

# U.U.&you

newsletter of the universalist unitarian church of halifax

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September 2014

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President

Newsletter  
Etta Hamm  
Sandra Jamieson

Sunday service  
10:30 am  
All welcome  
Children & Youth Education  
& Childcare available

## September 7

Presenter: Rev. Norm Horofker; Service Assistant: Margaret Galbraith

### *Blending of the Waters – Our Annual Ingathering Service*

Come and enjoy the first service as we begin an exciting new church year. Bring a small sample of water representing some place important to you and share a service that will highlight our sense of connection and spirituality, through water. You will be delighted with a musical surprise as well.

## September 14

Presenter: Joe Foy; Service Leader: Dean White

### *Pope Francis: Where is he leading us?*

The new Pope, an elderly Jesuit, did not pick the name 'Francis' by happenstance. Like Francis from Assisi, Francis from Argentina hopes to lead his church (and others) in some radically new directions. Also, the upcoming Synod of Bishops in Rome in October is the most important event for Catholics in fifty years. Come and find out why.

## September 21

Presenter: Rev. Norm Horofker; Service Assistant: Louise Malloch

### *Connection... Another Word for Spirituality?*

This Sunday we will explore the idea that spirituality is the will to connect our individual human experience with the things, the people and the universe around us. Our lives take on meaning through exploring, deepening and giving meaning to our connections. But you cannot make profound connections unless you are willing to expose the vulnerable parts of yourself.

## September 28

Presenter: Rev. Norm Horofker; Service Assistant: Sass Minard

### *Connecting Without Converting*

Unitarian Universalists are most argumentative and divided when we assemble annually to pass resolutions on social justice issues. This year in Montreal was no different. This Sunday Norm will risk exploring an alternative vision for how we deal with social justice issues, a vision that he thinks better reflects the values and theology of Unitarian Universalism.



**Our Mission is to provide a community which nurtures personal and spiritual growth, practices inclusiveness, celebrates diversity and affirms individual and collective commitment to community service and social justice.**

## September 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 4:45-6:15pm Afterchoir	4	5	6
7 9am-Chalice Singers Noon-Worship Cmte Fall Bulb orders	8	9 11:30-3:30 Library 8pm YAHUU Karaoke ?	10 4:45-6:15pm Afterchoir	11	12	13
14 9am-Chalice Singers 9:45am Family Singers Noon-Soc.Resp. Fall Bulb orders	15 6:30pm Board Meeting	16	17 4:45-6:15pm Afterchoir	18	19	20 Open House. Time TBA  7-9pm Dances of Universal Peace
21 9am-Chalice Singers Noon-Humanist Group	22 10am Newsletter deadline	23	24 4:45-6:15pm Afterchoir	25	26	27  Hike, see p.6
28 9am-Chalice Singers D4\$ Hosts' deadline to submit events	29 7-9pm Ukulele Group	30				



at **5500 Inglis Street**  
**September 20**



Plan on coming out to the church on Saturday September 20th to attend our Open House. We have been talking for some time about promoting our beautiful building as a community resource, one used by the church as well as a number of other community-oriented groups.

There will be activities for children of all ages, including hotdogs and hamburgers (veggie as well). Plus a Blueberry Booth with baked blueberry treats, blueberry lemonade, and blueberry jam for purchase. All this and tea and coffee too.

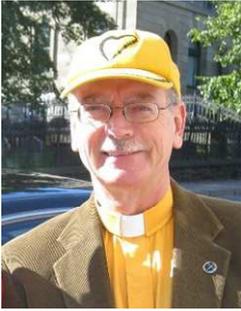
We want to take advantage of this event to promote our Religious Exploration Program as a community service. There is nothing else like it in Halifax for parents wanting to give their children a broad exposure to religion and spirituality.

We will have a special display in the Ballroom of photos and slides from the church year. The Halifax Early Childhood School, a fixture at 5500 Inglis Street since the 1960s will have a display—and others using the building will also be represented.

**We will need many volunteers to make it all happen and to welcome strangers who are curious about what we have to offer.** So, watch for more information, keep the date open—and if you feel so inspired, volunteer to help out on the day.

We will be promoting our event in the larger community. We also urge you to bring friends, relatives, and neighbours.

