

**LAKESHORE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION**  
**5065 Sherbrooke Street,**  
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**514 - 637- 6974**



## **APRIL 2020 NEWSLETTER**

### **WELCOME TO LAKESHORE**

**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 congregation**

As a non-credal church, what do we actually believe in? Quite a lot actually. We believe that although today's world is riven with injustice, we must 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.

## NECESSITY IS THE MOTHER OF EXPERIMENTATION



With a congregational age range spread thinly from from a 1year-old to an 103 year old, the Board spends a lot of time fretting over how much modern technology should we be introducing into our activities. But the prospect of several months of no LUUC gatherings meant losing a valued part of our lives. Modern technology has in fact developed a 'high tech' method for being together, while still being apart, but could we convince our members to warm up to a technological fix? **Gary Spiller** was convinced that we could, and he set out to make it happen. Several of us had been involved in using tech to remotely 'attend' meetings, often with software called Zoom. Gary convinced us it was important for LUUC to experiment, and see how our

members might react to it. It is not hugely expensive, in light of its capabilities. Gary downloaded it, tested it, and urged us to try it.

And voila! We put together a service for March 29. We are sending out the Newsletter before experiencing the result, but weekly services of any type require advance planning. So we decided to take the chance and get on with constructing services for April that could be 'Zoom-able'. It also means making efforts to have every member able to participate at some level in these services.

Gary has already done some 'home visits' to show those without computers how they can join by phone. Gary and I are willing to 'make house calls', consult by phone etc. to answer questions and trouble-shoot

The other implication of all this is needing more frequent communications about what we are in fact pulling together. So, in addition to the Newsletter that you are now reading, **Heather** has agreed to produce a 'weekly update' with all the latest info. We hope that members will provide Heather with information for these updates as well, so we can share our experiences, and our strategies for getting through this very challenging time.

~ Susan

## FUN AND GAMES WITH THE YOUTH GROUP



The Youth Group, under the direction of **Catherine Forbes** and with a little help from their friends, put on a wonderful fundraiser after the service on March 8<sup>th</sup>. They were planning to attend the CUC Annual General Meeting on the May long weekend in Halifax, N.S.

The afternoon started off with everyone getting a name on their back and having to guess who they were. Every time I saw the name *Michael Jackson* on **Jean's** back, I cracked up. Then the pasta lunch - a choice of half a dozen different sauces and various coloured pastas – all delicious. The conversation at the tables was stimulating – and entertainment was provided by **Bella, Olivia, Ariel** and **Rob Lutes**. It was hard not to notice the row of fascinating raffle baskets, lined up on a table, ready to be won. They looked so intriguing – and the lucky winners had huge smiles on their faces as they collected their prize. But **Alain** gets the last laugh as the lucky winner who brought home the now-scarce toilet paper! Then the games began. A huge array of Board Games was produced – I didn't know so many existed – and the next couple of hours was a happy buzz of fun.

As usual, LUUCers were generous and the youth raised enough money to cover their air fares. A big thank you to **Bella, Olivia, Ariel, Talia, Damian** and friends who worked so hard, and to their imaginative Mums, **Catherine & Selina** who put it all together.

Then came the big bad wolf to spoil their happy plans – Covid-19. At the moment, no one knows whether the CUC Conference in Halifax will take place – we all play a '*wait and see*' game. ~ ed

We've been planning a sleepover with the younger SE group and were hoping that they would be able to participate in the Easter Service. Perhaps there's still a way for this to happen via Zoom. We'll see how it goes on Sunday and keep you posted!

The Youth Group are continuing to run their Ethics workshops online during this time. After our regular Service this Sunday, **Damian** will present his workshop on Generosity.

And on that note, they're sending a special heart-felt thank to **John, Fred, Gabor, Nancy S., Kerry-Anne** and **Michael C** for their astonishing generosity. And to **Jean** for taking it upon herself to prepare shortbread cookies for the youth to sell at the fundraisers – no surprise that they sold out within minutes each week! The youth enjoyed every moment creating the special prize baskets with **Selina**, assembling the dozens of hot chocolate cones and organizing the fun & games event. It wasn't all work though, and we had a blast playing Scattergories until 4:00(!) with their friends, and **Irene, Danny** and **Paul**.



The congregation's response was incredible and the youth loved the opportunity to really connect with all of you. They'll never forget the experience and support they received.

**They're happy to report that they raised a total of \$1120!!**

**THANK YOU ALL!!**  
~ Catherine

## FUN & GAMES

### LUUC YOUTH GROUP FUNDRAISER

- RAFFLE PRIZES
- ENTERTAINMENT
- AND GAMES OF COURSE!



