



newsletter of the universalist unitarian church of halifax

Vol. 50, No 10  
June 2016

Universalist Unitarian  
Church of Halifax  
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Music Director

David Ballum-Haftka  
Interim RE Director

Molly Hurd  
President  
Newsletter  
Etta Hamm  
Sylvia Mattinson  
Sandra Jamieson

**Sunday service  
10:30 am**

All are welcome

Children & Youth Education  
Child care available



## ***Theme for June — Revelry***

### **June 5**

Presenters: Tom Christmas and Debbie Eisan from the Mi'kmaq Friendship Centre;  
Service Leader: Rev. Norm Horofker

#### ***Reconciliation and traditional spiritual practices***

We welcome two leaders from the First Nations people of Nova Scotia for a special service. Before reconciliation we must learn and respect each other's traditions. Today we begin by learning more about the spirituality of the First Nations peoples.

### **June 12**

Presenter: Rev. Norm Horofker; Service Assistant: TBA

#### ***Should you make space for revelry in your life?***

For some of us Revelry and Spirituality sound incompatible. But revelry is part of religious practice in many faith traditions. Today we will look at the Jewish celebration of Purim as a way to reflect on our own understanding of revelry as a spiritual practice.

### **June 19**

Presenter: David Ballum-Haftka; Service Assistant: Louise Malloch

#### ***Our year-end multi-generational service***

During this multi-generational service the children and youth in the Religious Exploration Programme will share highlights of the themes and values we have considered throughout the year. Courtney Zylstra of the SPCA and Ardra Cole from ElderDog Canada will also make presentations, emphasizing our shared values and supporting our overlying theme of kindness and respect for all living things.

### **June 26**

Presenters: Robin Humphrey; Service Assistant: Marilyn Shinyei

#### ***Finding everyday refuge in the everyday revelry of life***

Robin says, "I was born in England and through the wonderful tapestry of cause and effect, I find myself in 'New Scotland'. I believe there is no faith but the faith we make. My great work is one of "troublesplaining" (and making words up)."

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

## June 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<b>1</b> 4:45-6:15 pm Afterchoir	<b>2</b> 9:30-11:30 am Parents & Tots	<b>3</b> RE Film Night Downstairs	<b>4</b> 1:30-3:30 Service Leader Training
<b>5</b> 9:45 am Choir  12 pm Worship Committee	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 4:45-6:15 pm Afterchoir	<b>9</b> 9:30-11:30 am Parents & Tots	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> Hike to Prospect High Head
<b>12</b> 9:30 am Choir  12 pm Social Responsibility	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> 4:45-6:15 pm Afterchoir	<b>16</b> 9:30-11:30 am Parents & Tots  6:30 Board Meeting	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> No choir  <b>Church Picnic</b>  12 Noon Humanist Group	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> 4:45-6:15 pm Afterchoir	<b>23</b> 9:30-11:30 am Parents & Tots	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> DUP 4-10pm
<b>26</b> No choir  12 pm Intro to Uuism with Rev. Norm	<b>27</b> <b>10 am Newsletter Deadline</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> 4:45-6:15 pm Afterchoir	<b>30</b> 9:30-11:30 am Parents & Tots		

### Annual UUCH Picnic

**Sunday, June 19**

**11:30 am to 2 pm**

There will be lots of tasty POTLUCK food brought in by us UUers (don't wait to be asked, just bring it on!) fantastic summertime music by the Afterchoir, fun and games for children of all ages including the Bouncy Castle and *revelry* abounding. Fingers crossed for warm sunshine. If not, no rain date; we'll have indoor fun.

Please contribute as you are able, including potluck fare, AND VOLUNTEER TASKING on the day, such as food service & clean-up, setting up and running fun & games, providing or suggesting equipment, props, ideas, etc.

Let's have two or three volunteers planning and working together as 'directors' to assure some order.  
Contact Allyn and he will put you in touch with each other. THANKS!



# *Minister's Notes*



## *Notes from the Canadian Unitarian Council's National Meeting and Conference Vancouver, May 2016*

I am writing from my dorm room at the UBC campus following the closing ceremonies of the CUC's National Meeting... oh the pressures of newsletter deadlines!

