

**LAKESHORE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION**  
**5065 Sherbrooke Street,**  
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## **MARCH 2025 NEWSLETTER**

March is the month of the year when we yearn for signs of Spring... We often do enjoy some wonderfully warm and sunny days - but they can be followed by yet another snowstorm and “bundle up” temperatures. We are not alone with our mixed feelings about this month, as the following quotes attest:

“Our life is March weather, savage and serene in one hour.”

— Ralph Waldo Emerson

“It was one of those March days when the sun shines hot and the wind blows cold: when it is summer in the light, and winter in the shade.”

— Charles Dickens

“March was an unpredictable month, when it was never clear what might happen. Warm days raised hopes until ice and grey skies shut over the town again.”

— Tracy Chevalier

Maybe the city isn’t at its prettiest in March. Perhaps it’s at its worst, like it woke up with bed-head and a bad hangover. If you can deal with all that, there’s a lot to see as the city is at its most honest right now.

- Shawn Micallef, Toronto Star contributor

But we “carry on” - and take hope, and heart from the “good days”. We know that the 31 days of March will pass in time. Our Sunday service presenters in March show how they survived and moved on, from tragedy, fear and pain to healing and helping not just themselves, but others. Please join us each Sunday in March - our warm welcome awaits!

~ **Sheila Laursen**

**March 2, 2025 - 10:30 a.m.**  
**Movers & Shakers**

**From Pain to Progress**  
**Dorothea Kessler**

Follow the amazing career of Retired Montreal Detective Sergeant Dorothea Kessler, who was on duty and on scene after the 1989 École Polytechnique massacre. Dorothea went on to serve for 30 years on the Board of the Maison Dalauze women's shelter.

What hasn't changed? What IS changing? How can we help?

**Service Leader - Christine Wooley**  
**Technician - Oddbjorn Taraldsvik**  
**Refreshments - Jose Van Amerongen**

**Musician - Kerry-Anne Kutz**  
**Greeters: Sheila Laursen & Sara Kreps**

**March 9, 2025 - 10:30 a.m.**  
**Our Planet, Our Lives**

**Give the Opportunity to Bounce**  
**Back in the West Island**  
**Sarah-Jeanne Boivin**

Sarah-Jeanne Boivin will present Ricochet's mission to address homelessness in the West Island of Montreal, highlighting the importance of housing as a fundamental human right.

Her presentation will explore the services Ricochet offers, and the values that guide their work in supporting vulnerable people towards the ultimate goal of social reintegration.

**Service Leader - Sari Kelen**  
**Technician - Sara Kreps**  
**Refreshments - Sheila Laursen**

**Musician - Kerry-Anne Kutz**  
**Greeter: Jose Van Amerongen**

## **SPRING FORWARD ONE HOUR**

**BREAD & BEYOND WILL FOLLOW THIS SERVICE. PLEASE STAY TO HELP  
 MAKE SANDWICHES FOR PEOPLE WHO ARE HOMELESS IN MONTREAL**



**March 16, 2025 - 10:30 a.m.  
Healthy Body & Spirit**

**From Devout Catholic to  
Atheist Unitarian  
Calogero Cumbo**

How Calogero Cumbo went from being an Evangelical Catholic to an Atheist Unitarian.

Along the way, he presents and disproves various proofs of God's existence, but in the end comes up with a definition of God he can live with, for now.

**Service Leader - Irene Hausknost  
Technician - Oddbjorn Taraldsvik  
Refreshments - Heather Falconer**

**Musician - Kerry-Anne Kutz  
Greeters: Sari Kelen & Daniel La Tour**

### **HAPPY ST.PATRICK'S DAY ON MARCH 17<sup>TH</sup>**

**March 23, 2025 - 10:30 a.m.  
Healthy Body & Spirit**

**Where Do We Put Our Loneliness,  
Where Do We Put Our Fear?**

**Rev. Heather Fraser Fawcett**

To the question put to us by business and leadership transformer, Seth Godin, that I use as the title of this Sunday service, I add my own question: how do we constrain, carry, and use our loneliness and fear wisely, humanely, and creatively? Let's reflect on these questions.