*Your Open House Planning Committee... Norm Horofker, Deborah Wiggins,  
Christy-Lee Bojarski, Molly Hurd, Avard Woolaver, Ella Wilson and Marilyn Shinyei*



## Minister's Notes

Our church year, for business purposes, parallels the calendar year but all UU congregations that I know of see September as the real beginning of the church year. It is the end of the summer holiday period, the beginning of a new year of Religious Exploration classes for the children and the return of the minister to regular Sunday services. I think that there is a rhythm to the church year that is directly related to the seasons. When you think about it, all religions follow this seasonal rhythm. For me, September is the season for reconnecting.

After years living in Georgia in the US, I am still adjusting to the intensity of summer in Canada and the speed with which it passes. The months of July and August passed for me incredibly quickly.

July is intended to be a time of reflection and study for your minister and I have done a lot of both this summer. I am bursting with ideas for the coming church year and anxious to share them with the appropriate committees and leaders in the congregation. I expect that many of you will also have ideas for new initiatives for our congregation. I hope you will promote them with our leaders. We are in the fortunate position of having more good ideas than we could possibly accomplish in one year.

August is intended to be a time of vacation for your minister and I have spent much time with family exploring Nova Scotia and visiting family and friends in Ontario. Among other things, I visited the grave of my great-great grandfather, The Reverend Murdoch Stewart and his family in Pictou, Nova Scotia. Murdoch Stewart came to Nova Scotia as a minister and missionary from Scotland. So, the next time someone asks if I am "from away," I intend to answer proudly that my great-great grandfather settled in Nova Scotia in 1843.

I am writing this note from Sudbury Ontario at a time when I expected to be back in Halifax. As many of you know, Janet's mother Phyllis, aged 95, was admitted to hospital in late August and we are now hoping to relocate her to Halifax when she is discharged. Thanks to everyone who has expressed their support for Janet and me during this time.

I hope to see you at our traditional ingathering service, the Blending of Waters. I am sure there will be information elsewhere in the newsletter. I'm in on the "musical surprise" with Deborah and looking forward to it!

And, don't forget our Open House on Saturday September 20!

***Question of the Month!*** This month I am beginning something new. With each "Minister's Notes" I will include a one-question survey and invite you to respond anonymously or otherwise. I will summarize the results and report them in next month's newsletter. September's question: **Do you sense the rhythm of the seasons in our Church year, and should we endeavor to make this rhythm more evident in our worship planning?** Please submit your response to me by email, note or phone message.



Looking forward to being back with you all for an exciting and stimulating 2014/15.

***Rev. Norm Horofker***

## Last reminder to gardeners and friends of gardeners – and general UUCH supporters!



Only 3 weeks left to order lovely spring bulbs from Vesey's and support the UUCH fundraiser at the same time. Don't forget, 50% of the proceeds go directly to the church.

Summer is (mostly) over, and the "organized" part of our year is starting again—a great opportunity as you see everyone after the summer to encourage all your friends to think about planting spring bulbs! You will be amazed at how many people are willing to support UUCH when there is something in it for them.

There are all the old favourites, like daffodils, tulips and crocuses, and also some different ones including squills, pink buttercups and giant alliums, to name a few. And if you don't have a garden, the catalogue also includes bulbs for growing indoors, and veggies: sprouts, herbs and garlic! Truly something for everyone. There is also a calendar and a cookbook, excellent presents for you-know-when!

I will have catalogues and order forms after church September 7th and 14th—and, the last day, at the Open House on September 20th.

*Margaret Galbraith*

### Meditation Group

Sorry, fellow meditators but the organizing of our group's fall schedule is on hold for now—so please stay tuned. In the meantime, try to make time to meditate on your own or with a friend. At least take a long deep breath now and then and think peaceful, calming thoughts.

*Lauren Larsen*

## Paying it forward

Kay Smith inherited some money when her mother passed away this year. In the cycle of life, some of us in Kay's Baby Boomer generation may also find ourselves receiving a legacy from elderly relatives. But what will you do with your little (or big) windfall?



Kay is very clear that she plans to "burn through" most of it very quickly with big travel plans. But first she is going to take \$10,000 of it and deposit it in UUCH's Endowment Fund. WOW! That immediately doubles the size of our fund.

