

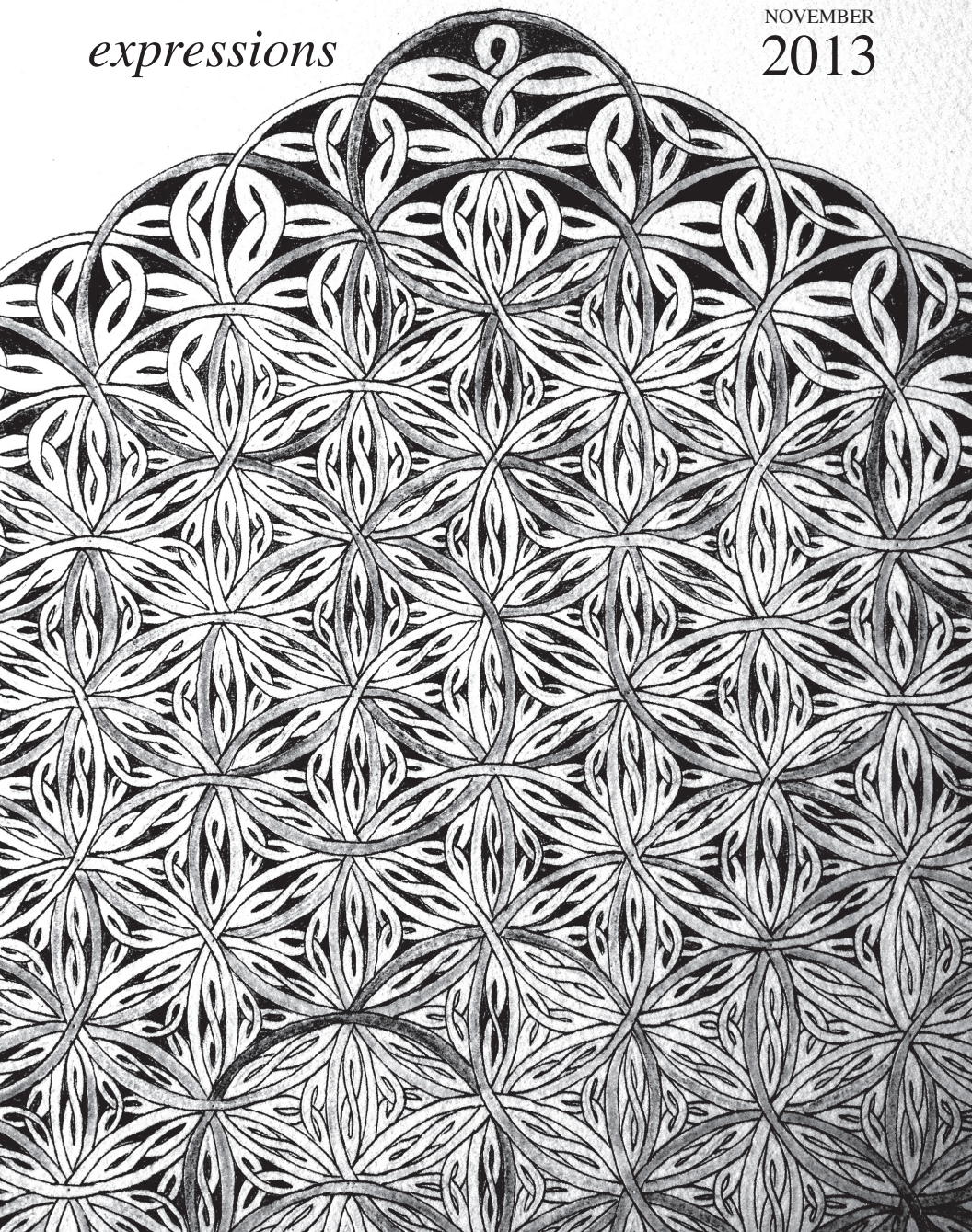
radix

McGill's Student Spirituality Magazine

expressions

NOVEMBER

2013



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McGill Chaplaincy Services.

FRONT COVER: DRAWING BY JENNIFER HAMILTON

BACK COVER: ART BY CHARLOTTE QIN

editorial

Kimberly Seida

Dear Radix readers,

It was not long ago that I was enjoying the warm sun on my face, soaking up what I knew to be the last rays of summer on a downtown patio. While speaking with a friend, I surreptitiously people-watched, as many of us are prone to do. What I noticed, not for the first time since moving to this fair city of ours, was the sheer variety of aesthetic markers of identity: in a matter of minutes my eyes picked out a post-punk neon faux-hawk, hijabs, several kippas, a turban, tattoos, and dreadlocks. Taking it all in, I mulled over what it meant to observe, respect, and celebrate diversity. Little did I know this issue would come into the public eye only days later...

