



newsletter of the universalist unitarian church of halifax

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Universalist Unitarian
Church of Halifax
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Deborah Wiggins
Music Director

Emily Dodge
Interim RE Director

Kim Turner
President

Newsletter
Etta Hamm
Sandra Jamieson

Sunday service
10:30 am
All are welcome

Children & Youth Education
Child care available

Theme for April: Awe

April 5

Presenter: Rev. Norm Horofker; Service Assistant: Dean White

A Unitarian Universalist Easter — This is a glorious and awesome time of year and it is the time that Christian tradition celebrates the resurrection of Jesus. Easter is about one of the most important religious figures in human history. Today Rev. Norm Horofker will reflect on what Easter proclaims for us all.

April 12

Presenter: Rev. Norm Horofker; Service Assistant: Mary Spurr

Star Trek, Harry Potter and our Sense of Awe — How does popular literature and cinema reflect our sense of awe and wonder? This Sunday Rev. Norm Horofker, who acknowledges never having read a Harry Potter book or watching a complete Harry Potter movie, explores his limitations.

April 19

Presenters: Emily Dodge and the Climate Action Team; Service Assistant: Rev. Norm Horofker

A Multi-generational Celebration of Earth Day — Our children and our Climate Action Team will lead us in anticipation of Earth Day, an event celebrated in more than 192 countries on April 22nd. Come out and express your support for all those worldwide who are working to make the preservation of our awesome natural world a priority in our daily lives.

April 26

Presenter: Christy-Lee Bojarski; Service Assistant: Louise Malloch

Motherhood as a Spiritual Crucible — Our Religious Exploration Director, Christy-Lee Bojarski interrupts her maternity leave to bring us a service exploring some of the ways that early motherhood challenges, frustrates, compels, and inspires the spiritual journey.



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.

April 2015

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| | | | 1 4:45-6:15 After Choir | 2 9:30 – 11:30 am Parents & Tots | 3 | 4 |
| 5 Easter Sunday 9 am Chalice Singers 9:45 am Family Singers 9 am Chalice Singers 12 noon Worship Committee | 6 | 7 | 8 4:45-6:15 pm After Choir 6:30 pm Board Meeting | 9 9:30 – 11:30 am Parents & Tots | 10 6:30 pm Dinner Theatre (D4\$) | 11 |
| 12 9 am Chalice Singers 9:45 am Family Singers 12 Noon Social Responsibility Spring Auction | 13 | 14 11:30-3:30 Library Meeting | 15 4:45-6:15 pm After Choir 6:30 pm Board Meeting | 16 9:30 – 11:30 am Parents & Tots 6:30 pm Spiritual Show & Tell with Potluck | 17 | 18 7 – 9 pm DUP |
| 19 9 am Chalice Singers 9:45 am Family Singers 12 noon Humanist Group Spring Auction | 20 10 am Newsletter Deadline | 21 | 22 Earth Day 4:45-6:15 pm After Choir | 23 9:30 – 11:30 am Parents & Tots | 24 | 25 Hike: Crystal Cresc Beach See page 5. |
| 26 9 am Chalice Singers 9:45 am Family Singers | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 Discounted rate for CUC ACM ends. www.cuc.ca > Events | | |



April 12 & 19

Not only is spring around the corner but so is the Spring Auction! More great deals, more fun, and more funds for all the wonderful things we do, and have at UUCH.

Any items that qualify as *new* or in *pristine* condition with a value of at least \$20 are welcomed. We also welcome offers of services: weeding a garden, baking bread, teaching a skill, etc.

We are extending the date for bringing items in to Sunday, **April 5th**. Please leave your items under the pew in the Ballroom Gallery — or phone me at 902-827-4707 to arrange pickup. *Marilyn Shinyei*



Minister's Notes

We, the Unitarian Universalist Ministers of Canada. . .

