



Newsletter of the  
Universalist Unitarian Church of Halifax

Vol. 52, No 6  
February 2018

***Theme for February 2018 – Interdependence***

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Minister  
Office Hours  
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Sandra Jamieson  
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Mon, Wed, Fri 10-3  
(lunch 12-1)  
Deborah Wiggins  
Music Director

RE Director  
Tanya Bilsbury

Kim Turner  
President

Newsletter  
Etta Hamm  
Sylvia Mattinson  
Sandra Jamieson

**Sunday service**  
**10:30 am**

All are welcome

Children & Youth Education  
Child care available

**February 4**

***Interdependence as a Statement of Faith***

We all live in a state of tension between a desire for independence and a sometimes grudging recognition of our interdependence. What does it mean to see interdependence as a statement of Unitarian Universalist Faith?

Presenter: Rev. Norm Horofker; Service Assistant: Carole McCarville

**February 11**

***Sharing our Faith Sunday***

On this day we look at Unitarian Universalism as a national and international religious movement, knowing that our religious movement cannot survive without recognizing and acting upon our interdependence with UUs around the world.

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

**February 18**

***Where and When do we Learn to Love?***

Love is the doctrine of our church... so begins an often used UU doxology. In a global village linked by social media, where do our children learn to love?

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

**February 25**

***Interdependence from an Anglican Perspective:***

Dave Puxley is an Anglican priest, currently a chaplain at the VG Hospital and a colleague and a friend of our minister. Among many talents, Dave plays guitar and has participated twice in our Blue Christmas service. Dave is a student of philosophy who will surprise you.

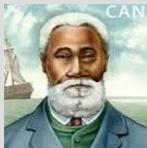
Presenter: Rev. David Puxley; Service Leader: Rev. Norm Horofker

Our Theme for next month (March): **Risk**

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.



## February 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 Black History Month				<b>1</b> 9:30-11:30 am Parents & Tots Noon Tai Chi  7 pm Interfaith Service at UUCH	<b>2</b> 	<b>3</b> 10–noon UU Brunch
<b>4</b> 9:30 am Choir 12 pm Worship Comm.	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 4:45-6:15 pm Afterchoir	<b>8</b> 9:30-11:30 am Parents & Tots Noon Tai Chi	<b>9</b>  <b>7 – 10 pm Coffeehouse</b>	<b>10</b> 10–noon UU Brunch
<b>11</b> 9:30 am Choir	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>  4:45-6:15 pm Afterchoir	<b>15</b> 9:30-11:30 am Parents & Tots Noon Tai Chi 6:30 Board Meeting	<b>16</b>  Chinese New Year	<b>17</b> 10–noon UU Brunch
<b>18</b> 9:30 am Choir  Noon: Intro to UUism with Rev. Norm	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 4:45-6:15 pm Afterchoir	<b>22</b> 9:30-11:30 am Parents & Tots Noon Tai Chi	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 10–noon UU Brunch  Hike: Crystal Crescent Beach
<b>25</b> 9:30 Choir  Noon: R.E. Committee	<b>26</b> 10 am Newsletter deadline	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 4:45-6:15 pm Afterchoir			

### **Annual Winter Warm-Up Coffeehouse Friday, February 9<sup>th</sup>**

Our Annual Winter Warm-Up Coffeehouse is just around the corner now, so I expect that the date is on your calendar. As usual, it runs from 7 to 10 pm, with a free-will offering at the door. Please bring pot luck finger food to share, and be sure to invite your friends and family for some wonderful midwinter fellowship.

If you wish to share some music, poetry, dance, comedy, a skit, or other talent, for the family-friendly line-up, you need to let me know very soon, as I compile a program in advance. It will be wonderful to see you all there!

***Deborah Wiggins  
Music Director***



# Minister's Notes

I am back from a 5-day retreat sponsored by the Unitarian Universalist Minister's Association. This event is called "The Institute" and is held every three years. This year it was held in Palm Harbor outside of Tampa. There were over 350 ministers in attendance from across the continent. It was a time to meet and share with colleagues and a time to study in one of the many seminars offered.