Kay doesn't see why adding to the Endowment Fund needs to wait until she is dead although she has also designated it in her will. As you may know, Kay is one of your Endowment Trustees.

The other two are Mary Lu MacDonald and Marilyn Shinyei, and they too have designated UUCH as a legatee in their wills. Mary Lu says, "I am afraid the church will have to wait for my legacy." Marilyn is concerned that hers may not amount to much but wants to explore the option of creating a "charity child" in her will. (You'll hear more on that later.)

Which brings us to the topic of Planned Giving. The Endowment Trustees have worked to establish the Endowment Fund and will manage it on an ongoing basis but now we have turned our efforts toward starting a Planned Giving Campaign at UUCH.

A planned gift is a thoughtful commitment to the future of the church. Kind of "paying it forward" for future generations of UUs.

If you are planning to write or update your will anytime soon, please contact us to learn more about what would be involved in naming UUCH. We have lots of information and forms available to take to your lawyer. And stay tuned as you will be hearing more from us over the next few months.

When you see Kay, feel free to thank her for her gift. She will probably blush and sputter but that's okay. We think it's time to recognize the generosity that exists in our congregation. And if you decide to make a gift or add UUCH to your will, we would like to announce your name and thank you too. With your permission of course!

*Marilyn, Mary Lu & Kay*

## *The Religious Exploration Page*



*The true beloveds of this world are in their lover's eyes lilacs opening, ship lights, school bells, a landscape, remembered conversations, friends, a child's Sunday, lost voices, one's favorite suit, autumn and all seasons, memory, yes, it being the earth and water of existence, memory.*

~ Truman Capote

Hello all!

Welcome back to another wonder-filled year of Religious Exploration magic at the UUCH! Beginning September 7th we will be commencing two new programs, each of which has plenty of opportunities for our congregation's youth to 'dig deeper' and learn new ways they can bring the lessons they learn in RE out into their community.

Our junior group will be starting an 11-session program entitled **'What Would Love Do?'**

The first six sessions in the program focus on the ways love calls us to act in the world with humans, other living beings and the Earth. Participants are introduced to spiritual practices that are grounded in love, including generosity, welcome, and non-violence. Relationships among the participants in the group are reinforced as all are made welcome without prejudgments. Love is extended to the Earth through learning about the importance of ecological balance.

The final five sessions introduce tools and attitudes that are necessary to bring goodness and justice into the larger world. Here participants explore responsibility, courage, persistence and cooperation. The aim of **What Would Love Do** is ultimately to provide our children with tools that will help them to discern what is right and true, to hear and follow the call of Love, and to turn their moral beliefs and ethical concerns into concrete action.

The senior group will be undergoing a program called **'Heeding the Call'**, customized from the Tapestry of Faith program 'Heeding the Call: Qualities Of A Justice Maker'.

**Heeding the Call** is a social justice curriculum that not only explores oppressions in our society, but also encourages participants towards personal growth in values that counteract the marginalization of others. Workshops on empathy, courage, abundance, joy, and other qualities ask participants to recognize how these standards can be tools for justice!

Additionally, the program includes more concrete tools, such as suggestions on how to be a good ally and tips on the language of conflict resolution. True stories of courage, sacrifice and collaboration, role-plays, games, and a program-long justice project will feed youth's rising realization that we are all called to love justice—not just with our words, but also with our deeds.

Both programs will run until the end of November, upon which I will be commencing my maternity leave. In the meanwhile, please let me know if you'd like to donate one of our Sundays to the betterment of our RE program, whether through teaching, assisting or joining us as a guest speaker on one of the many topics we'll be exploring!

In joy and kindness,

**Christy-Lee Bojarski**

Director of Religious Exploration

Cell: 456-3802 / Email: dre@uuch.ca

## Hike through Cole Harbour Heritage Park September 27

The Cole Harbour Heritage Park hike consists mostly of well graded paths surfaced with fine crushed stone. The trails lead you along the edges of large fields that once fed the residents of the Halifax County Poor Farm. These trails provide wonderful views of Cole Harbour. Other trails take you through mature hardwoods and stands of softwood timber.