Photos credit: Jessica Burpee, with thanks!

## CARING



**Constance Bélanger** will be our Caring Person for the months of March and April. She can be reached at 514-542-3381.

The **Youth Group** held raffles and sold hot chocolate packages to raise money for their trip to Halifax this spring. Always ready to help, **Jean Merrifield** brought in a huge tin of her home-made shortcake – proceeds to go to the youth fund. Such a kindness and much appreciated by the kids.

**Nancy Schmidt** has many hidden talents - the latest to be revealed is that she can play the piano. With the absence of the regular musicians on March 8<sup>th</sup>, Nancy kindly stepped up and played the hymns for us. Thank you, Nancy – you are so appreciated.

We have been seeing quite a bit of **Shelly Bloomer** lately – keep it up Shelly – we love your presence.

Did you read about the Australian newspaper that added extra pages to its paper? Not the usual newsprint – but toilet paper! What a wonderful sense of humour!

~ ed

The absolute safe way to make sure your food is safe from contamination – do look at this video from Dori Abbott:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sjDuwc9KBps&feature=youtu.be>

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## BINDMAN FUND

Not everyone may be aware that we have a mutual aid fund, aka as the **Bindman Fund**. There is an amount of approximately **\$3,400** available that members may borrow – interest free – terms arranged to suit you. This is a very confidential transaction between you, the treasurer and his assistant. Not even the other Board members are aware of the individual who has requested a loan. If you need more information – do contact **Christopher Thomson**. Also, on pages 86/87 of my book Marching to the Beat of a Different Drummer, you will find more details.

*Heather Falconer*

## THE CASE OF THE MISSING SOUPS

Our soup sale last month was very popular and realized \$265.00 in the final accounting. **Constance Bélanger** and I were very pleased with the result - the Treasurer was pleased with the result – as were the recipients/purchasers of the soup. People were so pleased in fact, that two frozen soup containers – complete with the frozen soup - went missing.

A thorough search was made of the LUUC premises - and one container was unearthed – by none other than our President – who discovered it lurking among the boots in the lobby. It was immediately returned to its owner, who remembered that she had left the soup with the boots for safe keeping. She promised to go home and consume it asap before anyone cast their larcenous eyes upon it. *Louise Penny* has agreed to write her next novel featuring this most complex case.

The other soup – a much more exotic variety - is still missing. It had been placed in the freezer – and belongs to one of the choir members who had paid good money for it. The soup in question is chicken, lentil and lychee - made expressly for the sale by **Catherine Forbes'** fair hands – is in a plastic container - and when last seen was very frozen. There is a rumour that there is a ghost with a mad craving for soup concealed somewhere in the building.

Anyone knowing the whereabouts of the lychee soup must report it to the authorities immediately – because if you don't - we will have to return the money, and not only will our fundraising effort have missed its target but our very worthy Treasurer will have to issue a refund. Refunding is not in his DNA and goes against his nature. Scotland Yard has been notified.

~ ed



## **THE REAL ISSUE IS BARRIERS NOT BLOCKADES**

From the Suburban, by Henri M. Bybelezer, Montreal

Like most Canadians, I have rarely concerned myself with domestic “Native” or “Aboriginal” issues; this, save in those moments of blockade, disturbance, disruption or violence which have faced us all at strategic intervals. The sentiments on either side of that cultural barrier are extreme though probably sharing the common denominator of ignorance and inculcated enmity.

So what’s the compromise between a posture of “we conquered from sea to sea ages ago; get over it” and a festering, profound wound of displacement, sourced, not in denial but, rather, in progressive helplessness now bordering seemingly on hopelessness?

I have no definitive answer and have little expertise in the general subject. What’s far worse, however, is that I have never had any relationship with a Native son or daughter to sensitize me to the chasm which inevitably divides us or, at the very least, hides us one from the other.

What I do know as an intellectual and emotional certainty is that the disdain from either side must cease; that the approach to Native peoples must be one of respect, humility and a sincere desire to interact; that aboriginal claims cannot be a zero-sum proposition at the expense of the nation at large, and that the national objective should be one of providing real opportunity and growth to our aboriginal brothers and sisters.

The goal should be INTEGRATION while cultivating cultural protections, within the national community – NOT some vain and misguided attempted ASSIMILATION of Native populations.

