



# radix

McGill's Student Spirituality Magazine

SEPTEMBER  
2013

# contents

editorial

*AYMAN OWEIDA*

director's message

*SARA PARKS*

September Sonnet

*JOSIAH KLASSEN*

i know the knower

*JENNIFER HAMILTON*

I swear I climbed

*NAAK VOCE*

Shadows. Haunting Shadows...

*NAAK VOCE*

The Clown Angel

*ETHAN YANG*

May in Delhi

*BRIGITTE NAGGAR*

ornament

*MATTHEW HORRIGAN*

Rome

*MAX WOOD*

spiritual group highlight: OFC

*Ayman Oweida: Co-Editor in Chief*

*Josiah Klassen: Co-Editor in Chief*

*Kimberly Seida: Editor*

*Max Wood: Editor*

*Jennifer Hamilton: Creative Director*

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McGill Chaplaincy Services.

Want to get involved? Email us.  
[radix@mail.mcgill.ca](mailto:radix@mail.mcgill.ca)

Visit our facebook page:  
[facebook.com/radixmcgill](https://facebook.com/radixmcgill)

FRONT COVER: PHOTO BY COURTNEY WALDIE

BACK COVER: ART BY JENNIFER HAMILTON

# editorial

AYMAN OWEIDA

Students can be the most motivating and inspiring people. As students go back to school, they fill their campuses with knowledge and their cities with life.

Any passerby can't help but notice the vast number of students venturing into the world of academia. This sight brings them many reflections: the time when they were students, thoughts of going back to school to learn more, imagining when their kids will reach university age... but most importantly, people will reflect on the change that this new wave of students will bring about.

Here at McGill, we are extremely fortunate to have a beautiful campus, a strong academic environment and a true sense of belonging. These factors, along with the fact that the world is watching us with much hope and anticipation, should make us better individuals. Students should recognize themselves

as agents of positive change in society. We have tremendous potential to initiate and develop projects and activities that can bring guidance, peace and harmony to our local neighborhoods and cities. We come from a wide variety of cultures, religions and identities and we can relate to each other and to those around us. Let us use our unique identities to nurture love, respect and tolerance on our campus and in our city.

Radix magazine is a place to share those ideas in whatever literary or artistic form you wish to manifest them: From poems and sermons to opinions and paintings and everything in between. You will find in Radix a community of McGill students, spiritual leaders, activists and chaplains. We invite you to explore this edition of Radix and to consider submitting your own work in the near future.

*Ayman Oweida*  
*Radix Co-Editor in Chief*

# director's message

SARA PARKS

Crisp fall air, new laptops, blank pages, full ink cartridges: the past is the past, and it's a fresh start. Whether you're here for the first time, or coming back after summer, welcome to McGill on behalf of your multifaith chaplaincy, proud to be one of the colours in the McGill Student Services box of crayons. The Radix magazine you hold in your hands is one of the many student projects supported by McGill Chaplaincy Services. Radix (which is Latin for "root"), is an entirely student-run publication that comes out five times a year and provides a student voice for all things spiritual, contemplative, multicultural, and religious. This means it provides a voice for you—because no matter if you're a dyed-in-the-wool [\*insert traditional religion here\*], or you identify as a "spiritual" person but don't really have a label for yourself, or you have your own way of making meaning from it all, YOU are totally invited to contribute. Also, why not make a point this year of dropping by the new chaplaincy space on the first floor of the Brown Student Services Building (McTavish) to meet some of our diverse and welcoming team, or just to relax in our lounge with complimentary tea and coffee? We are always open to hearing from students! Here's to a wonderful year together.

*Sara Parks*  
*Chaplaincy Director*



*PHOTO OF A NEGATIVE  
BY JENNIFER HAMILTON*

# meet the team



Pietro Bozzo is our link to the Yellow Door Community Centre, sometimes dubbed “the YMCA of McGill.” Talk to Pietro about student food resources, opportunities to volunteer with local seniors, an alcohol-free venue for emerging musicians, and various social justice initiatives. For more information, see [www.yellowdoor.org](http://www.yellowdoor.org).



Father Ihor Kutash is a pioneer of the McGill multi-faith Chaplaincy. He has been on the team since 1975. He has been part of McGill longer than that, having received his M.A. & Ph.D. from the Faculty of Religious Studies during the years 1970-1987. He is a priest of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada and a professor of Eastern Christian theology and culture.



