

LAKESHORE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION
5065 Sherbrooke Street,
Lachine, QC. H8T 1H9
514 - 637- 6974



EXTRA SPECIAL NEWSLETTER

This is a special edition of the Newsletter – because we were such a busy set of bees throughout the Christmas period that the news kept pouring in.

Sunday, December 20th: The big news was the RE Christmas Pageant ... ***What the Dickens! A Christmas Carol***. The kids put on a wonderful production for us all and each played their parts so well. 74 adults were in attendance as well as several children.

The first thing I want to know is how was it possible to transform beautiful **Isabella** into mean old Scrooge? – good make up, good costume and good acting!

I think we all adored the **Covid Elves** – how the dickens did they get into Dickens' A Christmas Carol? - so current, so special and so much fun – thanks to **Henry** as the chief elf, **Nabil, Tyrese, Luna, Simone and Alba**. **Henry, Nabil and Tyrese** also did a great job as the street boys, while **Simone** played the parts of lovely young Belle sending hearts to young man Scrooge and Cratchit child #1 (who proudly held up Sheila's fruitcake) and **Luna** played the parts of young boy Scrooge, the only child who didn't get to go home for the holidays, and Cratchit child #2.

The Narrators – all clear and confident – setting the stage for the next scene. Well done **Talia, Brianne, Olivia, Sionna, Damian and Catherine**. **Ariel** was wonderful as our Sr Youth Service Leader, interjecting at just the right moment to fill us in on the life story of Charles Dickens'. And **Cormac**, as Jr Youth Service Leader, did a very fine job of introducing our regular service elements.

The lead players were well cast. **Isabella** was Scrooge and she carried the play, confident in her part – her transformation from nasty to nice was heartfelt. **Olivia's** performance and make-up as the shackled and chained Marley, staggering up the staircase was believable as she warned Scrooge of his impending ghostly visitors;

Damian as Bob Cratchit trying to persuade Scrooge to give him Christmas Day off, was a handsome presence; The Ghosts of Christmases Past, Present and Future were well-costumed – all three played by **Talia**. She set the tone as Christmas Past a white ethereal being, and became a more upbeat spirit as Christmas Present in colorful scarves, but she was downright scary swathed all in black as the Ghost of Christmas Yet To Come – then pof - she just disappeared. Very effective **Talia**. Young Man Scrooge's intended bride-to-be Belle, played by **Emalyn** was just beautiful – she also played Mrs. Cratchit. Who knew she had those acting chops! Mr. Fezziwig - (don't you just love the names Dickens conjured up?) - with his wide smile was absolutely perfect, played by **Jeremyuh**, and **Alba**, as the young man Scrooge is a natural actress, self-assured and poised - she also played Tiny Tim and had the last words - God Bless us Everyone -- before breaking into a coughing fit that had the Cratchit family humorously scrambling for their Covid masks.

Karine did a fantastic job as musical director! **Cormac**, our budding musician, together with **Simone** and Dad **Rob** sang a lovely hymn to start. We heard duets from **Bella & Olivia** and **Ariel & Karine**. **Alba, Luna & Karine's** version of *Petit Papa Noel* was utterly adorable. **Emalyn, Simone & Cormac** handled the chalice lighting like pros and **Henry** mischievously sneaking in to blow out the chalice was the perfect ending to the service.

The set. The new stage area at LUUC with its various levels – worked well for Scrooge's office and bedroom scenes. There were some clever camera shots through the stairs – and the appearance of the chained Marley as he cluttered up those stairs was so sudden and dramatic. We all appreciate the many hours of editing, adding the magical touches, sound effects and music score, to really bring the film to life. Well done, **Catherine**.

Excellent production **Catherine** – what would we do without you? And excellent work by all our LUUC SE Youth – you have made us all so proud. Big THANK YOU to you all!

Of the 90 comments by **LUUCers**, I'm sure I speak for all of us in attendance that these three Zoom chat messages sum up our feelings as a whole:

43. Christopher Thomson: What an incredible production, touching my heart and amusing my spirit.

56. Sheila Laursen: What a wonderful, amazing production – THANKS TO EACH ONE OF THE PARTICIPANTS, SUPPORTERS AND DIRECTOR \PRODUCER – We are SO grateful to you ALL!

