

LAKESHORE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION
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JANUARY 2022 NEWSLETTER

BACK TO ZOOMING!

With the unwelcome arrival of the Omicron variant, Covid positive cases are rising out of control, and we await with trepidation for the announcement of the daily 'count' and subsequent precautionary restrictions.

Based on that reality, our January Sunday services will revert to the Zoom-only format that we used for many months prior to trying hybrid services this fall.

**LIVING OUR UU PRINCIPLES AND VALUES and
LEARNING FROM FIRST NATIONS**

Topics for our Sunday services are inspired by the UUA'S monthly Worship Themes. For January 2022, the worship themes are ***Living with intention and Renewal.***

We also try to reflect the seven sacred teachings in Indigenous culture: truth, honesty, courage, respect, wisdom, humility and love. We hope you will find these teachings reflected in our Sunday services.

~ Sheila Laursen

January 9, 2022 - 10:30 a.m.

**INFLUENTIAL RECORDINGS THAT HAVE
SHAPED MY LIFE AND TASTES
Matthew Hunt-Russell,**

D.Mus.

Matthew will discuss and show examples of music that have shaped the way he plays and listens to music. As a musician, listening to music is as important as instrumental practice, and certain artists have played vital roles in his cultivation of a personal sound and style.

Join Matthew and our LUUC congregation as we start the new year with the beauty of music.

Service Leader - Michael Cartile

Musicians - Kerry-Anne Kutz and Michael Cartile

Greeters - Chris Bassett and Nancy Schmidt

Joys & Concerns - Chris

Zoom Host - Margaret Godbeer

January 16, 2021 - 10:30 a.m.

**REFLECTIONS OF A MUSLIM WOMAN
IN QUÉBEC
Shaheen Ashraf Junaid**

Shaheen is an active and engaged member of the Muslim community and the wider Montreal community. She is a member of the Montreal Raging Grannies, and can often be seen on Brunswick Ave in Pointe Claire with others demonstrating to Save Fairview Forest. Shaheen is a member of the Canadian Council of Muslim women, serving on its Board of Directors.

Several LUUCers have been with Shaheen, who wears a hijab, at protests against Quebec's Bill 21 (now Law 21) that bans the wearing of religious symbols for people working in several prescribed public domains.

Shaheen encourages us to ask questions about her faith, and about Islamic beliefs, practices, etc. Please send your question(s) to Sheila by January 15 to be sure they will be on the list for Shaheen's response.

Service Leader - Sheila Laursen

Musicians - Kerry-Anne Kutz and Michael Cartile

Greeters - Chris Bassett and Nancy Schmidt

Joys & Concerns - Chris

Zoom Host - Margaret Godbeer

January 23, 2022 - 10:30 a.m.

**THE LAST MAN JAILED FOR BLASPHEMY
Linda Kneeland**

Author Stephan Pappa states in his book “The Last Man Jailed for Blasphemy” that Abner Kneeland, the Universalist minister, “was once famous, infamous, rather, but he has been lost to history; most people including Unitarian Universalists don’t know about him and should.”

Linda Kneeland is Abner’s great-great granddaughter and she will tell us much more about her famous/infamous ancestor.

(Thanks go to **Nancy Schmidt** for telling us about Linda’s relative.)

Service Leader - Susan Czarnocki

Musicians - Kerry-Anne Kutz and Michael Cartile

Greeters - Toni Smith and Nancy Schmidt

Zoom Host - Margaret Godbeer

Joys & Concerns - Nancy S.

January 30, 2022 - 10:30 a.m.

**THE RABBIT DANCE STORY
Kawisente [Carole McGregor]**

Mother, grandmother and traditional chief of the Kahnawake Bear Clan, Kawisente, speaks to Lakeshore about her Kaniienkeha nation’s conception of the three levels of creation and, in particular, the rabbit dance story.

She will also share the rabbit dance song with us and take questions after her talk.

