

UU & you

newsletter of the universalist unitarian church of halifax

Vol. 50, No 2
October 2015

Universalist Unitarian
Church of Halifax
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Sandra Jamieson
Office Administrator
Office hours
Mon, Wed, Fri 10-3

Deborah Wiggins
Music Director

Molly Hurd
President

Newsletter
Etta Hamm
Sandra Jamieson

Sunday service
10:30 am
All are welcome

Children & Youth Education
Child care available

Theme for October – Grace

October 4

Presenter: Rev. Helen McFadyen; Service Assistant: Wynne Jordan

Karma Chameleon: Wrestling with grace — The traditional Christian concept of *grace* is of a free, undeserved blessing or unearned gift from God which restores the sinful human. Why should Unitarian Universalists wrestle with this doctrine? Because, no matter who we are, or what we have done, whether we believe in God or not, we receive blessings... sometimes when they matter most, and when we expect them least. That is grace. Seeking, receiving, and bestowing grace is worth cultivating intentionally.

October 11

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

The Gods Must be Crazy — Rev. Norm will use the 1980 film by this title as a place to examine our relationship with Thanksgiving. In the film Xi and his San tribe are "living well off the land" in the Kalahari Desert. They are happy because of their belief that the gods have provided plenty of everything, and no one among them has any wants. One day a Coca-Cola bottle is thrown out of an airplane and falls to Earth unbroken...

October 18

Presenter: Rev. Norm Horofker; Service Assistant: Marilyn Shinyei

Can the United Nations be an agent of grace?

Valerie Chapman has been the indefatigable UU United Nations Office envoy for our congregation for many years and her commitment to the UN goes back to before she moved to Halifax with Colin. Valerie is delighted to welcome the energy and support of Jane Wilson who has a growing passion for the cause. This service may spark your personal passion for the work of the UN.

October 25

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

Grace – Elegance and beauty of form

There are two different but related definitions of grace. The first is "undeserved favour," in a religious context, often bestowed by God. The second is "elegance and beauty of form." We have some control over this second definition. Rev. Norm will make the case that it is an essential part of living a good life.



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.

October 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 9:30-11:30 am Parents & Tots	2	3 10 am – 1:00 pm Neighbourhood Fair (Open House)
4 9:30 am Music 12 pm Congregational meeting on refugee sponsorship 12 pm Worship Committee	5	6	7 4:45-6:15 pm Afterchoir	8 9:30-11:30 am Parents & Tots	9	10
11 9:45 am Music 12 pm Music 12 pm Social Resp. meeting	12	13	14 12 pm SAGM reports deadline 4:45-6:15 pm Afterchoir	15 9:30-11:30 am Parents & Tots 6:30 Board Meeting	16	17
18 9:45 am Music 12 pm Music (upstairs) 12 pm Humanist Group	19	20	21 4:45-6:15 pm Afterchoir	22 9:30-11:30 am Parents & Tots	23	24 7-9 pm DUP
25 9:45 am Music (upstairs) 12 pm Music 12 pm Semi-annual Meeting	26 10 am Newsletter deadline	27	28 4:45-6:15 pm Afterchoir	29 9:30-11:30 am Parents & Tots 7-9pm November Theme Salon: “Integrity”	30	31



The Semi-annual General Meeting of the UUCH will be held on Sunday, October 25th at noon.

The meeting will conduct the following business:

1. Receive and approve reports from the Minister, the various officers and committees.
2. Adoption of a budget for the 2016 calendar year.
3. Adoption of the Annual Financial Campaign.
4. Appointment/Confirmation of the Nominating Committee to identify candidates for the 2016/2017 officers and members of the Board of Management.
5. Business arising from the minutes of the May 2015 Annual General Meeting.
6. Other business as may be raised before or at the meeting.

Members-only vote on motions, but non-members are most welcome, including friends, newcomers, visitors, all.

Molly Hurd, President
UUCH Board of Management



Minister's Notes

Welcoming the Stranger

“Afflict the comfortable and comfort the afflicted.” Finley Peter Dunne (1867-1936), a humorist, coined that phrase. He put it in the mouth of his character Mr. Dooley who is speaking not about the church, but about newspapers.

I have been thinking about the connection between psychological “affliction” and our spiritual growth. As your minister, I hope that you are all interested in your own spiritual growth, but I recognize that you may need clarification.