63. Rachel Parsons: Unbelievable! I am floored. Better than anything on Netflix by far. Y'all made my Christmas.

~ ed

The **Board** sent **Catherine** a bouquet of red roses following that wonderful play...here is her response: THANK YOU FOR THE BEAUTIFUL ROSES! They are really beautiful (and so unexpected!) They really brighten up the front hallway and are a warm rich Christmassy red. Thank you. But really... you shouldn't have!

LUUC finally has a YouTube channel! Here's the link to the our little film/play or go to YouTube and type in "What the Dicken's! LUUC" and it should come up for you.

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

A LETTER OF THANKS

Margaret Godbeer delivered a couple of bags of hats, mitts, scarves and socks to the Maple Grove School next to the church – articles made and collected by the Knitting Group.



Hi all,

Thank you once again for your generous donation of hats, mitts, scarves and socks for our Maple Grove kids. We are so grateful for your support keeping our kiddos toasty warm through the winter.

Warmly
Corinne Guy
Family School Support Treatment Team
Maple Grove Elementary School
514-422-3000 ext11627

CHRISTMAS EVE CAROL SERVICE

On Christmas Eve we were treated to a lovely carol service – with well-loved familiar hymns and songs. **Kerry-Anne** and **Michael** orchestrated the whole thing, interspersed with various members' reminiscences about Christmas. **Rob** sang the perennial favourite *White Christmas* – noting that it is the most famous Christmas song of all time.



Thanks to all who helped produce this happy time – and that includes those who do their magic behind the scenes. **- ed**

CARING



Hélène Cimon-Auer has recently spent a few days in the Jewish General Hospital - overlooking Mount Royal! She is feeling much better, not coughing as much, and she is very pleased to have an excellent doctor, who is looking into her other challenges of dizziness and digestive problems. She due home this week – and is grateful for the good care she has received.

Hélène was very delighted to hear that we sent healing thoughts her way at our Christmas Eve Service.

UPDATE: Helene is back in her apartment now and very happy to be there.

Paul Sullivan learned that **John Foulds'** wife Jeanne died on Sunday December 27 in the Lachine CHSLD where she had been placed when her health deteriorated a couple of months ago. John has requested that we DON'T phone him at this time, and we will respect that. Messages could be sent to him by email to his jgfoulds@ieee.org address as he would be able to read those as he feels able....

~ *Sheila*

JEAN'S CHRISTMAS TRIFLE

From **Catherine:** Our family was one of the lucky ones to receive one of Jean's Delectable Trifles specially prepared by her loving hands for our Christmas table. We ordered it with just a "half dose" and it was absolutely perfect! Her light and creamy dessert was layered with custard, whipped cream, pound cake (and just a hint of sherry) with delicious pears & raspberries throughout and festively topped with berries, mandarin orange segments and maraschino cherries. Beautiful to look at and absolutely delicious.

(It couldn't have come any sooner either – I had almost-single-handedly gobbled up all of Sheila's Christmas Fruitcake -- before the big day!)



THANK YOU FOR YOUR GIFT JEAN! WE LOVED IT!

From **Kerry-Anne:** Jean Merrifield is legendary for so many reasons. I admit that I hoard her shortbread cookies; squirreling them away for a rainy day! Never did I imagine that Michael and I would be enjoying, no, reveling in her fabulous trifle on Christmas Day! Jean, thank you for this beautiful gift. It was delicious, perfect, divine, unforgettable; undoubtedly the finest part of our Christmas dinner!

~ *Catherine*

LUUC CHRISTMAS FAMILIES - 2020

Selina Wrote:

Dear loving and considerate donors and volunteers,

Thanks to each and every one of you for your generous spirit this 2020 Holiday Season. Because of you, five refugee families experienced a happier Christmas.

Mums gratefully stocked their fridges and cupboards with needed groceries and household items. Children gleefully opened presents on Christmas eve and morning. How incredibly meaningful.

Leading up to Santa's big day, LUUC "elves" flitted about, "making their lists...🎵", shopping, organizing, wrapping, and delivering gifts to neighbouring families. Meanwhile, your monetary donations kept rolling in! One crucial shopping day, Sheila and Margaret shared the brilliant news that we had topped one thousand dollars! As Sheila so appropriately proclaimed: "...we're the little congregation that could!"

I am humbled to be part of such a warm-hearted bunch of folks. People who help their neighbours in need. Following is an "FYI" breakdown, with pictures, of how your donation was spent on toys, books, etc.

Big "THANK-YOU" to Sheila and Margaret for their infatigable support!