Following this message is a statement by the UU Ministers of Canada (UUMoC) expressing our concern with Bill C-51 as proposed by the Canadian Government.

Unfortunately, there has been no process in place to encourage these kinds of statements. Our faith tradition is based in the individual congregation and the UUMoC has been struggling to find ways to unite ministers' voices on national public issues.

A recent notable exception was the joint Expression on Truth and Reconciliation that the CUC and UUMoC issued in March 2014. That statement was read from UU pulpits across this country and represented an inspiring moment of inter-congregational and inter-minister solidarity.

Ironically, the current audit of the Canadian Unitarian Council (CUC) by the Canadian Revenue Agency (CRA) has had the effect of clarifying the urgent need for your ministers to speak with a united voice from our liberal religious faith tradition. That audit was initiated as part of a review of organizations to determine if they are eligible for charitable status. I am not opposed to these audits in principle. Clearly charitable status should not be granted to every organization that is lobbying for political change.

But how does a legitimate religious organization walk the line between expressing its religious beliefs, a right that the CRA recognizes, and taking political action, which is not considered as a charitable cause by the CRA?

The answer is surprisingly clear and it is my hope that reflection on this distinction will have the effect of strengthening Unitarian Universalism.

I must give credit here to Rev. Fred Cappuccino, life member of the Unitarian Universalist Minister's Association, founder, with his wife Bonnie of Child Haven that operates numerous homes for women and children in India, Tibet, Nepal and Bangladesh. (Check out the website at www.childhaven.ca) and Minister Emeritus of the Unitarian Fellowship of Ottawa. Fred has been a strong and determined voice urging UU ministers in Canada to take public stands on issues of Social Justice, but we struggled to find a process to unite our sometimes disparate voices.

The UUMoC at Fred's prompting formed a Public Voice Team and I am proud to serve on that team. Study of the history of regulations governing the charitable activities of churches makes it clear that churches and ministers are expected to speak out forcefully to promote their religious beliefs. But such efforts at public persuasion must maintain the crucial element of being based within, and serving to promote, a recognized and established religious faith.

For your minister, this is a welcome distinction. It calls on us to separate our religious faith from our ideological beliefs and political persuasions. There is not and should not be any tolerance within our congregations for the criticism of a political party, or worse yet, a person, based on a clash of political ideology.

You will note that the statement on Bill C-51 focusses on what we see as an attempt to drive people apart by promoting fear. This attempt to divide people by instilling 'fear of the other' is opposed to our religious tradition that recognizes our interdependence in the quest for justice.

The feedback from members and friends that I have received so far has been encouraging. I would like to hear from more of you as to how you feel about public statements by your Canadian Unitarian Universalist Ministers.

Rev. Norm Horofker

Statement from the UUMoC regarding Bill C-51

"We, the Unitarian Universalist Ministers of Canada, wish to express our deep concern about Bill C-51, the federal government's so-called "anti-terrorism" bill. Bill C-51 is rooted in fear; fear for our safety and security, and fear of one another. Our faith as Unitarian Universalists calls us to a different response, a response rooted in recognition of our interdependence.

"Granting extraordinary powers to CSIS - the Canadian Security and Intelligence Service - follows an ominous trend of undermining civil liberties in the pursuit of vague notions of security. In spite of a handful of high-profile acts of violence in recent months, the fact is that "terrorism" (a term which is rarely given a clear definition) is less threatening to Canada than the climate of fear which this bill promotes.

"Genuine safety is not achieved by allowing unchecked power to security agencies. It is the product of dialogue, cooperation, and working together toward a shared vision of justice and equity for all people. Thus, we are called to live into and create this vision together."

A Big THANK YOU to our Snow Shovellers



THANK YOU from all of us to our hardy individuals who spent countless hours shovelling the church's driveways, walkways, pathways and sidewalk during this winter of the abominable snows. Nick Baros-Johnson did a great job as a paid shoveller over most of the winter—then Allyn & Sandra Clarke, Stephen Butler and selfless anonymous volunteers took over from the March 18th storm onwards. You are very much appreciated.