Rev. Heather Fraser Fawcett left her family's church in her late teens, studied Zen Buddhism and attained a degree in history and Canadian studies. After attending a Unitarian church in 1994, she went on to get a degree in Theology at McGill and served as a Hospital Chaplain. Rev. Heather is a UU Community Minister, affiliated with Lakeshore UU Congregation.

**Service Leader - Sari Kelen  
Technician - Oddbjorn Taraldsvik  
Refreshments - Sheila Laursen**

**Musician - Kerry-Anne Kutz  
Greeters: Chris Bassett & Anne Bernstein**

**CONCERT BY ROB LUTES AND KERRY-ANNE AFTER THE SERVICE  
SEE PAGE 6**

**March 30, 2025 - 10:30 a.m.  
Sunday Café**

**Songs to Warm Your Heart**

The voice students of Kerry-Anne Kutz will sing beautiful, entertaining songs that we all know and love. A portion of the proceeds will go to Suitcases for Africa <https://suitcasesforafrica.com/>.

**Host - Kerry-Anne Kutz  
Greeter: tbd**

**Technician - Oddbjorn Taraldsvik  
Refreshments - Sari Kelen**

## NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT



February was quite a month!! Valentine's Day plans for many were cancelled by the first blast of 37 cm of snow to hit Montreal.....only to be followed on February 16 by another 37 cm.!

That had many of us remembering back to March 3-4, 1971 when we were hit by the what was then called, the "Storm of the Century". I had just given birth to my daughter Inge on March 1st at the Lakeshore General Hospital, and was there longer than expected as it took several days before snow clearing could allow people to get into, or out of, the hospital.

After many exchanges of emails and phone call messages, the Board of Directors and the Sunday Services committee decided to fully cancel the Feb. 16 Sunday service - and it was a good thing we did! One week later, Montreal is still struggling to remove huge snowbanks (some of which are hiding buried vehicles....) and to clear sidewalks for those trying to get around by bus or feet.

February brought good news too. Our new Administrative Coordinator, Carole Issekya, breezed through her orientation and training and is now fully ensconced in her LUUC role. She even came to church one Sunday to meet us during coffee hour, and she was very warmly welcomed.

And a reminder of the wonderful gift (bequest) that Margaret Godbeer left us....here is how LUUC members could benefit from that.

**The Margaret Godbeer Bursary** is for LUUC members (youth and adults) to support their ongoing training/education. Application letters are to be submitted to the LUUC Board that outline the reasons for that request.

The bursary for 2025 is \$800. The deadline for applications is May 31st of each year.

If more than one person is deemed eligible in any year, there will be a "draw" of one applicant at the LUUC Annual Meeting in June to determine the recipient. A recipient can apply more than once, but cannot be awarded the bursary two years in a row.

We look forward to receiving applications for this wonderful bursary!

~ **Sheila**

## AFGHAN REFUGEES



**Sheila** says that she recently delivered the cheque for \$10,000 from LUUC to UCM for the Afghan refugee sponsorship (as had been agreed at our AGM) and Carole has just forwarded to me the Thank You from UCM's Board and Minister – please see below.

Dear Lakeshore Unitarian,

Thank you so much for your generous donation to the Unitarian Church of Montreal. Your contribution helps us to fulfill our mission as a spiritual community, allowing us to welcome and nurture, inspire and challenge, and take action in the world. UCM relies on the generosity of donors like you, and we are so grateful for your support.

Thank you once again, Margo Ellis, President  
Rev. Ian White Maher, Minister

## THE KNIT CHICKS

**The Knit Chicks** still meet on Zoom every Tuesday mornings at 10:30 - do join us if you can. Mind you, there is not too much knitting going on – we have morphed into a discussion group – where we ponder on all kinds of things, but lately the topic has been **Buy Canadian**. And we heartily encourage you to join us in this endeavour. ~ **Dori**



## CARING

**Sheila Laursen** will be our Caring Person for March and April . You can contact her at 514-697-4195 or [sheila.laursen@bell.net](mailto:sheila.laursen@bell.net)

## KERRY-ANNE AND ROB LUTES: SONGS TO CELEBRATE OUR SHARED HERITAGE!

Date: March 23, after the LUUC service



This concert will celebrate the long history of collaboration and shared cultural heritage of Quebec's francophone and anglophone communities as represented in traditional and popular song. They will perform songs from different eras, individually and together as a duo.

