

U.U.&you

newsletter of the universalist unitarian church of halifax

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July 2014

Universalist Unitarian
Church of Halifax
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Minister
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Deborah Wiggins
Music Director

Christy-Lee Bojarski
RE Director

Allyn Clarke
President

Newsletter
Etta Hamm
Sandra Jamieson

Sunday service
10:30 am
All welcome
Children & Youth Education
& Childcare available

July 6

Presenter: Irene Baros-Johnson; Service Leader: Wynne Jordan

Some Gifts of Indigenous Presence

In the past, it was almost possible to skip awareness of the original people who occupied this land. After a homily, Irene and others will present a short play reading about early mutual influences, and assistance, between the Mi'kmaq and the French settlers.

July 13

Presenter: Ralph Martin; Service Leader: Louise Malloch

Food Waste: Ecological, Economic, Social and Spiritual Implications

Canadians waste a whopping forty percent of their available food, at least half of which takes place in our homes. Recent research at the University of Guelph indicates that householders who feel guilty about wasting food, waste less of it. Interestingly, most see food waste as a social issue rather than an economic or environmental one. All of the major religious groups recognize food waste as a problem and encourage respect for food. Ralph will explore some of the current disconnects exemplified by food waste.

July 20

Presenter: Adnan Hussain; Service Leader: Wynne Jordan

Talking Radical Unity: Tawhid in and beyond Islam?

Tawhid is the Islamic principle of the unity and oneness of God. But what are the challenges to building an inclusive, LGBT-friendly community amongst Halifax Muslims? For Pride Week, Saint Mary's University Islam scholar Adnan Hussain looks at the history of discrimination against queers in the various Abrahamic traditions and how patriarchal structures impact these faiths. He'll also talk about some of the strategies Muslims are using today to unpack some of these problems.

July 27

Presenter: Norma McPhee; Service Leader: Dean White

Sexual Morality: An Old-Fashioned Progressive's Perspective

In a cultural landscape where sexual and relationship practices which were once almost universally frowned upon are increasingly accepted, is sexual morality still a meaningful concept? And if it is, what in blazes does it mean?



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

July 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3 7pm Meditation Circle	4	5
6	7	8 11:30-3:30 Library	9	10 7pm Meditation Circle Hope Cottage	11	12 6pm YAHUU Potluck
13 Noon-Soc. Resp.	14 8pm YAHUU Karaoke	15	16 D4\$ Hosts' deadline to submit events	17 7pm Meditation Circle	18	19 10-1 Yard Sale
20 D4\$ sign-up sheets Noon-The Humanists	21 10am Newsletter Deadline	22	23	24 7pm Meditation Circle	25 1pm Pride float decorating	26 Pride Parade!
27 D4\$ sign-up sheets	28	29	30	31 7pm Meditation Circle		



UUCH in 27th Annual Halifax Pride Parade Saturday July 26

Once again, UUCH will be marching in the Annual Halifax Pride Parade. Last year we used the theme “Yes, we officiate same-sex marriages”; we adopted the UUA's *Standing on the Side of Love* (SSL) campaign, and handed out our UUCH SSL pamphlets. This officially launched the SSL theme in Canada.

Why should PRIDE matter to us? Well, we UUs can be proud of our long-standing support for the right of same-sex couples to marry here in Canada. In fact, UUs officiated at the *first Canadian* same-sex marriage in 1974, and the *first Nova Scotia* same-sex marriage in 1978. This was well before the Canadian government or any of our provinces recognized such unions: (Ontario 2001, Nova Scotia 2004 and Canada 2005).

Over 1,400 people march in, and 60,000-plus come out and watch the Halifax Pride Parade. Given our progressive history with same-sex marriage, the outreach opportunities of Halifax Pride Parade, plus how rememberable the SSL branding is, *how could we not march?!* We will once again wear our bright yellow SSL T-shirts, hand out our UUCH pamphlets, and reprise last year's theme.

THE SCHEDULE:

Friday, July 25, 1 pm	Meet at the church to decorate the float. Pizza will be provided.
Saturday, July 26, 10 am	Meet at HMC Dockyard, 16 Valour Way. Enter by Barrington St. under the MacDonald Bridge.
After the parade	Gather for food and camaraderie! (Location TBA.)

**Pride activities are fun for everyone—including those friends you'll be bringing along to march with us!
Let's make this the best entry UUCH has ever had in the Halifax Pride Parade!**

Devin Murphy – for the UUCH Pride Committee



From your Minister

***We have a major celebration on the horizon...
Saturday, September 20th, an Open House for 5500 Inglis Street!***

A few people are already at work preparing for the event—but there is much to be done in order to capitalize on the opportunities that our Open House will provide.

