

Dear Friend of the Cathedral,

I hope you are reading this letter safe and warm indoors. The weather has been frightful this month, but in spite of a major snow storm last Sunday a fairly large number of brave people were in church for the morning services and even for Evensong, when the second of the shortlisted candidates for Music Director was in charge. The third and final candidate will direct Evensong this Sunday. Forum, however, was cancelled last night.

As we struggle around the city, we might like to use **A Prayer for Safety from the Book of Common Prayer**

O God, our heavenly Father, whose glory fills the whole creation, and whose presence we find wherever we go: Preserve those who travel through snow and on ice; surround them with your loving care; protect them from every danger; and bring them in safety to their journey's end; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The end of the month lunch this Sunday will provide a welcome hot meal for homeless people and others suffering hardship. Adrian is looking for eight volunteers to help serve the lunch and welcome our guests. They can email him at wordbook@securenet.net or phone him at 514-849-6859. Because of the new service time the lunch will start immediately after the service and be over by 1 pm. The Social Service Society had hoped to have two or three hundred pairs of socks to distribute at this meal. Unfortunately they are well short of this target so there is a socks crisis – but a “loaves and fishes” style miracle could happen if members of the congregation rally round and bring socks to the cathedral in time for the lunch on Sunday. Please help if you can.

This coming week, January 25 – January 31, has been declared the first **Muslim Awareness Week / La Semaine de Sensibilisation Musulmane**, a time when people of all ages, backgrounds, and beliefs are invited to learn about the achievements, contributions, aspirations and concerns of Quebecers of Muslim faith. There are many activities happening in Montreal **including a vigil hosted by Christ Church Cathedral on Tuesday, January 29th**, the anniversary of the Quebec City Mosque shooting. We will hear from our special guests representing the MAW/SSM organizational committee as well as diverse members of Montreal's Muslim Communities.

6-7PM – Refreshments and informal gathering.

7-8PM – Vigil.

Speak to Jan: revjjorgensen@yahoo.com

An article in today's Gazette (January 24th) profiled Lina Bensaidane and mentioned that she will be one of the speakers at the event in the Cathedral. In the interview she spoke about the week being marked by activities in churches, synagogues, mosques, cultural centres and universities, all in hopes of building bridges between communities and showing people “who the Muslim community is.” She added that the week is purposely built around the mosque attack anniversary to ensure no one forgets what happened: six people were killed, and 17 children have since been growing up without a father.

Jan will be hosting a special edition of **the lawn chair soiree on Thursday, January 31st** in honour of Muslim Awareness Week.

She invites us to join her for an evening of poetry and music performed by members of the Muslim community.

7-9 PM at Art Lounge Mtl, 160 Saint-Viateur est, # 108

(The doors are a couple of shops down from the corner – facing Casgrain.)

LGBTQ+ Ministry at the Cathedral: Please join us for an important discussion on the future of the Cathedral's LGBTQ+ ministry on Sunday, February 10th after the 10:30 service in the side chapel. Speak with Donald for further information.

Here's another special event to mark on your calendar: **Quiet Day: Benedictine monk Fr Paul Geraghty** will provide short talks on Saturday Feb. 23, during our parish Quiet Day in a beautiful meditation space at "Rivercross" near Cowansville. Please reserve your place by February 15 to help us plan. Will you need/ can you offer/ a ride? Speak to Vivian Lewin or write to quiet.day.ccc@gmail.com

Two weeks later, March 1-2, the seventh National Fair Trade Conference is being held in Ottawa. Full details can be found online if you're interested – but make sure you're back in Montreal the evening of March 2 when we will be welcoming thousands of visitors to the Cathedral's celebration of Nuit blanche. Cassidy, Lisa and Carlos will soon be looking for volunteers so we hope you will volunteer an hour or two of your time and then stay to join in the fun. Details will come as soon as we're allowed to publicise our event after the press conference on February 13th, but you can be sure that there will be exciting music, an art exhibition and displays about cathedral life as well as free hot chocolate.

Ann Elbourne
January 25, 2019