I recognize that it is a great privilege to be able to attend events like this, and I feel an equally great responsibility to share with you and to apply what I have learned. I believe much of the programming and worship service material will be available on line, and I hope to be able to share some of it during Sunday services in the months ahead.

At the Institute, I chose to participate in the stream called "Think Like a Filmmaker: Sensory-Rich Worship Design for Unforgettable Messages", presented by Marcia McFee Ph.D. Over three days Dr. McFee talked about and demonstrated techniques to improve the experience of Sunday worship, by appealing to the many different ways we learn and the many different personality types that make up a diverse congregation. I came away with many ideas that I hope to implement in the months ahead. (Dr. McFee cautioned us to go slow when making changes, so don't worry about anything radical happening overnight.)

I have felt for some time that we need more involvement from members of the congregation in planning our Sunday services; these seminars have strengthened that conviction. The first step in that process for me will be to start planning services further in advance. That will be good news to Deborah, Tanya, Avard and Etta among many others (including Janet).

How will I plan further in advance with a service due every week, you might ask? Well, the Institute was one big event in my professional life this winter, and my planned sabbatical leave in March is the second. I plan to use my Sabbatical to change the way I prepare for Sunday services. This will include a better opportunity for you to participate in the process if you are so inclined... watch for details to be posted to the UUinfo listserv.

I will be on Sabbatical for the month of March and during that time I will be stepping away from day-to-day activities at the church in order to concentrate on my studies, planning and professional development. Like the attendance at the Florida retreat, I recognize what a privilege a Sabbatical is and I am committed to sharing and applying the fruits of this time away.

***With love... Norm***

# *Board Buzz*

It was a small group who met for the January Board meeting, with Shripad in India, Marilyn in Africa, Molly in Australia, and Ginny in Ottawa. However we managed some long and fruitful discussions without them.

We are of course pleased with the new kitchen. Congratulations to a very hard-working team! There are still a few small details to complete, including finding a way to manage the challenge of the ramp into the Ballroom, but all in all it is a great deal more efficient, hygienic and appealing work area than our previous one. It did come in over budget, but we will be bringing a proposal to the congregation shortly to manage that.

Much of the meeting discussion concerned the renovation of our main front entrance. Allyn Clarke joined Board member Mia Huh for a full discussion of the issues. We want to install automatic doors and improve the access ramps but we need to do foundation repairs under the vestibule first. Plans were being made while the kitchen work was going on, but we have had to redesign them to abide by the Nova Scotia Building Code Accessibility regulations. Unfortunately the first bids that we have had are higher than the amount already approved by the congregation. We are currently working on renegotiating this estimate plus applying for a grant from the Heritage Development Fund for the work on the foundation. We have already received an accessibility grant from Access Nova Scotia to pay for the automatic doors. When we have sufficient information we will be looking for the congregation's further support, to both approve the management of the cost overrun for the kitchen project and the plans for fully funding the front entry renovation.

The regular committee reports to the Board this month were very positive: the treasurer's report on the final results of the canvass, the year-end figures for 2017 and the first figures for 2018; upcoming projects for our Music Director: Coffee-

## **UUCH Board of Directors June 2017 - May 2018**

### **Officers**

President	Kim Turner
Vice-President	Margaret Galbraith
Past President	Molly Hurd
Secretary	Pam Berman
Treasurer	Marilyn Shinyei

### **Members at Large**

Ginny Girard	Mia Huh
Shripad Pendse	Troy Saulnier

house February 9th! and a celebration kitchen party in the future; lots of support for the RE Director and plans for new programs; and Norm's report is always a good reminder of how very busy our minister is. Our membership roll now stands at 108, a 16% increase from September—Norm's challenge to reach 100 by year-end was apparently just what we needed!

