



newsletter of the universalist unitarian church of halifax

Vol. 50, No 8
April 2016

Universalist Unitarian
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Deborah Wiggins
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 April – Revelation

April 3

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

Can We Choose Our Own Revelations?

From the moment of birth, everything we experience is a revelation. Can we recover the wonder of a child and see it all as revelation, or must we choose what we accept as revelation in order to make sense of our experience?

April 10

Presenter: Rev. Norm Horofker; Service Assistant: Wynne Jordan

Seek and Ye Shall Find... Knock and the Door Will be Opened

How do you prepare for a revelation—and in a universe that asks questions, what's the difference between revelation and figuring it out for yourself?

April 17

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

Divine Revelation is Not a Winning Argument!

In order to understand the heart of any religion, we need to get past the idea of divine revelation to understand the underlying philosophical perspective. Today we explore what some of the major world religions look like if we take away divine revelation.

April 24

Presenter: Rena Kulczycki; Service Leader: Margaret Galbraith

The Place for Youth in Community Building

Rena Kulczycki has seen firsthand that, though often unheard, youth have an important role in community development. We can make ways for youth to lead with us, support each other, find ways to contribute meaningfully, and help create the more just and loving world we need.

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.



The Universalist Unitarian Church of Halifax

Compassion is the doctrine of our church, the quest for truth its Sacrament, and Justice its prayer. To grow in understanding through dialogue and freedom, to support each other's dance with life, to engage the Earth in peace, to the end that we speak ourselves into Community and hear each other into being. Thus do we covenant with each other and with the Universe.

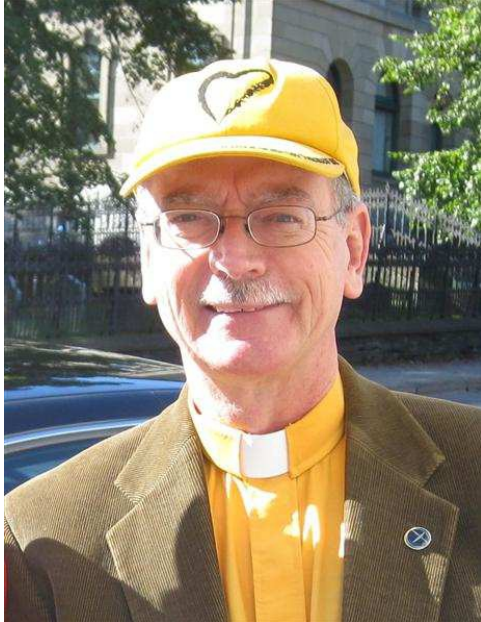
April 2016						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 9:45 am Music 12 noon Worship Committee	4	5	6 4:45-6:15 pm After Choir	7 9:30 – 11:30 am Parents & Tots	8	9
10 9:30 am Music Spring auction bidding 12 pm Social Responsibility	11	12	13 4:45-6:15 pm After Choir	14 9:30 – 11:30 am Parents & Tots	15	16 Hike: Dawson Falls See p. 5.
17 9:45 am Music Spring auction bidding 12 noon Humanist Group	18	19	20 4:45-6:15 pm After Choir	21 9:30 – 11:30 am Parents & Tots 6:30 pm Board Meeting	22 Earth Day 	23
24 9:45 am Music (upstairs) 12 pm Intro to UUism with Rev Norm	25 10 am Newsletter deadline	26	27 4:45-6:15 pm After Choir	28 9:30 – 11:30 am Parents & Tots 7 pm Theme Salon on Revelation	29	30



Two Sundays: April 10 & 17

The time for donating items has closed. Viewing and bidding will take place before and after services on the 10th and 17th. There are great treasures in store for you, so bid, bid, bid!

Minister's Notes



The Power of Revelation

Welcome to April, the month when we will focus on the theme of Revelation. There is a lot of interesting material in this month's Theme Magazine. I hope you will pick up copy at church or download the electronic version.

In 1902, American writer Finley Peter Dunn had his character, Mr. Dooley say that newspapers "comforts th' afflicted, afflicts th' comfortable." The idea was that the role of journalists was to both bring hope to the victims of corruption and to call the "fat cats" to account for their crimes.

Much later in 1987 that religious scholar Martin Marty applied that phrase to the role of the church, specifically the prophetic role to afflict the comfortable, and the priestly role to comfort the afflicted.

A revelation is the act of disclosing a secret or surprising fact. We need not deal with direct divine revelation here... we are exposed to previously secret and surprising facts all the time by economists, climatologists, physicists, medical researchers, astronomers, investigative journalists and so on.

Some revelations are so profound that they call on us to change our behaviour or the way we see our place in the world. Depending on our circumstances, such revelations may afflict or comfort.