Spiritual growth for UUs has to do with extending ourselves beyond our comfort zone to make connections. Connections with other people, connections with our own emotions that we may have learned to suppress, connections with the natural world that we inhabit, and for some of us at least, connections with the mystery that we sense behind it all.

We have evolved over millennia as social animals. The need to connect with other human beings is in our DNA. Unfortunately, because of our tribal history, fear of the stranger is also in our DNA. All of the great faith traditions of the world have taught the need to welcome the stranger as a call to spiritual growth, a call to overcome the base instincts that we have inherited from our tribal past.

The universe is created in a way that provides an unlimited opportunity for our spiritual growth. Is the challenge to overcome our fear of the stranger an opportunity for our own spiritual growth? It may be the stranger who struggles to find a new home as a refugee from war in Syria, or it may be the stranger who lives in our neighbourhood and comes into our sanctuary on Sunday morning.

Recall that the idea of spiritual growth requires that we make a connection. Sending money to support a refugee is a very weak connection, like tolerating the presence of a stranger in our sanctuary. Some of us may be in a place where that is the only connection that we are able to risk. We are not comfortable

enough to feel that we can extend ourselves any further. That is a natural state for some people in some circumstances, but it should not be a place where we strive to remain.

In the case of refugees, their need is for financial assistance, no doubt, but there is also a powerful need for interpersonal connection. If our congregation gets seriously involved with assisting refugees, and I hope and expect that it will, we will further our own spiritual growth when we extend ourselves in a personal way, to befriend and make connections person to person. This can be difficult. Language and cultural barriers require that we experience some discomfort to make those connections.

It may be equally challenging to make meaningful connections with the stranger who comes into our sanctuary on Sunday. Generational differences, socio-economic differences, educational differences, faith differences, and health differences both mental and physical, can require that we feel some discomfort in order to make connections. Connections that are good for our mutual spiritual growth.

“Comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable.” There is an unavoidable tension built into that idea. There is no stasis, no state where we can rest, we are always seeking comfort, and at the same time seeking the discomfort that growth and change inevitably requires.

Where do you feel pulled in this inevitable tension in life? Do you feel comfortable enough in your psychological space to extend yourself to befriend the stranger? Or are you stressed and so uncomfortable with the stranger that you need space, a buffer, for your own psychological health? Only you can answer the question for any point in time, but over time you should never strive to remain in either space indefinitely.

We all have needs for the comfort of sanctuary and the challenge of the real world, and the questions it asks us. It is a delicate balance but finding that balance is the art of living a good life.

Rev. Norm Horofker

Board Buzz: There's a whole lot going on!

Fall 2015 is in full swing, and the UU church is a hive of activity as usual.



Coming up this first weekend is our **Neighbourhood Fair (or Open House)** on Saturday October 3rd from 10:00 to 1:00. It will give our neighbours and friends a chance to see all the activities that happen at 5500 Inglis Street—with food, music and bouncing thrown in.

On Sunday October 25th, the **Semi-annual General Meeting** will be held right after church. There will be important information and decisions to be made, so please mark your calendars now.



At the last Board meeting on September 17th there was a great deal of discussion about the possibility of **sponsoring a refugee family**. It seems that the CUC is already a Sponsorship Agreement Holder and is well-placed to facilitate groups who want to start the process. Please have a good look at Margaret Galbraith's article and notice of a congregational meeting on this topic.

And finally, the UU Fellowship of **Fredericton is hosting the Eastern Fall Regional Gathering** on the weekend of October 16–18, with the main event happening on the Saturday. There will be a youth component as well. All are invited to participate. The early bird registration of \$35 is due October 2nd. After that, it will cost \$60.



For more information, and to register, go to www.cuc.ca/event/hearts-and-hands.

We could organize some carpooling when we know more about who is going.

Hope to see you all at the Neighbourhood Fair on the weekend!

Molly Hurd
UUCH Board President

Also from the board room: Time to kick-off the canvass

Our small congregation continues to be an important voice in our community: whether it's as part of the Pride parade, in partnership with others on refugee initiatives, or speaking out on environmental issues. We would be missed if we weren't here. As a self-sustaining congregation we can't be here if we don't have successful pledge drives.



October is the month that we should be gearing up for our Annual Canvass. But as I write this column we DO NOT YET have someone to help organize this very important event.