Service Leader - Christopher Thomson

Musicians - Kerry-Anne Kutz and Michael Cartile

Greeters - Toni Smith and Nancy Schmidt

Zoom Host - Margaret Godbeer

Joys & Concerns - Nancy S.

When Nature is in slumber
Idle in the deep
Nonetheless, she’s dreaming of
T rue promises to keep
E ventually she’ll awaken
R evitalized by sleep.

~ anon

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



At our 2020 LUUC AGM, our main focus of attention was planning for the future. As President, I was hoping to set up a Planning and Priorities Committee, but the consensus of the discussion was, with the pandemic in its third month, it was too soon to plan with any confidence. Now, with the pandemic in its 21st month, we still feel stymied in terms of how to sustain, not to mention grow, our LUUC community.

When social interactions became tinged with the possibility of serious, even lethal health consequences, we focused on implementing on-line access, taking advantage of the low cost and rapidly improving video-conferencing technology. This was accomplished by March 15, 2020. It turned out to be a welcome expansion of our Sunday Service possibilities. A year later, our focus turned to implementing a safe return to in-building services. We 'went live' from the sanctuary on October 3rd, 2021. But once again our expectations have been upended. We certainly didn't expect to return to Zoom-only services for January, 2022! By now we should know that we should expect the unexpected. This has not been an easy journey.

Successful on one level, it is stressful on others.

While 'rescuing' our Sunday Services, other aspects of our common purpose are suffering. Zoom is not a satisfactory environment for either our Spiritual Exploration or Music Programs. Nor do we get the special synergy of being together in each other's presence. Last June at our AGM, we spoke of the need to hold a brain-storming meeting where we could have as many people as possible speak about the road ahead, on the assumption that face-to-face meetings were 'coming soon'. But instead, we have Omicron -- yet another bump in the road. Figuratively speaking, we now need to bring in the clowns and the magicians to lift our spirits. So how is this for an idea: call a 'two-part' Congregational Zoom Meeting for Friday, February 5th:

Part One: 15-20 minutes of '*LUUC Entertainment Tonight*' featuring members telling UU jokes and singing humorous UU songs, among other amusing topics, with one of our talented members as host.

Part Two: 20-30 minutes where everyone can make comments or suggestions about 'building back a better LUUC'. What is needed to make a sustainable LUUC possible?

From such a meeting we would hope to establish a Long-Range Planning Committee to look at implementation.

Comments, criticisms, volunteers? We'll set up a blogpost where ideas and reactions can be posted on our website, luuc.org, or you can send an email to lakeshoreluuc@gmail.com, or leave a phone message at 514-637-6974. This is a moment when we need to hear from everyone.

Continued/...

KEY ISSUES TO DISCUSS

1. Safe return to the building
2. Growing our congregation - Improving Communications
3. Outreach-refugee sponsorship, reaching out to indigenous communities, Saturday afternoon and evening activities, Documentary films and discussion groups, musical performances, coffee house, meeting with refugee families that we have sponsored and the wider muslim community, Fun and Frolics, Entertainment for the children.
4. Arts and Music Program - Book Discussion Group
5. Social Action - Environmental Activities
6. Social Action - Human Rights and Social Action.

~ Susan, President

THROW IT AWAY? – NO WAY: GO TO THE REPAIR CAFE



Here's a great recycling idea: Years ago in Winnipeg when I first came to Canada, everyone was a Mr. Fix-It. Nobody threw anything out – they fixed it and reused it again and again. The Prairie people remembered the hard years of the depression, but when prosperity returned, those skills were forgotten.

The Repair Café was started in Holland by an enterprising young Dutch woman, Martine Postma and the idea has taken off all over the world. Quite simply you bring your broken item to the repair café – and with the help of a local 'expert', you repair it yourself. It costs you nothing, and you have learned a skill. Items most commonly fixed are bicycles, clocks, irons and other small appliances, mending/sewing, computers, toys and furniture – all saved from the rubbish dumps to live another day. On average about 70% of the items are repairable.