Zengetsu Myokyo Judith McLean is our Zen Buddhist monk. Myokyo holds Zen meditation sessions in the Birks Chapel in the fall and winter semesters, as well as at Enpuku-ji Zen Centre in the Plateau. Myokyo’s Facebook page is “Enpuku-ji Zen” and the Zen Centre’s website is [enpuku-ji.org](http://enpuku-ji.org).



Manjit Singh has been working at McGill as a volunteer chaplain for Sikh students since 1999. For several years, he served McGill Chaplaincy as its director, making McGill the first university in North America to hire a non-Christian Director of Chaplaincy. Manjit taught Intro to Sikhism in the Faculty of Religious Studies for the last ten years. He has an M.A. in History with specialization in Medieval India, the period during which Sikhism was born.



Salam Elmenyawi, hailing from Egypt, has served both McGill and Concordia as a Muslim chaplain for many years now. He is also president of the Muslim Council of Montreal, and is a very active advocate for student rights on campus and in the community.



Rabbi Shmuly Weiss is our Orthodox Jewish chaplain, and our link to Montreal’s Chabad House. He writes, “The Chabad Student Center of McGill University functions on two levels. We are a home away from home. We, at Chabad, are dedicated to the holistic well-being of each and every student and strive to be the nexus of their social, cultural, and religious needs. We offer students emotional security, spiritual growth, and personal guidance in a warm and nurturing environment. Furthermore, we empower students with the tools to engage in the higher education of Judaism. Students are able to explore and discover their heritage in an atmosphere of intellectual stimulation infused with Jewish values and traditions.”



Rev. Neil Whitehouse, hailing from the UK, is the Associate Director of Chaplaincy, as well as McGill's Ecumenical Chaplain, for the United Church of Canada and Anglican Church of Canada. Neil is happy to chat with students of all colours of the rainbow on any subject, personal, vocational, spiritual; he likes listening and getting you to ask questions. Features of Neil's work are: Labyrinth walking – easy access meditation experiences, Bio-energetic exercises to combat stress and increase body awareness, the OIKOS Project exploring the connection between ecumenism, ecology, and economy, and the student group: Interfaith Forum-SSMU (iF?) which gathers individual students talking across different spiritual perspectives. Feel free to contact Neil to chat, by email or phone – he's mostly on campus Monday-Wednesday. ([neil.whitehouse@mcgill.ca](mailto:neil.whitehouse@mcgill.ca))



Jill Foster is our Protestant Chaplain (Presbyterian, to be precise), and is also at the helm of various social justice projects. Jill studied history, philosophy, and theology. At the Chaplaincy, she offers a morning prayer breakfast, a dinner and small group Bible study, and always welcomes anyone who has something on their mind to come by for coffee and talk.



Nathan Gibbard, as Director of the Newman Centre, is our link to all things Roman Catholic. Originally from Calgary, he has been in Montreal for a number of years working towards a PhD in Religious Studies at McGill. His academic interests include the study of the philosophy and practice of dialogue, inter-religious encounter, documents from the Holy See, and religion and popular culture. The Newman Centre is the home of Catholic spiritual and intellectual life at McGill. It offers a beautiful space for quiet study, for events like low-cost healthy lunches, retreats, and Mass, and also houses an intentional community.



Rabbi Ben Vago, our Hillel Jewish chaplain, serves as the Rabbi and Educator at Hillel Montreal, where he oversees religious life programming and teaches weekly classes on a variety of topics. Originally from New York, Rabbi Ben received his BA in political science from Yeshiva University, where he also completed graduate course work in Jewish philosophy, and recently received his MA in Jewish studies at Concordia University. Rabbi Ben was ordained by Yeshivat Chovevei Torah in New York City. Rabbi Ben is always available to talk; shoot him an email ([ben@hillel.ca](mailto:ben@hillel.ca)) if you want to have coffee!

David Summerhays is our Quaker liaison. He graduated from McGill carrying a B.A. in history, with a concentration in colonialism. He organizes meditations in the Quaker tradition at McGill. He's recently been teaching piano to pay his exorbitant muffin bills. He'd love to help connect some Quaker dots on and off campus. Not many people know about Quaker practices so he welcomes e-mails with any questions. If anything's on your mind, David is available to talk anywhere muffins are for sale, as well as select other locations

# september sonnet

JOSIAH KLASSEN

I'm back in action, living life on lease,  
Again on schedule, but I haven't found  
My muse again, for poetry is peace  
Put onto paper, not productive sound.  
For when I stopped, my pen began to flow,  
But when I go, my heart holds back its speech  
For better times, when heart and soul are slow,  
When I can think, when I can mourn the leech  
Of time, as, sucking slowly, it surmounts  
My greatest efforts to immortal life.  
And impotence astounds me as my founts  
Of youth go dry, my strength a double knife.  
To be but not to do, for all we give  
In act we lose, but else we never live.



