

U.U. & you

newsletter of the universalist unitarian church of halifax

Vol. 50, No 11
July 2016

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 by appointment
Reachable on his
Cell 902-229-9239

Sandra Jamieson
Office Administrator
Summer Office hours
Most Fridays 11-3

Deborah Wiggins
Music 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

July 3

Presenter: Martha Wilson; Service Assistant: Mia Huh

Andy Warhol, manners, and The Little Red Hen — It's easy for creativity and the work of the soul to get ground down by the demands of everyday life. How can we resolve the tension between accomplishing what we have to do, and finding time for our larger ambitions?

July 10

Presenter: Rev. David Maginley; Service Leader: Wynne Jordan

It's not about belief — What is it to believe in God? Can one be spiritual without belief? Throughout time and culture, a connection to something greater is claimed, yet we find ourselves in the peculiar position of denying it. Come explore the conundrum our modern lens has put on this as we engage with the central aspect of our humanity, our identity, and our destiny.

July 17

Service Leader: Shripad Pendse; Service Assistant: Dean White

To love is "to be happy with" — Love is a confusing subject. Scriptures tell us to "love with all thy strength and all thy mind." This makes loving someone sound like a difficult and unpleasant task which we must do because it is good for us, like eating broccoli. But could it be that love is easy and fun, more like eating ice-cream?

July 24

Presenter: Darla Muzzerall; Service Assistant: Louise Malloch

In Agreement: How is one to use the new pronouns? (our Pride service) — As UUs we consider ourselves LGBTQ advocates, but on a personal level, we struggle with everyday interactions, when *he* becomes *she*, or *she* becomes *they*. The English language is ever-evolving but has not adapted to today's gender identities. The easy part is asking which pronoun someone prefers; the hard part is changing our habits and using the new pronouns, because we are not only changing our words, but our worldview. Darla is the parent of a young adult who identifies as genderqueer.



July 31

Presenter: Deborah Wiggins; Service Assistant: Marilyn Shinyei

Our Circle of Song — Come, make a joyful noise! We will celebrate the joy of music on this mid-summer holiday weekend. What types of music fill our hearts with joy? If you would like to participate by singing or playing, or offering a reading, or suggesting a hymn, please contact Deborah by mid-month. Let us lift up our hearts with delightful musical vibrations!



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.

July 2016						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Happy Canada Day! 	2
3 12 pm Worship Committee	4	5	6	7	8	9
10 Picnic at Leslie and Allan's	11	12	13	14	15	16
17 12 pm Humanist Group	18	19	20	21	22 1 pm Pride float decorating party	23 Pride Parade. Schedule below 
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

**UUCH in 2016 Pride Parade
Saturday, July 23 (1 to 3:30pm)**

Join UUs and friends to show your pride! UUCH members will once again show we can be Standing on the Side of Love, riding our LOVE float, handing out pamphlets, and having a lot of fun doing it! Last year's parade float celebrated 40 years of same-sex marriage in Nova Scotia—the first one performed by your very own UUCH. This year's parade theme is "This is Why". So wear your bright yellow SSL T-shirt or a yellow shirt or anything. Just join us!!



The schedule:

Friday, July 22, 1 pm

Meet at the church for a float decorating party with pizza and snacks.

Saturday, July 23, 10 am

Meet at HMC Dockyard, 16 Valour Way, to decorate and march with us in the parade. Enter by Barrington Street under the MacDonald Bridge.

After the parade, 3 pm

Come to the church for an after-parade BBQ festival with music, bouncy castle, burgers and fun!

Pride activities are fun for everyone—bring friends and family along to participate! Let's make this the best UUCH entry ever in Canada's 4th largest Pride Parade!

Janet Horofker
jdhorofker@gmail.com

Minister's Notes



***Summer ...
a great time for
conversation!***

I am writing this in the airport on my way back to Halifax, still pumped by attending a worship service with over 3,000 committed Unitarian Universalists... powerful music and powerful prophetic voices.

I am about to begin my study month followed by my vacation month and in one way I feel like I did when I was 16 years old... revelling in the release from rigid schedules. But, age gives you perspective and in another way I feel like it is late August already and school is about to begin and I have to select my courses and get my text books ready, etc. I know that the time between July 1 and our Annual Leadership Retreat, to be held on Saturday August 27 will fly by.

You, the congregation of UUCH have given me one of the most amazing gifts possible. The opportunity to give my life meaning in the company of a community that lives a covenant, determined to bring more love and justice into the world, forgiving ourselves and our companions when we fall short of our expectation, picking up the challenge anew each day. It is hard for me to put into words the feelings that overwhelm me when I am in the presence of 500 UU ministers all of whom have committed their lives to our faith tradition.