Our first goal is to publicize our Religious Exploration program for children and youth. The West Trust Fund has provided a grant to support advertising and the materials for a family fair in our wonderful back yard. Visualize if you will, a blow-up jumping castle, a BBQ with hot dogs and hamburgers, corn on the cob, clowns, face painting, a dunk tank, jugglers, musicians, tarot card reading etc. Doesn't that sound like a fine way to spend a September Saturday afternoon? ***Well, that is just the beginning!***

We are piggy-backing on this event to advertise all of the wonderful things that go on at 5500 Inglis Street. Marilyn Shinyei is working on a newsletter that we will distribute widely, including door-to-door in our neighbourhood. It will list the activities of the church like our RE program, the Ballroom Gallery, our Social Justice efforts, the Humanist group, the Library, Movie Night, Young Adults, etc. It will also feature information on other groups who use the building like the Halifax Early Childhood School, the Neo-pagan group, the Spiritual Science Fellowship, the Ukulele Group, the venue and Lay Chaplain for weddings and memorial services, etc, etc.

Now visualize each of these different activities having tables set up in the church with people eager to engage visitors in discussion. This will really raise our profile in the neighbourhood and throughout Halifax!

Bringing this great vision to fruition provides wonderful opportunities for fun and personal satisfaction—so don't miss the opportunity! We will break the project down to a number of manageable chunks, and will ask for individual volunteers or teams of two or more to take on some relatively small aspect of the overall project like:

- 1) Be a part of the overall planning and coordinating team.
- 2) Work with Deborah to coordinate music, both live and recorded for the event.
- 3) Work with Christy on various aspects of the children's fair.
- 4) Coordinate a BBQ to sell hot dogs, hamburgers (including veggie), corn, etc.
- 5) Coordinate the advertising team for media coverage.
- 6) Coordinate the web presence team for social media coverage.
- 7) Coordinate a greeters' team or be a greeter to welcome Open House visitors
- 8) Ensure that we have displays representing our building user groups.
- 9) Coordinate the space for displays during the event.
- 10) Arrange for exhibits to highlight our Ballroom art gallery.

Call me now to sign up! 229-9239

Rev. Norm Horofker

Sunday Service Volunteers

July 6

Greeting Kathy Anthony, Anne Knight-Gorman
 Ushering Andy Blair (e), Janet Horofker (l)
 Kitchen Norm Sabowitz (set-up)
 Anne Knight-Gorman (clean-up)
 Audio Devin Murphy
 Library Valerie Chapman

July 13

Greeting Sass Minard, Wendy Ozon
 Ushering Valerie Chapman (e),
 Avard Woolaver, Martha Wilson (l)
 Kitchen Norm Sabowitz (set-up)
 Sass Minard (clean-up)
 Audio Avard Woolaver
 Library Stephen Butler

July 20

Greeting Michael Seary, Margaret Galbraith
 Ushering Michael Smith (e)
 Margaret and Paul Galbraith (l)
 Kitchen Norm Sabowitz (set-up)
 Buddy Gale (clean-up)
 Audio Todd MacMillan
 Library Norma McPhee

July 27

Greeting Sandra Clarke, Sylvia Mattinson
 Ushering Andy Blair (e)
 Sylvia Mattinson (l)
 Kitchen Norm Sabowitz (set-up)
 Sandra Clarke (clean-up)
 Audio Jo-Anne Brown-Shimeld
 Library Jo-Anne Brown-Shimeld

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



UUUnclassifieds

Advertise
with us

Do you need a service, or is there one you can offer? Is there some article you need? Place your *free ad* here!

The two parties negotiate a price, and the person receiving the pay donates all or part of the amount to UUCH. Everybody wins: the service is performed or the article is acquired—and the church that you love benefits. Submit your ad and we'll publish it in the next issue.

Sandra
Etta

uuchurch@eastlink.ca
braeside@eastlink.ca

Church directory update



Alison Chipman
achipman58@yahoo.ca

Church directories still available

If your name is in the church directory (ask if you're not sure) but have not picked up your copy (out this past January), be sure to ask for one next time you are in church. We have lots left. If you are unable to pick up your copy, we can mail it to you.

Email uuchurch@eastlink.ca—or call 429-5500.



The deadline for submissions for the August newsletter is Monday, July 21st.

“To give pleasure to a single heart by a single act is better than a thousand heads bowing in prayer.”

