



CATHÉDRALE
CHRIST CHURCH
CATHEDRAL

In this week's letter: Last Sunday's Shoah commemoration – May 20 Inter-faith event – Fair Trade kiosk offerings for Mother's Day – join a CCC group going to MUHC/PWRDF maternal and child health symposium – Bible Study May 15 – Forum May 21 – A Gentleman in Moscow – SSS meeting – being vigilant against prejudice

Dear Friend of the Cathedral,

You might have seen the photograph, taken by Elizabeth in the Cathedral last Sunday, showing a Jewish Torah flanked by a bible on the nave altar. There are six red candleholders in front. You can see this and other pictures of the commemoration of the Shoah held in Christ Church Cathedral by going to the cathedral's Facebook page.

By all accounts it was a wonderful and inspiring event. Over 150 people attended the service, while about 50 participated in the panel discussion during the afternoon. At the end of the discussion the Rev'd Diane Rollert CJDM shared a call to actions countering anti-semitism. I will copy her text, which challenges each of us to accept personal responsibility for creating a just and tolerant society, at the end of this letter. There is much in it worth reflection, especially in the current debates about secularism.

There is another interfaith event happening on May 20th that we should be aware of--Interfaith Eco-action Day. Sponsored by the Christian Jewish Dialogue of Montreal, Concordia Multi-faith and Spirituality Centre, and others, it takes place that Monday from 1 to 4pm at Parc Oscar Peterson. If you can make it, mark your calendars!

This Sunday, the Fair Trade Kiosk after the 10:30 service will feature sustainable cut flowers and fair trade Friendship Teas for Mother's Day.

I have mentioned before that the MUHC (Montreal University Health Centre at the Glen) is partnering with the Montreal branch of PWRDF to sponsor a symposium on maternal and child health, 5:30 - 7:30pm on Wednesday, May 15. This is a shared fundraiser for the Birthing Centre at the Royal Victoria Hospital in the Glen and the PWRDF's support for mothers and babies at risk in Burundi, Rwanda, Tanzania, and Mozambique. Gwenda Wells, who is temporarily part of our clergy team, has made the excellent suggestion that a group of Cathedral people might go together. She suggests meeting at 5:15pm, inside the front entrance of the Royal Victoria Hospital at the Glen. The entry fee of \$20 includes refreshments and free parking (Metro Vendôme). There could be an option to gather for a drink afterward! Pre-register at <https://muhcf.akaraisin.com/ui/maternalhealth>.

Here's another option after the event at the MUHC – join the bible study being led by Jane at Ann's house which is 10 minutes walk from the Glen. We start at 7:30pm with a quick coffee, tea or juice so you could be in time for the study! All congregation members are invited to participate – please email me in the office ann.elbourne@montrealcathedral.ca if you plan to attend.

All cathedral members are also invited to attend Forum on Tuesday May 21. The meeting starts at 6:30pm, light refreshments are served from 6 pm. The agenda will be sent out next week.

You are also all invited to read the cathedral book group's current book, *A Gentleman in Moscow* by Amor Towles. From the review in the Washington Post: "The book opens a few years after the Russian Revolution in a period of violent upheaval. A handsome count named Alexander Rostov has been summoned before the Emergency Committee of the People's Commissariat for Internal Affairs and accused of writing a counter-revolutionary poem.... Asked to state his occupation, he replies, "It is not the business of a gentleman to have occupations." Only high-ranking friends keep him from being thrown against a wall and shot. Instead, he's declared a "Former Person" and sentenced to life imprisonment in Moscow's Hotel Metropol." We will be discussing this "frothy romp" on Sunday evening June 2. Do join us – ask Ann, Jane or Diana for the location of the discussion.

Make sure June 2 is in your calendar for other reasons – a lunch time picnic and Jonathan's first Sunday in Montreal. Again all members of the congregation are invited –
- As they are to the CCC Social Service Society meeting in the Hollis Lounge after the 10:30am service on May 19. The agenda includes an update on finances and a discussion of future possibilities. There will be a light lunch.

Finally, here is the text I mentioned earlier:

ANTI-SEMITISM IS NOT A THING OF THE PAST
Rev. Diane Rollert CJDM

We are called by God to share the lessons of the Shoah. We must be ever vigilant against prejudice and hatred. Let that action begin with each one of us.

- Let **memory** begin with me.
- Let **justice** begin with me.
- Let **human kindness** begin with me.
- Let **compassion** begin with me.
- Let **awareness** begin with me.
- Let **the sharing of the message** begin with me.
- Let **love** begin with me.
- Let **the silence** end with me.
- Let **the silence end with each one of us**
- And **may we take action together**

Ann Elbourne
May 9, 2019