POTENTIAL SHOVELLERS, volunteer or paid: If you are able to lend a hand to see us through to the end (whenever that may be) or even just one time or two, please contact Allyn at 902-420-0632 or allyn420@aol.com.

Thank you!

The Caring Column

We send our condolences to **Etta Hamm** and her family on the loss of her sister, Marie Harrington. Marie died in hospital on March 18th at the age of 77.

Devin Murphy is in Dartmouth Hospital. He would welcome your thoughts and prayers. If you wish to send Devin a card please send it to his home. We wish him a speedy recovery.

Ella Wilson sends her thanks for the calls and cards and visits while she has been confined to her home. Her foot is improving and she looks forward to returning to church in the not too far distant future.

Mary Ellen Onno

Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around. ~ Leo Buscaglia

Religious Exploration



"Spring is when you feel like whistling even with a shoeful of slush." ~ Doug Larson

This past month brought us a lot of challenging weather, but we continued on with our nature centered curriculum. The junior group examined the lifecycles of different animals, as well as learning more about healthy habitats for both plants and animals, and what kinds of habitats different animals in Nova Scotia need. We move into spring by looking for various traits in nature, such as play, joy and beauty.

The senior group is almost done with their water curriculum, looking at how the collective can be made stronger through individual efforts and also practicing gratitude towards the important resource that water is. From this curriculum, we will be moving into a new one that still has a focus on nature, but looking at this connection through trees.

April and the spring bring us more opportunities for outdoor exploration to enrich our program lessons. A trip to Point Pleasant is in the works, and weather permitting will hopefully happen this month! April will also bring us Earth Day and we are working on a fun way to celebrate this day that aligns so well with our curriculum and the UU principles.

As always, we are looking for new potential volunteers. If you have a special gift that you would like to share with the RE program, or if you would like to teach or simply help or observe, please contact me.

I can be reached at esdodge@gmail.com—or 902-817-1489 on Tuesdays from 12 to 3, and Thursdays from 8 to 12.

Happy Spring!

Emily Dodge
Interim RE Director

Hike to Crystal Crescent Beach, April 25



UUs on this trail in June 2013

The April hike will be to Crystal Crescent Beach and beyond, along the coast towards Pennant Park. I think the road will still be gated so the hike will begin on a 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. The trail offers great views of the ocean and Sable Light.

Meet at the church at 12:20 or at the gate on the Crystal Crescent Beach Road at 1 pm. If the gate is open, we will meet at the second parking lot at Crystal Crescent Beach. The fastest route to Crystal Crescent is via the Old Sambro Road. Turn right at the T intersection, then left on the East Pennant Road and left again on the Sambro Creek Road. 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 902-483-4731 before 12:30 or after 1 pm.

Allyn Clarke



Spiritual Show and Tell Thursday, April 16

This is a potluck dinner event starting at 6:30 pm. These wonderful evenings will continue the third Thursday of each month up to and including May.

Unfortunately, we had to cancel our February and March dates due to storms. Fingers crossed for April!

The attendees of January's **SS&T** were delighted, intrigued, uplifted and satiated in mind and body. Do come and check it out for yourselves.

If you would like to be a presenter, or wish to learn more, please contact either of us. We are looking forward to you joining us there!

Devin Murphy
Deborah Wiggins

Music Montage



*"The self-same bells for joy and sorrow ring.
No one can know what the next hour will bring.
We cry, we laugh, we mourn, and still we sing:
Alleluia!" ~ Don Cohen*

Opportunities for Family Singers

Again this month, come and sing at 9:45 am on Sundays April 5, 12, 19 and 26. I encourage all ages and stages of singers to 'make a joyful noise' more often. So, there are opportunities to sing *every Sunday* this month. You will be strongly supported by our stalwart and dedicated *Chalice Singers*.