As your minister I am in a unique position to realize this gift, and I see it as my role to help you to realize this same gift. I want to ensure that you know that this gift is available to each and every one of you, and it is my job to help us figure out how to make this gift manifest in our congregation. For me, it all revolves around the concept of covenant... the commitment we make to one another to pursue our highest aspirations, knowing that we will fall short, but committed to building and rebuilding our relationships and our deep connections and our mutual trust.

At the GA in Columbus, I heard a lot about congregations who are were in conflict and out of covenant, as well as congregations that were struggling financially or with dysfunctional leadership. I felt so fortunate to be the minister at UUCH, with so much potential and such a solid loving foundation. But, I know we are not immune to these problems and that the best time to build a tradition of a loving covenanted community is now.

After attending the Canadian and American Ministry Days and Annual Conferences, my head is swimming with ideas that could give meaning to our days together. Realizing that our Leadership Retreat is just around the corner, I intend to send out regular invitations in the days ahead inviting you to work with your Board to select initiatives that would make your experiences at UUCH more meaningful and fulfilling. The lack of deadlines for sermons and committee meetings etc. over the summer allows time for me to talk with members of the congregation one on one. I would love to hear from you via email or phone call if you would like to talk about ideas that you have to expand the vitality and outreach of our congregation. Such feedback could help us to plan a Leadership Retreat on August 27 that will maximize the benefits to us all. So, watch for updates from me, but don't wait. If you have ideas about how we can hit the ground running when the summer is over, share them now, please.

The CUC Annual Meeting and the UUA Annual Meeting were both wonderful events. It is clear to me that the decision to separate the CUC from the UUA was the right one. UUs in the USA have different issues driving them than those that should drive us in Canada, but we have a lot to learn from each other.

So, let this very special time that is summer in Nova Scotia begin, but let us also start sharing ideas and plans for a very special church year beginning with our Leadership Retreat on Saturday August 27. I hope to see you there!

Rev. Norm Horofker



Board Buzz

from Molly



It's hard to believe it has been a whole year since I took over as president of the Board—a role that Kim Turner and I are taking in turns to fulfill. She will be your president again in the new church year, and unless someone else steps up, you will see me back the year after.

It's been an eventful, fruitful year for our community. After an excellent canvass in the fall, where we came very close to making our goal, we moved on to welcoming our two families from Syria—an effort that involved even more fundraising. It shows what a generous community we are, and not just with money—our refugee sponsorship committee worked tirelessly, first to bring Sharifa, Noor and their families from Lebanon, and then to help them get settled.

Our small but dynamic Religious Exploration group has flourished under David's leadership, and we've enjoyed a variety of new musical experiences with Deborah, including the very successful Dinner Theatre. The Building Task Force has been busy exploring all sorts of options for the future of our building, including developing our property on our own or with neighbouring properties, sharing space with other religious organizations, or selling outright and moving elsewhere. Of course we are not under any pressure to do anything immediately; however, I predict we will make a decision in the upcoming year—and at the very least, there will be some upgrades done to our present building.

Rev. Norm has been his usual busy self, unfortunately with too many memorial services this year, our sadly having lost three longtime members. He continues to reach out and do a great job of not only ministering to us, but also promoting UU principles in the community. Marilyn Shinyei has become our new lay chaplain, taking over from Wynne Jordan who served in that capacity for about four years.

I have especially enjoyed hosting the Parents and Tots group on Thursday mornings. We have grown over the year, and it is now a truly international group with members from all over the world. It has played an important role for newcomers to Halifax. The reason I know this is that members have formed lasting social bonds with each other, and because they tell me that it has really helped their integration into Halifax life. I'll be continuing it next year. Spread the word, and don't hesitate to drop in some time.

As we get ready to wind down for the summer, keep in mind some important events that are coming up. A picnic at the Shaw's cottage and the Pride Parade are both happening in July. Then we'll be having our annual retreat at the Atlantic School of Theology on Saturday August 27th; the Board will meet in the morning, and everyone is invited for the afternoon session. Stay tuned for more details.

I have enjoyed being your president this year, and look forward to continuing on the Board. Have a great summer everyone!