Hikers enjoying Heritage Park

Meet at the church at 12:30 or at the trailhead at 1 pm. The trailhead is found in the corner of a large parking lot on the Eastern side of Bissett Road a kilometer or so from its intersection with Cole Harbour Road. Call me on my cell, 902-483-4731 if you get lost or are running late.

*Allyn Clarke*

## Congratulations to Don Heights Unitarian Congregation on the occasion of their 60th Anniversary

This currently-lay-led UU congregation in Don Heights (Toronto) sent news of their 60th anniversary celebrations coming up September 19th to 21st. All manner of festivities are planned; all are welcome.

Read all about Don Heights at [www.donheights.ca](http://www.donheights.ca) and send them a friendly Maritime shout-out from Halifax! Or go to [facebook.com/donheights](https://facebook.com/donheights).



*Etta Hamm, UU&U*

## Caring

We send our condolences to Marilyn Shinyei and family on the passing of her father, Peter Layton Cottingham on August 18th. He was 92 and had been ill for some time.



Michael Seary had his 80th birthday this month and friends took him out for lunch and the church had an after service birthday cake—chocolate, his favourite.

Wietske Gradstein was recently hospitalized for minor surgery. You will likely reach her at home by the time you read this, if you wish to call her. We wish her a speedy recovery.



John Paterson is also in the hospital following a mini-stroke. He is progressing well with physiotherapy and hopes to have a full recovery. He would love to have visitors.

Janet Horofker's mother, Phyllis Duncan, is in the hospital in Sudbury, ON. She is slowly improving and Janet hopes to bring her to Halifax early next week if she is well enough to travel. Phyllis is 92 but she has been living independently in her own home. We wish her a speedy recovery.

The QEII patient information line is 902-473-1510. This number will get you an operator who will connect you to patients or tell you if they are still in hospital.

*Mary Ellen Onno*

Even the smallest act of  
caring for another person  
is like a drop of water  
—it will make ripples  
throughout the  
entire pond.

~ Jessy and Bryan Matteo

## *Music Montage*

*When you're short on everything else,  
you'll make it up with music."*

~ Sandy MacIntyre



I found this wonderful quote at the Celtic Music Interpretive Centre in Judique, Cape Breton this summer. It was a wonderful place to learn about traditional Cape Breton music heritage.

### ***Rehearsals Return...***

*The Chalice Singers, the Family Singers, and qUUartet* will all be gathering again, now that September is here. Details below for each.

### ***Music This Fall...***

There will be a surprise music guest for our ingathering service on September 7. Don't miss it!

If you have an inkling that you might enjoy contributing to the music program in any way this year, either vocally, instrumentally, or as a volunteer for events, do let me know. It would be a joy to have you participate!

### ***September's 'Singing As We Gather'...***

The *Gathering Hymn* for this month is #19, *The Sun That Shines*. This hymn lists so many things for us to be grateful for, as we reflect on the blessings of the summer, as well as those things we have to look forward to, in the coming year. I especially like the last verse, which is fitting for ingathering month, as we start a new year in community. *"The task well done, the fun of play, the wise who guide us on our way, the balm of sleep when each day ends, the joy of family and friends, O, I'm as rich as rich can be, for all these things belong to me!"*

### ***The Chalice Singers...***

The Chalice Singers are open to anyone who likes to sing, and contribute each month to the Sunday services. We rehearse each Sunday morning at 9:00 am, starting on September 7. You do not need to be able to read music to join this welcoming choir.

### ***The Family Singers...***

The family Singers are for all ages and all stages of singers, and offer music for services that is easy to learn and sing. The Chalice Singers provide a base of support for this group, so relax and join in. We will meet at 9:45 am on Sunday, September 14. Come and join in the musical fun.

### ***qUUartet...***

qUUartet is our 4-part singing group. This music ensemble provides opportunities for more advanced singers to use their skills at harmony and independent learning, with more challenging material. They also support the Chalice Singers occasionally. They meet before services, usually, as well.

### ***The Afterchoir...***

*The Afterchoir* (our folk/rock group) meets on most Wednesdays during the church year, from approximately 4:45 to 6:15 pm. Contact James at [jamesmorris@morrisbureau.com](mailto:jamesmorris@morrisbureau.com) to confirm dates and times.

I'm looking forward to making some wonderful music together with you this church year!