There are many reasons for this. Active members are wearing several hats and don't want to take on another task. Like many other congregations, a growing proportion of our congregation has volunteered for decades and deserves the right to let others take over. We need to grow to lessen the burden. But until that happens the essential tasks still need to get done.

So I have a proposal. I can understand not wanting to take on the entire job of the 2015 Canvass. But what if I said I'd do all the announcements and update the congregation on the progress of the pledge drive? One task off the list.

And what if someone agreed to organize the Kick-off Luncheon for the first weekend of November – our very enjoyable soup day? Another task off the list.

And maybe someone could organize the list of people who need to be canvassed and break it down into groups of 5 or 6 people to be emailed to those who volunteer to be canvassers.

And someone else updates the canvass brochures.

A pledge drive by committee—but without the committee meetings; you take on a task, you do it and then let the others know. Just a suggestion. If you have a better idea, let a member of the Board know.

And if there's one task you feel up to taking on—get in touch!

Pam Berman
UUCH Board Secretary



It's report time again

The UUCH Semi-annual General Meeting will be held on October 25th as per the notice on page 2.

Committee reports are due in my Inbox before 10 am, Wednesday, Oct 14th. Early submissions would be most helpful.

- Your cooperation will enable me to:
- (1) organize the reports in the right order
 - (2) include all reports on the agenda
 - (3) email the package of reports out via UUinfo on Friday, October 16th

On the 16th I will also print a number of hard copies of the agenda and all reports and staple them together in sets. The opportunity to insert late submissions is therefore limited.

A number of SAGM packages will be available by request on Sunday the 18th, one week prior to the meeting. To minimize the use and expense of paper, anyone taking a set on the 18th might try to resist the temptation of taking a second set at the meeting.

All of the above is normal business practise. Thank you for your cooperation, everyone.

Sandra Jamieson
uuchurch@eastlink.ca

Dining for Dollars is taking a break

There were no D4\$ offerings for this time period, so we'll take a break until the New Year.

However, if anyone suddenly comes up with an idea, do let me know and we'll have a pop-up event!

A big thank-you to all who participated over the summer and September, especially our wonderful hosts and chefs.

Kay Smith

UUCH Board of Management June 2015 to May 2016

President	Molly Hurd
Vice-President	Kim Turner
Past President	Allyn Clarke
Secretary	Pam Berman
Treasurer	Michael Smith

Members at Large:
 Andy Blair
 Mia Huh
 Jim Morrison
 Faith Piccolo

Religious Exploration for Children



Religious Exploration time for children and youth is still in casual mode as we continue to play, to socialize, and have fun.

Volunteers are needed every Sunday and warmly welcomed! Please see or contact us—and join in the delight of time spent with our young ones.

Tracy Boyer
Louise Malloch



The deadline for submissions for the November newsletter is **Monday, October 26th**. Please submit to both **braeside@eastlink.ca** and **uuchurch@eastlink.ca**

UUCH as refugee sponsors



In light of the current global refugee crisis, and the plight of the Syrians in particular, the Social Responsibility Committee presented a motion to the UUCH Board at their September meeting to allow us to start investigating the possibility of our church's sponsoring a refugee family. They approved the motion, authorizing us to form a UUCH Refugee Committee with the authorization to:

1. Recruit members from within and outside of the Social Responsibility Committee for the Refugee Committee;
2. Investigate options to partner with other organizations (other regional UU congregations, or other religious and non-religious organizations) to co-sponsor refugees;
3. Hold a congregational meeting to discuss refugee sponsorship;
4. Fundraise (via pledges, etc.) for UUCH refugee sponsorship.

So let's get started! We are to bring back our tentative plan to the next Board meeting and will need a congregational vote of support at the Semi-annual Meeting before getting really started.

1. Anyone who is interested in being on the Refugee Committee please contact any member of the Social Responsibility committee: Andy Blair, Allyn Clarke, Janet Horofker, Kathy Spencer, Sylvia Mattinson or Margaret Galbraith, as soon as possible. We need a core of at least 6 to 8 to get started with our first tasks of planning the fundraising and developing a settlement plan.

However, there will be many more roles for volunteers throughout the process—the donation of time will be as important as that of money.