The café works in conjunction with the local council – who pays the experts - thus keeping stuff out of the landfills. Do you know anyone who could start such a café? I would be a regular customer – and it's a great way to meet like-minded people. There's a café in Toronto and several in Vermont, but none in Montreal.

~ ed

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE 2021



~ Photo by Margaret

Well, this year Advent took on a new meaning. This was the advent of the Omicron variant of COVID! Many were not comfortable attending an in-person service but unfortunately our tech people were not available for a hybrid service. The choir had practised Christmas songs for months and were eager to sing even while wearing masks and distancing from each other.

So, we went ahead with our traditional Christmas eve service at 5:00 on December 24th and it was a lovely service. **Rob Lutes** was service leader, **Cormac, Monique** and **Paul** shared stories with us. The choir sang and **Irene** sang a verse of Silent Night in German. It was a lovely service ending with our traditional lighting of candles.

Gary Spiller videoed the service on his camcorder and **Margaret Godbeer** videoed the choir singing.

Here is the link so that you can all enjoy the beautiful music.

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1-0cCy21ACJ0BIQFtCITc6vcYsbEb7yJc?usp=sharing>

Let's hope that next year we can all gather in person on Christmas Eve.

~ Margaret Godbeer

AN ENRICHING TRIP TO ARIZONA AND VIRGINIA



With much trepidation and encouragement from family and friends, I took on this journey to be present at my son Roco's wedding on November 25 to the lovely Rozaliya Heinen-Tinkova author of "Warrior of Life", a guide to meditation, healing and finding your inner-self.

It was a Hollywood experience – where I met fun-loving, out-going people – who showed no evidence of covid – no mask wearing at the event. I was immediately adopted by the wedding guests as their Mum! Many of the guests are motivational speakers like my son Roco. I am glad that Roco motivated me to attend the wedding!

Two weeks in Arizona with rugged landscapes. Somehow it became clear to me that my son found it important to share this wedding with his family and friends. I was glad to be connected as everybody's Mum!

From there I went to Virginia, where I had never been before, to see my sister Claire. I had not seen her in four years. We share the same interests – art, crafts and nature. It was an adventure. Here in Virginia rules are stricter than Arizona and masks are worn at all times.

We organized our days to be a bit of everything – each day different. We went out for breakfast on the river and raked leaves in the afternoon, while wild cats roamed the neighbourhood. A glass of egg nog at night with a shot of rum – this was special to both of us – all of it a celebration of our sisterly friendship.

The paperwork for the covid was a pain requiring many phone calls, chasing the covid test from clinic to clinic. I arrived back safely on December 15. Its great to be back home where I can watch my kitchen being slowly remodeled! . The whole trip was a risk but in retrospect well worth it. Perhaps I was just lucky. Should I buy a lottery ticket now that I am back safe and sound?

My New Year's Resolution was to invest in a cell phone. If you call me I'll give you my new number!.

~ Jose van Amerongen

** photo by **Gary** – showing a hale and hearty **José** safely back with us.

THE KNIT CHICKS, THE MITTEN TREE & LUUC

Margaret was unable to deliver the articles from our Mitten Tree as the Maple Grove School closed suddenly before Christmas due to Covid. She will, of course deliver the 26 pairs of mittens/gloves, 7 scarves and 15 hats as soon as the school re-opens in January. Many thanks to our knitters and all who helped with the Mitten Tree effort.

One of our most innovative Knit-Chicks is **Nancy Schmidt** – who loves to try new patterns. Last week she showed us how to do the mosaic stitch – a very complicated looking stitch which was invented by a mathematician. However, it is not quite as difficult when actually knitting it. It does take more time and concentration of course, but what a beautiful treasure it would make.

~ ed



In addition to knitting, the Group is concerned about the welfare and growth of the church and the health of the few hard-working people who labour extremely hard to keep everything going during covid.

