

U.U.&you

newsletter of the universalist unitarian church of halifax

Vol. 48, No. 10
June 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

June 1

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

Theological Engineering – The Practical Application of Theology: Five members of our congregation attended the Annual Conference and Meeting of the Canadian Unitarian Council held in Montreal in May. Today's sermon avoids a trip report, and instead focuses on how meetings like this can change those who attend while having a significant impact on their congregations.

June 8

Presenter: Christy-Lee Bojarski; Service Assistant: Valerie Chapman

Our Family Orchard -- What makes a family? How is family diversity reflected in our own congregation and day-to-day lives? What does family mean when it comes to our own spiritual growth and how can we expand our understanding of family to welcome in the wider world? With the aid of our RE 'family' we'll explore these topics and more in a heartwarming multigenerational service with a special surprise ending.

June 15

Presenter: Rev. Norm Horofker; Service Assistant: Sass Minard

Flower Communion -- This service will feature our traditional Flower Communion – and a recognition of our many volunteers. Everyone is invited to bring a flower to the service to be placed into a large bouquet representing the beauty of our diversity. This service marks the end of the year for our Religious Education program. It also falls on Father's Day – and the service will be followed, appropriately, by our **Spring Picnic** in our lovely back yard.

June 22

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

Is Sabbath Relevant to You? -- Church service on Sunday is a modern expression of a very old idea, the day set aside for rest and contemplation. With the pace of modern life, we have largely minimized the original intention and forgone the benefits of Sabbath. This being the last service in the church year before the minister takes a break, it seems an appropriate time to reflect on the concept of Sabbath as a spiritual practice. We are expecting a special guest for the service, Rabbi David Ellis, the Atlantic Jewish Council's Regional Chaplain, who knows something about Sabbath!

June 29

Presenter: Rae Gabriel; Service Assistant: Margaret Galbraith

A Time to Restore Balance -- Halifax artist Rae Gabriel, curator of the recent Reframing the Feminine show in the Ballroom Gallery, will explore the theme of how we might apply spiritual practices to take action in redressing the many imbalances in today's world—in areas such as health, finances, gender issues, and climate.

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.



June 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9am Chalice Singers 9:45 qUUartet Noon—Worship	2	3	4 4:45-6:15pm Afterchoir	5 7pm Meditation Circle	6	7
8 9am Chalice Singers 9:45 Family Singers Noon—Soc. Resp	9 7pm Meditation Group Meeting	10 11:30-3:30 Library	11 4:45-6:15pm Afterchoir 6pm YAHUU Potluck	12 7pm Meditation Circle	13	14 UU Hike, see p.6.
15 9am Chalice Singers Noon—The Humanists	16 7pm Meditation Group Meeting 8pm YAHUU Karaoke @ Bearly's	17 6:30pm Board Meeting	18 4:45-6:15pm Afterchoir 6:30pm Music Appreciation Party	19 7-9pm Discovery Club 7pm Meditation Circle	20	21 Hike, see p. 8 7-9pm Dances of Universal Peace
22 Noon Fundraising Meeting	23 10am Newsletter Deadline	24	25 4:45-6:15pm Afterchoir	26 7pm Meditation Circle	27 6pm YAHUU Group	28
29	30 7-9pm Ukulele Night					

FUNDRAISING TALK — Sunday, June 1, 12 noon — Open to all

If you have any brilliant fundraising ideas for the coming months or years, have been part of the fundraising un-committee or are just interested and willing to participate in some brainstorming, please come. It takes the whole community to keep us vibrant and afloat! See you then, *Marilyn Shinyei*



Eastern Regional Fall Conference of the Canadian Unitarian Council returns to Halifax



Mark the weekend of **October 31st** on your calendar. Eleven years ago Halifax hosted the first Eastern Regional Fall Conference less than a week after we were visited by Hurricane Juan. We hope for less excitement this coming year. This conference will bring UUs from Eastern Ontario, Quebec and Atlantic Canada to share our experiences and ideas.