2. We will be investigating the options to partner with other organizations—a part of our initial planning.

3. There will be a congregational information meeting after church on October 4th, noon until 2pm. Please come!

This meeting will answer many of your questions about the whole process, what the church would be committed to, and what a Refugee Committee does. There will not be a vote at this time. There will be a meeting of the Refugee Committee directly after the Congregational meeting, so if you are interested in volunteering for it, please plan to stay on. However, if you are very interested but cannot stay on October 4th, please let us know.

4. ***Fundraising is a huge part of the commitment to sponsor a refugee family. We will need approximately \$30,000 for a family of four, much of it to be raised before we can even apply for the refugees, so it is the first and largest task.*** We will start in the UU way—asking for donations for the lunch we will provide on October 4th!

More on the main fundraising drive later.

So please start thinking about it! It is a very large project for a congregation of our size, but the plight of the people caught up in this massive humanitarian crisis calls for a response from those of us who have affirmed our collective commitment to social justice. Time to stand on the side of love.

Margaret Galbraith
for the Social Responsibility Committee



MEGAN LESLIE

ANDY FILLMORE

ALLAN BEZANSON

Values and Vision

ALL CANDIDATES FORUM
HALIFAX RIDING

OCTOBER 4 7:00 PM
ST. ANDREW'S UNITED CHURCH
6036 COBURG RD

THOMAS TRAPPENBERG

IRVINE CARVERY

MODERATED BY PAM BERMAN

WELCOMING THE STRANGER

THE REFUGEE

CARE FOR CREATION

THE ENVIRONMENT

RIGHT RELATIONS

RECONCILIATION

JOINTLY SPONSORED BY

Saint Andrew's United Church, The Universalist Unitarian Church, Saint David's Presbyterian Church, First Baptist Church, Saint John's United Church, Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Resurrection, Saint Margaret of Scotland Anglican Church, Saint Mary' Cathedral Basilica, The Halifax Shambhala Center

The Caring Column



Elizabeth Greenhavens is happy to be home from the hospital! We wish her continued recovery. She asked me to thank all the people who visited her and sent cards and flowers. Elizabeth would very much enjoy the company of visitors, but please call ahead.

Susan Stephen, a long-time UUCH member, her husband Michael Jensen, and daughter Anika are leaving Nova Scotia in early fall.

Susan, a Unitarian minister's daughter from Lincoln, Nebraska, moved to Halifax with Anika in 2006 and soon became very active in UUCH congregational life. She served three years on the board (one as president), and was Worship chair during a time when we had no minister, making the role extra onerous—all while serving as Lay Chaplain for three years and performing most impressively with the Afterchoir as vocalist and guitarist.

In 2009 Susan and her husband Michael Jensen bought Red Road Farm in Scotsburn NS where they have farmed organically and sustainably ever since. Mainly through the New Glasgow Farmer's Market, they have supplied the local population with a never-ending stream of fruit, vegetables, jams, jellies, chutneys, bread (oh, the bread!), fresh eggs, poultry and more. Anika, through Red Road Weaving Works has been creating and selling cozy wearables made of locally sourced wool. Susan and Michael have been very instrumental in the growth of the New Glasgow Farmer's Market, and were involved with the North Shore Transition Towns movement in Tatamagouche.



They are heading first to Lincoln, Nebraska to be with their aging parents and growing grandchildren. After that, Michael will return to his first career as a digital strategist in the non-profit publishing sector, and Susan is hoping to find work in food security and sustainability education.

They plan to return to Nova Scotia in their retirement years. We look forward to that—and wish them and their family well in the meantime.

They can be reached at sstephen57@gmail.com and michaeljonjensen@gmail.com

Mary Ellen Onno (Caring Chair) & Etta Hamm

And nobody had to die



Although our most recent donors have chosen to remain anonymous, we want to tell you that we have had another \$5,000 added to the Endowment Fund.

This particular couple said they don't have UUCH in their wills, so this is their way of ensuring that the church they care about carries on. We have been talking about the rewriting of wills to include the UUCH Endowment Fund but this is a very good alternative way of contributing.

This brings the Fund to just over \$36,000. We are more than a third of our way to \$100,000 and nobody had to die to get to this point. Isn't that marvelous?