In this edition of the Newsletter on pages 4 and 5, our President, **Susan** urges us to give our opinions, ideas and reactions to her comments. **Please do just that.**

The Knit-Chicks is the only social group that meets at LUUC – and under various names throughout the years - is the only continuous group to meet. We **need** more such groups. I know it's difficult with this covid thing – but could we have a discussion group – or a breakfast club?? **We need to keep alive and be relevant!**

~ **Heather Falconer**

EXPLORING CANADA THROUGH THE ARTS - A DISCUSSION GROUP ORGANIZED BY THE THOMAS MORE INSTITUTE

The Thomas More Institute provides an opportunity for shared inquiry through discussion groups on topics of common interest in literature, culture and the arts to people of all ages. There is a specific programme organized for seniors. I have met several enthusiastic participants in this program.

The theme of the seniors programme this spring may be of particular interest to LUUC members and friends. Meetings are normally held in Beaufort on Thursdays 2:30-4pm but this spring all programs are online.

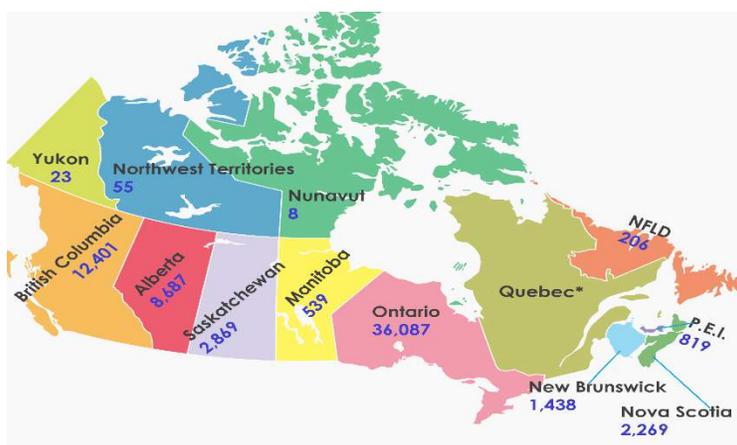
The topic this winter starting January 20th is :

Exploring Canada Through the Arts

What can we learn about our country by examining the arts? Through fine arts, performing arts, and literature, we will visit Canada from coast to coast to coast. We will endeavour to learn more about Canada's people - from the Indigenous population to the newly arrived - and the places we share. What do art and literature show us about the early relationship between Europeans and First Nations? What meanings are represented by the totem pole? How has storytelling contributed to our understanding of Canada? What role did French and English colonization play? How does music help to tell Canada's story? How have newcomers contributed to the Canadian art world? In this 18-week course, we hope to open a new window onto Canada through its art and literature.

Please contact **Gary Spiller** for more details if you are interested in this program. You can also contact Seniors Program Coordinator Jennifer MacGregor directly at jmacgregor@thomasmore.qc.ca or (514) 935-9585.

~ Gary Spiller



CHRISTMAS BASKETS

Huge **Thank-You** goes out to everybody who contributed towards our family Christmas baskets this year!

We raised over **\$800**. Our esteemed treasurer holds the final figure. Thank you, **Margaret**, for keeping track of incoming donations and for your help in the delivering of presents to LaSalle, along with a growling tiger in your trunk! (More on this below, lol)

Additionally, a number of “stocking stuffers” were also donated which, no doubt, added to the kids’ fun and excitement on Christmas morning! Thanks go out to the **Laursen** family for this loving bonus! I managed to find three giant stockings at the dollar store to stuff them all into.

Eight children, aged 1 to 12 years, from four recently immigrated or refugee families discovered extra toys, books, games, and (peanut-free) mini chocolate cookies on Christmas morning! Four mothers received shopping cards for necessities such as groceries and clothing.