In tandem with the first few days of the fall semester, Quebec minister Bernard Drainville officially presented the now-infamous Charter of Quebec Values (*Chartre des Valeurs Québécoises*). This bill, put forth by the Parti Québécois, would restrict public-sector employees (e.g. healthcare and daycare workers) from wearing religious symbols such as hijabs, kippas, turbans and other items. Presumably,

the bill is intended to preserve cultural heritage and maintain neutrality in all matters of state.

The ensuing debates on this issue have stirred up visceral questions concerning the constitutional protection to freedom of religion, Canada's immigration policies, as well as the relationship between secularism and social cohesion. Heads are surely swirling with the plethora of angles one could take on this issue, as well as the resulting social, cultural, political (and even economic) ramifications of various stances.

This edition of Radix magazine is intended to capture various facets of the notion of religious and personal expression, be it personal or political, on campus or beyond.

While the debates rage on throughout the province and beyond, we invite you to reflect on what 'expression' means to you, be it through dress, words, action, or beliefs.

Vive la diversité!

Kimberly Seida
Radix Co-Editor

Complicated

Aya Saleh

You know what sort of intrigues me,
What I find is just a tiny bit cheesy?
It's when someone asks you, in one word,
To accurately describe him or her.

Have you ever asked this?
I have in the past, yes, I confess;
I think about it now, and how absurd it is
Feel free to disagree, it is not my business...

See, a human being is not a doll
In which one word, its trademark, can sum it all
You cannot expect someone to truly know you
When you yourself have no clue.

When you look to the unseen, take closer looks:
Describing you would take tens of books
If you took the time and contemplated
You would see that you are, in fact, quite complicated.

You might smile and laugh, while despairing inside
You might socialize when you just want to hide
You could act humble and noble while your ego really swells
You may look focused and concerned while your thoughts away they
dwell.

You might've once felt doubt, yet people admired you
So you convinced yourself you're on the right path, too
You don't try to think when they do the thinking for you
Of your own intentions, often you don't have a clue.

Do your words portray a distant reality
That don't quite fit your inner personality?
Or does your heart display different emotions
Than what you claim to feel as you go through the motions?

And yet we ask of others, outsiders of our souls
To put a word, a label on ourselves, that enhances our egos
So when asked to be described in one word, it's best stated:
"You and me both... we're complicated."

Aya is a graduate of McGill University with bachelor degrees in education and science. She has a passion for reading, writing, poetry, painting, chocolate, honey and all things colorful.

paintings
Charlotte Qin



poème libre

Lola de la Hosseraye

Autant que je m'en souviennne

Ceci n'est pas un poème.

Mes yeux chlorés n'ont pu

Peindre l'azur troublé.

Le cri des femmes

Ton odeur évasée :

Je n'ai pas vu.