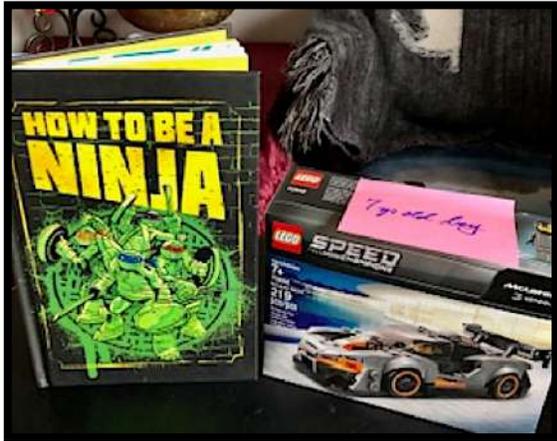
Selina



AMOUNT RAISED – AN ASTOUNDING \$1075.

For 5 mothers - 10 kids

Each Super Mum received grocery shopping cards and side gifts such as chocolate, slippers, and hand lotion. The remaining (approximate) half of the funds raised went towards their 10 children, aged 4 months to 16 years.



Huge thanks to **Selina** and her husband **Federico** who spent hours searching for toys for the Mums and ten children that LUUC had agreed to sponsor for Christmas gifts and surprises. ~ ed

URGENT PETITION IN SUPPORT OF SENIORS IN LONG TERM CARE

Provincial Council of Women of Quebec and the Quebec Council of University Women's Clubs

Hello Ladies,

With the COVID-19 pandemic, we have become painfully aware of many of our elders' abuse and neglect in senior care residences. The excessive number of fatalities in long-term facilities, inadequate protective equipment, shortages of health professionals and staff, insufficient ventilation, and the lack of facilities maintenance is a testament to this neglect. Your voice and action are needed to address the deficiencies in our long-term care facilities (CHSLDs).

The petition you are being asked to sign will help facilitate the needed paradigm shift in how society views and treats the elderly.

The Montreal Council of Women (MCW), as a Federate member of the Provincial Council of Quebec Women of Quebec (PCWQ), is calling on our membership to support what is an important joint initiative spearheaded by the PCWQ and the Quebec Council of University Women's Clubs (QCUWCs). Together they are eager to announce the petition we urge you to support. The petition calls for the Quebec government to strengthen its standards in long-term care facilities (CHSLDs). It is essential that as many Quebecers as possible sign this petition in the National Assembly. This will unequivocally signal to the government that our most vulnerable citizens must be treated with dignity and respect.

To achieve the most significant number of signatures, we are asking you to sign the petition and to actively commit to obtain a minimum of 5 other signatures. You can solicit the support of all Quebec residents aged 18 and over: your spouses, your children, your friends, your neighbours, your relatives, and the members of your social networks. We ask that you please encourage your contacts to share this letter and petition with their networks. Without collective efforts, this petition will not succeed in providing needed changes to the treatment of our most vulnerable seniors living in long term care facilities.

Please click either the French or English version of the petition below. The process is easy. You fill out the information requested (name, postal code, email etc.). Once signed, you will receive an email from the National Assembly asking for your confirmation. You must reply and click confirmation for your support to count.



<https://www.assnat.qc.ca/en/exprimez-votre-opinion/petition/Petition-8803/index.html>

WELCOME TO LAKESHORE

5065 Sherbrooke Street, Lachine, Qc. H8T 1H9 (514) 637-6974

MINISTER EMERITUS: Rev. Fred Cappuccino 613-527-2829

BOARD MEMBERS:

PRESIDENT: Susan Czarnocki 514-773-1117
VICE PRESIDENT: Gary Spiller 514-697-6257
TREASURER: Margaret Godbeer 514-633-9470
SECRETARY: Sheila Laursen 514-697-4195
DIRECTOR A: Rob Lutes 514-515-4413
DIRECTOR B: Selina Rooker-Sanchez selrook@gmail.com

S.E. DIRECTOR Catherine Forbes 514-660-4665

LAY CHAPLAINS: Kerry-Anne Kutz 514-624-2307
Paul Sullivan 514-457-1793

ADMIN. SECRETARY Catherine Forbes 514-637-6974
Lakeshoreluuc@gmail.com

WEBMASTER Christopher Thomson 514-634-5916

NEWSLETTER EDITOR: Heather Falconer 514-630-4206
miss.h.falconer@gmail.com

ILLUSTRATION ARTIST: Catherine Forbes catforbes@gmail.com

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: **January 21st 2021**

OUR WEB-SITE: www.LUUC.org