*Josiah Klassen was Radix Co-Editor in the 2012-2013 school year. He graduated with a BA in Linguistics and Religious Studies.*





*PHOTO BY COURTNEY WALDIE*

# i know the knower

JENNIFER HAMILTON

i know the knower who knows the known  
the knowledge is the truth  
and the truth is love  
and love is in the peace  
peace for me  
peace for you  
peace for all  
i know we are all one  
i know we are all love  
the knowing known by the knower  
is the love  
the love giver is  
giving love through knowing knowers  
through us  
all one  
all love  
through you and me  
through us  
together  
united as one  
all one  
all love  
forever and ever



*Jennifer Hamilton is a visual artist and songwriter. She is pursuing a Masters of Divinity through McGill University and the United Theological College.*



PHOTO BY COURTNEY WALDIE

*Courtney is a U3 Religious Studies major at McGill, simultaneously battling her way through a DEC in classical voice. Although most of her graded work requires a certain amount of creativity, she enjoys the limitless nature of photography and the artistic freedom it provides her with.*

# I swear I climbed

*NAAK VOCE*

I climbed that mount,  
that mount of white;  
which tells of passing years,  
in white shades of hair.

years of cold shivering delight,  
delight so sweet, as sweet as morning.  
which that morning day,  
I cried out, eyes so sore.

sore as bitten fingers:  
fingers and black thumbs.  
which that wall of black,  
Do I swear I climbed.

knife cut in wound;  
come a flow of roses,  
which twist the tongue,  
in holes of sponges through!

passing skies of dry eyes,  
I shake lastly, air pushing calmly.  
which that mount of white,  
For life, I swear I climbed.

# Shadows. Haunting Shadows...

*NAAK VOCE*

It found the power it needed within the very cell one sought to eliminate.

Looking for an easy question to decipher. Not the answer; that was the perception dominating the realms of his intellect. Surround that, surround that entity, one thought pondering over the situation. What was it going to be: live another day to seek further, or surrender all causes to the puddle of a kind, that is, the great ocean of Time.

Barking amongst those that are silent, said a whispering voice, that is so; it will get you nowhere. The weight of silence, clouds all sense and, when one dares to speak, crushes thought under the rush of the wasted moment. All arguments surrender in the face of Time. Necessarily so, one may add, though recognising it as such, it falls against all self-dignity, self-thought and self-being.

... For in advance one must be, or at least arrive, before the equation; that one is not qualified to ponder over such matters of the realm... What goes! Ask and you shall seek, or one should hope it to be so. "Conclude," they say, "the ink has given up". Wind it is, clock or cloud will produce. Dive into the puddle of a kind, that is, the great ocean of Time.

# the clown angel

ETHAN YANG



*A lover of art and apprentice of science, Ethan Yang is a U2 biochemistry student who enjoys mixing elements from the two fields in a poetic expression to create a philosophy forcing readers to consider the reality and spirituality of our world.*





# May in Delhi

BRIGITTE NAGGAR

It's not actually the heat; it's the "air quality."  
If you haven't got dust in your eye,  
you've got grey air in your lungs.  
And if you haven't got grey hair from the long days  
you haven't been here long enough.

It's the treachery of a beautiful, sunny afternoon, outside a window,  
The lingering cabin fever and forever-naps until the sun breaks away  
And discovering what it feels like to walk into the day  
with regret for having left the window-side at all.

It's a game of hide and seek with the afternoon light,  
watching time stick to the walls the way sweat sticks to your skin,  
later learning that time has left long ago, without even saying goodbye.  
(And once evening comes, forgetting that you ever wanted to disappear.)