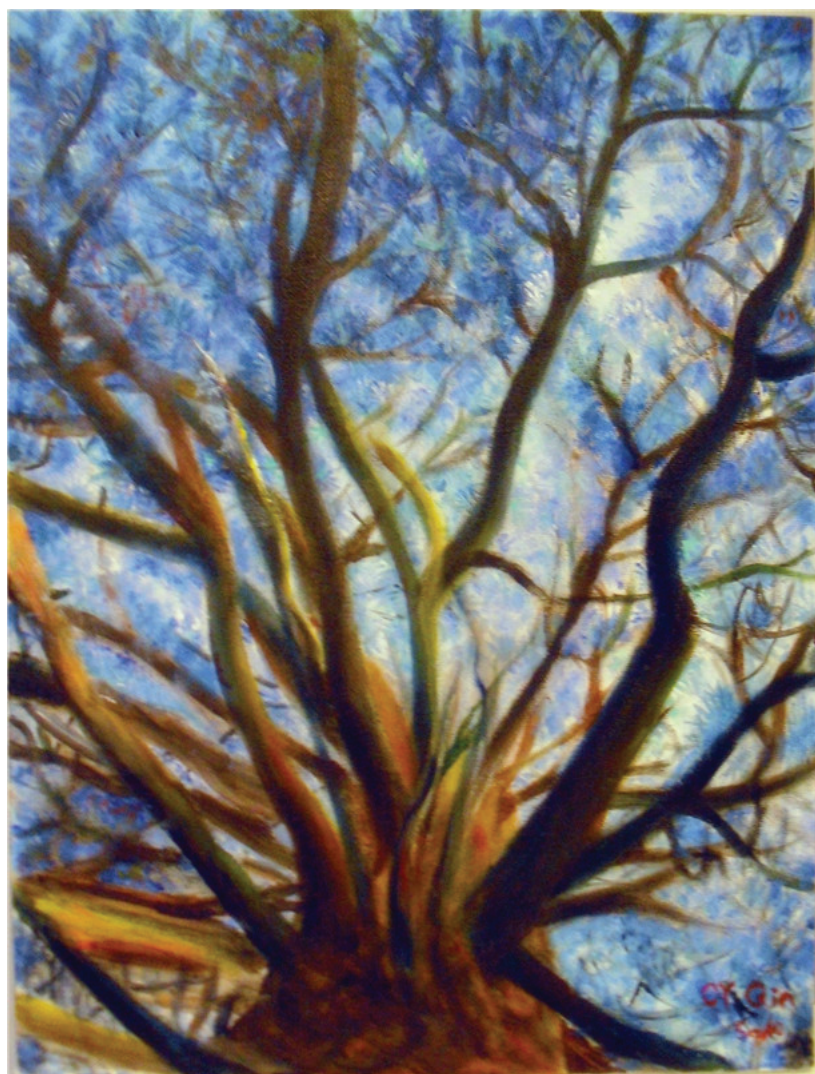
Ni vestiges d'envies

Ni rêves, ni ennui.

Fraicheur fade

D'une jeunesse

A l'agonie .



Sojourner

Joseph D'silva

I have no gold and myrrh to share,
And my barns are empty and bare.

For I hold no power and might,
Nor can my tale fit a knight.

I seek the wisdom of the old,
Upon which the might of men behold.

My ways are strewn with thorns,
For which my heart never mourns.

Bees and spiders are my friends,
And so the dwellers of the reeds that bends.

Vice and pride are my enemy,
And the ones who like me aren't many.

Seeker of truth, I shall not rest,
Till the day my heart arrest.

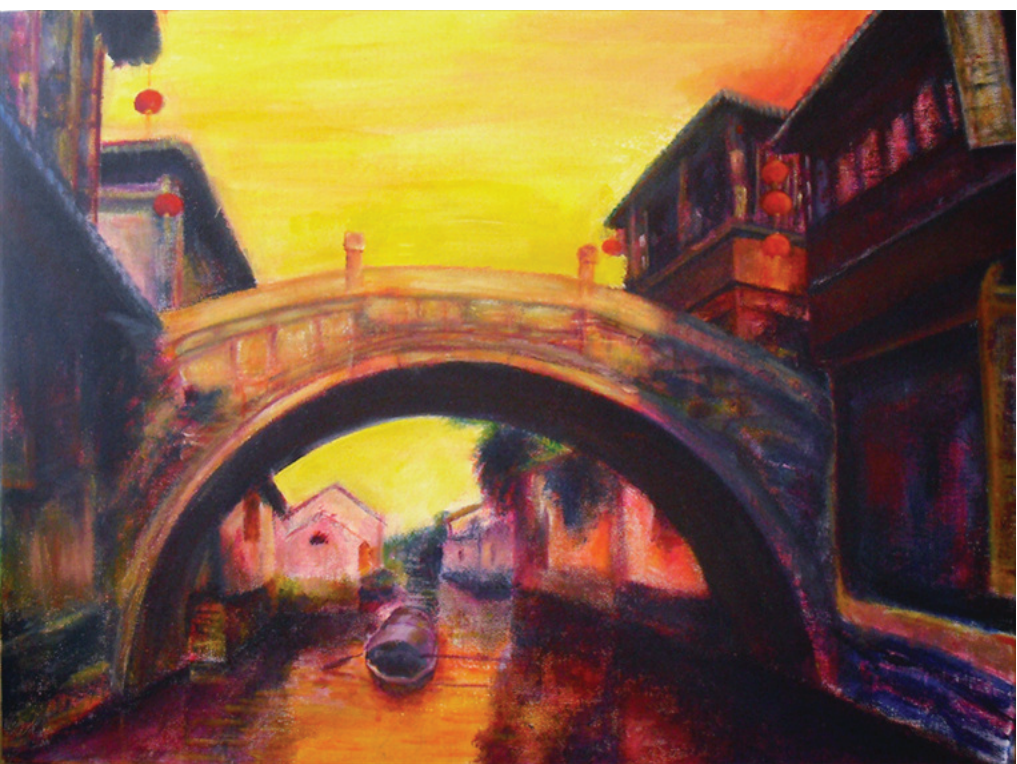
Share my wisdom, while you are here,
For the ways of the world, you shall never fear.