Everyone is invited to bring their lunch and munch while **Rob** and **Kerry-Anne** provide some wonderful "dinner" music!





## TOWARD NEW HORIZONS – by Clifford Lincoln – chapter 9.



Clifford Lincoln was named Minister of the Environment for Quebec in 1985, and the issue of smoking was in the mandate, as part of control of ambient air.

Bill 84 passed in June 1986, after long and challenging negotiations with municipalities and bus companies.

In his own words, “ After its adoption, I realized that if the municipalities failed to adopt enabling by-laws, a significant void would result.

So I obtained the unqualified support of one of the large municipalities in my riding, Pointe Claire, to serve as the municipal catalyst for the law. The mayor of Pointe Claire, Malcolm Knox, was a quiet leader of foresight and wisdom for whom I had deep respect and esteem.

He and his council agreed not only to enact a municipal bylaw, but to train Pointe Claire’s firefighters to start an awareness program, and enforce the by-law. Besides, Pointe Claire was the seat of the Lakeshore General Hospital, which had fostered a dynamic district health program, led by Dr. John Osterman and Joanne Gélinas, who was later to become Canada’s Sustainable Development Commissioner. They would both become key allies in fostering awareness and implementation of the law.

Pointe Claire and the Lakeshore General Hospital became pivotal catalysts and examples and other municipalities would gradually follow their programs.”

*~ Suggested by Sheila*



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ALL OUR MARCH LUUCERS

Happy Birthday to Eric Wilson on March 1<sup>st</sup>.

Peter Abbott – congratulations on your Birthday – Have a happy day on March 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Happy Birthday to Henry Frost on March 4<sup>th</sup>.

Michael Cartile – Happy Birthday on March 6<sup>th</sup> – and keep on playing your trumpet

Happy Birthday on March 15<sup>th</sup> to our scholar, Milda Graham

Have a wonderful birthday dear Simone on March 27<sup>th</sup>.

## SOUP SALE



Our soup and baking sale yielded a great variety of soups and baking – we had goods to suit all budgets and tastes - I am always so pleasantly surprised at the ingenuity of our LUUC cooks – and thank you all for your contributions. With the invaluable help of the wonderful **Usha**, we made **\$403.50**. As there were a few soups and muffins left over – (now safely tucked away in the freezers) – we will have a Part 2 sale next Sunday on March 2<sup>nd</sup>. ~ ed

## SPRING FORWARD

Daylight Saving Time starts on Sunday March 9<sup>th</sup> – turn you clocks forward one hour.





## FEBRUARY SANDWICH-MAKING AND HOUSING FOR THE HOMELESS.

Twelve enthusiastic sandwich-makers made 184 sandwiches on February 9<sup>th</sup>. There was a suggestion that we expand our assistance by preparing hot meals in future and actually providing homes for the homeless.



The Tiny Homes in Toronto inspired our group to seek funding for a set of heated shelters for one or two people at a cost of \$5,000 each. We will be working on a grant proposal to fund similar shelters in Montreal.



~ Gary

**There's something profoundly evil about the richest man in the world cutting food aid to the poorest people in the world.**

**YOU ARE INVITED TO A SPECIAL FILM SHOWING**  
**MEET AND EAT AT LEE'S GARDEN**

Saturday March 22, 2025 at 7 p.m.

Organized by the Quebec Association of Geography Teachers

Hosted by the Lakeshore UU Congregation, 5065 Sherbrooke St, Lachine,  
 H8T 1H9

Entry fee - \$10.00

The film takes a look at Chinese-Canadian restaurants, their place in Chinese-Canadian history, the food they serve, and their importance to the Chinese and Jewish communities. The film was nominated for a Canadian Screen Award for Best History Documentary in 2022.