It has been a joyous experience here. Marilyn Shinyei, Glenda Butt and I represented the Halifax congregation during this three-day event. This year for the first time delegates were able to participate in the Annual Meeting via the internet and Margaret Galbraith was able to participate as a delegate and offer virtual attendance to other members of UUCH from her home in Halifax.

I thought I would use my Newsletter Notes this month to pass on some of the thoughts and impressions that will stay with me.

1) Our national organization is extremely well run with very capable leadership. Glenda Butt has done a sterling job leading this team over the past two years. She has now completed her term as President of the CUC, doing Halifax proud!

2) The business meeting was actually one of the highlights of the weekend for me. The CUC Board is well focussed on its priorities and the staff are putting those priorities into action.

3) The long audit by the Canadian Revenue Agency of the CUC is now essentially behind us. We were required to make some changes to our Statement of Charitable Purposes, that were approved at the meeting.

4) The CUC adopted a new Vision Statement after two years of work that included congregational meetings from Victoria to Halifax. I cannot do justice to this inspirational document here, but you will be hearing much more in the near future.

5) The Board continues its work to replace the per-member fee that presently funds much of the CUC's activities. There was much spirited discussion but no resolution at this meeting. I am optimistic that next year we will adopt a new method of determining each congregation's contribution that will do away with the per-member fee, a process that has a negative impact on the process of adding new members.

6) There was a healthy and enthusiastic turn-out of UU Youth. We need to get more UUCH young people participating in future years.

7) There were extremely powerful workshops with First Nations elders that provided insight into the difficult work that we as UUs have to do to get our own house in order to be a part of the Reconciliation process.

8) Sunday worship in the magnificent Chan Centre at UBC was spectacular... talk about feeling proud to be a UU!

9) Halifax failed to earn a Blue Ribbon Award as a supporter of the UU-United Nations Office for the first time in many years. The UU-UNO is a significant voice for us at the heart of the activities of the United Nations. We owe it to ourselves and to Valerie and Colin who have led this initiative for many years, to renew our support for this important agency.

10) To reduce costs and environmental impact, the CUC Annual Meeting is becoming a semi-annual event. The next Annual Conference will be in Hamilton in 2018. Think about being a delegate. It is a wonderful experience.

This is the last newsletter before my summer break. It also marks the end of my fourth year serving the Halifax congregation. Your Board and your Committee on Shared Ministry will be submitting reports to the credentialing committee that I hope will result in my Full and Final Fellowship as UU minister in 2017.

I will be using the summer to plan how I can best serve you beginning again in September. Thank you all for the opportunity to be your minister.

***Rev. Norm Horofker***

## The Caring Column



**Nancy (Prosser) Ladd Meinertzhagen** died at her home in Halifax on May 6th after a long struggle with progressive supranuclear palsy, a pernicious neurological disorder. She was 74. She moved to Nova Scotia and joined the Halifax Grammar School in 1981 where she taught English and coached drama for nearly 30 years. She was a born Unitarian and a longtime member of the Universalist Unitarian Church of Halifax. Throughout her illness, Nancy kept her sense of humour, welcomed friends from far and near and remained as active as possible. She will be missed by many. A celebration of her life will be held at the Meinertzhagen Theatre of the Halifax Grammar School on **Sunday, May 29th at 3 pm**. We send heartfelt condolences to her husband Ian and their son Stephen and his family.

**Katherine Morris** (James and Kim's daughter) is graduating from the International Baccalaureate program at the Halifax Grammar School, and will study Kinesiology at Acadia University starting in the fall. She received a total of three scholarships for academic achievements. Congratulations, Katherine!



Katherine's brother Patrick just completed his third year in Acadia's Business program—good for him too!

**Mary Ellen Onno**

## Hike to Prospect High Head Saturday, June 11

This month's hike will be to the new Nature Reserve at Prospect High Head. This trail takes us to view eight different habitats as well as spectacular views over Shad Bay. The Nature Conservatory has built boardwalks over the muddy sections of the trail from the trailhead to the Prospect High Head. The trail beyond still has muddy stretches but the views are worth it.