But know this, I am a sojourner,
So that tomorrow you are not my mourner.

When my days have ended,
I shall leave and be not offended.

For I seek the wisdom of the old,
Upon which the might of men behold.

Joseph is a first year graduate student in the School of Computer Science at McGill. He loves nature photography with philosophical thoughts sometimes accompanying photography notes.





Flawed Infinity

Dalia Ramirez-Côté

I would take up
Automatic writing or other
Surrealist means of eluding the mind
-Hearing the scratch of a pen on
Blank slates of impossible existence.

The multitudes and multiplicities
-The sheer number
How to choose, how to begin?

There are words and combinations of letters
-They are words, awaiting meaning.
And so, a confession: Everyday the hope
To write them into life,
Translating them for reality;

An updated dictionary
For human experience.

It's a desire for all that you and I have lost
By means of articulation, to ease the minds
That language has personally failed.
And so everyday, the God complex
Of breathing life into what is not, knowing

I can only fail.

Dalia is a U3 student in Honours Asian Religions and part-time poet (maybe). She is thrilled that she gets to be involved with Radix this year.

Voices

Daniel Galef

Someone's tapping at the window:
just a branch against the pane.
Someone's rapping in the walls:
just the pipes, or dripping rain.
Someone asks if I'm awake:
I answer, but it's just an owl.
A voice from over on the bookshelf
replies saying, "fair is fowl."
The photographs and illustrations
refuse to move while I'm awake:
they're stubborn, but I don't persist
-if only for their feelings' sake.
Yesterday you told me it's not
real, the company I keep:
when I turned in bed to answer,
you'd quietly vanished in your sleep.
Sometimes I think I'd be lonely
if not for these friends everywhere.
Sometimes I think I'd go crazy
if not for all the folks who aren't there.

Daniel Galef is a U1 student at McGill. He was born and raised in Oxford, Mississippi. He does not know what he wants to do, but enjoys poetry.





Seasons

Daniel Galef

When the air shimmered and wavered, uncertain,
like the last seconds of a dream,
and the dragonflies strafed us, double-headed,
here you sat, summer-eyed and supping,
on our blanket.

When the distant heavens gurgled and burbled and
choked in the night,
and the prattling rains tittered and tapdanced on the
rattling panes
here you sat, watery-eyed and winsome,
by the window.

When the celestial jewels fell as tears in our eyes,
and streaked across our minds as the sky above,
here you sat, starry-eyed and staring,
in my arms.

When the ground squelches unpoetic under my boots,
and I duck and let the yellow tapes brush my neck,
and someone's palm lays, unsympathetic, on my wet
back,
there you lie, summer-eyed and supine,
in the mud.



A vast array of expressions!
Taken at Rue McGill College in downtown Montreal.



photos
Trista Xiang

Trista is a kid of nature. In love with the diversity of the world and the simplicity of inner peace. She loves to observe, listen, record, think and live, like the radix of a tree.

Life as a Tea Egg^{*}

Natalie Cheung

A tea egg:

Its surface originally smooth,
Without flaws
Though perfect,
Will never be eaten.

Intentionally cracked,
Boiled in tea leaves,
Seeped in spices and sauces,
A plentiful amount
Will reveal its true flavors.
Do not watch the clock
-The longer it lingers in the ceramic pot
The heavenly mix that bleeds through
Its creases and crevasses,
Marbled in hues of chestnut and chocolate-
The richer the taste,
The more satisfied the tongue.

Failures are inevitable
Mistakes that carve deep craters into your mind.
Embedded into the aches of your limbs
Will ripen the blossoms of change.

^{*}A tea egg is a traditional Chinese savoury snack

Natalie Cheung is an undergrad Linguistics student with a love for languages. She enjoys poetry and is especially fond of the haiku. She hopes to share her knowledge of the Buddhist perspective through short compositions.



Expressions of sorrow, fear, guilt or even “no expression”.
Photo taken on Rue Saint-Dennis in downtown Montreal.

classifieds

Meditation in the Quaker Tradition!
November 7th 2013 at 5pm in the
Chaplaincy area (Brown Building
Suite 2100).

For more information contact David
Summerhays:
david.summerhays@mail.mcgill.ca

“My Neighbour’s Faith”!

McGill Chaplaincy regularly visits
Montreal’s diverse places of worship.
This year, the series is joint with Con-
cordia Multifaith Chaplaincy “Sacred
Sites Visits.”