April's 'Singing As We Gather'

The Gathering Hymn for this month is #7 *The Unfurling*. Since April's theme is 'awe and wonder', and the month of April will bring the full 'unfurling of spring', this hymn's lyrics are very suitable. *"The leaf unfurling in the April air, the newborn child, the loving parents' care, these constant, common miracles we share: Alleluia!"*

If you are interested in learning more about our music program and the many opportunities to participate, such as joining our *Chalice Singers*, *Family Singers*, *qUUartet*, or *Afterchoir*, please contact me.

Deborah Wiggins

Music Director
uuchmusic@yahoo.ca
902-463-0988

DEADLINE

The deadline for the
May newsletter is
Monday, April 20th.

Please send your
submissions to both
braeside@eastlink.ca
and
uuchurch@eastlink.ca



Board Buzz

Faith Piccolo
Member at Large

Hope

Snow notwithstanding, spring is on the horizon, and by the time you read this you will be in complete denial of this past winter; so we live in hope. And at our church that hope produces fruit. We came up a little short on finances this year, and put out a call to members to help 'Close the Gap.' You responded generously, and that gap is shrinking. If you have not been contacted or have not yet responded, we hope you will if you can.

Let UUs Entertain You

As the snow recedes and temperatures rise (again, hope) we come out of hibernation and prepare to be renewed by the warm sun and the sight of pavement again. Spring also brings a plethora of entertainment at our church: Wendy Luella Perkins and her Soulful Singing Circle on March 29th, and a Dinner Theatre on the weekend of April 10th featuring mostly UUCHers. The production contains great music and a delicious meal. There are still seats available for this highly entertaining Dining for Dollars fundraiser.

Rev. Helen

At our last board meeting we affirmed our intention to enter into an affiliation agreement by which Rev. Helen McFadyen can associate with UUCH as Community Minister. The relationship between a UU parish minister and a UU community minister affiliated with the same parish is guided by the UU Ministers' Association's 'Code of Professional Practice and Guidelines'. This relationship is based on respect, collegiality, mutual support, open communication and professionalism. We look forward to the fruitful and mutually beneficial results of that covenant.

Open House with Donuts

Rev. Norm has been rolling out the welcome mat at UUCH on Saturday mornings for anyone who wants to drop by for a coffee and a sweet, a chat, or perhaps a ukulele solo. The neighbours have shown a modest response, which will hopefully grow. "In the church of our imagination: we imagine church embedded in neighbourhoods – with deep roots and porous walls." Rev. Norm is nurturing those roots.

CUC Perspectives

Glenda Butt, President
CUC Board of Trustees



Coming Together

The Annual Conference Meeting (ACM) is clearly a highlight in our CUC calendar. The one day dedicated for the CUC Annual General Meeting is included as the by-laws dictate, with delegates from across this disparate country keeping our national organization vital.

The program is enticing, before and after the AGM, and revolves around the theme, "***Seeking Justice in a Changing Land***". Friday's opening ceremony features Matt Meyer on the role of music in a justice-centered community. The program streams are diverse but connected by the social justice theme. There are programs for youth, junior youth, adults and young adults.

After consideration of all the time, dollars and resources put into this event, it is also very much about the connecting and networking of UUs sharing, and committed to, this liberal faith tradition. We believe that social responsibility is part of the very fabric of how we are defined as a religious people.

We also know as leaders that not all committed Unitarians and Unitarian Universalists are able to attend the ACM each or any year. On a subjective note, I would like to see the leadership fund restored in the UUCH budget. Building leadership includes those exciting times when you experience what is happening with other UUs outside our Halifax habitat. We can continue the bond with other UU communities and the CUC while strengthening UUCH.

On the CUC side we have to continue progressing toward one of our three approved annual priorities: building a communications system including a platform that will reach many more folks through online streaming of ACM and other programs, and access to the AGM.