### ***Deborah Wiggins***

*Music Director*

[uuchmusic@yahoo.ca](mailto:uuchmusic@yahoo.ca)

902-463-0988

[uuch.ca/music](http://uuch.ca/music)



### Dining for Dollars Oct '14 - Mar '15

While some of us are still thinking of the great food at the Applebys' delicious picnic, and others are

smiling in anticipation of events to come in September, it's time to plan for the upcoming fall and winter "D4\$" line-up.

I'd like to put the info sheets for the rest of 2014 and the first three months of 2015 out in early October, so start thinking about the delectable treats you'll be offering your fellow UUs! Please get your info to me by ...

**Sunday, September 28th**

Please email me at [kay.kathy@ns.sympatico.ca](mailto:kay.kathy@ns.sympatico.ca), or phone me at 902-429-9665 (oh, progress!). Or simply fill in the form below and give it to me at church.

Thank you to all past and future hostesses and hosts!

*Kay Smith*

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#### My Dining for Dollars Offering

Name of event:

Date:                      Time:

Place:

Host(s)

Max # of guests:

Cost:

Description:

### Stop! Don't throw out that old wooden chair!

The "fundraising un-committee" has a new project (or an idea of same) where our creative types would transform old wooden chairs into bright and beautiful works of decorative art—and offer them for sale or auction to people who love fun quirky things. Other churches have raised funds like this and they say it's lots of fun. It could take at least a year to get to "sale day" first time out, so we're putting the word out well in advance.



What to do: Hang on to your old wooden chairs, ask friends and neighbours if they have a chair to donate, pick one (or some) up at yard sales, Value Village, the Sally Ann, etc... till painting time.

In the meantime I'll be sourcing places where we might get free or low-cost (appropriate) paint and supplies, besides what UUCHers can provide. I'll also be looking for a couple of handy people to volunteer to re-glue and tighten up chairs before we paint them. Anyone out there? Call me—your offer will be encouraging!



Some of you will have space at home where you can get artistic with chairs. If you don't (or even if you do), a painting party or two at the church could be fun. I have downloaded lots of painted-chair pictures from the internet to use as inspiration. And if you "can't even paint a stick", you can perhaps find a chair or two somewhere, for a painter to paint.

How we price and 'market' the chairs is yet to be determined—whether by auction, or with fixed prices on a dedicated sale day. We'll work on that.

The un-committee feels that painted chairs, with the right publicity, could bring people in from the larger community, which is one of our church's aims.

Please let me know (soon!) if you are interested in participating in any way, to help us decide whether we should develop these ideas any further. See me at church or find me "in the book". Thanks!

*Etta Hamm*

## A Slate of New Ballroom Gallery Art Exhibits Multi Media, Sept 2014 – 2015



Are you caught up yet in the excitement surrounding our UU Church's major upcoming celebration, an OPEN HOUSE, Saturday, September 20th? It truly sounds like a dynamite event not to be missed! It will really raise our profile in the neighbourhood and Halifax.

The Ballroom Gallery will play a considerable role in drawing attention to several of the church's high profile activities on our gallery walls from Sept - Nov. 9th. The church's first goal is to publicize our Religious Exploration Program for children and youth.

**Christy-Lee Bojarski, our creative RE Director, is presenting a Youth/Children Art Exhibit to which we are looking forward with anticipation.** A large eye-catching Rainbow Fish with shimmering scales will likely hang center stage on the main wall. On this fish are shown CHARACTER VALUES the children and youth learned about in RE, such as kindness, compassion, thankfulness, harmony, generosity, courage, respect, forgiveness, confidence, helpfulness, co-operation, love, understanding and responsibility.

Emphasized also on the fish is the relevance and beauty of clear communication, particularly 'listening' to one another. The young people used a talking stick in class.

**Allyn Clarke, our intrepid hiker-guide of many decades, will demonstrate the awesome wild beauty of our coastlines and landscapes with his photography.** Without exaggeration, at least half of us have been on hiking trips with Allyn.

**Our very own unstoppable and passionate photographer, Avard Woolaver, has indeed captured ever so many various church activities.** Included are the Pride Parade, musicians, RE folk doing fun activities, and other people of note.