Your Endowment Trustees

Marilyn Shinyei, Kay Smith & Paul Galbraith

On Grace, from the October Theme Magazine

Gratitude is the wellspring of human grace. To know that we are blessed is to know that we have grace to offer. We become bestowers of grace. We do this when we give without regard to what we will receive in return (sometimes not so much as a thank-you). We are bestowers of grace when we do not count the cost, when we see another's openness and guide them gently to what they are able to receive. We are bestowers of grace whenever we engage in "senseless acts of kindness and random acts of beauty."

~ Karen Gustafson ~



Music Montage

*"Our world is full of noises, but by organizing sound in a structured way,
we can create sweet airs that give delight" ~ Berthold Carriere*



A recent UUCH choir of enthusiastic Music Project participants.

October's 'Singing as We Gather'

The Gathering Hymn for this month is #126 *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*. This hymn helps us celebrate October's theme of 'Grace'. It suggests we pay attention to the many ways in which we find unexpected grace in our lives and, most especially, that we can play a large role in the grace that befalls others. *"Come thou fount of every blessing, tune our hearts to sing thy grace. Streams of mercy never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise."* is the first line, and from the last verse *"Come thou fount of inspiration, turn our lives to higher ways...Help us bind ourselves in union, help our hands tell of our love..."*

Upcoming Music Projects

To reiterate, I am taking a new approach to music participation this church year, which consist of music projects, rather than an ongoing choir. These projects are linked to the monthly themes that Rev. Horofker and many other Canadian UU churches are using. I hope you will take the opportunity to participate in the individual music projects that fit with your schedule and interest. I welcome singers, instrumentalists, and percussionists of every age and stage to join in our joyful noise!

*You may still participate in the **October 4th** music project* by arriving by 9:30 am (9:45 am at the latest) on that Sunday morning for a final run-through.

For November's theme of Integrity, the Music Project will take place on Sunday, November 8th. November is also the month in which we celebrate our church's 178th anniversary, so the two pieces I have chosen fit well with both our monthly theme, and our continued commitment to this very special church community.

The first piece is called *Take Up the Song*. We have occasionally sung this as a hymn in past years, so I will be encouraging the congregation to sing along with the joyful chorus.

The second piece is a wonderful number called *Life Calls Us On*. Both the music and the message are inspiring and uplifting. Rehearsal opportunities for the November Music Project follow.

Sunday, Oct 11th, at 9:45 am *and* noon
Sunday, Oct 18th, at 9:45 am *and* noon (upstairs)
Sunday, Oct 25th, at 9:45 am (upstairs) *and* at noon
Sunday, Nov 1st, at 9:45 am *only*
Sunday, Nov 8th, at 9:30 am (or 9:45 am if you can't
get there earlier) for final run-through

As of the beginning of October (my first service was Thanksgiving Sunday), I'm delighted to be starting my 9th year as Music Director for this wonderful church. I am very grateful and appreciative for all the support and encouragement I continue to receive.

Deborah Wiggins

Music Director

uuchmusic@yahoo.ca, 902-463-0988

Adventures in UUCH website land

It was apparent in early 2014 that there were serious problems with our old website. Wietske Gradstein pushed for something to be done. In March 2014, Rev. Norm Horofker assembled a “Web Presence Task Group” to consider how to proceed. Nancy Wingfield provided a valuable assessment, but the task force did not meet until later.

In September 2014, Norm Horofker, Molly Hurd and Andy Blair met with Jeff White, a primary contact for the website. He recommended we develop a totally new website using modern software, and that we employ Adam Carey, a local independent website contractor. Adam began work on the initial website template and presented his ideas to the task force in November. After receiving ideas for tweaking the website, Adam met with us again in early December. At this meeting, Devin Murphy and I were designated the new “Web Weavers” and were charged with helping Adam to finalize the new design and to provide initial content for the pages.

Devin and I met with Adam in January 2015 and made many design decisions. Development work continued through the winter.

In March, the old website was seriously hacked and had to be taken off-line. It was temporarily replaced with a bare-bones web page with basic information only.

Work on the new site continued into the spring. In early May Adam put on a training session for those who would be updating various sections of the site, and the new website was launched on May 12th.

Many contributed to this project. In addition to those mentioned above we wish to thank Helen McFadyen, Paul Menard, Avard Woolaver, Tracy Boyer, Janet Horofker, Christy-Lee Bojarski, Deborah Wiggins and others who contributed ideas and feedback.

