

UU & you

Newsletter of the
Universalist Unitarian Church of Halifax

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December 2018

Universalist Unitarian
Church of Halifax
5500 Inglis Street
Halifax NS
B3H 1J8

902-429-5500
uuchurch@eastlink.ca
uuch.ca

Rev. Norm Horofker
Minister
Office hours
Tues, Wed, Fri, 10-3
Cell 902-229-9239

Sandra Jamieson
Office Administrator
Office hours
Mon, Wed, Fri, 10-3
Lunch-12 to 1pm

RE Director
Tanya Bilsbury

Margaret Galbraith
President

Newsletter
Etta Hamm
Sylvia Mattinson
Sandra Jamieson

Sunday service
10:30 am

All are welcome

Children & Youth Education
Child care available



Theme for December 2018: Hope

December 2

Hanukah – a Lesson for Us All — The Jewish celebration of Hanukah commemorates the re-dedication of the second temple in Jerusalem following the domination of the Seleucid Empire. Norm asks, “is there a lesson here for Canada in the 21st century?” Presenter: Rev. Norm Horofker; Service Assistant: Pam Griffin-Hody

December 9

Hope In an Age of Hopelessness — It is said that nothing can be done without hope and optimism. If so, the future belongs to those who have hope. What does it mean to have hope when all seems lost? Presenter: Rev. Norm Horofker; Service Assistant: Mary Lu MacDonald

December 16 10:30 am

Realizing Hope – One Refugee’s Story — In 1997, Ali Duale arrived in Halifax with his wife and two children after fleeing his homeland of Somalia and living for 7 years in a Kenyan refugee camp. He will tell us of his journey from being an undocumented nobody to a proud contributing member of Canadian society. Presenter: Ali Duale; Service Leader: Margaret Galbraith

December 16 7 pm

Our 7th Annual Blue Christmas at Bearly’s House of Blues — Tonight we take our chalice out of our sanctuary and into the community to raise the spirits of those whose memories of Christmas are not always happy, and those who may be jaded by the materialism of the season. The kitchen and bar are open throughout the service. We recommend you arrive early (**6 pm**) as seating is limited. Featuring the Paul Saint-Amand Trio, The Afterchoir, and much more.

December 23

Does Christmas Hold out Hope for Unitarian Universalists? — Christmas is in the DNA of Unitarian Universalism. Our roots are Christian, although from the earliest days Unitarians questioned the divinity of Christ. Where does Christmas fit in modern UU Theology? Presenter: Rev. Norm Horofker; Service Assistant: Marilyn Shinyei

More services, next page ...

Theme for January : Intention

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



DECEMBER 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1  Christmas Bazaar 10am-2pm
2 Collecting donations for Christmas Hampers to the 16th. Noon: Worship Com. 1 pm Caring Comm.		4	5 4:45-6:15 pm Afterchoir	6 9:30-11:30 am Parents & Tots Noon-1 pm Tai Chi 6:30 Board meeting	7	8 10–noon UU Brunch
9 Following service: TRTG Soup & Sandwich Fundraiser followed by the last session of the year	10	11	12 4:45-6:15 pm Afterchoir	13 9:30-11:30 am Parents & Tots Noon-1 pm Tai Chi	14	15 10–noon UU Brunch
16 Noon: Intro to UU with Rev. Norm Noon – 1 pm Humanist Group  7 pm (arrive early!)	17	8	19 4:45-6:15 pm Afterchoir	20	21	22 10–noon UU Brunch 
23	24 4:30 Candlelight Service	25 Christmas Day! 	26	27	28 Noon: Newsletter deadline	29 10–noon UU Brunch
30 10:30 am Pancake Breakfast	31					

Services continued ...

December 24 Monday 4:30 pm Our Annual Candlelight Christmas Eve Service

A multi-generational celebration of the season with song and dance, hot cider, Moravian buns and sacred silence. You are invited to bring festive potluck finger foods for the social gathering after the service. This is one of our “not to be missed” traditions that will feed your body and your soul. Presenter: Rev. Norm Horofker, Service Assistants: Numerous.

December 30 Sunday 10:30 am Pancake Breakfast

In a daring break from tradition, the service on the eve of New Year’s Eve, this Sunday will begin with a pancake breakfast at our usual Sunday start time of 10:30 am, followed by music and reflections on our hopes for 2019. Come out and be prepared to celebrate the New Year early!



Minister's Notes

The end of a good year

And so, we enter the final month of 2018. The month of December will be busy for all of us. Among the many things on your schedule, I hope that you will be able to attend our special annual services, the candlelight service, and of course the 7th annual Blue Christmas at Bearly's House of Blues and Ribs.