People who are comfortable generally do not like surprises; they don't want to have their world shaken by a revelation that might compel them to change their ways. This explains part of the resistance to the idea of human-generated climate change.

We wouldn't normally use the term in this context, but our first principle is in fact a revelation... the inherent worth and dignity of each person. This is a revelation that comforts the afflicted, those who have been marginalized in one way or another.

The most important revelation that Unitarian Universalism proclaims is that human beings have the potential and the responsibility to change the world for the better. Nothing in our political social environmental or economic life is pre-ordained. Our future is in our hands.

I see my role as your minister to present you with revelations about the beautiful potential within each of us and within this amazing world that we inhabit. More specifically, I want to reveal the potential of our congregation as a place for your spiritual growth and a place that provides unlimited opportunity to give meaning to your life.

The response of our congregation to the Syrian refugee crisis has been a revelation for me. The potential we have for the innovative and exciting use of our single biggest fiscal asset, our building is another recent revelation. The "Parents and Tots Thursdays" organized by Molly and the Saturday morning breakfasts are all revelatory or potential within our congregation.

As we begin the month of revelation we have just scratched the surface revealing our potential as a dynamic religious community. Revelation can comfort and afflict, but it always moves toward truth. Let us not be frightened or afflicted by the revelation of our own power to change the world.

Rev. Norm Horofker

UUCH REFUGEE SPONSORSHIP UPDATE

We celebrated the arrival of our Syrian refugee family with a wonderful potluck on Sunday, March 13, after the worship. Leslie Shaw organized the event. The whole UU community plus new friends participated. While I waited in my car to get into our driveway, temporarily blocked by an Access-a-Bus unloading a wheelchair-bound young man, I was glad to see Allan Shaw again, bringing in dishes. Just before that, Wietske drove herself in with her electric wheelchair and as I unloaded my new walker in our parking lot, I met two carloads of people who were completely new to me. When I finally was able to get into our building, Kathy Spencer was hard at work laying out a multitude of mouth-watering dishes.



The miracle of many hands unfolded once again converting our worship room into a cheerful dining area. Two large banners, one in Arabic, the other in English, proclaimed WELCOME. The long tables loaded with delicious food had already been set up in the Ballroom Gallery. Inside our converted worship room, our Syrian toddler, little Sarah with her curly brown hair, circulated fearlessly among the round tables and peoples' legs. Her infant sister Lona slept blissfully in Nancy Covington's arms, while Nancy's husband, Avery Bain, looked on. Nine-year-old Anwar's smile was radiant following her big brother Nawras around. "It takes a village to raise a child" ... I felt happy that our refugee family has found their "village" with us here in Canada and even though I could not clearly see Diyaa, Noor and Sharifa's faces, I trust they felt the same.

Weekly meetings between our Syrian family and committee members have taken place at the three-bedroom apartment on Glenforest Drive to monitor our families' progress. It became apparent that Noor and Diyaa needed **separate lodgings**. A suitable two-bedroom apartment on Evans Avenue (apartment 2) has been found. Sharifa and Anwar are staying at Glenforest (apartment 1), where Nawras will join them and contribute to the rent. Noor and Diyaa are moving into apartment 2 just now as I am writing this report, Sunday March 27, and will help with their rent using child support money from the government. Luckily, the building of apartment 2 has an elevator, while that of apartment 1 does not.

Jobs, money and scheduling: Diyaa is shadowing workers at Andrew Watts's construction company for the next two weeks to see whether this is the right placement for him. I plan to attend the ISANS job counselor's sessions with Sharifa and Noor and continue to talk to them in person and individually at locations that do not have more than the few stairs I can manage. Kathy Spencer handles money for the family and reports that our refugees feel the money they get is sufficient. Marilyn Shinyei does a great job writing out weekly schedules of what, who, where and when, that help us avoid duplication and mix-ups.

Health, medical, dental, optometrist: Marilyn was phoned when Sarah's and Anwar's fever with earache wouldn't respond fast enough; Sylvia took them to the IWK and today both girls are reported to be on the mend. Noor needs some dental work and Sharifa will be getting reading glasses. The respective practitioners have submitted requests to have these costs covered. This is our first chance to find out if the Interim Federal Health Program works the way it is supposed to and will, in fact, cover these expenses for our Syrian family members.

Special date: March 31, Noor's birthday.