One objective for the website was to have members learn a new skill: “maintaining a web site”—to provide more depth in our web presence team and a more dynamic and current website. Adam has prepared a series of training videos and he remains as a resource for anyone needing help with applying this training. A certain level of initiative and persistence is required, but if this is a skill you would like to acquire or a way that you would like to contribute, please contact Devin, Rev. Norm, or me.

Paul Galbraith

www.uuch.ca



Visitors, newcomers,
neighbours,
the larger community,
the curious,
members and friends,
YOU

can learn more about
the Universalist Unitarian
Church of Halifax at

www.uuch.ca

READ UP ON OUR

mission statement
our history
our minister
religious ed. for children
Sunday services
sermons (also listen)
music
programs
committees and groups
social action
events
newsletters
historical building
space availability
lay chaplain services
weddings
memorial services
and so much more!



www.uuch.ca

Web Weavers
Paul Galbraith Devin Murphy

The pathway of art: An invitation from the Ballroom Gallery Committee

Keep on making art no matter how difficult it is... unless it kills you, and then you know you have gone too far.
Alice Neel, 1900-1984



Are you secretly toying with the idea of showing your art or your fantastic photography in our elegant Ballroom Gallery? If you have shown before, you know the satisfaction of sharing your art, and the thoughtful reflection it brings to others.

If you have *not* shown with us before, might this lovely season of beauty and freshness inspire you to set out on a whole new pathway? An art-filled pathway? A pathway strewn with colour and texture, with darkness and light? A way to express some of those interesting artsy ideas that are stuck in your head? Aren't you already brimming over with ideas that you're itching to translate into art? Mine your depths. Everything is already there.

A future exhibit (of undetermined scheduling) could be driven by you, dear reader (church member or not). ***You*** let your imagination free; ***you*** come up with ***your*** vision, ***your*** ideas, instead of a theme coming from us. The committee will consider ***your proposal***, and together we'll see what we can make happen, and when.

As for any gallery, the following is required for showing in the Ballroom Gallery: Please let the Committee (through Ella Wilson) know ***in writing*** what your collection is about; your medium, size of pieces, and how many pieces you want to show. This enables the committee to organize a cohesive, professional looking exhibit. It determines space requirements—and informs how your pieces may complement those of other exhibitors in a group show. It helps us show your art to its best advantage, and prevents the last-minute disappointment of having one of your pieces not fit in. Let us consider teamwork, clear communication, and mutual respect ***a spiritual practise.***

The duration of an exhibit is generally two months. Two or more artists may share an exhibit, and we welcome group shows. Members will find Ella listed in the church directory. Others can make contact through the church office.

Etta Hamm
for the Ballroom Gallery Committee

Sunday Service Volunteers

Oct 4

Greeting Wietske Gradstein
Anne Knight-Gorman
Ushering Andy Blair (e), Janet Horofker (l)
Kitchen Stephen Butler, Devin Murphy (set-up)
Anne Knight-Gorman (clean-up)
Audio Devin Murphy
Library Alison Chipman

Oct 11

Greeting Alison Chipman, Sass Minard
Ushering Wendy Ozon (e), Dean White (l)
Kitchen Stephen Butler
Louise Malloch (set-up)
Sass Minard (clean-up)
Audio Avard Woolaver
Library Anne Knight-Gorman

Oct 18

Greeting Michael Seary, Mary Spurr
Ushering Eileen Ross (e)
Margaret and Paul Galbraith (l)
Kitchen Stephen Butler, Paul Galbraith (set-up)
Kathy Spencer (clean-up)
Audio Paul Galbraith
Library Stephen Butler

Oct 25

Greeting Sandra Clarke, Sylvia Mattinson
Ushering Kay Smith, Kathy Anthony (e)
Sylvia Mattinson (l)
Kitchen Stephen Butler, Nick B-J. (set-up)
Stephen Butler (clean-up)
Audio Nick Baros-Johnson
Library Alison Chipman

To join the Sunday Service Support Team,
please contact Wietske Gradstein: 902-835-9272

To these wonderful people, we say ...



G.A., eh? – Why Canadian Unitarian Universalists Should Attend UUA General Assembly (at least once)

Canadian Unitarian Universalist congregations are *not* part of the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations (UUA); our umbrella group is the Canadian Unitarian Council (CUC) which has its own annual meeting and conference for delegates representing our 50 congregations in Canada.