### **\*Food Inspired Art Exhibition — Nov. 16, 2014 - Jan. 2015.**

(Inspired by Ralph Martin's Service) Meant for artists of all levels.

Presentation is important. See NOTE below on inexpensive yet fine-looking framing.

The process for this show is meant to be both playful and experimental for use of materials as well as ideas. Use your imagination and your feelings! Boring art is out! Remember? We already know what things look like. Distort and exaggerate!

In *1001 Ways to Creativity*, creativity is defined as:  
'Getting your hands dirty. Make a mess.  
Rejoice in the chaos of creativity'

Brainstorm for the FOOD IDEAS that have a lot of meaning for you and jot them down. Some of mine are: 'Food, Glorious Food!' 'Please, sir, may I have some more?' Farmers Markets'; Feast or Famine; Hope Cottage; Soup Kitchen-age 4; Our family's Occupation Diet-potatoes, pancakes and apples for ½ year in 1945; Raised on herring, eels, haddock, sole, lobster, shrimp, sardines, swordfish; Mom's cream puffs; Celebratory cupcakes; Alison's bread; Food for thought! You get the idea.

**NOTE: FRAMING SUGGESTIONS:** NOBEL-Krystal seal bags ideal for posters, photos, watercolors, drawings, collages, etc.

NOBEL – 25 bags, 11×14, for only \$8.80; NOBEL 25 bags – 16×20, only \$14.60 incl. tax. Where? DeSerres Art Supply Store next to St. Mary's Basilica, Barrington Street. Open Sundays too till 6:30.

**NOTE:** If the size is unavailable, order, and allow 3 weeks for order to come.

*Ella Wilson*

## **UUCH Pride: Best in Parade!**

### ***Largest UUCH presence ever wins 'Best Float in the Non-Profit Category'***

A banner year for UU Pride was capped off by a record 39 UUs (and friends) marching in the 2014 Halifax Pride Parade, and winning "Best in Parade - Non-Profit Category" for the first time ever with a float depicting a same-sex marriage.

It was incredible to see the whole congregation come together and show their Pride. Perfect weather helped 2,500 marchers wow a crowd of almost 80,000 spectators along the parade route. Thirty-nine participants had great fun marching with our same-sex marriage '*Standing on the Side of Love*'-themed float, which was accompanied musically by the dulcet tones of Reverend Norm Horofker's ukulele.

We handed out just over 3,000 pamphlets, taking advantage of the largest single outreach opportunity UUCH sees all year. More than a thousand dollars was raised from Pride activities such as a fundraising kiosk and donated lunches, and since we broke even, none of this should cost the church's main budget a cent!



Photo by Avard Woolaver

There were too many volunteers to thank individually, but they all contributed to making this year our most successful Pride ever. Committee members included Christy-Lee Bojarski (Co-Chair), Janet and Norm Horofker, Susan White, Devin Murphy, Dean White, Todd MacMillan and Margaret Galbraith (ex-officio).

Congregants interested in helping with UUCH Pride 2015—planned to be even greater!—should contact me at [ahblair@yahoo.com](mailto:ahblair@yahoo.com).

***Andy Blair***

Pride Committee Co-Chair

## Sunday Service Volunteers

### Sept 7

Greeting	Kathy Anthony Anne Knight-Gorman
Ushering	Kay Smith, Kathy Anthony (e) Janet Horofker (l)
Kitchen	Norm Sabowitz (set-up) Anne Knight-Gorman (clean-up)
Audio	Devin Murphy
Library	Valerie Chapman

### Sept 14

Greeting	Sass Minard, Wendy Ozon
Ushering	Valerie Chapman (e) Avard Woolaver, Martha Wilson (l)
Kitchen	Norm Sabowitz (set-up) Sass Minard (clean-up)
Audio	Avard Woolaver
Library	Stephen Butler

### Sept 21

Greeting	Michael Seary, Margaret Galbraith
Ushering	Michael Smith (e) Margaret and Paul Galbraith (l)
Kitchen	Norm Sabowitz (set-up) Buddy Gale (clean-up)
Audio	Todd MacMillan
Library	Norma McPhee

### Sept 28

Greeting	Sandra Clarke, Sylvia Mattinson
Ushering	Andy Blair (e) Sylvia Mattinson (l)
Kitchen	Norm Sabowitz (set-up) Sandra Clarke (clean-up)
Audio	Jo-Anne Brown-Shimeld
Library	Jo-Anne Brown-Shimeld

Please contact Wietske Gradstein at 835-9272 to join the Sunday Service Support Team.