Mahatma Gandhi



**Dining
for Dollars
Summer
Fall**

Mark it on your calendars! The sign-up sheets for the Summer-Fall Dining for Dollars offerings will be out and on the tables at the church, ready for your perusal and selections on **July 20th and 27th, and August 3rd**. The catalogue of offerings will also be on the UUCH website so that you can claim your spot(s) by phone or email.

Now please, gracious hosts and hostesses, **get the details of YOUR exciting event to me by July 16th** to: Kay.kathy@ns.sympatico.ca or 429-9665—or simply fill in the form below and hand it to me at church.

Remember, there's strength in numbers, so maybe three or four people would consider hosting a dessert party or some other event at the church. Kath and I would happily co-host an event at the church as long as we don't have to cook—we'd gladly donate beer and wine.

Waiting with anticipation for your offer!

Kay Smith

✂ -----
-

My Dining for Dollars Offering

Name of event:

Date:

Time:

Place:

Host(s):

Max # of guests:

Cost:

Description:

Hope Cottage Meals



Thursday, July 10th is our next Hope Cottage dinner date, for which the UUCH has been asked to supply sufficient hot food to nourish 80 or more hungry residents of our local community. Please add your name to the sign-up list posted on the entranceway bulletin board or contact me if you'd like to support this worthwhile Community Outreach service. Thank you.

Kathy Spencer

**UUCH Board of Management
June 2014 to May 2015**

- | | |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| President | Kim Turner |
| Vice-President | Molly Hurd |
| Past President | Allyn Clarke |
| Secretary | Pam Berman |
| Treasurer | Darla Muzzerall |
| Members at Large: | |
| | Andy Blair |
| | Lauren Larsen |
| | Jim Morrison |
| | Faith Piccolo |



Church bulletin bloopers

For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery upstairs.

The Low Self-Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 7 pm. Please use the back door.

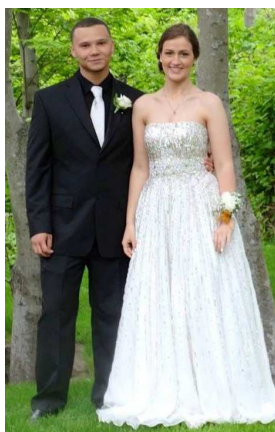
Caring



Best wishes to **Laura Hody** and **Eileen Ross** who were married by Reverend Norm at their cottage on June 11th. It was a beautiful sunny day for two beautiful ladies and their families.

We send our condolences to **Bob Munson** on the loss of his close friend Joe Mergl on June 2nd—and to **Carol Anne Cox** and her family on the loss of her father Michael A. Cox who passed away May 5th.

We wish **Elizabeth Greenhavens** a speedy recovery from a leg wound resulting from a fall while picking flowers in her yard—and also to **Paul Galbraith** following his recent surgery.



Congratulations and best wishes to **Felicity Barker** who graduated from Sacred School of Halifax on June 15th. Here's a photo of Felicity with her prom date, looking extra elegant on the happy occasion. Felicity will be taking up a double major in Sociology and Gender & Women's Studies at Dalhousie in the fall.

Congratulations to **Aedan Ward** who graduated from Sir John A Macdonald High School with a Grade 12 (French Immersion) Diploma. He plans to go to Saint Mary's University and take Business. Belinda and Jack are very proud of him.

Many thanks to all who responded so quickly to my request for help with meals for one of our members. They were and are truly appreciated.

Mary Ellen Onno



What is a Welcoming Congregation?

Newer friends and members may wonder what is meant by the words "welcoming congregation". This abridged version of a pamphlet written by Art

Brewer for the CUC's Gender and Sexual Diversity Monitoring Group highlights the basics.

The Welcoming Congregation program consists of a series of workshops developed by the Office of BGLT Concerns of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA). Among the workshop titles:

- how homophobia hurts heterosexuals
- connections to other forms of oppression
- gender socialization and homophobia

Upon completion of the program, the congregation votes to affirm that it welcomes and celebrates the presence and participation of BGLT persons. Certification is then issued by the Canadian Unitarian Council. UUCH was certified in 2003. A Welcoming Congregation has ten qualities, of which six are listed here. The congregation...

- Includes and addresses the needs of BGLT persons at every level of congregational life – in worship, in programs, in social occasions and in rites of passage, welcoming not only their presence, but the gifts and particularities of their lives as well.
- Assumes the presence of BGLT people and celebrates this diversity by having inclusive language and content in their worship.
- Includes a non-discrimination clause in its by-laws and other official documents affecting membership, hiring practices, and the calling of religious professionals.
- Affirms and celebrates BGLT issues and history.
- Attends to legislative developments and works to promote justice and equality in the larger society.
- Speaks out when the rights of BGLT people are at stake.