General Assembly (often simply coined, “GA”) is the annual business meeting and convention of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA). It is a huge, sophisticated annual event held alternately in a major city within one of the five UUA districts. Attendees worship, witness, learn, connect, and make policy for the Association. Canadian UUs are welcome to attend GA despite that it is more compelling for Americans who are conducting denominational business.

Canadian Unitarian Universalists remain in relationship with the UUA by virtue of the fact that several processes continue to be their purview: the ministry credentialing process, curricula and programming (like OWL) and our books and hymnals published by Beacon Press, to name a few.

What would a Canadian get out of GA?

The GA schedule is packed full of things to do aside from the business of the plenary sessions. GA presents a wonderful opportunity to network and meet new and interesting people who share a common bond: Unitarian Universalism. General Assembly is a well-organized get-together that is affordable by most conference standards. With over 450 events taking place from morning ‘till night over 5 days, any Canadian who skips the UUA business meetings will still have *plenty* to do! Highlights include:

- High caliber workshops on a range of topics and issues of interest to Unitarian Universalists.
- Ware Lecturer (previous presenters include Cornell West, Mary Oliver, Stephen Lewis, Linus Pauling and Martin Luther King Jr.)
- Amazing, pumped-up worship services attended by several thousand Unitarian Universalists...and smaller meditation gatherings, drum circles and so on.
- Exhibition Hall houses hundreds of vendors and representatives from special interest groups which offer information, give freebies, and sell incredible books, art, music, clothing, etc. (flaming chalice swag is available in every form)
- Children and youth programming is fabulous!
- Accessibility services are available and include priority accommodation, electric scooters, magnifiers, hearing loops and other devices.

Expect ramps, captioning, seat cut-outs and more.

- Epic Banner Parade with amazing music!
- Yearly GA Public Witness event brings thousands together in solidarity over an urgent social justice issue of the host region.
- Music! Join the GA choir (hundred-plus people) under professional direction, sing at big worship services. Others enjoy evening sings and other music events.
- Food and fellowship: There are special theme dinners and hospitality events, an onsite internet café, evening entertainment, dances, and concerts.
- Reflection groups and meet-ups: Connect with people, brainstorm ideas, make friends.



Why should Canadians attend General Assembly at least once?

General Assembly will recharge your liberal faith batteries. It is all about networking, discovering what others are passionate about, and sharing new ways and ideas for living our faith. There is something for every philosophical, intellectual, social, and spiritual interest. GA is enthusiastic and empowering, sometimes reminiscent of a pep-rally.

My advice? Go to General Assembly at least once. Plan ahead. Consider booking alternative accommodation outside the convention hub (try *Airbnb*, or the *UUrehome* online bed & breakfast directory). Grants are available to help with registration costs. A side benefit is that you can explore a new city and region, even extend your stay for a holiday.

The next (2016) General Assembly will take place in Columbus, Ohio. But perhaps UUCH members and friends could all save their pennies and plan to attend GA 2017 in *New Orleans, Louisiana* so we can cheer on Rev. Norm Horofker who will be celebrated at the Service of the Living Tradition upon attaining Final Fellowship.

Coverage of GA 2015, on-demand video, text for the major events, and handouts and other presentation materials can be found on the UUA website: www.uua.org/ga/virtual/2015.

Rev. Helen McFadyen

Our congregation in the summertime



Some of the members and friends of our congregation taken on Sunday, September 20th. Thanks to Avard Woolaver for his professional photographic skills, and his ability to have this many Universalist Unitarians stand still together at the same time for a few minutes.



Christy Lee and family visited with Sebastian.



The Afterchoir played to Sunday arrivals and the passing public.

and more ...



Tony Turner sang for us



Karen and David hosted a D4\$ dinner



Sandra enjoyed a hike and picnic



Andy & family 'did Pride'



Rev. Beth Miller visited



We celebrated Dean's big eight-oh



Margaret rustled up a D4\$ dinner at the cottage



Rev. Norm spoke with the children on Ingathering Sunday



Marilyn made jams for the bazaar

These are just a few of the good times our church community enjoyed over the far-too-short summer months—but the fall is crisp and invigorating as we keep on making memories in one another's company during this wonderful time to be alive. Thank you to Avard Woolaver, Faye Mingo and Marilyn Shinyei for these pics.