Other important items covered: the establishment of a Building Reserve Fund with a portion of the Cynthia Davis Bequest, feedback about the change in the Joys and Sorrows portion of the service, a decision made to have an appropriate expert give us a comprehensive assessment of the structural integrity of the building, plans to have the directory with pictures on the church website, a new policy for Sharing the Plate donations, and procedure for selecting delegates to the CUC AGM (see further information in the newsletter for several of these items).

It was a long and successful meeting! We are indeed an active growing congregation with a very engaged Board.



***Margaret Galbraith  
Vice-president***



**Mark Your Calendar!  
2018 CUC AGM and  
National Conference  
Theme "Invitation to  
Love and Justice"  
May 18-20, 2018**

The annual national gathering of Unitarians, Unitarian Universalists and Universalist Unitarians from across Canada will be hosted this year by the First Unitarian Church of Hamilton and will take place over the Victoria Day weekend in May at the McMaster University campus in Hamilton.

The event will have two components:

**The Annual General Meeting of the Canadian Unitarian Council (CUC).** Delegates from each member congregation gather to discuss and decide on resolutions, finances, and other matters that affect the CUC. Held on the Friday before the start of the Conference; preceded by the Resolutions Plenary on Thursday evening. For this year's resolutions, check the CUC website under Events.

**The Conference,** now held every other year. A variety of learning and development opportunities are offered by leaders from within and without our movement. There is a multi-generational day, separate activities for young adults, youth and children, and pre-conference trainings for RE leaders and lay chaplains. Check the website for full information.

**At UUCH** we have a strong history of living out our faith through actions of love and justice. These conference weekends are an opportunity to meet with like-minded people from across the country, a particular treat for our congregation, as we are somewhat isolated out here on the edge!

**We need to send two delegates to the AGM.**

Registration is already underway. Why not have a whole group of Haligonians attend this year? You can help to make it happen.

**Interested? Curious? Contact our UUCH Board president Kim Turner a.s.a.p.!**

**turnermorris@mac.com 902-876-5098**



**At 5500 Inglis Street**

We are inviting the Halifax community to come to our sanctuary to learn about who we are and to promote harmony among religious communities.

The following information was published on the Interfaith Harmony website.

**"Thursday, February 1  
Universalist Unitarian Service**

7:00 p.m. 5500 Inglis Street, Halifax

Guide for Guests: There will be a special brief service at 7:00 p.m. to give an introduction to our faith tradition, followed by a discussion.

The Universalist Unitarian Church, part of the religious landscape of Halifax since 1837, is founded on the idea that people of diverse religious faith or none can unite in community and support one another in the quest to give meaning to life. Coffee, tea, and snacks will be served."

All members and friends of the congregation are invited to this service to welcome visitors to our church.

**If you would like to attend and help in this way, please contact me a.s.a.p!**

Other Interfaith Harmony Week events are shown on the poster that follows this page. See also Tanya's 'R.E. page' and consider joining her and Jesse for two of these events.

**Norm...**

nhorofker@aol.com  
902-229-9239.





# **UN World FEBRUARY 1-7 2018**

## **Interfaith Harmony Week**

[www.ihhalifax.ca](http://www.ihhalifax.ca)

**Exploring Similarities  
Celebrating Diversity**

### **SACRED SPACES 2018 CALENDAR**

#### **Sunday: January 28**

**Fung Loy Kok Taoist Tai Chi® Arts (Taoist)**  
9:00 a.m. 2029 North Park Street, Halifax

**Sikh Kirtan and Langar**  
11:30 a.m., 10 Parkhill Road, Jollimore

#### **Thursday: February 1**

**Universalist Unitarian Service**  
7:00 p.m. 5500 Inglis Street, Halifax

#### **Friday: February 2**

**Muslim Jummah Prayer**  
12:00 p.m. 2510 St. Matthias Street, Halifax

**Jewish Shabbat**  
5:30 p.m. 1981 Oxford Street, Halifax

#### **Saturday: February 3**

**Bahá'í Community Devotional**  
2:00 p.m. 5793 University Avenue, Halifax , Room C170

**Pagan Ritual Celebration of Imbolc**  
6:30 p.m. 5500 Inglis St. Halifax

#### **Sunday: February 4**

**Worship at the Lutheran Church of the Resurrection**  
10:00 a.m. Corner of Windsor and Allan Streets, Halifax

**Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) Meeting for Worship**  
10:30 a.m. 660 Francklyn Street, Halifax