Barbara Harsanyi and Marilyn Shinyei
UUCH Refugee Committee



The Caring Column

A memorial service and reception for longtime member and friend **Laura Hody** will be held at the church on **Saturday, May 28th at 2:00 pm.** A few words from Laura's wife, Eileen Ross: "Laura was

born in Moncton on April 4, 1965. Her mother loved to travel, so Laura found herself all over the globe at a very early age. Obstetrics nursing was her calling, and she worked at the IWK Grace with a main focus on labour and delivery for over 25 years. She just beamed when she talked about 'her' deliveries. Laura took early retirement just last year and we moved from Halifax to our cottage in Martins River on the beautiful South Shore. As we were planning a spring trip to England to visit her elderly "aunty" she received the diagnosis of cancer and passed away within the week. She was the love of my life."

Thank you, all: As chair of the Caring Committee, I wish to thank the many people who help other members and friends in the church and the neighbourhood. There are those who give rides to and from church and for appointments. There are those who shop for people; those who prepare meals and treats; those who visit or call or send cards. Many people set up the coffee and tea before and clean up after services and other occasions. Others donate snacks. Many volunteers help prepare the weekly Saturday breakfast for our neighbours. Many give a smile and a greeting and kind words to new visitors and old friends on Sunday mornings and many greet at the door on Sundays. Thank you to our committee chairs and group leaders and their many helpers. Thank you to all who are helping our refugee families get settled in their new homes and giving ongoing support. Thank you to any whom I have left out who contribute to the feeling of warmth and community in our church.

I would especially like to thank **Hana and Halim Saba**, the owners of **South End Florists** (formerly Inglis Street Florists). Each Sunday they donate a beautiful bouquet of flowers for the Sunday service. Those flowers then give joy to some other person who is homebound or needs a lift as Reverend Norm passes them on.

Mary Ellen Onno

Hike to Dawson Falls, Saturday, April 16

This hike will be through mature forest to the falls and gorge of Dawson Creek, then on to the Dawson Creek valley below. This is a woodland hiking trail with some steep slopes. I hope the creek will still be in spring freshet this April.



Meet at the church at 12 noon, or at the North end of the Home Depot parking lot at Lacewood Drive and the Bi-Hi at 12:20 in order to car pool. Meet at the Ellerhouse exit (Exit 4) on Highway 101 at 1 pm. At Exit 4, turn right on Highway 1. Wait on the side of the road for the rest of the group to arrive. You can call me at 902-483-4731 if you are lost or are running late. *Allyn Clarke*

Dinner Theatre coming in May

"The Magic Chair"



Save the dates... May 12, 13, 14

(Thursday, Friday, Saturday)

Plan on attending and bringing friends. Watch for notices of ticket sales soon! Contact us for early reservations!

Deborah and Kathy

Music Montage



“How often, making music, we have found a new dimension in the world of sound, as worship moved us to a more profound Alleluia!” ~ Fred Pratt Green

April's 'Singing as We Gather'

The Gathering Hymn for April is #1052 *The Oneness of Everything*. This month's theme is Revelation. Revelation can lead us on a great many paths. This hymn takes us on some of those paths. The first verse talks about revealing “*the key to nature's harmony*” and since April is the month in which we celebrate Earth Day, this seems appropriate. In the third verse the lyrics go on to say “*Still we seek to find a truth that we might understand*” and “*oh, passing years just might I know the faith that winters in the heart, to be reborn in spring. To hear and to feel the pulse of life enter my soul as a song to sing, of the oneness of everything.*” In addition to beautiful lyrics, the music is quite moving, and I feel it is time the congregation got to know this hymn better. So, let it be revealed!

Monthly Music Projects

To participate in the April 10th Music Project, attend a 9:45 am rehearsal on Sunday, April 3rd and a 9:30 am rehearsal on April 10th for the final run-through.

Starting on Sunday, April 17th we'll be preparing for the next month's Music Project, which will be presented May 8th. The theme for May is 'Tradition'.

Rehearsal opportunities for May 8th Music Project:

- Sunday, April 17th, at 9:45 am
- Sunday, April 24th, at 9:45 am (upstairs)
- Sunday, May 1st, at 9:45 am
- Sunday, May 8th, 9:30 am *final run-through*

Happy Earth Day!

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

Religious Exploration



Happy spring from RE!

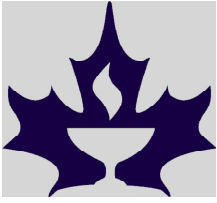
Throughout the winter term, we've been walking the walk of our new year's resolution: **to be kinder and more respectful to all living things**. Each week, we've discussed our individual acts of kindness and respect, and how they might relate to any of our monthly themes. And collectively, we've been faithfully refilling the bird feeder and suet cage at church. (The birds have been particularly fond of our home-made suet, by the way. We had to make a second batch last week!)

As we move through our spring term, we will be **introducing new activities** based upon that same theme (kindness and respect toward all living things), but reaching out to community groups who are already working to support the same goals. Discussions are underway to organize an RE field trip to the SPCA Provincial Shelter in Dartmouth in April or May. And I'm currently trying to set something up with another community group that will be of particular interest to the children and congregation. As soon as things are definite, I'll let you know more.