*Brigitte Naggar is a U3 student in Religious Studies. She likes to write music, poems, and other kinds of things that come to her in delightfully unexpected moments. She is pleased to have found a welcoming community through which to share her compact but (hopefully) effective insights.*



# ornament

MATTHEW HORRIGAN

swaying walls, no matter how painstakingly adorned  
have no time to obey  
even the meekest of uplifted hands  
but if one writhes long enough  
and gasps at the right intervals  
they might see that stained glass admits light  
as contentedly as it admits water

it is with determined condescension  
that i dam the pleadings and bargainings  
but there is no container for my puzzlement  
that You who, armed with nought but choking love  
whittled this ornament from an ocean below and an ocean above  
find satisfaction only with the parting  
of the seas within

*Matt Horrigan is in the third year of a Bachelor of Music in composition, and has written both music and poetry since the ninth grade. He often grapples with the strengths and brittlenesses of the Catholic community in which he grew up.*



# spiritual group highlight:

## OFC

McGill Students' Orthodox Christian Fellowship welcomes all students on campus who are either Orthodox or simply interested in learning more about one of Christianity's oldest traditions. Our group is structured around weekly meetings where we discuss a wide variety of topics, ranging from Orthodox theology, the lives and teachings of saints, and contemporary issues. The two priests who volunteer their time with OCF, Father Jean from Saint George Antiochian Orthodox Church and Father Ihor from Saint Mary the Protectress Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Montreal lead our weekly discussions and provide guidance whenever it is requested. Outside of our regular meetings, we often host fellowship events, such as monastery trips, potlucks, and movie nights, which provide our members with a way to spend time together in more informal settings. We welcome anyone who would like to know more about OCF or Orthodoxy in general and we hope to see you at our meetings or events!

# Legio XIII Gemina

MAX WOOD

Friends, warriors, and Romans all: I beseech you to look upon the countenance of our power.

I wish to take from victory all that we can and let our other enemies castigate us meekly with vim and verb as ever! The stewards of our government have rebuked us and dishonored our sacred power. That is why . . . I propose spending this winter closer to home—in Ravenna! (Wait for applause)

We bless'd soldiers stand for justice. We stand with the common people. Plebes and proles, men of the legions, farmers, drovers, and men of conscience: this is our Rome.

What crimes have we committed? None – upon our sacred oath, none under the banner of Mars, and none in the eyes of Roman history! (Wait for cheers)

And what of amends, of disarmament, of submitting to exile or worse? Signing truce with amicable terms, “this should be our cause” say the shamed and piteous among you. “Crossing the Rubicon and fighting Romans, this is sacrilege,” some might say—a sacrilege to be armed against our noble Roman brothers because their cause is the cause of the Republic, of the people. It is they (pause), is it not, who give out bread and gold and charity and forgiveness and mercy? It is not! It is they (pause), is it not, who have made labors and blood sacrifice in Gaul for the good of Rome? It is not! Look at the wonders of marble, gold, and treasure brought back by victorious, magnanimous Cato and all his men! (Wait for laughs). These noble men of the Republic would sooner see your families and sacred ancestors thrown over the Flaminian gate and forgotten with – your honor damned to Dis.

Not only do they scorn us publicly and deface our honor in the streets, soon they will have no use for us working men at all. And what then? Their lust for slaves means those aristocrats have no use for honest working men – honest working soldiers. Is our purpose solely to make them richer and fatter, to assist them in building more spacious villas? No! We are the descendants of the powerful she-wolf. We are the defendants of Rome. Juno inferna we are the only honor-bound men left in all of Italy!

Gentlemen of the Gallic Legions—we are the arbiters of Roman destiny. Today we choose to be great, tomorrow we march with Mars, and one full moon will see us behind the Servian wall—the victors...the saviors of Rome! We have prevailed against unimaginable odds in Gaul, eight long years, and the gods have willed it so. The auguries are good—we enter with the blessings of the gods—you know it to be so.

My dear comrades—we have no choice. I would sooner hold in Gaul for eight years hence than shed a drop of innocent Roman blood, but such dishonor and disrespect cannot escape reprove. Justice knows every man's number, and it has called on Pompey and Cato and Cicero and Scipio. (Wait for cheers). We are to deliver the message that such corruption of government, misuse of law and betrayal of the will of the people are not the Roman way!

We cannot fight both for Rome and against it. We will always be on the side of the Republic. Sacred government has been lost; corruption and greed rule the Senate. Orca Jun! We will not be satisfied; let us not be satisfied! Not until the wrongs have been righted and the libelous traitors are flung from the Tarpeian Rock! We are compelled to let the birds fly where they may, indeed, as the gods would have it. On matters such as these, however, the gods are on our side – we are not the usurpers, but the rightful keepers of honor and justice. Who have fought and protected Rome's walls all these long years? I tire of answering these questions—the truth is plain enough. Mars and Janus and every man know that truth. Morally, religiously, and for the pursuit of justice on behalf of the Roman people we fight again, as we must. “Send to Rome—tell them Caesar has won”.

