



Newsletter of the  
Universalist Unitarian Church of Halifax

Vol. 52, No 11  
July 2018

Universalist Unitarian  
Church of Halifax  
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Rev. Norm Horofker  
Minister  
He can be reached at  
902-229-9239  
for urgent matters

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

Deborah Wiggins  
Music Director

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

**July 1**

***The faith that can save the world***

Our faith, whether in humankind or in God, is wide enough and deep enough to accommodate the entire spectrum of beliefs and non-beliefs and we need to be unafraid to allow others to express their own vision. We proclaim diversity.

Presenter: Dean White; Service Assistant, TBA

**July 8**

***You are here: Reflecting on life's causal crossroads***

We all notice ourselves, in moments of reflection coming to the sudden thought, "What just happened?" As we think deeper, we might ask the question, "Have we just experienced a sort of causal crossroads?"

Presenter: Robin Humphreys; Service Leader: Anne Knight Gorman

**July 15**

***Empowering at-risk youth***

Hope Blooms encourages youth "to be actively engaged in building environments that directly impact the social determinants of health in their communities. Youth at Hope Blooms are learning and teaching others that the path to self-actualization is also the path to generosity.

Presenter: Jessie Jollymore; Service Assistant: Carole McCarville

**July 22**

***The history of religion and gay pride from a UU perspective***

Universalism-Unitarianism has a healing, life-saving message and we believe in putting our faith into action. As individuals, we can learn how to be a strong ally to LGBT peoples.

Presenter: Rev. Norm Horofker; Service Assistant: TBA

**July 29**

***Feeling it all!***

We are emotional beings. Throughout our lives we feel love, fear, tenderness, anger, frustration, joy and more. We label some emotions bad and others good. But don't we learn and grow from every experience and everything we feel?

Presenter: Terry Choyce; Service Leader: Dean White

**Our Mission**

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.

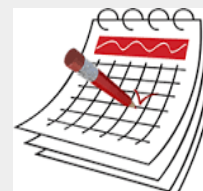


## JULY 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Happy Canada Day! 	2 Statutory Holiday 	3	4	5	6	7 No UU Brunch, July and August
8	9	10 National Teddy Bear Picnic Day 	11	12	13	14
15 National Ice Cream Day 	16	17	18 10 am Truth & Reconciliation Task Group at Wietske's, Bedford	19	20 Noon to 2 or 3 pm Pride float prep at UUCH	21 Pride Parade See schedule  4 pm at UUCH After-paraade BBQ
22	23	24	25	26 	27	28
29 	30	31				

### 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 announcements by 10 am or you'll miss out.***

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



# ***MINISTER'S NOTES***

## ***for July and August***

***Calling all those interested in creating  
great Sunday services at UUCH***

So here we are, on the cusp of summer 2018! I am determined to live every day of this summer to the fullest. I was sustained through the winter months by thoughts of this time and now it is here... *halleluia!* But I know that these next two months will be gone before I am ready... before I get half of what I want to do done. And one of the projects that I want to put in place before the end of summer involves re-thinking how we plan our Sunday Services.

As I said when describing my epiphany last month; my goal now, is to stop trying to be the best minister ever, and instead concentrate on creating the best, most engaged congregation ever. In relation to Sunday services, I have learned a lot over the past six years as your minister, but the preparation of Sunday services has been largely a one-person production with input from the Music Director and the Director of Religious Education.

Starting this fall, I hope to re-invigorate our Worship Committee and make the creation of our Sunday services much more of a team effort. Designing and presenting services can be immensely rewarding and I want to share that experience.

I was inspired by a workshop that I attended at the Canadian Unitarian Conference (CUC) in Hamilton this year. Reverend Wayne Walder presented some exciting ideas on how to structure this process and engage members who have an interest in creating and holding a sacred space during services.

Wayne was instrumental in the founding of the Neighbourhood Unitarian Congregation in Toronto. Wayne is a supportive colleague, a gifted speaker, a skilled administrator and a person of great warmth

and spiritual depth. We are now working to finalize plans to bring Wayne to Halifax to put on a workshop for our congregation on September 29th, and to have him deliver a service on Sunday September 30th.

If you have ever thought about things that you would like to see included in our services, or deleted from our services... if you have an interest in helping to shape our Sunday mornings together to make them even more meaningful, challenging, engaging, sustaining, uplifting, inspiring, and fun... I want you to attend our workshop on September 29th.

Those of you who work with me often may be surprised that I am writing in June about an event I am planning for late September. I do have a reputation for doing things at the last moment. That habit has served me well in many ways, but it does make it difficult to collaborate with others. So, this project is a whole new way of doing business for me. I hope you will support this change and help your minister to make the transition... please!

As for my summer schedule, I will not be delivering Sunday sermons during these months. Dean White has arranged a great line-up of programs. July is deemed a study month for me but I am fully available to you during that time for anything you need, however I will not be keeping office hours. You can reach me by cell phone. August is deemed vacation. I expect to be in the area for most of that time and can be reached if needed. I hope to attend and enjoy most Sunday services over the summer and to see you there.