The tentative schedule is:

October 24:

Muslim Al-Madinah Centre, 12:00-
2:30.

Registration required. Email laura.
gallo@concordia.ca

November 13:

Sikh Gurdwara, LaSalle.

For more information, contact laura.
gallo@concordia.ca

December:

Christian Christmas Carol Service.
Contact chaplaincy@mcgill.ca

January:

Universalist Unitarian (near Vendome
metro).

Email chaplaincy@mcgill.ca

February:

Quaker Meeting (Westmount).

Contact chaplaincy@mcgill.ca for
more info.

OIKOS Project –what’s life worth to you?



Economy – Ecology – Ecumenism

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



THE TALWAR CHILD DEVELOPMENT RESEARCH TEAM



DO YOU HAVE A CHILD BETWEEN THE AGES OF 7-11?



WE ARE DOING **EXCITING** RESEARCH
EXAMINING THE ROLE OF SPIRITUALITY IN
THE LIVES OF CHILDREN



THE STUDY TAKES 60-90 MINUTES

CHILDREN WILL RECEIVE A GIFT CERTIFICATE TO
INDIGO (TEN DOLLAR VALUE) AND A PRIZE!

INTERESTED?

CONTACT TALWAR RESEARCH @ 514-398-8059

Radix is 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-develop-
ment, research, distribution and
much more! Email us to join the
community. radix@mail.mcgill.ca

Stay connected with Chaplaincy
Services on twitter @SpiritualMc-
Gill

or like McGill Chaplaincy on
Facebook.

Ancient Wisdom Lies At Your Feet

It's free! Just bring yourself.

Try walking meditation using a labyrinth
on campus.

Every Tuesday afternoon from noon to
5 pm.

Labyrinth will be set up on lower campus
(by the James McGill statue), weather
permitting and will move indoors in the
Winter months.

For more information visit: Labyrinth-
McGill on Facebook.

*FREE ADS FOR SPIRITUAL &
SOCIAL JUSTICE GROUPS!*

Zen meditation

Every Friday morning at 8:30. Zen monk, Myokyo offers guided Zen practice in the Birks chapel (3520 University Street, 2nd floor).

“Hello Body”

A free bioenergetic exercise class offered by ecumenical chaplain, Neil Whitehouse.

Every Tuesday morning from 9:30am to 10:30 am, in the Brown Building (suite 5001)

Wear stretchy clothing.

Get back into your body and out of your frazzled mind! www.facebook.com/mcgillhellobody

Oikos Education Walk

Offered by Chaplaincy services every Wednesday afternoon at 4pm.

This contemplative walk guides students both inward to their goals and aspirations and outward to their tangible environment. This walk helps students answer the question, “What is Education For?”

Newman Centre: Soup and Bagel Program

The Newman Centre's Soup and Bagel Program provides home-made soup and fresh Montreal-style bagels every weekday for a suggested donation of \$3.50. All are welcome.

3484 Peel Street. newmancentre@mail.mcgill.ca / www.newmancentre.org

The Rabbit Hole Café

Food for Thought's vegan collective, cooking up vegan lunches every Friday at 1:00 p.m. Drop by, pay a toonie, enjoy the company and eat

up! All proceeds go towards maintaining this Yellow Door program (3625 Aylmer).

The Radical Christian Students' Association has a free vegan meal every Thursday at 6pm at Presbyterian College (corner of University and Milton) at their worship/discussion meetings.

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.

There is a weekly student meeting for Russian Orthodox and Ukrainian Orthodox Christian Students. They also have monastery visits, picnics, and movie nights. Contact the Orthodox chaplain, Father Ihor for details: ikutash@gmail.com.

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.)

Call for
Submissions



McGill's Student
Spirituality Magazine

radix

Stories

Photos

Poems

Opinions

Reflections

Articles

Events

Drawings

Paintings

Send your
submissions
today!



Theme: *Gratitude*

Submission Deadline: November 18th 2013



RadixMcGill

radix@mail.mcgill.ca

iF? group (Interfaith Forum) is a student group that meets for weekly dialogue Monday afternoons at 4pm at the Diocesan College ("Dio") 3475 University Street. They "strive toward an inclusive future where dialogue is the main tool in finding common understanding."

The Jewish community at McGill is hoppin', thanks in part to Ben Vago, the Rabbi and Jewish Educator at Hillel Montreal, and Shmuly Weiss, the Rabbi of Chabad! Visit www.hillel.ca and www.chabadmcgill.com for information on shabbat meals, holiday celebrations, educational programming, and fun social activities!