A conference doesn't organize itself. Please contact me if you are interested in working with the local organizing group or the program committee. We can't promise a hurricane but we can promise a weekend of great Halifax hospitality.

Allyn Clarke



From your Minister

In my second year of ministry to the Halifax congregation, there is already a sense of an annual pattern. It is time for the June newsletter, and so once again, I am writing from my hotel room at the Canadian Unitarian Council Annual Meeting and Conference.

Yesterday I attended the business meeting of the CUC and I can tell you that your national organization is currently being managed very well for the benefit of our faith tradition. (You will read elsewhere in this newsletter some exciting news about our own Glenda Butt--news that will make the CUC even more relevant to our Halifax congregation.)

Today is the first day of the Annual Conference. The theme of the conference is Building Beloved CommUUnity: Sacred Spaces Beyond Walls. There is a very clear realization among those in attendance that the nature of how we “do church” must change if we are to remain relevant. I believe that the Halifax congregation has already recognized and is acting on this new reality.

The keynote address here was delivered by Rev. Meg Riley of the UU Church of the Larger Fellowship. The CLF was formed during the Second World War to provide soldiers with mailings that would keep them in touch with Unitarian Universalism while they served overseas. Today it is a world-wide organization that serves over 7,000 members as a congregation beyond walls. The CLF is a leader in the use of the internet to connect people and to offer religious and spiritual services.

Meg made clear her belief that the internet can do a lot to connect people and help them to meet their spiritual needs, but she emphasized that it is no substitute for direct person-to-person contact like what we foster in our congregations. She strongly encouraged congregations to make full use of the electronic and internet options that are multiplying every day, but to use those tools to draw people in to real in-person, face-to-face relationships. At the same time she advised that we needed to offer a variety of ways for people to become involved in the congregation. Traditional Sunday services are just not appealing to many who are nevertheless longing for opportunities to participate in spiritual communities.

Meg specifically suggested that we should be looking at opening up the use of our buildings to be more of a community centre that would draw in a variety of people looking for a connection with a spiritual community, but not necessarily a church.

Needless to say, I am encouraged by our developing plans to make 5500 Inglis Street just such a place along with our outreach “Pub Services.” The next big step in this regard will be to host an open house event on a Saturday in September that will showcase the church and its many activities, but also the large number of other groups and organizations that use our facility. Watch for news in this regard coming soon.

From Montreal,

Rev. Norm Horofker

Sunday Service Volunteers

June 1

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	Alison Chipman

June 8

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	Anne Knight-Gorman

June 15

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	Alison Chipman

June 22

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

June 29

Greeting	Alison Chipman, Sass Minard
Ushering	Wendy Ozon (e), Dean White (l)
Kitchen	Norm Sabowitz (set-up)
	Dean White (clean-up)
Audio	Todd MacMillan
Library	Alison Chipman

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



The deadline for submissions
for the July newsletter is
Monday, June 23rd.

Save the Date! Spring Picnic, June 15

The UUCH Spring picnic will take place in our lovely back yard on Sunday, June 15th following the service. Expect good food, great music, fun and games for the children of all ages (so that could include you), sparkling company with love and joy abounding. And sunshine. (Well, it *could* happen.)



Stay on the alert for further details.

End-of-year Music Appreciation Party



Wednesday, June 18, 6:30 pm
Potluck Food and Singing

If you contributed, or assisted,
or cheered on our Music Program this year,
you are cordially invited to the
End-of-year Music Appreciation Party!

Bring some potluck food to share,
and a willingness to sing, play, clap, tap
or just listen to some fun rounds and
other easy, enjoyable participatory ditties.
All ages are welcome.

Deborah Wiggins
Music Director

Vestry Voices



Our congregation is going through some exciting times! Some changes are sure to steer our beloved church in new and successful directions. While these are changes inherent to the functioning of the church, so also its governing body; the participation of everyone is not only welcomed, but ensures our development.

The name change of “Vestry” to “The Board” at this year’s AGM is a harbinger of the name change of our church. We anticipate an appropriately relevant name for this church when it is no longer going to be called a church! We are welcoming everyone to talk amongst themselves and to bring suggestions to Board members with any ideas!