***With Love... Norm***

## UUCH PRIDE PARADE SATURDAY, JULY 21

### *The schedule ...*

**Friday, July 20, 12 noon to 2 or 3pm:** Volunteers are needed at the church to assemble decorations and equipment to be ready for transport from the church on Saturday morning.



**Saturday, July 21, about 9:30 am:** The truck and float leave the church and drive to the DND Dockyard.

Anyone who would like to help decorate the float and/or walk in the parade, please come **between 10 am and 12 noon** to the entrance from Barrington Street directly below the MacDonald Bridge (where parking is available). About 9 seats will be available on the float for people who can't walk the route.

**1 pm, the parade starts ...** and will end at the Garrison Grounds (on Ahern Ave off of Bell Rd). If you have a yellow 'Standing on the Side of Love' T-shirt, please wear it!

**After the parade ends,** people will need to retrieve their cars. Consider carpooling.

**Around 4 pm:** Wind down at the annual post-parade BBQ at the church.

**Sunday, July 22, church service:** "Gay Pride—One Congregation's Experience" delivered by Rev. Norm Horofker.

Contact me if you have any questions.

***Janet Horofker***



# Board Buzz

The June Board meeting did not disappoint for exciting news, updates on ongoing projects and important discussions about planning for our future. It was a long and lively board meeting, but here are some highlights.

On the news front, the UUCH has been accepted as a Sponsorship Agreement Holder (SAH) by the Federal Government, one of only four in Nova Scotia. This will allow us to broaden the assistance we can provide to other organizations assisting refugees coming to Canada. At this meeting the Board passed a series of motions to confirm our commitment and make sure all runs smoothly on the ground. Marilyn Shinyei and Andy Blair will co-chair the UUCH SAH Committee which is already in action allocating our first six “spots”.

Also on the news front, the Halifax Early Childhood school is expanding its program and hoping to do some renovations on the second floor of the building. We have shared our space with HECS for many years and are excited to see their plans.

We also had an exciting presentation from Bonnie Coulombe on the work of the UUCH Truth and Reconciliation Task Group. They have been working hard on a curriculum and reflection process. Plans are being made for a series of workshops in the next three months, including a Blanket Exercise on September 9th.

The Board also voted to create a one-time growth initiative fund to be available for growth-related projects. Committees or groups in the congregation will be able to apply to the Board for small growth project funding, and the Board will use the funds to assist with growth related work.

On the update front, the renovations on the front porch have begun (as anyone who has been at church the last few weeks will know!) As happens with old buildings, new problems are uncovered as we proceed but it is great to see progress and everyone is excited to see our new fully-accessible porch/entry! In the meantime, if you have a tendency to come late to church, sneaking in has become a lot more difficult!

## 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

Monthly board meetings will resume in September.

The Board set the summer Leadership Retreat for August 25th at the Atlantic School of Theology. Stay tuned for more news from your planning committee—but in the meantime, mark that day in your calendar!

As outgoing President I would like to take a final opportunity to thank the Board members for the depth of their commitment to UUCH—they truly go beyond what is expected on a regular basis. The same is true of our great staff led by Rev Norm—and our countless committee, task group, and event volunteers. This is a vibrant exciting community and we are fortunate to have their energy and leadership. I look forward to remaining on the Board as Past President under the steady leadership of Margaret Galbraith.

A special shout-out to Deborah Wiggins who is leaving the Music Director position after almost 11 years of bringing us music and joy. We wish her and Devin all the best as they move to be closer to family in Ontario.



So, until next time... happy trails, happy summer days, and see you all soon!

**Kim Turner**  
**Past President**  
**UUCH Board of Directors**



# Capital Fundraising Campaign



## At last ...

what we've been waiting for has started and is visible—our front entrance is being renovated! Construction will be finished by the end of summer and we will have much better access for all, complete with wide, automated doors and a widened westside walkway.

## Update on financing

We have received grants from the Nova Scotia Heritage Property Program, Community Accessibility programs—and a generous donation in memory of Nancy Meinertzhagen. We are also using funds from the Building Reserve Fund established through a gift from the estate of the late Cynthia Davis.

## Important Reminder: We need \$10,000 in matching funds from the congregation

To complete this important work we need to raise approximately \$10,000 in additional funds from the congregation. We are hoping you will be as generous as you have always been in keeping our building repaired, renewed and moving forward. Please consider this if you have the resources.

## How to ...

Please make your cheque out to UUCH, writing 'Capital Fund' on the memo line and put it (or cash) in the collection plate in an envelope with your name and Capital Fund clearly marked. You may also hand your donation to our Treasurer Marilyn Shinyei, or to me.

**Money can also be e-transferred** to the church's account by emailing [uuchurch@eastlink.ca](mailto:uuchurch@eastlink.ca) or [marilyn.shinyei@eastlink.ca](mailto:marilyn.shinyei@eastlink.ca).