Pick up the pamphlet from the rack in the church foyer to learn more. Or, take several and give them to friends and family who may be interested in knowing more about how Universalist Unitarians are **Standing on the Side of Love**. And consider participating in Halifax Pride Day with UUCH! (See page 2.)

UU & you



Inspiration without Borders

On a recent Sunday we heard the impressions of several people who had attended the CUC Annual Meeting and Conference. It reminded me that back in April I attended the Florida District meeting of the Southeast Region of the UUA, and got me thinking about my recollections of that meeting.

One major feature of attending a large denomination meeting is that you meet and are inspired by people who have made a major commitment to the UU principles. James Key, who was elected to a six-year term as the moderator of the UUA in 2013, holds the highest volunteer position in the denomination in the USA. He gives sixty hours a week to this commitment. He spoke to the District meeting for an hour via an internet-based TV transmission (which worked very well). In late June he will chair the UUA General Assembly in Providence, RI.



Jim spoke about the future of the denomination and the need to evolve the notion of “church” to meet the changing customs and spiritual needs of society. He believes that Unitarian Universalism and its commitment to love and social justice has more relevance than ever today.

In addition to his broad comments, there were several notable quotes that I remember. He mentioned the need to have a short response ready for people who ask “What is Unitarian Universalism?”, and said that one that he likes is “We are not about getting into heaven. We are about getting heaven into us”. He has been running into people who say “Oh – you’re the love people” because of the visibility of the Standing on the Side of Love campaign. Another interesting comment: Unitarian Universalism is the only major denomination whose name states its beliefs. Other denominations are named after their founder or their faith leader or their system of governance, etc.

The meeting also raised my awareness of and understanding of Unitarian Universalism as a “covenantal faith”, as considerable agenda time was spent on this. Within congregations people covenant to walk together in a spirit of love, service, and justice. We agree to follow a democratic process for decision making, and to abide by the outcome of that decision process. UUCH has its own covenant which expresses these thoughts. However, congregations also covenant with other congregations to be part of the larger denomination organization, to achieve the scale and resources to put love and service to use in a way which will bring justice and make a world impact. This is an inspirational thought.

The covenant principle is being applied in new ways. Traditionally there have been clusters of congregations, based on geographical proximity, which shared some resources and ideas. Today technology takes away the requirement for geographical proximity, and new affinity clusters are being formed using internet-based tools to share ideas and best practice based on congregation size, topic, etc., and to collaborate on service projects.



There was lots of other interesting information at the meeting, including a very good session on stewardship which I attended. But the biggest impact of the meeting, in the end, comes from the people whom one meets, and their deep commitment to our shared faith.

Karen Woolhouse

Music Montage

*My song is a prayer
It comes from somewhere
Far beyond me
Through the strings
Into the song that I sing
My spirit rises
I take wing
The prayer that I sing is love.
~ Greg O'Neill*



Thank yous...

I am very grateful to all those who supported the Music Program during this church year. I want to offer special thanks to Rev. Horofker, the dedicated members of the *Chalice Singers*, the *Afterchoir*, *qUUartet*, those who added their voices to the *Family Singers*, and to the members of the Music Committee (Kathy Spencer, Paul Galbraith, and Pam Berman).

No Rehearsals for Choirs This Summer...

The Chalice Singers, *the Family Singers*, and *qUUartet* will be taking a break from rehearsals for the summer. All choirs will resume in September.

July's 'Singing As We Gather'...

The *Gathering Hymn* for this month is #66, *When the Summer Sun is Shining*. This hymn describes so many beautiful things that I hope we can all experience in this warm, wonderful season, including when “*my open heart is glowing, full of warmth for everyone, and I feel an inner beauty which reflects the summer sun.*”

The Afterchoir...

The Afterchoir (our folk/rock group) meets on most Wednesdays during the church year, from approximately 4:45 to 6:15 pm. Contact James at jamesmorris@morrisbureau.com for summer dates and times.

Music Director Vacation...

I will be on vacation from July 21st to Aug 4th inclusive.

Please use the following email address for things related to my position as Music Director:
uuchmusic@yahoo.ca or call 463-0988.

Check out the music pages on our website at ***uuch.ca/music***

Have a wonderful July, everyone!

Deborah Wiggins
Music Director



UUCh in the Halifax Pride Parade, July 2013

Pride photos courtesy of Avarid Woolaver