I look back on a good year for our congregation. The work of our Refugee Task Team and our Truth and Reconciliation Task Team are certainly highlights. Repairing our storm porch and installing new fully accessible doors has made a huge difference. Remember the old leaky door? We will have to find something new to complain about this winter. I will stop there, although I could go on...

But it isn't the projects, the good work, that is fundamentally important. What is important is that we give meaning to our lives. Our congregation is a unique place where we have that opportunity. I hope that you find it to be so, and that you will continue to help us to improve through your involvement.

It is not always easy work. We all have growing edges. We all can do more to make others feel welcome and to risk change in our own lives. Our congregation is a safe place to do that difficult work.

I am so fortunate to be serving you, the members and friends of UUCH. You have woven and continue to weave the fabric of true community—the stuff of a good life—from your many disparate contributions. Thank you!

**With Love,
Norm**

*Don't Miss the 7th Annual
Blue Christmas Service*

**at Bearly's House of Blues and Ribs
Service led by Rev. Norm Horofker**

Featuring the music of:



The Paul Saint-Amand Trio

*The Afterchoir,
poetry, and candle lighting.*

Sunday December 16 at 7 pm

*It is recommended that you arrive
by 6 pm as seating is limited.
The kitchen is open for dinner
during and after the service.*

Christmas Hamper Drive



In December we will once again be collecting funds and food for our annual Christmas Hamper Drive which the congregation has supported so enthusiastically and warmly for a number of years. We will again be supporting three initiatives:

- **The Building Bridges Program** of the Canadian Mental Health Association. The Halifax residents who receive our gift bags have limited contact with others; nearly all of them are entirely housebound. Many of them have said how much our gifts meant to them over the Christmas period.
- **Phoenix Youth.** Phoenix is a non-profit, community-based organization located in Halifax. Phoenix has programs supporting youth between the ages of 11 and 24, their families, and communities across multiple locations in Halifax.
- **Child Haven International.** Founded by Unitarians Bonnie and Fred Cappuccino, Child Haven supports women and children in India, Bangladesh, Nepal, and Tibet.

After we've purchased appropriate amounts for the Christmas hampers, the remainder will be divided between Phoenix Youth and Child Haven.

If you make a donation and you prefer that your contribution go to one initiative or another, just let us know at the time. (We realize many people in the congregation already support Child Haven monthly.)

Cheques should be made out to UUCH, and clearly marked "Hamper Drive." If you donate cash, put it in the collection plate with "Hamper Drive" on the envelope. **We will be collecting through December 16th.** As always, thank you so much for your support.

Danielle and Troy Saulnier

The Caring Committee

Sadly, we have lost another member of our UUCH community. **Patrick Anthony Turner** died in his sleep on November 17th. Our thoughts are with his daughter Kim, son Chris and their families at this time of sorrow. According to Patrick's wishes, a private celebration of life has been held.

It was good to see **Alison Chipman** back for the service on November 18th after her absence due to illness since late September.

Congratulations to **Ian Meinertzhagen**, husband of the late Nancy Meinertzhagen, a longtime member of the church. Ian was recently made a Fellow of the prestigious Royal Society of Canada, under its Division of Life Sciences.

It was heartening to hear from a number of UUCH members and friends who are interested in being on our new **UUCares listserv**. They suggest a variety of ways in which they might help others when needed. We will call on them as situations arise.

Sylvia Mattinson



Newsletter Deadline

The submission deadline for the January newsletter will be extended to **Friday noon, December 28th. Submissions received any time during the month including during Christmas week would be most helpful, however.**

Electronic issue release: Monday, Dec 31
Hard copies available: Sunday, Jan 6

Please send your submissions to both:

Etta Hamm braeside@eastlink.ca

Sandra Jamieson uuchurch@eastlink.ca

Etta Hamm, Editor

URGENT call for Sunday volunteers



There is an abundance of jokes about UUs and coffee. I like the one about UU missionaries knocking on doors offering coffee. I even found one with the punchline stating that a UU holy day of obligation is “when it's your turn to make the coffee”.

Every Sunday we come to spend time in worship and in community, and there is no doubt that a happy coffee time after the service is very much part of our Sunday time together. Some also appreciate a welcome cup of coffee on arrival, having won that hard-earned parking spot.

When we arrive, we are happy to say hello to whichever of us has volunteered to greet people at our lovely new door. Our greeters are *essential* in welcoming new faces and making them feel a welcome part of our community. It's all 'of a piece'—from the greeting at the door to coffee time after service.