March's **multi-generational service** has been rescheduled for May 8th. Martha Wilson is taking responsibility for organizing and producing this service. She wants the content to be a surprise, so I can't say anything more about it—except that the children and I are supporting her in any way she asks. I can also say, “Thank you, Martha.”

As tradition dictates, our **final service in June** will also be multi-generational. I am inviting our new community partners to participate in the service, to solidify and extend our relationship, as well as deepen the RE experience for the children.

David Ballum-Haftka
Interim RE Director



CANADIAN CONSEIL
UNITARIAN UNITARIEN
COUNCIL DU CANADA

I travelled to Montreal last week to visit Deanna Silver, a longstanding friend of this congregation and our recently remembered and celebrated Cynthia Davis. We attended the service at the UU Church of Montreal, a structure I fantasize about for our own UUCH. It is a modern design of a wonderful open space with a high ceiling and acoustic tiles in the sanctuary.

Rev. Carol Martignacco (formerly of North Hatley) was giving Rev. Diane Rollert a much needed respite, on their March theme of Discipline. It was a delight to make the surprise eye contact during the candle lighting at the front for the joys and sorrows. She later told me, “When I saw you I started to question ... am I in Montreal or somewhere else ...?”

At this time of year all sights turn to the May Annual Conference Meeting (ACM)—and for the Canadian Unitarian Council Board, our Annual General Meeting (AGM).

The Council’s members are the approximately 50 Unitarian Universalist congregations across Canada represented by delegates at the AGM.

The CUC relies on its member congregations to host ACM’s. Sadly whenever the ACM is at one end or other of the country, there are cost barriers that many individuals and member congregations face.

One of the three continuing CUC Board Priorities (approved by delegates each year) is to “Develop a flexible communications system including a platform and other technology capabilities”.

The ACM is always a huge amount of work for the CUC staff. For this year’s AGM the communication platform is much improved and set for participation of delegates and others off-site. See the cuc.ca website under Events, then “ACM” for more information.

In the absence of any new social responsibility resolutions this year, time will be spent in the plenary Thursday evening and Friday afternoon of the AGM on three main areas:

- Updates from the monitoring groups on **Action Plans** of existing resolutions
- Proposed **Vision** (and five aspirations) for the UU Movement
- Proposal for the **Annual Program Contribution** (APC)

After the business on Friday, then on to the much anticipated networking, storytelling and “stream” presentations around “**Bolder Ways of Being**” as we plan for our individual congregations’ and collective UU future.

Thank you to UUCH delegates Marilyn Shinyei and ...‘TBA’.



In UU commitment,
**Glenda Butt, President
CUC Board of Trustees**



The deadline for submissions for the May newsletter is **10 am, Monday, April 25th.**

Please submit to both
braeside@eastlink.ca
and
uuchurch@eastlink.ca



SUNDAY SERVICE VOLUNTEERS

April 3

Greeting Kathy Anthony, Anne Knight-Gorman
Ushering Kay Smith, Kathy Anthony (e), Janet Horofker (l)
Kitchen Devin Murphy, Stephen Butler (set-up)
Anne Knight-Gorman (clean-up)
Audio Devin Murphy
Library TBF

April 10

Greeting Tracy Boyer and helper, Wietske Gradstein
Ushering Wendy Ozon (e), Dean White (l)
Kitchen Louise Malloch, Stephen B. (set-up)
Dean White (clean-up)
Audio Avarad Woolaver
Library Anne Knight-Gorman

April 17

Greeting Sandra Clarke, Sylvia Mattinson
Ushering Eileen Ross (e), Margaret Galbraith, Paul Galbraith (l)
Kitchen Paul Galbraith, Stephen B. (set-up)
Stephen Butler (clean-up)
Audio Paul Galbraith
Library Alison Chipman

April 24

Greeting Sandra Clarke, Sylvia Mattinson
Ushering Andy Blair (e) Sylvia Mattinson, Shripad Pendse (l)
Kitchen Nick Baros-Johnson, Stephen Butler (set-up)
Kathy Spencer (clean-up)
Audio Nick Baros-Johnson
Library Shripad Pendse

Sunday Service Support Team

Here is an excellent opportunity to really get to know your fellow UU's. We have vacancies in the following roles: At the door (greeter), in the Worship Room (early usher) and in the kitchen.

It won't take more than an hour each month. The great advantage is that you will become an integral part of our congregation. Everyone will know you, and you will know everyone. You will never have to feel left out!

Please contact me as soon as you can to try out for one of these positions. These vacancies usually go fast.

Wietske Gradstein  902-835-9272



Earth Day, April 22