# classifieds

**Your Neighbour's Faith**  
McGill Chaplaincy regularly visits Montreal's diverse places of worship. Last semester we visited the Enpukuji Zen, Buddhist Meditation Centre, a Mosque, an Orthodox Christian parish and a Sikh Gurdwara. We will be going to St. Andrew's and St. Paul's this semester as well as Hillel House. Contact chaplaincy@mcgill.ca for more info.

**Radix looking for Volunteers**  
Like what you see? Believe in student creativity, and inter-faith collaboration? Help us do it better! We can always use help in marketing, web-development, research, distribution and much more! Email us to join the community. radix@mail.mcgill.ca

**Ancient Wisdom Lies At Your Feet**  
It's free! Just bring yourself. McGill Ecumenical Chaplaincy  
Try walking meditation using a labyrinth on campus. Weekly, SSMU Building. For more information visit: Labyrinth McGill on Facebook or www.mcgill.ca/students/chaplaincy

**Zen meditation**  
Starts September 20, 2013 until December 13, 2013  
Instructor: Myokyo Zengetsu  
Location: Birks Chapel 2nd Floor  
Faculty of Religious Studies, Birks Bldg.  
3520 University Street  
For More Info: call 514-398-4104 or chaplaincy@mcgill.ca

**Ghetto Shul**  
House of Prayer

**Rabbit Hole Café**  
Vegan Kitchen  
Fridays 12:30-3:30  
3625 Aylmer, downstairs  
Donations of \$2.00 or a non-perishable food item are appreciated. www.yellowdoor.org

**Newman Centre**  
3484 Peel St, 398-4106  
newmancentre@mail.mcgill.ca  
www.newmancentre.org  
Did you know that Roman Catholic Mass is held conveniently on campus several times per week?

**McGill Student Parents' Network**  
The MSPN provides support to McGill students who are parents. Regularly we offer free of charge to McGill students: in-home babysitting, support group meetings, study sessions for parents with babysitting for children. Interested families should contact the MSPN.

## STAND

Engaging students in advocating against genocide and mass atrocities



### Conflict-Free Campus Initiative

This campaign works to educate the McGill community about the conflict in the DRC and the role of "conflict minerals".

### Fundraising for the Valentino Achek Deng Foundation

STAND McGill also holds fundraising events to benefit the VAD Foundation which builds a school complex in post-conflict South Sudan.



✉ mcgill@standcanada.org

🌐 www.standcanada.org

👥 Tuesdays @ 5:30 in the Arts Lounge



# OIKOS Project – what's life worth to you?



Economy – Ecology – Ecumenism

Join the conversations!  
neil.whitehouse@mcgill.ca  
McGill Ecumenical Chaplain

Orthodox Christian Fellowship  
Are you an Orthodox Christian, or interested in Orthodoxy? Come out to our weekly meetings in the Claude Ryan Library in the Newman Centre (3484 Peel, 3rd floor) at 6-7:30pm every Thursday for discussion with a great group facilitated by an Orthodox priest. Otherwise, join us for a potluck, event or monastery trip! mcgillstudentsoc@gmail.com

Radical Christian Student Association  
Radical? Christian? Hungry? That's us!!!  
Join us for dinner, discussion, and worship.  
For more info. Visit us at [www.rcsamcgill.com](http://www.rcsamcgill.com)  
To contact email: [rca.mcgill@gmail.com](mailto:rca.mcgill@gmail.com).

**FREE ADS FOR SPIRITUAL &  
SOCIAL JUSTICE GROUPS!**

The Muslim Students Association of McGill  
We aim to provide spiritual, social & educational services. We offer weekly study circles, free Islamic educational materials, Ramadan services, lectures/conferences, and a wonderful library called House of Wisdom. We also have many community events to serve others (ex. Project Downtown), as well as exciting social events (ex. ski trips, cultural dinner nights, MSA Frosh, and so much more!) Come drop by & say hi to us in our office (Shatner building, room B09.)

Maison de l'amitié  
Student Residence

[www.residencema.ca](http://www.residencema.ca)  
[experience@maisondelamitie.ca](mailto:experience@maisondelamitie.ca)

Community  
Diversity  
Spirituality



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