**Hindu Puja (Ritual Worship)**  
11:50 a.m. 6421 Cork Street (just off Oxford Street), Halifax

**Interfaith Celebration**  
7:00 p.m. to 9:00 pm. Paul O'Regan Hall at Halifax Central Library

#### **Monday: February 5**

**Brahma Kumaris Guided Meditation**  
7:00 p.m. 1 Cedarbrae Lane, Halifax

#### **Tuesday: February 6**

**Indigenous Talking Circle on Reconciliation**  
2:00 p.m. 2158 Gottingen Street (Mi'kmaq Native Friendship Centre)

#### **Wednesday: February 7**

**Taste of Shambhala**  
6:00 p.m. Shambhala Centre, 1084 Tower Road, Halifax

**All are welcome to participate in the sacred events.**

**Enjoy hospitality, friendship, and refreshments.**

**For more information visit [www.ihhalifax.ca](http://www.ihhalifax.ca)**

## Hike, Crystal Crescent Beach

### Saturday, February 24

The February hike will be at Crystal Crescent Beach. The road to the parking lots above the beaches will be gated 100 metres or so in from the turnoff from the paved road. The hike will begin on the gravel road then on to a graded trail and boardwalk that leads to Third Beach. Beyond Third Beach the trail is unimproved but is generally dry.



UUs on this trail in May 2007

Meet at the church at 12:30 or at the 2nd parking lot at Crystal Crescent Beach at 1 pm. Call me if you want to arrange a pickup on Herring Cove Road. If you get lost or are running late, you can reach me at 483-4731 before 12:30 or after 1 pm.

***Allyn Clarke***

The deadline for submissions  
for the March newsletter is  
Monday, February 26th.

Please submit to both:

[braeside@eastlink.ca](mailto:braeside@eastlink.ca)

[uuchurch@eastlink.ca](mailto:uuchurch@eastlink.ca)



## Sharing Our Plate

For a number of years there has been discussion about the benefit, or not, of "sharing our plate", i.e., donating all or a portion of the Sunday collection to charity.

Some fear that 'giving our money away' will reduce our own income, while others say that in fact we will benefit financially, as well as the charities to whom we give.

For 2018 the Board has decided to conduct a trial by sharing our plate each Sunday with either a registered Canadian charity or an activity of UUCH, with an evaluation at year-end. We now have two different envelopes in the Sunday order of service: one for the regular donation or pledge for the upkeep of the church and its programs—and a new one, with purple type, labelled Share the Plate. Funds in this envelope and loose change in the plate will go to the designated charity/activity for that week. The donor write their name on the envelope if a tax receipt is desired.

The designated charities or activities for each week will follow this pattern:

- 1st Sunday, UUCH Saturday Brunch
- 2nd Sunday, charity decided by the Board, with input from the congregation
- 3rd Sunday, UUCH Saturday Brunch
- 4th Sunday if not the last of the month, charity decided by the Board, as above
- Last Sunday, charity chosen by the Young Adults in attendance that day

**Opportunity for congregational input:** Members and friends are invited to submit suggestions to Margaret Galbraith or Ginny Gerard. Please include the name of the charity or activity, a website link, and information on the suggested cause. The **main criteria for selecting a charity** will be as follows: the aim should fit with our Seven Principles; it must be a registered Canadian charity, and preference will be given to smaller or local charities. **Consideration will be given to transparency, cost effectiveness, need, and overall effectiveness.** The Board will also be looking for **suggestions that fit with the theme Reverend Norm has set for the month.** The Board has already selected the charities for the 2nd Sunday in January (World Food Programme). Details for February are at the end of this article. **We are taking**

**suggestions now for the 2nd Sunday in March (theme of Risk) and the 2nd and 4th Sundays in April (theme of Transformation/Change).** The selections will be in the newsletter for that month.