Let's open wide the doors of our church to everyone!

*Mia Huh  
for the Building Commtee*





## The Caring Column

On May 27th a bouquet of red roses was presented to **Mary Ellen Onno** to commemorate her long service to the Caring Committee. Mary Ellen was on the committee for many years, first as a member and later as its chair, and has recently retired from the committee. We will miss her wise and compassionate leadership in the months to come. Again, many thanks, Mary Ellen.

When **Wietske Gradstein** learned of the death of her older sister, she spent a few days in the Netherlands to attend the ceremony to commemorate her sister's life. We offer Wietske our condolences for her loss.

We also offer our sympathies to **Faye Mingo** on the recent death of her sister, Joyce Pretty.

**Andy Blair** was in Qualicum Beach, BC, when his father, Stanley "Scotty" Blair, died there on June 6th. We offer our condolences to Andy and his family, and look forward to Andy's return to Halifax in September.

On a brighter note we are pleased to report that **Georges Merinfeld** moved home to Northwood on June 14th after having undergone surgery and physiotherapy for his broken femur and a partial hip replacement.

Happy Birthday Barbara! On June 20th **Barbara Dacey** celebrated her 80th birthday with family and friends.

Congratulations to **Devin Kira Murphy** who **graduated** from high school on June 4th! A moving, spiritual service was held on June 11th at the UUCH, led by her brother, Rev. Curtis Murphy, to pay tribute to Devin's various accomplishments in her past and current journeys. We wish her all the best in her future endeavours.

**Sylvia Mattinson**



## Updates:

DAVIS, Marie (correct address)  
201-2630 Gottingen Street  
Halifax, NS B3K 3C6

HACHÉ, Ron (new member)  
16 Brule Street  
Dartmouth, NS B3A 4G1  
902-401-6123

HILLIER, Gary (new friend)  
902-670-0812  
garyhillier@outlook.com

LAWRENCE, Inga (new address)  
203-76 Armenia Dr.  
Bedford, NS B4A 0J9

SARRATT, Pat (new address)  
177 Sunnydale Road East  
Qualicum Beach, BC V9K 1L1

Never believe that a few  
caring people can't change  
the world. For, indeed,  
that's all who ever have.  
*Margaret Mead*





## *Save The Date!*

### **Congregational Retreat Saturday, August 25, 2018**

Your Minister and your President attended exciting sessions at the CUC Hamilton Conference and want to share their inspiration with you!

Watch for details in August.

Please plan to attend at The President's Lodge, Atlantic School of Theology, Francklyn Street, Halifax, overlooking the beautiful Northwest Arm.



### **No August Newsletter**

There will be no August newsletter. Instead, we will publish one sheet to describe the Sunday services, the reverse side of which will feature a few points about the Congregational Retreat and other important, concise items as space allows.

Wishing everyone a great summer!

*Your newsletter collective:*

*Etta Hamm, Sylvia Mattinson and Sandra Jamieson*

## SPECIAL INVITATION

UUCH Congregation invited to a Blanket Exercise for  
Truth and Reconciliation at the Mi'Kmaq Friendship Centre  
September 9, 2018



***"Action has meaning only in relationship, and without understanding relationship, action on any level will only breed conflict. The understanding of relationship is infinitely more important than the search for any plan of action."*** — Jiddu Krishnamurti

Today the newspaper headlines read... **"In Canada, Indigenous youth made up 46 per cent of admissions to correctional services in 2016-17 while making up only eight per cent of the youth population."**

Over the summer months, members of the UUCH Truth and Reconciliation Task Group will be preparing for the first event in a planned series of events to help us reflect on the history of relationships between indigenous peoples and settlers. As noted in the quotation above, the understanding or relationships must precede making plans of action.

In the spirit of building relationships, we are honoured to be invited to hold our first event, a Blanket Exercise, at the Mi'Kmaq Friendship Centre of Halifax. The KAIROS Blanket Exercise is an interactive learning experience that teaches the history of the relationship between indigenous peoples and settlers. Developed in response to the 1996 Report of the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples—which recommended education on Canadian-Indigenous history as one of the key steps to reconciliation, the Blanket Exercise covers over 500 years of history in a one and a half hour participatory workshop.

You may have participated in a Blanket Exercise in the past. We encourage you to attend this one... the experience is different each time. On **September 9th** we will be led by elders in the Mi'kmaq community of Halifax in a communal experience. Doing this as a congregation will build our understanding as a community and strengthen us as a beloved community for the work ahead.

The invitation to participate in this blanket exercise is extended to members and friends of the UUCH congregation, including children 8 years of age and older. It will be an opportunity to create understanding and relationship between us and our Mi'kmaq friends. Please put this on your calendar.

***Your Truth and Reconciliation Task Group:***

*Heather Ritchie, Bonnie Coulombe, Amy Moonshadow, Nancy Brister,  
Wietske Gradstein, Anne Kuersten, Norm Horofker, Ex-officio*