What does any such approach entail? Probably, starting from scratch, tabula rasa... Acknowledging three Founding (Original?) Nations? Replacing treaties with constitutional guarantees of a recognized community? Doing away with a corrupt and corrupting reservation system? Pumping billions, productively overtime into targeted drug, alcohol and other addiction-rehabilitation programs, juxtaposed to intensive and select efforts in education and job-development?

As I said, I do not know. I am not in Parliament, nor am I an expert lobbyist for any camp. Yet, where in the name of heaven has the leadership on both sides been? Time to wake up, be courageous and revamp the whole system, infrastructure and communications between the protagonists, building bridges that with withstand the torrents of errors which have already flowed.

*~ Submitted by Dori Abbott*

## STICKING TOGETHER TO STAY APART!

I contacted **Jean Merryfield** to see how she was coping with the isolation. She told me she was staring at four walls – then went down to lunch and came back to her apartment to stare again at those same four walls. There was a short silence after she told me this – and then we both burst out laughing. Long, long ago, in our young lives, we had to keep calm, ‘*put up and shut up,*’ *endure,* ‘*make the best of it*’ and just ‘*get on with it.*’ And that’s exactly what we are both doing now.

The view from one of **Margot Barclay’s** window overlooks a shopping centre parking lot. She looks out the window, and if the parking lot is almost carless, she hops downstairs to buy her groceries while the store is empty.

**Dori and Peter Abbott** – are still enjoying their lovely bright apartment – and they go out for short walks around Pointe Claire village in the mornings.

Hunkered down in Hudson, **Kathy and Gabor Matyas** are leading a quiet life – taking short walks and enjoying the awakening of spring. They are blessed with kind, helpful neighbours who grocery shop for them.

When I called **Karine Deschamps** she was out jogging! She reports that the whole extended family is healthy, in isolation and the larder is full. Being Karine, she is making this a ‘fun-time’ for the children and a ‘project time’ for her and her husband, as well she is super busy preparing on-line lessons for her students.

I had a lovely call from both **Erin** and **Caitlin Berry** – enquiring how I was managing in isolation and offering to help if I needed anything. How kind - and I appreciated their thoughtfulness. Caitlin will be living in Montreal for the foreseeable future.

**Maud Bonnier**, secure in her home in Pointe Claire is leading a solitary life these days, as are we all. She has to stay in her apartment and her groceries are delivered to her door.

**Gaetane Parent** and **Timothy Byrnes** are in Florida looking after Timothy’s mother, as well as trying to keep his business going. We’re thinking of you both.

~ ed





It's **Toni Smith's** special day on April 10<sup>th</sup>. **Toni** has been back in the neighbourhood and at LUUC for a couple of years now – it's as if she never left. Happy Birthday to you **Toni!**

It's **Catherine Forbes'** birthday on April 13<sup>th</sup>. As well as being our office secretary, Catherine took on the job of SE director – and in a couple of short months galvanized the youth group back into existence. She's working on the younger children's program now. Happy Birthday **Catherine!**

Hooray – hang out the balloons! It's our beautiful **Mischa's** birthday also on the 13<sup>th</sup> April – when she will be ONE YEAR old. What a happy baby she is – as good as gold and such a joy. Happy Birthday **Mischa** – we all love you!

Reverend Doctor **Heather Fraser Fawcett** has a birthday on April 21<sup>st</sup>. She has been associated with LUUC for many years now – and often takes the service on Sundays. Happy Birthday **Heather!**

**Gary Spiller's** special day is April 22<sup>nd</sup>. He is our new Vice-President – and he's very active/dedicated to the Social Action Committee. I always enjoy his services which are usually about nature. Happy Birthday **Gary** – and good luck being VP!

Happy Birthday to **Gordon Koller** on April 24<sup>th</sup>. **Gordon** often spends his weekends travelling, so only attends LUUC from time to time. Always good to see you **Gordon.**



## JUST DREAMING...



I found this on the internet – so have no idea if it is true – but what if...

Since the lockdown, Venice's canals have become crystal clear. Italy's coasts have dolphins coming nearer and nearer. Japan now has deer roaming free in the streets, and it's the same in Thailand with monkeys. China has record-breaking pollution cuts. The Earth has already begun to show signs of amazing things that are happening since the absence of human pollution. What if - and here comes the dreaming part - what if the entire human population used this as an opportunity to restart society on a greener, more environment-conscious foot. What we're seeing in the span of a couple of days is simply amazing.

What if...well we can dream...