**Young Adult Sunday:** The selection process for the last Sunday of the month will be done by young adults between the ages of 15 and 35 in attendance that day. They will have four options to choose from through April:

- Adsum House for Women and Children, offering services and support to women, families, youth, and trans persons during periods of homelessness.
- Grandmothers to Grandmothers, offering support for the necessities of life to African grandmothers who care for millions of children orphaned by AIDS.
- Dress for Success, an organization that supports the economic independence of women by providing work-appropriate attire, a network of support, and career development tools.
- The Youth Project, a local non-profit that provides support and services to youth, 25 and under, around issues of sexual orientation and gender identity.

## Sharing the Plate , February-theme Interdependence:

- 1st and 3rd Sundays, UUCH Saturday Brunch
- 2nd Sunday, Board choice, the CUC

The CUC is the national organization for Unitarians, Unitarian Universalists, and Universalist Unitarians in Canada. It is made up of member congregations to which it is accountable. It is a voice for our vibrant, liberal faith community, within the interfaith community in Canada, and within the international UU community. The CUC, through its small but dedicated staff, provides support for UUs and congregations across the country, fostering growth and outreach, particularly in the areas of lifespan religious education, spiritual growth, and social responsibility. The member congregations in turn support the CUC financially through donations and the Annual Program Contribution.

- 4th Sunday, Young Adults' choice

*Margaret Galbraith  
Board Vice-president*



## The Caring Column

**Cynthia Marshall** had knee surgery on Friday, January 26th and is very relieved it is over. She waited a very long time. We send our best wishes for a speedy recovery.



**Anne Kuersten** had hip surgery recently and has healed very well. She will soon be returning to work as a physio assistant.

**Barbara Dacey** is enjoying her recent move to The Berkeley Halifax at 5266 Green Street. She likes that it is so close to church.

### **Mary Ellen Onno**



### **Lost and Found**

The Board has agreed to re-assign the Youth Room to the Music Committee. Over time the room has accumulated a number of items whose ownership is unknown. **If you own any of the following items, please inform Allyn Clarke.**

2 suitcases filled with a variety of stuff  
1 small carton containing mostly kitchen utensils  
1 Rubbermaid box containing 8x11 sheets of cork joined by blue ribbon  
2 Staples file storage boxes containing books perhaps left from a yard sale

Items not claimed by mid-February will be disposed of.

## Lesia's Window



Etta Hamm contacted me recently to ask whether I knew the name of the artist who created the beautiful stained glass fanlight and sidelights around the old front door of 5500 Inglis Street. She was about to feature a photo of the fanlight on the cover of the 2018 church directory and wanted to credit the artist. It occurred to us then that many in the present congregation would not know how the creation of the windows came about, or the gentle person that they commemorate.

The stained glass artist Gary Grant of Grunts Studio in Hubbards designed and installed the work. This commission from our church to create a visible memorial to Lesia Clarke (1939-1986), was the first of many which he has now undertaken for Nova Scotia churches.

Lesia and Joe Clarke, with their children Jenny and Michael, lived in Halifax from 1974 to 1983, where they were both active in the church. Lesia made a quiet and memorable contribution, particularly to the religious education program. She established the Sophia Lyon Fahs meeting room and organized the large religious education library. Originally from Manitoba, Lesia's Ukrainian heritage was important to her. She decorated beautiful Ukrainian Easter eggs as gifts and as a project with the older children of the church. She also loved the outdoors and was delighted to discover that Saskatoons (what we call Indian Pear) also grew and could be enjoyed in Nova Scotia.

Lesia will always be remembered for her gentle personality and love of children. The peaceful atmosphere of her memorial reflects her values and invites meditation.

### **Heather Watts**

*With thanks to Allyn Clarke,  
Michal Crowe and Marie Davis*

# Music Montage

*"Music expresses that which cannot be put into words,  
and that which cannot remain silent."*

~ Victor Hugo



## February's 'Singing As We Gather'

The Gathering Hymn for February is #157 *Step by Step the Longest March*. February's theme is *Interdependence*; the lyrics for this hymn are very à propos.