Molly Hurd
UUCH Board President



The Caring Column

Leela Pendse Shaw, having graduated with a BA Degree in Psychology from Kings College in May, has decided to return to Brisbane, Australia, where she will undertake a 3-year Master's program of studies in Speech Pathology at the University of Queensland (following in mom Elizabeth's footsteps). We have been delighted by Leela's presence over the past three years—as she squeezed many volunteer hours in whenever she could, including her great weekly dedication in helping out at Rev Norm's Saturday morning UU Café. Leela and Elizabeth return to Aussieland on the 5th, spending their last moments with us this upcoming Sunday, July 3rd. Join us for cake, words of farewell and hugs.

Tanya Bilsbury and Ivy have returned to the fold after a 2-year break. In the interim, Tanya completed her MSc. Degree in Community Health and Epidemiology from Dalhousie University—and a book-length report that she researched and co-authored within Dalhousie's Pediatrics Department was recently published. The report, on the ineffectiveness of current school bullying prevention programs, generated much media attention. Congratulations, Tanya!

Terri Brownell, a UU from Kamloops, BC sent me (Mary Ellen) this note of gratitude and asked me to share it with all of you: “I would like to extend heartfelt thanks to all those who have gone the extra mile in helping me to get through a very tough time while also helping me make my new apartment a home. I especially thank Wietske for opening her home to me, to Scott W. for providing me with furniture and helping me to get settled in my new digs, and to Mary Ellen for staying connected and helping me to finally get to church last weekend. I hope that once the dust settles a bit, I will be able to attend church more regularly and get to know you all better. Thanks again!”

Etta Hamm and Mary Ellen Onno

There's nothing more confirming in your life than looking in front of you and seeing some really amazing people who you care a lot about, who care a lot about you. ~ Kathleen Edwards



The story of Reverend Fulgence



The unfolding story of Rev. Fulgence Ndagijimana of Burundi is an incredible one, training as a Dominican priest before finding Unitarian Universalism on his own—building a UU congregation from nothing in Burundi, one of the poorest countries in the world, threats to his life and wrongful imprisonment, and then... UUs from around the world banding together to get him released. Our congregation was one of many that wrote letters to the Canadian and Burundian governments on behalf of Fulgence.

The Canadian Unitarian Council was able to help him get to Canadian soil and support him in successfully claiming refugee status. Now, his journey continues as he seeks status as a UU minister in North America, and UUs worldwide are invited to be a part of it!

The best way for Rev. Fulgence to be credited as a UU Minister in Canada is through a modified internship, something the tiny Saskatoon congregation is enthusiastic about. They are partnering with him to make it happen but they need support from across the continent to fully fund his internship.

We are inspired by this man's commitment to our movement, and his brilliance as a minister. This year, we want to see him continue his education, bring his wife and son to Canada, and be able to support them. Please, join with Unitarian Universalists from around the world in helping Rev. Fulgence to grow his ministry, to thrive, and to serve our movement.

Donations to support Fulgence can be made to the Universalist Unitarian Church of Halifax, or you can go on line to make a donation at:

www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/unitarian-congregation-of-saskatoon/revfulgence/

Walk with Refugees for a Stronger Canada

On Saturday June 18th, a warm sunny day, several UU members and some of our new Syrian friends marked World Refugee Day by participating in the Walk with Refugees for a Stronger Canada event. We walked from the Grand Parade (below) to St. Andrew's United Church (at Robie & Coburg).



Sylvia, Janet, Anwar's hat, Sharifa, Margaret, Marilyn and Wietske at the Grand Parade.
Missing: Rev. Norm and Andy



Saint Andrew's church hall, where there was a welcome from Mi'kmaq women singers, musical performances by Samba Nova and speeches from former refugees and sponsors. A plentiful supply of lemonade there was much appreciated.

Barbara met us at the church hall. We shared a table with Molly's 'Group of Five' sponsorship group represented by Margie Macdonald, and the sisters Rajaa and Safaa Bou Yahya (about whom Molly wrote in last month's newsletter). We all talked with others, sharing our sponsorship and refugee experiences. Altogether a most satisfying event.

Margaret Galbraith

Summer picnic at Shaw Island



*The Shaw Island picnic will take place on **JULY 10th**. It will be a potluck but a barbecue will be available, as will hot dogs and coffee.*

All are welcome (the brave ones) to swim or kayak, but we stress that **parents are responsible for their children! No child should be on the wharf or on the waterfront without supervision—and life jackets must always be worn in any type of boat.**

Members and friends are arranging **carpooling** from the church following the service, so watch for those details. On the last two pages of this newsletter, find **directions** and a **map** to help you find your way. **Copies will also be available at the church on the 10th.**

We look forward to a wonderful and safe afternoon with you!