~ ed

## IS THAT SPRING OUT THERE?

It's March 9<sup>th</sup> as I write this little note, and a wonderful cluster of brave little snowdrops has raised its head above the cold, dark soil in my garden. A little spring miracle indeed as close by is a metre-high pile of snow. By March 17<sup>th</sup>, deep into isolation, I saw a welcome group of robins in my tree – spaced strategically apart - and earnestly conversing as they perched on the bare branches – while overhead I spied a big V of geese as they honked over the snow-covered River.



## **CHILD HAVEN**



We at Child Haven send our love and heart-felt concern to everyone in these deeply challenging times. We hope that you and your loved ones are finding ways to remain safe and well. Thankfully, as of this writing our Children's Homes and Women's Projects are free from the Coronavirus. Our Homes are practicing extra sanitation and limiting visitors coming into their compounds.

The biggest challenge to our children's well-being at this time is that we canceled many of our Spring Fundraising Dinners to help prevent the spread of the virus. We will miss this opportunity to spend time with our greater Child Haven family and celebrate the achievements of our children and young people.

Critically, we will also miss the donations given at these Dinners which we rely on to feed and care for our children through the months ahead. Child Haven is a grassroots organization. The loving care our children receive depends completely on contributions from generous supporters. We ask that, should it be within your means, you consider making a donation to help our children through this critical period. You can make a general or Needs List donation on our web-site [www.childhaven.ca](http://www.childhaven.ca). As always, your contribution will be eligible for a tax receipt and greatly appreciated.

Together we will overcome the fear and isolation of this pandemic. This crisis underscores the need to prioritize and invest in health-care, education, and housing for everyone. It illustrates that we are all one interconnected family on this earth with much more to gain from cooperation and collaboration than from hostility and malice. Child Haven will continue our efforts to uplift those among us who even before this virus were struggling, as millions do, without access to basic health-care, adequate food or shelter. With your help we will continue to practice the power of active love and compassion. We are most grateful for your support.

*~ Robin Cappuccino*

## A LITTLE LAUGH!



Here's a unique way to stay safe from the virus – one man in Cyprus 'walked' his dog with a drone!

## HE WHO MUST BE OBEYED

Eons ago in the eleventh century, English King Canute went to the seashore to order the waves from the incoming tide to stop. In the fall of 1914, the British Empire declared that WW1 would be over by Christmas! They were horribly wrong. The President to the south, plans to open the US up again by Easter – April 12<sup>th</sup>. Me thinks he will have as much luck with his optimism as Canute and the Empire.

~ ed



Nothing to remember – everything is cancelled.

## BOARD MEETING



Last evening, March 26<sup>th</sup>, we held the monthly Board Meeting via conference call. It was supposed to be by zoom – but me, of little technical skills wasn't up for it! I haven't written up the Minutes yet – so this will be a very brief summary:

**Electorial Meeting** to vote for the new Board for 2020-2021 – to be held towards the end of April. We do not expect to meet in the LUUC hall in the usual way – so will let you know how it will be staged later. The proposed new Board:

President:	Susan Czarnocki	Secretary:	Sheila Laursen
Vice President:	Gary Spiller	Director B:	Selina Rooker
Treasurer:	Margaret Godbeer		

Rob Lutes will continue as Director A for another year.

**Sunday Services**: Much discussion about the planned zoom service for this Sunday March 29<sup>th</sup>. **Gary Spiller** has done admirable work trying to set this up. Services have been canceled of course, but people are working hard to bring you alternatives - Carry on regardless.

**Canvas**: Our Canvas lunch has been cancelled. We will let you know the state of our finances and when Christopher will present his financial report.

**Other finances**: We will be paying our staff during this period. It is not their fault that they are laid off. **Kerry-Anne Kutz** will still be at her piano for the zoom services - and has composed a special song for the March 29<sup>th</sup> service. **Catherine Forbes** is probably working harder these days – her technical knowledge is so valuable.

**NAM**: The heat in the church building will be turned down very low while we are not attending regularly.

**Fund Raising**: We will have to postpone the Service Auction until a later date. And are planning a garage sale in the late summer – so please start to look out any articles you think suitable.

**Chaplains**: **Paul Sullivan** has had to cancel one wedding so far – but hopes he will be able to perform his summer weddings safely.

**Weekly Newsletter**: I plan to send out a newsletter to you all on Fridays, with up-to-date news. As you know things change hourly. Please send me your news – let me know how you are faring – it is a way for us to stay together and connected.

~ **Heather Falconer, Board Secretary**

**WELCOME TO LAKESHORE**  
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**HAPPY EASTER EVERYONE**



**PS: DON'T FORGET TO WASH YOUR HANDS  
 FREQUENTLY**