We are also discussing the future of the building. Starting with our capital funding campaign to make needed improvements to the property, we also want to consider more permanent decisions: whether we move locations, renovate our current one, or team up with a housing developer to make this property one that is multi-zoned for social integration as part of modern urban planning initiatives. We are exploring options and are eager to hear how you feel about our building and our spatial potential (gardens, lodgings for those in spiritual retreat, etc!).

As we are reaching to grow, we also hope to revamp our website and increase our online presence in social media. This is important if we want to approach new members, especially those of younger generations, and although we have some members already with a keen interest in improving this for UUCH, there is much work to be done and a leader is needed!

This fall, UUCH is hosting the Eastern Fall Gathering, with congregations as distant as Ottawa attending. The Board hopes that a workshop related to effective church governance (not endless committees with the same people on them, year after year) will be offered to our congregation and those in attendance. It is a wonderful opportunity as anyone in our congregation is invited to register and volunteer to make it happen!

We also are planning an open house in September to represent our congregation to the community. A lot of planning, promotion and involvement is yet to come, and we appreciate enthusiasm and ideas for what to showcase to people coming in from all over the HRM.

On behalf of “the Board”,

Lauren Larsen

Glenda Butt Elected to Chair the Canadian Unitarian Council

At the Annual General Meeting of the Canadian Unitarian Council, May 17 in Montreal, Glenda Butt was unanimously elected as the new President of the Council.

Glenda has served on the Board of the CUC for four years prior to this election. She has been active in developing a process to clarify the mission of the CUC as there is increasing need for our national organization to provide leadership and a national voice for Unitarian Universalists across Canada. This is a great opportunity for the Universalist Unitarian Church of Halifax to become more involved in our movement at a national level. Congratulations Glenda!



CUC board members, L to R: Back: Gary Groot, Past President; Kristina Stevens, Treasurer; Jaime Dunton; Roger Rochester, Vice-president. Front: Glenda Butt, President; Lorna Weigand; Fiona Heath, Secretary; Leslie Kemp, Social Responsibility.

Norm Horofker

The religious community is essential,
for alone our vision is too narrow to
see all that must be seen, and our
strength too limited to do all
that must be done.

~ Mark Morrison-Reed

New Members



The congregation recently welcomed these good friends as new members. Left to right: Michael Hatton, Nick Baros-Johnson, James Morrison and Eileen Ross. Missing: Steve Gale, Todd MacMillan.

Michael sings bass with the Chalice Singers and is a member of Young Adults of Halifax UU (YAHUU) as are Steve and Todd. Steve is a kitchen volunteer (and more). Nick is active with YAHUU and is the group's karaoke night coordinator. Jim plays harmonica and sings with the Afterchoir, and as of the May AGM, is a member of the Board of Trustees. Eileen is a service leader/assistant and helps out at many church events. We are fortunate to have these great people with us.

Etta Hamm

Capital Maintenance Campaign

The 27 April Special Meeting of the congregation approved the holding of a special financial campaign to carry out necessary maintenance and upgrading of our building. The work plan includes:

- Repairing and repainting the building exterior
- Replacing our 50-plus year-old oil furnace with a gas furnace
- Renewing our kitchen
- Replacing several doors and windows

We have received a Heritage Property Maintenance Grant which will cover half of the cost of the work on the building exterior.



We want to raise \$31,747 over the next two years and are seeking donations and pledges over the next two years.

Emails and letters were sent to our active members and friends. If you have not received a letter and wish to donate or pledge, please contact me or Darla. In its first week, the campaign has received \$18,500 in donations and pledges, more than half our goal.

Allyn Clarke

Religious Exploration

*"In June as many as a dozen species
may burst their buds on a single day.
No man can heed all of these anniversaries;
no man can ignore all of them."
~ Aldo Leopold*



Hello all!

Wow! I can't believe we're already at the end of another Religious Exploration year. Although I'm looking forward to all the joys of summer, I can't wait to be back this fall and begin new adventures with our RE participants.