Leslie and Allan Shaw

Painting party



Do you enjoy converting drab rooms into fresh energizing spaces?

And wouldn't you just love to be part of a work party to repaint our church office?

It hasn't been painted in many years and one wall is badly stained from an old water leak. Sandra really deserves a better work environment than this.

We will need painters as well as furniture movers. Someone to make coffee would be great too. All volunteers will find a place on the team! Pizza and snacks will be available.

This is the kind of project that could turn an otherwise blah Saturday in the summer from a lost day into deep satisfaction for having helped in a good cause—and a happy memory shared with friends.

If this appeals to you or sounds even remotely interesting, please contact me at 902-229-9239 or nhorofker@aol.com.

Rev. Norm Horofker

UUCH Board of Management June 2016 - May 2017



Officers

President	Kim Turner
Vice-President	Molly Hurd
Past President	Allyn Clarke
Secretary	Pam Berman
Treasurer	Marilyn Shinyei

Members at Large

Andy Blair	Mia Huh
Margaret Galbraith	Shripad Pendse

No August Newsletter

August being a low church-activity month, we have decided to give ourselves a newsletter break.

Very important matters will be communicated via **UU-info listserve**.

Lesser matters are to be handled by **regular email** within committees and groups, Sunday **announcements** in the order of service, by **telephone, word-of-mouth**, and **UUpeople**. Have a great summer, everyone!

Etta Hamm, Newsletter Editor

Music Montage

July's 'Singing As We Gather'

The Gathering Hymn for July is #76 *For Flowers That Bloom about Our Feet*. This 18th century hymn describes many of the beauties of the season, and a great many things for which we can be thankful.

July 31st Music Service

I will be doing the July 31st service, which is during the Natal Day weekend. In this service we will celebrate joy in music. If you would like to participate, by singing or playing, or offering a reading, or suggesting a hymn on this theme, please contact me by mid-month. I look forward to making a joyful noise with you!

Music Director Vacation

I will be on vacation from July 13th to July 26th. Allison Bolton has kindly agreed to fill in at the piano for the two Sundays, July 17th and 24th.

Monthly Music Projects

There will not be any Music Projects for the months of July and August. However, if you are interested in joining a 'musical road trip' during the summer, to sing for those who are not getting out to church, let me know, and you will be included in any plans.

Deborah Wiggins Music Director

*“When music sounds, gone is the earth I know,
And all her lovely things even lovelier grow;
Her flowers in vision flame, her forest trees
Lift burdened branches, stilled with ecstasies.*

*When music sounds, out of the water rise
Naiads whose beauty dims my waking eyes,
Rapt in strange dreams burns each
enchanted face,
With solemn echoing stirs their dwelling-place.*

*When music sounds, all that I was I am
Ere to this haunt of brooding dust I came;
And from Time's woods break into distant song
The swift-winged hours, as I hasten along.”*
~ From the poem Music, by Walter de la Mare

UUCH Staff Summer Schedule

Rev Norm Horofker will not be in the pulpit on Sundays in July during his study month and will be on vacation in August. He can be reached by cell phone for urgent matters.



Sandra Jamieson, Office Administrator, is on summer hours until the end of August. She is in most Fridays, 11 am to 3 pm, to perform certain necessary tasks including the printing of the Sunday order of service. **(Remember to submit all order of service and announcement items by 10 am or you'll miss out!)**

Deborah Wiggins, Music Director, will be on vacation from July 13th to the 26th. Allison Bolton will fill in on July 17th and 24th.

Religious Exploration Program for Children. There will be no organized program over the summer months, but childcare comprising indoor or outdoor play (depending on weather) will be available every Sunday. Do come, and bring your children. See David's article.

The Halifax UU Humanists Change in format, July & August

The Halifax UU Humanists usually meet at 12 noon on the third Sunday of the month for one hour. The topic is normally chosen in advance. One person volunteers to prepare background information, to lead the discussion, and to be moderator for the day.



We will meet as usual in July and August, but will have informal discussions instead of the usual format. Regular meetings with pre-chosen topic and moderator will resume in September.

For more information please contact Mary Lu MacDonald, Andy Blair or any of the other Halifax UU Humanists.

Religious Exploration

On June 19th we celebrated our final multi-generational service. This was my first-ever effort at planning an entire service. If I learned one thing, it was what a complex job it is to do so, and my hat goes off to others who do it on a regular basis. In my humble opinion, and judging from feedback received, it was very successful. The children all did an excellent job, and I thank them all for their unique addition to the service.