Here are a couple notes to us from the Supermums:

“Thank you so much for my children’s gifts... Thank you so much for everything, my Lord bless you and your family Dz” - Lucie (mum of Aaron and Angela)

“...Big thanks to your church. My family really appreciates you for having us in mind for the Christmas tree...(and) for the Christmas gifts... The children really enjoyed their Christmas with lovely gifts. Thank you so much.” - Lambo (mum of Amirah and Amidah)

Following is a photo of all the presents. Note that the near-new karaoke piano keyboard for Aaron was donated wholeheartedly by Jade, Talia and Damian’s 10 year-old cousin. My little elfin fairy helper was an absolute joy to shop with, and she saved the day when we couldn’t find a suitable piano in the shops! Humble Christmas miracles. **Thank you, JJ! XO, Aunty S**



GIFT LIST

Mpumi's baby, Nathan (15 months), received a cuddly Vtech walking-talking blue elephant! Also, "The Going to Bed Book" by Sandra Boynton - always a favourite in our house!

Joy's girls, Jolie (9) and Jayda (6), received fidget pop toys, Style Squad hair-art accessories, and a Fur Real Walk-a-lots, mewing & growling tiger cub (the one that roars from the back of your car every time you go over a bump on the road - **Margaret** will attest to this) ! Joy's girls also received books from the animal-themed Thea Stilton and Dungeon Academy adventure collections. Joy's son, Taden (3) received a comfy-padded, sit-upon bumblebee scooter, made atop a sturdy wood frame with strong wheels. Very cute and safe for an active three year-old! Joy received a book titled "I Love You All Year Through", to settle Taden in at bedtime.

Lambo's girls, Amirah (12) and Amidah (8), received a super soft, giant Teddy from Animal Alley and a Baby Alive Lulu Achoo doll with care kit. Like the other sisters, they also received those immensely popular push pop fidget toys! Amirah's book - Saint Exupéry's classic, "Le Petit Prince". Amidah's book - a sweet story about a girl and a unicorn called "Isabel et Nuage".

Lucie's son, Aaron (8), received Jade's perfect piano keyboard and a Marvel Avengers comic book (hardcover). Lucie's daughter, Angela (5), was gifted a (Jade-approved) whimsical book called "La Grande Fabrique de Mots", plus an amazing Baby Alive Grows-Up doll, that not only "grows up" but also speaks English and French! Jade and I were stunned looking at it in the dolly aisle of Toys R Us! The toys they make these days...mesmerizing!

That's all folks! !
Good tidings for you in 2022,
Selina

> WINTERTIME STORYTIME! d ☐

We will pick up the trail that winds us through realms of mystery and magic...

Every last Sunday of the month, 7:15 - 8pm, on Zoom.

Light a candle, have your favourite libation in hand, cozy up and settle in for a bedtime tale.

Who's in? ĩ
RSVP: selrook@gmail.com

SPREADING THE CHRISTMAS SPIRIT

In spite of the pandemic, LUUCers were generous with their donations of money, time and energy to make Christmas brighter for asylum-seeking and refugee families we have been helping.

In addition to the fundraising for gifts for the children and Moms that sent **Selina** and her niece purchased with our donations, we were able to find and pass along an artificial gently-used Christmas tree and ornaments to three newly-arrived families that were eager to enjoy them in their home.

Another family we have helped was chosen for a second year by the Beaurepaire Preschool Group to receive food and gifts they collected for the Mom and her six children under the age of 8.

And, a business company that was upgrading its IT stock and wanted to donate computers was referred to us by a Bridges Not Borders volunteer. **John Schmidt** helped us clarify and describe the offers which were then sent to the families we know, and to other families being helped by Beaconsfield United Church. Now, 12 West Island area newly-arrived families are awaiting the delivery of a special New Year's gift of a good and relatively new computer for each home.

~ Sheila



FRUITCAKE SALES

Sheila and her erstwhile “elves” (**Sari Kelen** and **Kerry-Anne Kutz**), produced 87 pounds of fruitcake this year - which sold out well before Christmas! Receiving their cakes brought smiles to 30+ fruitcake-loving happy customers, and in spite of the sharp rise in prices of most ingredients, added **\$615** to the LUUC coffers.

Kerry-Anne has suggested that we organize a fruitcake making and baking “Bee” next year - using the NAM kitchen space and its 2 ovens. She has already found two of her friends who want to volunteer. If you are interested in doing that too, please let Sheila know and she will add your name to the list. We have a year to organize it!