The deadline for submissions for the October newsletter is Monday September 22nd

## Welcoming refugees



A group of UUers met on Sunday August 24th with Elfinesh Zewde of the Ethiopian Association of Nova Scotia and Evelyn Jones of Immigrant Settlement & Integration Services, or "ISIS" (formerly MISA) in an information sharing session. A number of us are planning to work with the Ethiopian Association, ISIS and the Quakers in assisting five Ethiopians to settle in Halifax in early November.

These new Permanent Residents to Canada may need cash or "in kind" contributions, so if you have any donations in terms of furniture (beds, dishes, etc.) do let me know. I will check with Roger Davies of the Quakers as to financial contributions and will send that info out when I receive it. Please note that this is not a UU Church initiative *per se*, but one that is going forward on the basis of individuals in the UU community who are interested in supporting the project.

There is a benefit fundraiser on September 13th at St. Andrew's United Church. (I'll put up a poster at the church.) I will have tickets (\$20) available on Sunday the 7th—or you can call me at 902-429-8094 to reserve.

**Jim Morrison**  
Liaison, Refugees



## Social Responsibility Meeting

There will be a meeting after church on September 14th for anyone interested in social responsibility actions by the church, to plan our activities for the coming months. This first meeting will include climate action topics as well as other social justice issues. All are welcome.

**Margaret Galbraith**



## Meet a Fellow UU: Norm Sabowitz

By Paul Galbraith

Born in 1938, Norm grew up on Bay 32nd Street in Brooklyn, New York. “My dad was a licensed electrician, my mom was a registered nurse and I had an older brother. He died not very long ago.” It was a middleclass neighbourhood, about half Jewish and half Italian. His parents were “somewhere between agnostic and atheist” but one grandmother was strongly Jewish and other close relations were members of a synagogue. “I went to many Jewish weddings and when I was about the age of 12 some of my friends decided they were going to switch to a Hebrew school and I thought I would go along with them. When I announced it to my family there was a dead silence. I'm sure it was disapproval. But the silence was broken by my father saying if that's what you want, go ahead. I went along to meet the Rabbi and I did sign up and I went there for awhile but I lost interest, just dropped out. I think it was a great relief to my parents. But I was surrounded by members of either the Jewish faith or Italian Catholics. There was a time in grade school when a couple of friends and I had the extraordinary experience of talking to a protestant. It was a big thing. She showed up at our school when I was in the fourth or fifth grade.”

Norm enjoyed school. “My friends and I were of that persuasion. In high school I got into acting and did a little directing. It occurred to me that I might pursue this. But at some point it became apparent to me that I wasn't prepared to make the sacrifices involved.” Norm enrolled at Brooklyn College in a liberal arts program. After graduation, he went to Europe for eight months. “I thought I was going to be a writer and somebody advised me to go to Paris. On the way I spent a month in North Africa. I think the city was Tangiers. I went from there to Spain and on to France. The girl I was sweet on in high school happened to be going there too and we hooked up for awhile. I did a lot of stuff. I don't think it was illegal at the time. But I didn't actually do all the writing that I thought I would do.”

After getting back from Europe Norm tagged along with a friend who was moving to California. He settled down for awhile in Sacramento and got married. “I got married three times. My first wife, Joyce, was in Sacramento and that lasted about three or four months. I was kind of young and she was very young.” Someone suggested to Norm that he become a librarian so he enrolled in Library Science at the University of California at Berkeley and completed a Master of Library Science degree there. “My first job after graduation was in Halifax at Saint Mary's University. It was the reason I came here. I was offered jobs in Halifax and Edmonton but I preferred to work by the sea. It was 1962 maybe.”

Norm went on to become a librarian with Fisheries Canada for many years and eventually retired from the Bedford Institute of Oceanography. Along the way, his second marriage was to a high school teacher, Wendy, and his third to a librarian. “When Marcia and I got together we were amazed to have two salaries. We decided to buy a house and pay it off. That's the house I live in now. She died of cancer about 12 years ago.”