I must mention in particular, though, the superb musical presentation of *Over the Rainbow* by **Jane and Sara Courtney**, and the fantastic Highland dance performed by **Eddie Ritchie** (two pics below).



Photos by Avard Woolaver



Presentations by **Courtney Zylstra from the NSPCA** and **Ardra Cole from ElderDog Canada** were also very well received.

The congregation was very generous in contributing \$312 to the offertory that day, which we are donating 50-50 to the NSPCA and ElderDog Canada. Thank you, all. Our own Afterchoir rounded out the service with their usual fun musical performances. I must also thank Music Director Deborah Wiggins and Service Leader Louise Malloch for their invaluable help.

On June 26th we had our final RE gathering, and did nothing but joyously express our last theme of Revelry. We watered the raised-bed gardens, the lawn, the trees, and a little bit of each other. We viewed

excerpts from the video of the multi-generational service, ate special treats, and had much fun playing and selling “lemonade.”



Thanks go out to Eloise Barron who was with us again to help with childcare and more, and to Heather Ritchie (Eddie's mom) who has helped out at virtually every RE class over the past many months. Such dedication.

There will be no formal RE classes in July and August. Instead there will be weekly activities organized by a very capable core of volunteers scheduled by RE Committee Co-chair Louise Malloch. Childcare will also be provided by Eloise and Sophie during the month of July, and by Tanya Bilsbury for August and beyond.

As this newsletter goes to press, I am concluding my nine-month position as interim DRE. It has been an interesting, challenging and rewarding journey for me—with a large learning curve. The children have all been wonderful, and there has not been one dull moment in the RE classroom. I would like to thank the Board, the RE Committee and the Rev. Norm Horofker for their support and confidence in me throughout this tenure.

The selection process for a permanent DRE is now underway. I have thrown my hat into the ring, but the outcome is certainly out of my hands. Regardless of the outcome, I look forward to continuing to support the RE Programme however I can. And I thank you all for your ongoing support.

David Ballum-Haftka
Interim Director of Religious Exploration



Sunday Service Volunteers

July 3

Greeting	Carol Anne Cox, Anne Knight-Gorman
Ushering	Brian MacDonald (e), Janet Horofker (l)
Kitchen	Devin Murphy, Stephen Butler (set-up) Brian MacDonald (clean-up)
Audio	Devin Murphy
Library	Anne Knight-Gorman

July 10

Greeting	Tracy Boyer and helper, TBF
Ushering	Lia Woolaver(e), TBF (l)
Kitchen	Louise Malloch, Stephen Butler (set-up) TBF (clean-up)
Audio	Avard Woolaver
Library	TBF

July 17

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

July 24

Greeting	Sandra Clarke, Sylvia Mattinson
Ushering	Kay Smith, Kathy Anthony (e) Sylvia Mattinson (l)
Kitchen	Nick Baros-Johnson, Stephen Butler (set-up) Kathy Spencer (clean-up)
Audio	Nick Baros-Johnson
Library	Stephen Butler

July 31

Greeting	Alison Chipman, TBF
Ushering	Wendy Ozon (e) Dean White (l)
Kitchen	Devin Murphy, Stephen Butler (set-up) Dean White (clean-up)
Audio	Devin Murphy
Library	Shripad Pendse

To join the Sunday Service Support Team
and the list of lawn mowers, please contact
Wietske Gradstein at 902-835-9272

Directions to Leslie & Allan's cottage
107 Eisnor Drive, Chester Basin

Take Highway 103 in the direction of Chester, West-South-West to **EXIT 8**.

Off Exit 8 ramp, turn **LEFT** towards the ocean (not inland to Windsor).

Proceed about 1 mile to the old Route 3.

Turn **RIGHT** onto Route 3. (Notice Oceanview Plant Center on your right).

Go about 1 mile to Eisnor Road. *(Unfortunately, the Eisnor Road sign appears immediately AFTER you have passed Eisnor Road and it is facing in the other direction! So your cue is the Nova Scotia Highways Depot directly opposite Eisnor Road (a large ugly metal building, paved surface in front).*

Turn **LEFT** on Eisnor Road at the **T** intersection (you can only turn left).

Follow the road about a mile until you come to the causeway and bridge.

Drive across the causeway and continue to the **FIRST LEFT TURN**.

We are the 2nd house on the **LEFT**, no 107, with the circular red brick driveway.

Please park on the side of the road—and welcome to our place!

Cottage phone: 902-275-3935

Allan's cell: 902-456-4727

Over the hill and on the road, off to Leslie and Allan's we go...