~ Sheila

Well done ladies! - **ed**

CIRCLE OF ALL RACES EQUITY /

UN's Human Rights Day was recognized on December 10th. At our last meeting on the 12th, **Talia** led the CARE panel in a discussion on the part that Canadian Muslim women play in their pursuit towards the goal of equality and their commitment to solve problems of deep-rooted discrimination and racist violence affecting Muslim females of all ages.

We as Unitarians-Universalists care to understand their struggle and to discover how we can support our Muslim sisters. This begins by first opening ourselves to understanding their issues and what they may need from us.

Note for all of our calendars: On January 16th, for LUUC's Sunday service, our vivacious and insightful guest speaker will be Shaheen Ashraf Junaid! CARE participants and Social Action committee members look forward to having Shaheen speak to us about her experiences living as a visible minority woman in Quebec.

CARE panelists will continue discussing her insights that very evening of January 16th at 7pm.

Here is the Zoom link:

<https://zoom.us/j/97832799342?pwd=YTFZY1h1a2s0T0ZiR2dnZzBwOURvZz09>

Join in on the discussion!
Warm regards,
Talia & Selina



"Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter."

- Martin Luther King Jr.

CARING CORNER



To begin the Caring Corner – I want to thank the Board, and **Gary** in particular for delivering to me a lovely package of gifts. It was all very kind - thank you so much. Included was a beautiful poinsettia and cookies. Very special Mexican Wedding Cookies – all made by **Toni Smith**. Toni slaved away and made cookies for everyone – that’s got to be a first! Thank you, thank you, thank you!

Hélène asked me to thank all those who sent her good wishes, kind words and flowers for her Birthday earlier in December. She felt totally spoiled. The flowers – white roses - were particularly beautiful – she showed them to us Knit-Chicks on Zoom.

I visited **Maud** just before Christmas and she was looking wonderful. Maud had just heard that she had a great-granddaughter and she was thrilled. The baby will be called **Natasha**.

Congratulations to **Christine Bassett** – she is the grandmother of twins who were born just before Christmas. Her son, **Edouard** and his partner have named their daughters **Eva** and **Myla**. Chris has seen the babies via Zoom but not in person. That wonderful pleasure will have to wait until the latest wave of covid subsides. ~ ed

BLESSINGS FOR THE NEW YEAR



gemma CORRELL 2017

~ Margaret



A Happy Birthday to **Kerry-Anne Kutz** on January 24th;
Philip Prince on January 26th,
Gaetane Parent on January 28th and to
Nathalie Hainaut on January 29th.

We wish you health, happiness and success throughout the coming year.

OUR CHILDREN

Congratulations to our children for their wonderful performance during our end of the year service. We hope everyone enjoyed learning about Hanukkah and Kwanza with us!



Unfortunately, due to current COVID restrictions, our SE program will be suspended until further notice.

~ Erin

ZOO POO



Marwell Zoo in Hampshire, England is making use of ‘zoo poo’, generating **renewable energy** using waste from endangered species such as Grévy’s zebra and the scimitar-horned oryx. Marwell Zoo is the first zoo in the UK to heat its largest buildings using biomass technology, part of the attraction’s goal to become **carbon neutral** in 2022.

“Using heat in this way from our own animals is unique in the UK and, as far as we know, across the world,” said Dr Duncan East, head of sustainability.

“There is an urgent need to reduce the burning of fossil fuels and leave these high carbon sources in the ground. We can’t act soon enough to replace the oil-fired heating systems in these buildings.” The **sustainable initiative** will save 220 tonnes of CO2 equivalent annually, with animal waste processed into briquettes to fuel Marwell Zoo’s new biomass boiler efficiently.

“Previously, 600 tonnes of animal waste was taken off-site to be composted. This came with a significant carbon transport cost,” East added. “We came up with the idea of biomass heat generation to reduce our carbon footprint. We would turn a previous waste stream into a valuable resource – achieving cost savings in the process.”