UUs on this hike in 2013

We will meet at the church at 12:15. We can car pool at the Park 'n Ride lot at the intersection of the Prospect and St Margaret Bay roads at 12:30. Otherwise meet at the end of Hages Lane in Prospect Village. To get to Hages Lane, follow Prospect Road and turn left on the Prospect Bay Road in the direction of Prospect. Enter the Prospect Village subdivision by turning right on Seligs Road, then left on Jamils Road then right on Hages Lane. Call me at 902-483-4731 if you are lost or running late.

**Allyn Clarke**

**DEADLINE**

The deadline for submissions  
for the July newsletter is  
**10 am, Monday, June 27th.**  
Please submit to both  
[braeside@eastlink.ca](mailto:braeside@eastlink.ca)  
and  
[uuchurch@eastlink.ca](mailto:uuchurch@eastlink.ca)

## A whole other Syrian refugee story with a UUCH connection

From Molly Hurd

Pictured L-R: Sarah, Anwar, Safaa, Rajaa, Noor, Lona, Sharifa



On a rainy Sunday evening in May a heartwarming reunion of sorts took place at my house. Two groups of newcomers to Halifax who had never met, but who share a hometown in Syria, a religion and a cultural background, gathered for a Canadian/Syrian dinner and discovered they have even more in common than they thought. Sharifa, Noor, Anwar, Sarah and Lona—the female contingent from the refugee group sponsored by UUCH—came to meet Rajaa and Safaa Bou Yahya, two sisters that Lars and I are sponsoring under a “Group of Five” sponsorship.

Both families come from Sowaida, a large city in southern Syria, about 100 km from Damascus. They are both from the Druze community but are non-practicing. As Safaa explained to me, “Only some people go to the mosque, but many don’t.” It seems that with the addition of these two families, the Druze population of Halifax has almost doubled!

It took about 5 minutes for them to establish that their “villages” (suburbs) are about 10 minutes apart, and that Rajaa and Safaa's cousin is married into Sharifa's family. Lots of news, advice, and stories were exchanged, and there are plans to get together again soon. We played “pass the baby”, and Rajaa and Safaa were delighted to chat with 3 year-old Sarah who proudly showed us how she can count to 10 in English. We ate salmon, tabouli, fava bean salad and a Syrian green salad—one thing we have learned is that our guests are excellent cooks!

In Halifax since February, the Althyab family is settling in well, with all the adults taking English lessons, Diyaa (Noor's husband) working, and the children enrolled in school. Anwar is in Grade 4 at Duc d'Anville and Sarah is attending pre-school three days per week. I'm sure they were filling Rajaa and Safaa's heads with snow horror stories, but they seem to be appreciating the warmer weather now.

Rajaa and Safaa are in quite a different situation. Although the Group of Five sponsorship was officially unconnected to UUCH, the applications for both groups were made around the same time, and we received lots of help and advice from the UUCH sponsorship group. Rajaa and Safaa arrived on May 19, and are living with us while they look for their own apartment. They are both seasoned journalists, working with two different Syrian news agencies collecting reports from inside Syria and publishing them on websites. Since their work is completely online, they can work from anywhere, and will continue to receive their salaries here. Their situation in Istanbul became precarious when some of the journalists they worked with were kidnapped from inside Turkey, so they are appreciating the safety of Halifax.

We are still benefitting from the experience of the UUCH group as we help Safaa and Rajaa settle in. They have already got many of the documents they need, and are busy organizing bank accounts, telephone service, and learning about the transit system. They are keen to start taking English classes, although their English is already at a pretty high level.

Safaa and Rajaa look forward to coming to church to meet the community. Look out for them on a Sunday.

## *Music Montage*

*"The music of the spheres.  
A harmonious universe – like a harp.  
It's rhythms are the equal, repeated seasons.  
The beating of the heart.  
Day/night.  
The going and returning of migratory birds.  
The cycles of stars and corn.  
The mimosa that unfolds by day  
and folds up again by night.  
Rhythms of moon and tide.  
One single rhythm in planets, atoms, sea,  
And apples that ripen and fall,  
and in the mind of Newton.  
Melody, accord, arpeggios  
The harp of the universe.  
Unity behind apparent multiplicity.  
That is the music." ~ Ernesto Cardinal*

### **June's 'Singing as We Gather'**

The Gathering Hymn for June is #319 *Ye Earthbound Children of a Star*. This hymn bids us look beyond what "you have wrought within your little time" and "look out, with awe, upon the art of countless living things... seek deeper still within your souls, and sense the wonder there" and finally to "be glad to be alive". This hymn delights us with its new melody, and inspires us with its lyrics to celebrate our lives.