*Step by step the longest march can be won, can be won.  
Many stones can turn an arch, singly none, singly none.  
And by union, what we will can be accomplished still;  
Drops of water turn a mill, singly none, singly none.*

## Monthly Music Projects

February's Themed Music Project will be on Sunday, February 18th.

The rehearsal opportunities for this are:

Sunday, February 4th, at 9:30 am  
Sunday, February 11th, at 9:30 am  
Sunday, February 18th, at 9:30 am

## March's Music Project will be on Sunday, March 18th

The rehearsal opportunities for this are:

Sunday, February 25th, at 9:30 am (in the minister's office)  
Sunday, March 4th, at 9:30 am  
Sunday, March 11th, at 9:30 am  
Sunday, March 18th, at 9:30 am

## Annual Winter Warm-Up Coffeehouse, Friday, February 9th

It's just around the corner now, so I hope you have it on your calendar. As usual, it will be from 7 to 10 pm, with a free-will offering at the door. We encourage you to bring potluck finger foods to share. Please invite your friends and family for this wonderful midwinter fellowship gathering.

If you wish to share some music, poetry, dance, comedy, a skit, or other talent with us, you need to contact me right away. I'll be preparing an advance program for the evening. I look forward to seeing you all there.

Have a wonderful midwinter month!

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

# Religious Exploration



I am pleased to report that last month's RE-themed hike in **Long Lake Provincial Park** was a great success. A big thank you to Jesse and Allyn for putting it together, to Tracy for inspiring the excursion, and of course to all the families who attended to make it fun.



We had a scavenger hunt, searched for a treasure chest of snacks, and crossed a bridge over a beautiful frozen waterfall.

For families interested in interfaith religious exploration, I encourage you to consider attending one (or more) of the **UN Interfaith Harmony Week events**. You can join Jesse and me at the following events:

- The Bahá'í Community Devotional at 2 pm on Saturday Feb 3rd, in Room C170 of the Dalhousie CHEB building, 5793 University Ave., Halifax
- The Interfaith Celebration, 7 to 9 pm, Sunday, Feb 4th, Halifax Central Library

There are a great many other opportunities available that week (Feb 1-7), which you can learn about from the Interfaith Harmony Week poster in this newsletter—and at [www.ihhalifax.ca](http://www.ihhalifax.ca).

**RE is growing!** I am pleased to welcome Heather Ritchie and Troy Saulnier to the RE committee, which now has 6 members. Last month, attendance was up 37% compared to January 2017. As the number of children increases, it is becoming clear that the older children will need their own programming. Heather and Jesse are developing a new initiative to engage our youth; I look forward to what they have in store!

**Tanya Bilsbury**  
*Religious Exploration Director*

## UUCH Refugee Sponsorship Committee Update

We are learning that the refugee sponsorship process is indeed long and protracted. There is still no more news, since last summer, about Nabil and Kais Althyab's process for getting here from Germany. The family here is managing as best they can—the adults all in English classes or working, or at Dalhousie and the children in school and daycare, but they will be much happier when they are reunited as a family. Money is tight, especially for Sharifa and Anwar, living on Social Assistance. Nawras is full-time at Dal and has time only for a paper route. Sharifa is trying to develop her sewing/alterations business. As sponsors for Nabil and Kais we will be responsible financially for them for a year once they arrive, which will help.

The young Syrian who took refuge originally in South Korea had his interview months ago but has still not arrived here. The Alawite family living and working in Saudi Arabia have just had their interview but we must not get our hopes up that they will arrive any time soon. The speed of the process in the winter of 2015 when the Althyabs arrived only two months after their applications were submitted was definitely a one-time thing. Our committee is not expected to help with funding or settlement of these refugees, but as co-sponsors we have already helped with obtaining spots through the CUC and with the application process.