The process begins in the morning when keepers sweep up animal waste from paddocks and enclosures. It’s then put into a mini poop-mobile and transported to the Marwell Wildlife Energy Centre. Next, a digger transfers a combination of manure and bedding to a shredder for mixing. This is dried and pressed into briquettes, which are fed into the biomass boiler. The boiler produces hot water, which goes into a 15,000-litre thermal store before flowing underground to heat the zoo’s Tropical House exhibit. Marwell Zoo plans to heat its other buildings using biomass technology.

Since 2008, the zoo has reduced its **carbon output** by 77 percent. “Replacing oil-fired heating systems with heat generated from waste from our own animals will hugely reduce our carbon footprint,” East said. “What better way than to make use of a material which is in abundant and continuous supply.”

LUUCERS ABROAD – NOT A MASK IN SIGHT



Susan took the photo on the left showing maskless customers and servers in the US.

In **José's** article on page 7, it's the same story.

Christopher writes about his trip to Florida to visit his sister...

"...But let me add that most people here live in an alternative reality from our concept of the pandemic in Québec. We have eaten out only once so far as nobody, including serving staff, wears masks. Same thing in stores!

Only in pharmacies and supermarkets do you see masked staff and occasionally customers too.

Being triple vaccinated and constantly wearing a level 3 procedure mask, I am not too worried. But I cross my fingers that I will get a negative reading on my PCR test and be able to return home to Lachine as scheduled..."

NB: **Christopher** did pass his PCR test – and arrived home safely via Toronto.



~ Sent by Sheila

COULD WE HELP REFUGEES

Rev. Heather Fraser Fawcett recently received this request from Ariel Nasr, a documentary filmmaker and producer — for the NFB’s English documentary program.

“I’m an Afghan-Canadian-American (my father is from Afghanistan and my mother is from California) living here in Montreal since 2013. I met Shahla Sikandari—one of Afghanistan’s first female boxers in 2009 while making an award-winning NFB documentary called, “The Boxing Girls of Kabul”. Shahla and her incredible family welcomed me into their home to tell their story and opened their lives up to my camera with courage and hope.

Due to her courage and her impressive boxing career, Shahla was able to come to Montreal in 2015, and obtain refugee and then permanent resident status. Today she lives in Pierrefonds with her partner and three young children, but her family has remained in Afghanistan—until now.

With an unfolding disaster taking place in their homeland, the entire family is now in danger. We are asking our communities to extend their compassion and care by becoming a sponsor or helping to donate towards our sponsorship goals, to bring three of Shahla’s family members to Montreal.”

Ariel is asking for help to find sponsors for Shahia's two sisters and their brother, all University students. The women are activists and law students. They are presently in Pakistan. They are expected to get their UNHCR numbers in January. As they are adults, they each need to be considered a separate case with separate sponsorships.

He also wants to help a family group of 6. They are Shia and thus are part of a minority group. The six people in this group include Ariel's friend who is a journalist and filmmaker, and his son and wife. It also includes his brother that is Ariel's friend's brother, and the brother's wife, and the mother of Ariel's friend and his brother. Ariel didn't know whether the brother and his wife have any children but he will find out. This family has just reached safety at a refugee camp in Qatar.

Ariel has asked for help from LUUC and the downtown UU church, and has suggested having an information meeting.

WOULD YOU be interested in attending such a meeting (in January, as applications to sponsor have to be sent by mid-February). If so, please let Gary Spiller (438-927-6257 email gary_spiller@yahoo.com) or Sheila Laursen (514 697-4195 email sheila.laursen@bell.net) know.

WELCOME TO LAKESHORE

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HERE'S TO A HAPPY NEW YEAR AND THE END OF COVID

Sunday services acknowledges that we are located on un-ceded Indigenous lands.

The Island of Montreal is the traditional territory of both the Kanien'kehá:ka (KA-NYUNK-YA-HAGA), "Mohawk," and the Anishinabeg, "Algonquin," peoples.

We want to repair our past relationships with Indigenous and other people, and work together towards a future that honours all.