### **Monthly Music Projects**

To participate in the June 12th Music Project, attend a 9:45 am rehearsal on Sunday, June 5th and a 9:30 am rehearsal on Sunday, June 12th.

There will be no Music Projects in July and August. However, if you are interested in joining a 'musical road trip' during the summer to sing for those who are not getting out to church, let me know and you will be included in any plans.

Also, read the August newsletter for our new church year start-up dates and times. I am feeling blessed as I look forward to starting my tenth year as your Music Director this fall.

**Deborah Wiggins**  
**Music Director**

## *Religious Exploration*



As I write we are preparing for our visit to the SPCA Provincial Shelter, and if you are reading this on May 29th or 30th, the trip will have already occurred. I can only hope that it went flawlessly!

Our plans were to tour the shelter and learn how the SPCA cares for and finds homes for stray and unwanted pets. Plans also included the opportunity for the children to hang out in the "cat room" and pet cats and kittens to their hearts' content, or choose a dog or two and take them for a walk outdoors, or play with them in the indoor playroom. Thank you to the following for driving us to and from the shelter and helping to supervise the children: Kay Smith, David Morris, Avard Woolaver and Heather Ritchie. The trip would not have been possible without this support.

June will also be a busy month as we wrap-up RE for the summer. Our final multi-generational service and annual picnic will be on June 19th, and our farewell lesson on the 26th. Our presenters will be Courtney Zylstra from the SPCA, and Ardra Cole from ElderDog Canada.

During July and August we will continue to offer childcare, as well as informal, supervised activities for our children and youth.

My interim position as DRE ends at the end of June. The RE Committee will presently conduct a search for a permanent director, and we anticipate having the new person begin their term by mid-August. It has been a great experience for me to serve in this role for the past nine months.

As always, I thank all of the volunteers who support the RE program, both in the classroom and behind the scenes. Many thanks also to the Rev. Norm, for his unwavering support throughout the year. I wish them all, children, youth and volunteers, the very best as they continue their adventures in Religious Exploration

**David Ballum-Haftka**

## Food for thought



### 1001 ways to creativity Ballroom Gallery, May 2016

You may not be a Picasso or a Mozart, but you don't have to be. Just create to create. Create to remind yourself you're still alive. Make stuff to inspire others to make something too. Create to learn a bit more about yourself.

*"The artist is a receptacle for emotions that come from all over the place, from the sky, from the earth, from a scrap of paper, from a passing shape, from a spider's web."* Pablo Picasso.

*"The real voice of discovery lies not in finding new lands, but in seeing with new eyes."* Marcel Proust

We're all the children of Mother Nature's creativity. Evolution shaped every living thing through countless experiments, and human beings are just one of its field tests.

*"Creative work is not a selfish act or a bid for attention on the part of the actor. It's a gift to the world and every being in it. Don't cheat us of your contribution. Give us what you've got."* Stephen Pressfield.

Anything done with love and enthusiasm is done well.

What you create with your heart will touch the hearts of others. That which you don't, won't.

**Ella Wilson**

## Notes for your church directory

### New and/or corrected info:

ASHWORTH, Colleen\*  
colleen123@ns.sympatico.ca 902-492-3248

CONNOR, Cynthia\* 209–5293 Green Street

LEHR, Brian brianlehr9@gmail.com

MATTINSON, Sylvia\* viasyl100@gmail.com

### New and/or returned people:

COVINGTON, Nancy\*  
nancy.covington@ns.sympatico.ca

LINDENER, Margo\*  
and mother Gertrude Lindener-Stawski  
indigomargo@gmail.com 902-423-4785  
5908 Pine Hill Crescent  
Halifax, NS B3H 1E5

MATTHEWS, Margaret  
margaretmatthews@eastlink.ca 902-449-5526  
5526 Falkland St.  
Halifax, NS B3K 1A3