We have a different co-sponsor relationship with the South Shore Refugee Family Reunification project, in that they will look after the fundraising, but we are holding their funds for them if the donors want a charitable tax receipt. They are doing well—we already have over \$16,000 in donations from them. By the time their funds are sufficient and the applications ready, we hope to be a Sponsorship Agreement Holder ourselves and assign our own spots, but in the meantime we have asked for spots through the CUC.



Shehnaz Hamo, Rezan Iso and their 4-year old son Ali, Kurds from Syria, settled in Mahone Bay with the support of the **Mahone Bay** sponsorship group. Rezan is known as "the Syrian Tailor of Mahone Bay". Shehnaz hopes to one day resume her law studies.



The Hamo family, Shehnaz's parents, brothers, sister, sister-in-law with infant child, and young nephew, temporarily living in Turkey. **The South Shore** group is well under way to raising \$52,000 to reunite this family with Shehnaz, Rezan and Ali.

Some of you will remember the African family who joined us for our Thanksgiving dinner in October. They have struggled to survive here because their original sponsorship agreement broke down and they have no direct financial support. The First Baptist Church of Halifax has made a generous donation to our Refugee Sponsorship Fund, which we are matching to help this family pay their rent and utilities until next summer when they become eligible for Social Assistance. In the meantime they will be able to attend full-time English classes and school instead of working.

This work seems to be only a drop in the huge bucket of need, but at least it is a drop. If you have any questions about any of the above, please contact Margaret, Marilyn or Andy (Paris is only an email away!)

***Margaret Galbraith  
for the Committee***

## Bonjour from Paris



Since last September my family and I have been experiencing la belle vie in Paris, France. The two little girls are attending French public school: Maya in Grade 1 ("CP") and Sarah in pre-primary ("la maternelle"). Claudia has been working at the headquarters of the Organization for Economic Co-operation & Development (OECD). I am busy with my business and teaching English.

The popular English language classes I instruct have been put on by the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Paris for decades; in fact a number of Canadian ex-pats have taught them. For example, Prof. Don Bailey, Winnipeg First UU (who delivered his last sermon at UUCH in 2015), was a long-time instructor during his annual sojourns here, and some of his students still attend. The classes are free and build community as much as language skills. Don's students were saddened by his passing in late 2015.

We have been attending the active Paris Fellowship, participating in numerous UU events, and have met many wonderful people here, including UUs from around Europe. It is exciting to see UUism growing on the Continent, and evolving in inspirational new ways in the UK. I have also been involved with refugee work in Paris—a completely different situation than in Canada.

We have taken advantage of our apartment location near the Bastille to explore the city and central France, such as the castles and medieval towns of the Loire Valley, and have adventured as far as Greece and Spain so far. We are enjoying our time away, but there's no place like home! We will be back in Halifax in September. — *À très bientôt!*

**Andy Blair**

## Other news from afar

As always, one of the pleasures of updating the church directory is contacting members who have moved away from the local area. The following agreed to share their news with you.

**Rev. Helen McFadyen** is well and enjoying life in Kamloops, BC. She was happy to report that her contract as Developmental Minister with the Kamloops congregation has been renewed for a further two years.

**Susan Stephen** and hubby Michael Jensen expect to return to Nova Scotia this spring, and will have a north shore address in April. They will likely be in Nova Scotia through October, and in Nebraska for the winters. They expect to visit us at UUCH at least once during their spring sojourn. Susan's father died in late May. Susan and Michael are surrounded by both their moms, Sharon's older son Nate, his wife and their triplet sons, Sharon's daughter Anika (whom some of you will remember) and her two siblings. Susan and Michael miss Nova Scotia very much.

**Alex (Alexina) Proctor**, UUCH member since 1954 is still living in her home in Advocate Harbour. Despite a chronic back issue Alex still drives to her bridge game once a week and to visit friends in the area. A lifelong learner, Alex is currently absorbed in watching a 6-DVD series on Quantum Physics. Through this monthly newsletter, she keeps up on what we are doing at UUCH and likes seeing the old familiar names. She sends fond greetings to all who would remember her.

**Etta Hamm**