For more information, contact **Cameron Gray** 514-694-5133 or **Sheila Laursen** 514-697-4195



**FROM MY AERIE**



I have mentioned that my apartment is high among the tree-tops and that I saw an early robin last month – well, now there are two robins sitting on the bare branches, twittering sweet nothings to each other. And behind them, hammering away, is a red-headed piliated woodpecker. How beautiful is nature – with the stark-naked trees, pristine white snow and three soft red splotches – just outside my window – letting me know that spring will be here soon. ~ **ed**

**DON'T FORGET TO SPRING FORWARD ON MARCH**  
**9<sup>TH</sup>.**



**Caring for vulnerable animals - Pound Paws-Cats:** On February 2, Karen Hillsdon told us about the amazing work of Pound Paws - Cats in the Montreal region, and of their partners, a wonderful network of Freedom Drivers, who make sure that abandoned animals can find a safe and caring “foster home” until a permanent home is found.

An offering was taken at our Sunday service, with \$95 collected for Pound Paws. For those who missed that service, the links below will tell you more about these great volunteer-based groups - and how you can help them!

<https://poundpaws.ca/>

<https://www.facebook.com/FreedomDriversCanada/>

~ *Sheila*

It was rather a last-minute decision, but it was met with a great deal of enthusiasm: on Sunday February 2<sup>nd</sup>, we announced that the day’s collection was being donated to Pound Paws. People came up after the service to add to the amount collected under the regular collection. \$95.00 was collected with ‘no overhead costs’! It was very rewarding for people to offer support to a group whose work they had just heard about. The Pound Paws model of operation seems exemplary. The person receiving the money is directly involved in the day-to-day functioning – no middleman ‘from elsewhere’. They seem to be highly effective at using almost exclusively local volunteers, giving up their time to give animals another chance at finding a happy home. Perhaps a similar model can be used to loosely organize willing volunteers to spend time, now and then, to just hang out with human beings who would benefit from ordinary socializing in a safe place.

Just a thought.

~ *Susan Cz.*



## SUNDAY CAFÉ – FEBRUARY 23<sup>RD</sup> - 2025



Antonie Beudet delighted us singing original songs as well as a few Irish folk songs, while accompanying himself on guitar.

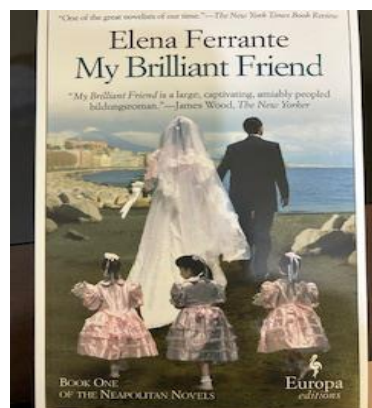
Born and raised in Montreal, Antonie is an emerging singer-songwriter. He studied jazz piano and composition at Cégep Saint-Laurent, and draws inspiration from great songwriters such as Don McLean and Georges Brassens, classical poets like Christina Rossetti and François Villon, as well as traditional Celtic folk songs.

He charmed us all with his soft voice and gentle manner.

As usual, coffee and croissants were served to add to the morning's pleasure. ~ ed

*Photo by Sari*

## BOOK RECOMMENDATION



Number 1 on the New York Times Best Sellers List for 2024, "My Brilliant Friend", is the first in a series of four books written by one of Italy's most acclaimed authors, Elena Ferrante. This is a story of two friends, Elena and Lila, beginning in the 1950's in a poor neighbourhood on the outskirts of Naples. These books depict a memorable portrait of two women as well as the story of a nation. A must read!

Author: Elena Ferrante  
Title: My Brilliant Friend

*~Recommended by Christine Berry*

## HOW WE LOVE MICHAEL'S AND KERRY-ANNE'S MUSIC



Did you hear **Michael's** subtle joke on February 9<sup>th</sup>? He started to play and the most awful noises emanated from his trumpet – and then the noises got worse. Discordant, jumbled, muddled – what was happening? I noticed a small smile on **Kerry-Anne's** face - so I looked at the program – and there is said **Consonance and Order**: Air for the G String – composed by Johann Sebastian Bach.