Thank you to Andy Blair and Devin Murphy, UUCH's worthy delegates. (Get well Devin).

UN Security Council Reform Long Overdue



Valerie Chapman
UU-UNO Envoy for UUCH

Speaking with Bruce Knotts, Executive Director of the UU United Nations Office, about the article that follows, he said, "We support the abolition of the veto in the Security Council and also support interim steps in that direction. We are very encouraged by France's proposals to make humanitarian issues exempt from the veto and the World Federalist proposal to get the (permanent) P5 to exercise a moratorium on the veto.

"I attended a meeting at the Swiss Mission to the UN with ambassadors of 24 nations who are working on Security Council reform. They want to end the veto or at least limit its use, to make the Security General more transparent and accountable, and also to make the election of the Secretary General [currently Ban Ki-Moon of South Korea] a more transparent and democratic process. Nobody seems to know how the election is done. Seems to be mostly secret negotiations behind closed doors. These 24 countries would like there to be hearings where candidates for Secretary General can articulate their vision and answer questions from member states."

"IDEAS FOR A STRONGER UN"

*An abridged version of an article written by **Kofi Annan**, UN Secretary General 1997-2006, and **Gro Harlem Brundtland**, Special UN Envoy, former Prime Minister of Norway, published in *The New York Times*, Feb 6, 2015.*



"We have four ideas for making the organization stronger and more effective.

"A big part of the problem is that the Security Council, which is supposed to maintain world peace and security on behalf of all member states, no longer commands respect – certainly not from armed insurgents operating across borders, and often not from the United Nations' own members.

"Throughout the world, and especially in the Global South, people struggle to understand why, in 2015, the Council is still dominated by the five powers that won World War II. They are more and more inclined to question its authority, and the legitimacy of its decisions.

"We ignore this threat at our peril. Times have changed since 1945, and the Security Council must adapt.

"We call on the five existing permanent members to give a solemn pledge. They must no longer allow their disagreements to mean that the Council fails to act, even when — for instance, as currently in Syria — people are threatened with atrocious crimes.

"Let the five permanent members promise never to use the veto just to defend their national interests, but only when they genuinely fear that the proposed action will do more harm than good to world peace and to the people concerned.

"And finally, let the Council, and especially its permanent members, make sure the United Nations gets the kind of leader it needs. Let us have a thorough and open search for the best qualified candidates, irrespective of gender or region; let the Council then recommend more than one candidate for the General Assembly to choose from; and let the successful candidate be appointed for a single, non-renewable term of seven years. He or she (and after eight "he's" it's surely time for a "she") must not be under pressure to give jobs or concessions to any member state in return for its support.

"This new process should be adopted without delay, so that it can be used to find the best person to take over in January 2017."

*

Unitarian Universalists are bold leaders ...

Unitarian Universalists are bold leaders in action for social justice, both around the country and the world. Each day at the United Nations, the Unitarian Universalist United Nations Office strives to affirm and promote every person's human rights on the international stage.

The UU-UNO participates in meetings, conferences, and committees at the UN with key UN groups such as Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, the United Nations Development Program, and the World Bank to discuss with them how they can act in the interest of creating a world community that is accepting, just, and compassionate—and much more.

Redeeming Refundables for Cash (The forgotten fundraiser?)

Did you know that you could be mindful of the environment *and* help the church by recycling your **refundable beverage containers** through the church?

We recently learned that some were unaware that this long-standing effort is still ongoing. Here's how to participate.

Bring all your **refundable beverage containers** in from home, pre-rinsed, caps off, labels on, and put them in the **Refundables** bin that sits on the counter at the back of the kitchen.



Only containers marked as **returnable for refund (or deposit refunded)** qualify, e.g., plastic pop and juice bottles, beer and liquor bottles, aluminum pop and beer cans—in other words, all containers you would take to a bottle depot for cash or give to the Boy Scouts bottle drive—and even much more than that.