But some of our greeters seem to have disappeared—and for lack of volunteers, our coffee time is in jeopardy! **We need people to volunteer a.s.a.p. to do these important tasks!**

Two people are needed on coffee each week—one for early set-up, and one for the after-service including clean-up. Currently, there are no Sundays where both of these spots are filled.

As for greeters, the 2nd, 4th and 5th of each month have only one greeter.

Please turn to the last page to view the December and January rosters as filled in thus far. It will help you decide where you can fill a much need role.

To volunteer see me after church or email me at pam_griffin-hody@carleton.ca – or call me at 1-613-897-1492.

Pam Griffin-Hody

It's Christmas wreath time



Once again we will make our beautiful building even more beautiful for the holidays and through the winter by installing fir wreaths with electric candles on each of our five dormer windows.

As in the past we invite members to sponsor one of these wreaths.

The cost per wreath is \$25 including tax and installation. To sponsor a wreath please contact our Treasurer, Marilyn Shinyei, or our Minister, Rev. Norm Horofker at nhorofker@aol.com or 902-229-9239.





Tai Chi at UUCH

Tai chi for Better Function is held at the UU Church on Thursdays at 12 noon. Postures are based on Tai Chi for Arthritis as taught by the renowned Dr. Paul Lam.

See taichiproductions.com.

Teachers are tai chi instructor June Trenholm, a physiotherapist retired from the the QEII Health Centre's Pain Self-Management program, and Ken MacKay, a Certified Tai Chi for Arthritis Instructor. With two instructors for our very small class, each student benefits from much individual attention.

There are spaces available for several more participants. There is no charge but food box donations are appreciated.

The last class of the year will be on December 13th, resuming on January 10th. We'd love to see a few new faces (and awakening bodies) in the new year.

You can contact us by joining 'Tai Chi for Better Function' on Facebook; or you can see me at church or contact me at quiditazi@hotmail.com.

Michael Smith

Pancake Breakfast Sunday, December 30

10:30 am



In case you missed it on page 2... in a daring break from tradition, the service on Sunday, December 30th (the eve of New Year's Eve) will begin with a breakfast of delicious pancakes (and more) all prepared by experts on-site.

This will not be potluck—everything will be provided—but those who are able may be amenable to making a pay-what-you-can donation.

This festive time of fellowship and food will be followed by music and reflections on our hopes for 2019.

Come out and be prepared to celebrate the New Year early!

Wanted: Membership Champion!

UUCH does not have anyone right now whose role is to encourage, support and grow membership. Is this something that interests you? Tell us what you think a Membership Champion needs to do and why you would be the person, or the team, to do it!

Contact me or Rev. Norm Horofker if this is the time and talent you could contribute to our community.

Margaret Galbraith
margalbraith@eastlink.ca

UUCH Board of Directors June 2018 – May 2019

Officers

President	Margaret Galbraith
Vice-President	Troy Saulnier
Past President	Kim Turner
Secretary	Shripad Pendse
Treasurer	Marilyn Shinyei

Members at Large

Pam Berman	Mia Huh
Ginny Girard	Pam Griffin-Hody

Values, Vision and Mission for UUCH

It has been twenty years since our congregation took some time to examine in depth the question of a Vision and Mission. At that time, at the Semi-annual Meeting held on October 1998, our current Mission (without a separate broad aspirational Vision) was approved by the congregation. Our congregation, and the world, has changed over that period of time, and the Board is now discussing ways to evaluate the appropriateness of this Mission for today's congregation.

Our August Retreat, where we took a look at what we all value about our faith and our church, is the beginning of this process. At that time we used several questions in small group conversations to learn what the participants valued about Unitarianism and UUCH. Since not everyone got an opportunity to respond to every question, and since we only heard from less than one-third of the congregation, we are bringing the questions back in survey form.

We are asking if the responses we got the first time speak for you, as well as providing the opportunity for further input. We are also asking for key words describing your vision for UUCH. Please take some time to participate in the online survey when it comes to your inbox, or pick up a paper copy at the church. Thank you.

***The Retreat Committee: Margaret Galbraith,
Kim Turner, Troy Saulnier, Rev. Norm Horofker***



UUCH Sponsorship Agreement Holder (SAH) Committee part of welcoming parties for 37 newcomers

The week of November 19th was very exciting and challenging for your hardworking SAH committee. Twenty-nine people arrived on the 20th flying to Halifax from Addis Ababa via Toronto. On the 22nd another 8 people arrived from Nairobi via Frankfurt and Toronto. We were at the airport both nights as part of the welcoming receptions. Here are some photos of our team, the team from ADAM and some of the newcomers:



In the days leading up to the arrivals we sorted clothes, looked into school enrollment for the 29 children and youth involved, completed paperwork, and bought flowers and balloons. In fine form as always, our versatile ukulele-playing minister was there to sing an upbeat, welcoming number to the arrivees, whose joy on their faces was moving. We wish them renewed hope and much success in this new exciting chapter of their lives.