Norm has several interests, an early one being plane geometry. “I just love the principles of logic. How you can demonstrate that something cannot be proven for example. This was fascinating stuff for me.” He also developed an early interest in reading which led to his fondness for poetry and literature. “I was always interested in words. When I encountered a word I didn't know I would ask my daddy what it meant. He would tell me to go look it up.” From this Norm developed an interest in dictionaries and now has a collection of them. In addition to the electronic pocket dictionary that he usually carries, he has a multi-CD version of the Oxford English Dictionary, a multi-volume Merriam Webster and others.

Interests that developed later in life include animal welfare and animal rights. “There was a piece of literature I read on these subjects and it just blew my mind.” He has one cat. “My late wife introduced me to cats. When we got together we had six cats in the household.” He also developed an interest in singing and has performed at our coffeeshop events and with the Afterchoir.

Norm came to the UU Church in 2006 because of a play he wrote. “I had a very good classics professor at Brooklyn College and I learned about the art and craft of drama there. *Job the Philosopher* was conceived as the first of a trilogy but I only wrote the first one. I sent it off to theatres and it was never taken up by any of them. Somebody suggested trying a church as it was on

a religious topic and that would be a way of presenting it to the public. So I went around to one or two and nobody was interested until someone suggested this church. I brought it here and somehow we worked out that we could do a reading of it, not a stage production. We did eventually do a reading and it was videotaped. This was edited into a single piece and transferred to DVD. We showed the DVD at church not too long ago. The play portrays God the Creator facing some logical problems with his position. I was in that position. I don't mean just that I acted and played the role. It was about me."

Norm has had an interest in movies as long as he can remember. In Brooklyn as a child, he went to the movies every week with friends to watch westerns and other action movies. "When I joined the church here, I ran a Film Fellowship for several years with equipment that I had bought and DVDs that I purchased." Many church members enjoyed these film nights but, unfortunately, they had to stop when distributors started demanding significant fees for public showings of their films. However, Norm's interest in movies continues. He has a collection of 100s of DVDs that cover a wall in his house. He has a hard time picking a favorite director or type of movie but he does particularly enjoy Woody Allen and European films.

*Thank you, Norm, for your good humour and for sharing your experiences with us. — Paul*

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### **History: A Mystery**

~ Norm Sabowitz

In the distant past,  
 Rapt in the wonderful whiteness of snow,  
 I scooted carelessly to school  
 On slippery sidewalks,  
 Surviving only somehow,  
 Presently, I stand breathless indoors and marvel  
 At the tons of dandruff  
 Falling from the head of God, and wonder:  
 What appalling future  
 Does this plaintive History  
 Portend?



### **Generational shift and congregational vitality study**

UU congregations are invited to contribute to a research project exploring the impact of current shifts in generational configuration and perspectives on congregational vitality.

Researcher Rev. Dr. Linda Weaver Horton draws upon her former training and experience as a social scientist. A life-long UU, she served on the UUA Commission on Appraisal and was a primary author of their report "Engaging our Theological Diversity" in 2005. She also edited the Canadian UU Historical Society's 50 year collection of essays and excerpts, "Guarding Sacred Embers" published in 2011.

In November, she will present a paper to the UU Scholars' Colloquium exploring generational shifts within our tradition over the past 200+ years. Why has it happened collaboratively at some points in our history and not at others?

Rev. Weaver Horton says, "Given the accelerated rate of change in our world, our vitality as a religious movement depends more than ever upon becoming allies across generations in order to live out our mission in the world. What is learned from this study could help our denomination, as well as congregations with a number of responders, to better understand this dynamic and enhance congregational vitality."

We are invited to complete a questionnaire to be found on Survey Monkey at:

[www.surveymonkey.com/s/UUgenerations](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/UUgenerations)

For further information, contact Rev. Linda Weaver Horton at [revlwhorton@yahoo.ca](mailto:revlwhorton@yahoo.ca).

**Rev. Norm Horofker**

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*Because of those who came before, we are;  
 in spite of their failings, we believe;  
 because and in spite of the horizons  
 of their vision, we, too, dream.*

~ Barbara Pescan  
 Unitarian Universalist, poet, clergy

Ingathering  
Blending of the Waters  
September 7



Bring a friend.