See the new poster at the back of the kitchen for a full list of qualifying items. Next week we're handing out take-home copies.

Refundables have brought up to \$100 per year. We'd like to see that at least tripled. **The challenge is on.**

Thank you to Karen Woolhouse and Allyn Clarke for alternating summer and winter runs in taking bagsful of refundables to the Enviro-Depot down the block on Mitchell Street for ~~cold hard~~ nice warm cash.

We hope to need a bigger bin, and to have to do more runs to the Enviro-Depot!

Etta Hamm

On behalf of the fundraising group

Join the Blue Bag Team

If the Refundables Fundraiser grows as we hope it will, we will need a couple more people to take turns. Once or twice yearly you would skim through the collected materials, remove any left-on caps, fill two or three blue bags, and take them **in your vehicle** to the Youth L.I.V.E. Enviro-Depot on Mitchell Street just around the corner from the church. Youth L.I.V.E. is a job skills training program for youth aged 16-25 who have barriers to employment. Our efforts help them too. Contact Allyn to volunteer.

Sunday Service Volunteers

April 5

| | |
|----------|---|
| Greeting | Kathy Anthony Anne Knight-Gorman |
| Ushering | Andy Blair (e), Janet Horofker (l) |
| Kitchen | TBF (set-up) Anne Knight-Gorman (clean-up) |
| Audio | Devin Murphy |
| Library | Alison Chipman |

April 12

| | |
|----------|--|
| Greeting | Tracy Boyer & young helper Sass Minard |
| Ushering | Kay Smith, Kathy Anthony (e) Sylvia Mattinson (l) |
| Kitchen | TBF (set-up) Sass Minard (clean-up) |
| Audio | Avard Woolaver |
| Library | Anne Knight-Gorman |

April 19

| | |
|----------|--|
| Greeting | Michael Seary, Margaret Galbraith |
| Ushering | Eileen Ross (e) Margaret and Paul Galbraith (l) |
| Kitchen | TBF (set-up) Stephen Butler (clean-up) |
| Audio | Paul Galbraith |
| Library | Alison Chipman |

April 26

| | |
|----------|---|
| Greeting | Sandra Clarke, Sylvia Mattinson |
| Ushering | Valerie Chapman (e) Sylvia Mattinson (l) |
| Kitchen | TBF (set-up) Sandra Clarke, Kathy Spencer (clean-up) |
| Audio | Nick Baros-Johnson |
| Library | Alison Chipman |

Thank you, always,
to our dedicated volunteers.

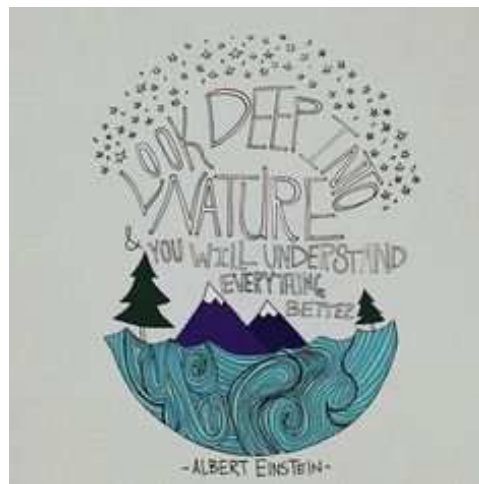
Please contact Wietske Gradstein at 902-835-9272
to join the Sunday Service Support Team.

Ballroom Gallery Announcement

The “Favourite Things” art exhibit planned for May and June is postponed, indefinitely. Stay alert for future announcements.

If you, or someone you know, would like to explore the possibility of exhibiting works of art in our elegant gallery space, please contact Ella Wilson. Members and friends will find Ella listed in the church directory. Others may reach Ella by contacting the church office; contact details are on the front page.





Earth Day – April 22