is, 8,925 people. Those living in poverty have needs that are not recognized largely due to the area's relative wealth. Limited resources for vulnerable populations, as well as limited access to healthy food, lack of affordable housing, unavailability of social housing and an inefficient public transit system in the area, compound these problems.

The TQSOI (Table de quartier or Community Council) has launched a campaign to "Make the **Invisible Visible**" - to bring West Island residents, community groups, institutions, businesses, religious groups and elected officials together to create an action plan that will address those challenges and by doing so, improve the quality of life for our most vulnerable people.

Housing is one of those challenges. 1 in 5 households pays 30% or more of their income for housing. There are pockets of poverty that are often invisible; in some municipalities between 10% and 15% of the population live on low income. Yet, there are currently no subsidized or community housing options for non-seniors in the Southern-West Island, and the options available for seniors are limited.

On November 3rd, more than 80 people spent the day discussing this reality as it impacts low income families, seniors, immigrants, young adults and people with special needs particularly hard. People facing those challenges were present to "make visible" and understood the barriers they face every day. By the end of that dynamic day, Post-it notes of challenges, and solutions filled the walls of the meeting room.....an Action Plan was taking shape before our eyes.

Food Insecurity is another challenge facing the one in five West Islanders who turns to a community group for help every year. 6,861 West Islanders receive food assistance every month.

continued/...

On November 14th, hard-working summer students for the TQSOI screened the premiere of “Hidden Hunger / Faim cachée”, their powerful short documentary showing a unique perspective on food insecurity in the West Island. It features members of our community who are impacted by challenges of lack of access to affordable and healthy food. The film will be used by West Island community groups that have banded together to launch a public awareness campaign with the slogan “Let’s Make the Invisible Visible.”

If you are interested in becoming involved in this important social development process, you can contact the Table de quartier Sud at 438-938-7764 or at info@tqsoi.org More information is on the website: www.tqsoi.org

-Sheila Laursen

CREATING THEOLOGY TOGETHER – CUC EASTERN REGIONAL GATHERING

Creating Theology Together - CUC Eastern Regional Gathering

Our Board President Susan and I attended the Canadian Unitarian Council’s Eastern Regional Gathering under the theme of Creating Theology Together. This three-quarter day workshop was held on Saturday 17 November 2018 in Kingston, ON., with about 20 participants from Eastern Ontario and Québec, under the direction of Rev. Linda Thomson.

The day included conversation in pairs around a text adapted from Walt Whitman and three Chalice Circles for sharing on, “What brings the deepest meaning to your life?” I found both these structured sharing activities very rewarding. However, I’d like to say more about the first workshop-type activity of the day after the Gathering in; it was a World Café with four tables and three questions. Some participants rotated after each question.

I’ll focus just on the first question, which was, “What religious questions are most important to you?” My first reaction was that religious questions are not important to me. Then, it struck me that the search for truth in one’s own heart is an essential quest and, in a sense, is religious. Keith Baxter from Estrie spoke about reverential naturalism, including awe and gratitude. The discussion around this concept helped me make more sense of words we often use, such as holy or sacred space. A space in which our reverence for life helps us see beyond the frictions of daily life and connect us to the inherent worth and dignity of each person before us.

-Christopher Thomson

STOP THE PRESSES: Huge thanks to **Catherine Forbes** and **Sheila Laursen** – who gave me invaluable help – when I ‘lost’ the whole newsletter and had to re-type it. Fortunately, I had already printed the hard copy. PS: Windows 10 and I are not on the best of terms!

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WELCOME TO LAKESHORE A NON-RELIGIOUS SPIRITUAL COMMUNITY

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**HAPPY HOLIDAYS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO YOU ALL!!
SEE YOU ON JANUARY 6, 2019**