Shortly afterward, both KA and Michel started playing the lovely **Order** part of the music and calm and beauty were restored.

It's open to interpretation, as is all music – but I think Michael was expressing what so many of us are thinking about our neighbour to the South.

Thank you, **Michael and Kerry-Anne**, as usual I enjoyed your choice of music. ~ ed

## PETITION TO STRIP ELON MUSK OF CANADIAN CITIZENSHIP

**Susan** says, “ Apparently, Elon Musk has Canadian citizenship due to his mother. Charlie Angus, a Canadian MP, has drafted this well-worded petition demanding that Elon Musk's Canadian citizenship be revoked as he has engaged in activities that go against the national interest of Canada”. **Sheila** adds, “Hard to believe Musk is a Canadian citizen! See the link to the petition below - we CAN change that!!”

<https://www.ourcommons.ca/petitions/en/Petition/Details?Petition=e-5353&sfnsn=mo>

### JANUARY TESLA SALES ARE DOWN:

75% in Spain,  
63% in France,  
59% in Germany,  
44% in Sweden,  
38% in Norway,  
42% in the Netherlands  
33% in Australia.



## LUUCERS BEING LUUCERS



LUUCers always have a good time when they get together – Here **Jose** is sharing a joke with **Paul** at a Sunday Café.



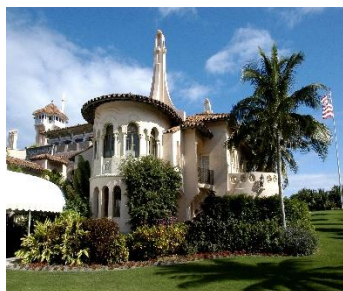
You may have noticed that Mother Nature hit us hard with snow flakes – all 53 cm of them! My sympathies to **Paul** as he tried to dig his way out of his garage. ~ ed



## ON THE GO AND NEED TO KNOW



**NORWAY – BRR – another cold country** - These houses look as if they are inhabited by pixies – but no – they are in Norway and are covered with moss. This is so the heat does not escape and the cold does not enter. This engineering was created by the ancient residents, the Vikings. It is good to know that those Vikings had more on their minds than just pillage and plunder.



**Down South – more rhetoric - as the beat goes on!** 51<sup>st</sup> State! Gaza Riviera! Gulf of America! and now Red, White and Blueland! (Greenland) this is no longer a joke! Trudeau says that there is not a snowball's hope in hell that Canada becomes the 51<sup>st</sup> State – and Boris Johnson, (ex UK PM and ever the wit) suggests, that there is plenty of room at Mara-largo to house the Palestinians, while the Americans restore their homes.



**WEST ISLAND - American Gold finch in distress** - This dear little American goldfinch was found at a local bird feeder. The owner noticed he/she just stayed at the feeder and wasn't flying away – and then he noticed that the bird's eyes were swollen shut and it could hardly crack the sunflower seeds it was trying to eat. The owner captured it and took it to the Nichoir in Hudson, where sick and injured birds are treated. Hopefully, it will make a full recovery. [Centre de conservation des oiseaux sauvages Le Nichoir](#)

[sauvages Le Nichoir](#)



**WEST ISLAND – more W.I. birds** - Driving along Woodlands, Beaufort, I could hardly believe my eyes when I spied a rafter of wild turkeys – pecking away at the snow trying to find some food. These bold creatures then marched across the road, causing a minor traffic hold-up. At first I thought they had escaped from the Eco-museum – but no – I am assured that they are citizens of this town just as much as I am. **- ed**



**BOSTON – Pay back –** Way to go guys - you did us proud!!! – and to heck with Wayne Gretzky.

## WELCOME TO LAKESHORE

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**NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:** **MARCH 21<sup>ST</sup> 2025**

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**WE STAND ON GUARD**