UUCH SAH Committee

Religious Exploration

I am so pleased with the development of the RE program this year. The younger children are engaged by the Wonderful Welcome curriculum from the UUA's children's faith development program, Tapestry of Faith. Each week they learn about a new 'intangible gift', such as forgiveness. For example, they practiced understanding other people's point of view, and learned how to apologize and 'extend the olive branch'. It's so rewarding to help children develop a strong ethical foundation.

Meanwhile, the older children are participating in services, talking about the big existential questions with teachers from the RE committee, and developing a relationship with our minister, Norm.

Now that the program is in place and running smoothly, I am delighted to notice attendance increasing and new families visiting.

I am most excited by our burgeoning 'Spirit Art' program, where volunteers from the congregation lead an activity with all the children. This is a wonderful opportunity to forge inter-generational relationships. In October we had a great time with Andy and Claudia making sugar skulls and learning about 'El Dia de los Muertos'.



In November (as shown above), Leslie, Alan, Molly and Faith guided the children as they made Christmas crackers to give to their friends and families (an annual activity that represents the legacy of the late Kay Smith) and decorated cookies to give to guests at our Saturday community brunch.

I'd like to extend my sincere thanks to the board, the RE committee, to Norm, and the congregation as a whole for the tremendous support that has been given to the RE program and to me personally and professionally. I am taking medical leave for the month of December, and hope to return to my post in the New Year.

Tanya Bilsbury

Director

UUCH Religious Exploration Program

Gleanings ...

Here is a synopsis of CUC online webinars (and more) coming up in December and January. Information is available in more detail (registering, etc.) under Events sections of the CUC Facebook page and the CUC website, www.cuc.ca.

December 2018

Church Social Media and Membership Growth, a webinar of interest to UU leaders and anyone working in congregational communications. Online, **Saturday, December 8, 1:30-3:30 pm AST**. Presented by Peter Bowden, a UU consultant specializing in congregational growth, outreach, and media. Peter has trained thousands of leaders across the United States and globally through online programs. Social media is fundamentally changing how people connect, learn, and make important life decisions. This includes how digitally oriented people connect with, research, and join congregations. The webinar challenges us to integrate social media with our membership development efforts.

Gathered Here. The new monthly online check-in (on Zoom, a video conferencing platform) for Canadian Unitarian Universalist young adults, will meet on **December 10 and January 14 at 9 pm AST**. Join other UU 18-35 year-olds for sharing of joys and concerns, deeper check-ins, prayerful reflections, and an opportunity to process current events with a spiritually grounded community.

Shining Light Award 2019 nomination deadline: Saturday, December 15. Is your UU youth group, young adult gathering, or any other group involved in great activities you would like to share? The CUC has created the Shining Lights Award so that we may share our stories, highlight the wisdom learned and make connections as we seek to live out our faith. To request the nomination form, email shininglights@cuc.ca.

January 2019

OWL Facilitator Training. Taking place at the Unitarian Church of Vancouver, **January 11-13** (Friday thru Sunday). Become a facilitator for Our Whole Lives sexuality education for junior high and high school levels (grades 7 to 9, and 10 to 12).

The training, which provides both theoretical and hands-on training, is open to Canadian and American congregations. We welcome those from outside the Unitarian Universalist tradition who would like to run OWL programs in schools, camps or other settings. Cost \$250.

Charitable Property Rentals, a webinar with Clyde Harris, CUC bookkeeper. Of interest to treasurers, property managers, administrators, bookkeepers and presidents. Online, Wednesday, **January 23, 8:30-9:30 pm AST**.

The discussion will include whether charities should rent out their property and why this should or should not happen. How do charities gain the most from property rentals, and still protect the charity? Insurance requirements and rental policies will also be discussed. Cost: \$10.

Roundtable: Board Legal Considerations 101. What board members need to know. Online, **Saturday, January 26, 1:30-3 pm AST**. We'll discuss insights and questions arising from the UU video "Serving on a UU board in Canada: Legal and Practical Perspectives". The video (available on the CUC website) features a presentation by Geoff Gomery, a lawyer and former board member of the Unitarian Church of Vancouver, and offers legal context and practical advice on serving on Unitarian Universalist boards in Canada.