McDONALD, Brian  
bjmcd1961@gmail.com  
H: 902-422-4866 C: 902-817-5904  
215–50 Nelson's Landing Blvd.  
Bedford, NS B4A 4K3

RUSSELL, Bob  
brussell1943@gmail.com

*BTW, there is ample space  
for new names at the back of  
your directory.*



## Sunday Service Volunteers

### June 5

Greeting  
Ushering  
Kitchen

Audio  
Library

Carol Anne Cox, Anne Knight-Gorman  
Brian McDonald (e), Janet Horofker (l)  
Devin Murphy, Stephen Butler (set-up)  
Stephen Butler (clean-up)  
Devin Murphy  
TBF

### June 12

Greeting  
Ushering  
Kitchen  
up)

Audio  
Library

Tracy Boyer & helper, Kathy Anthony  
Dean White (e), Dean White (l)  
Louise Malloch, Stephen Butler (set-up)  
Kathy Spencer (clean-up)  
Avard Woolaver  
Anne Knight-Gorman

### June 19

Greeting  
Ushering

Kitchen

Audio  
Library

Sandra Clarke, Sylvia Mattinson  
Eileen Ross (e)  
Margaret Galbraith, Paul Galbraith (l)  
Paul Galbraith, Stephen Butler (set-up)  
Stephen Butler (clean-up)  
Paul Galbraith  
Alison Chipman

### June 27

Greeting  
Ushering

Kitchen  
up)

Audio  
Library

Wietske Gradstein, TBF  
Kay Smith, Kathy Anthony (e)  
Sylvia Mattinson, Shripad Pendse (l)  
Nick Baros-Johnson, Stephen B (set-up)  
Kathy Spencer (clean-up)  
Nick Baros-Johnson  
Shripad Pendse

*To join the Sunday Service Support Team  
please contact Wietske Gradstein  
at 902-835-9272*

## The grass is growing!

I don't know how it is in your yard, but today in my yard the dandelion and forsythia yellows are being replaced by the lush green of a fresh new lawn. It is SPRING! I have called Doug Fevens to see if he is ready to get the UUCH lawnmowers going, hoping that by the time you read this, our lawns have been mown at least once.



One of the good things of our old Inglis Street abode is that congregants are given the glorious opportunity of spending at least, but unfortunately probably at most ONE day in the summertime communing with our lawns. If last years' experience with our lawns caused you some frustration, it is our objective to not to have that happen this time around.

I expect very soon to hear from **every** able bodied Halifax UU with the answers to the following questions:

- What is your name and contact information?
- During which part of the summer do you want to be contacted if the lawns need mowing?
- Do you prefer communing with the lawns by yourself, or would you like to work with a buddy?

Spring has sprung! I am so happy.

*Wietske Gradstein  
wietske@ns.sympatico.ca  
902-835-9272*

## **What do we tell people?**



*Here are a few quick and easy facts we can tell people who ask about our church or denomination.*

“We are a congregation with a long history in Halifax, beginning more than 175 years ago as a small Universalist Church. More than fifty years ago the Unitarian designation was added and we became the Universalist Unitarian Church of Halifax located in our present building. We are the only UU congregation in Nova Scotia and the most eastern in Canada.

“Members come from a variety of backgrounds and walks of life and total about 90. Many of our members have previously been members of other religious denominations, usually Christian, but some have no previous affiliation.

“There may be almost as many theological viewpoints within our congregation as there are members. We come together primarily to celebrate shared principles and values, for a sense of community and fellowship, for the intellectual stimulation, for spiritual growth, for meditation, for music, and to support and encourage social action. For most members, these varied objectives are not considered contradictory or mutually exclusive.

“All age groups are represented in our congregation and we have an active Religious Exploration Program for children.

“We are a designated Welcoming Congregation that welcomes and supports GLBTQ members.”

*These facts written for our new church website are but a few of the many you could use, but they are ways to start.*

*You might also pick up several “What UUs Believe” folding cards from our pamphlet rack by the front door to give to enquirers, as you invite them to church.*



**June 21, 2016  
20th Anniversary of  
National Aboriginal Day**