In the meantime, I look forward to the upcoming **June 8th** multigenerational service entitled '**Our Family Orchard**'. I am asking everyone to **please bring an apple to service that morning**. During the service you can look forward to exploring the deeper meanings of Family while enjoying a variety of media presented by our Religious Exploration participants, including poetry, art, photography, and prayer.

June 15th will be the last day for Religious Exploration and when we come back next fall, we'll be in full swing to host a mid-September **Open House/Family Fair**. This event will showcase our fantastic RE Program and also provide an opportunity for all the other wonderful groups and activities that happen within our congregation and building to get their own word out.

When the RE Committee and I consider curricula for September, I would like very much to incorporate more congregational involvement. So if you have a talent, skill, or passion you'd like to take 30 minutes out of one month next fall to talk about with our youth, please drop me an email!

Thank you all for your support and encouragement this past year. Having the opportunity to work alongside Deborah and Norm to continue to make the UUCH a rich and rewarding community to be a part of has been one of my life's greatest blessings. Love to you all and have a gorgeous summer!

In joy and kindness,

Christy-Lee Bojarski

Director of Religious Exploration

Cell: 456 3802 / Email: dre@uuch.ca



Upcoming Concert at UUCH:

Bhajan Bliss: an evening of devotional chanting with Caravan, the Eclectic Kirtan Band
Thursday, June 12, 7 - 8:30 pm



You are invited to join the members of Caravan as they present their inaugural concert, an evening of participatory chanting of devotional Sanskrit music (*bhajans*) – with a few Celtic and other pieces added into the mix!

This newly formed group of instrumentalists and singers includes Silver Frith* playing guitar and harmonium, Jody Myers on guitar and drum, Carol Putnam on flute and percussion, and Wynne Jordan playing piano and ukulele. Come and be energized with spiritual music from India, Ireland, Nova Scotia, and beyond. \$10 suggested donation.

Proceeds will go to support Adsum House emergency shelter for women, and to the Yasodhara Ashram in Kootenay Bay, BC. For more information, or to be added to the mailing list for further Caravan events, email silver_frith@hotmail.com.

**Silver Frith was a guest at UUCH when she played the harmonium and guitar, and led chants in the January 12th worship service featuring Krishan Verma.*

Caring



Congratulations to **Jean Lusk** who completed her Masters degree in Social work at Wilfred Laurier University in Kitchener-Waterloo after two years of hard work. We are happy to have her back with us.

Lorna Spencer, mother-in-law and friend of **Kathy Spencer**, passed away peacefully at the age of 95 on May 8th. We send our condolences to Kathy and the family. We send our condolences also to **Barbara Harsanyi, Marilyn Shinyei** and **Mary Ellen Onno** on the recent loss of close friends, and to **Faith Piccolo** on the loss of her brother Gus Crotty on May 5th.

Mary Ellen Onno

Hike to Polly Cove, Saturday, June 21

The June hike will be to the granite outcrops on the coast between West Dover and Peggys Cove. In this area there are offshore islets battered by Atlantic seas, sheltered coves and great views of the Peggys Cove light from a distance. The trails are mostly smooth granite outcrops separated by crossings on peaty soils that can be wet following rains.



A UU group at Polly Cove, 2010.

We will meet at the church at 12 noon, and pick up additional passengers at the Park and Ride at the intersection of St. Margarets Bay Rd. and Prospect Rd. at 12:15. Otherwise, meet at the southern end of West Dover (where the highway makes a sharp right curve enroute to Peggys Cove) at 1:15. There used to be a canteen on this intersection. The trailhead is about halfway between West Dover and Peggys Cove. There are two walks from this trailhead, each about an hour in length. Call me at 483-4731 if you are lost or running late.

Allyn Clarke

Church Directory Update

Nick Baros-Johnson
barosjn@gmail.com
430-5492





Music Montage

*The sweet June days are come again,
The birds are on the wing;
Bright anthems, in their merry strain,
Unconsciously they sing.
Oh, how our cup o'erbrims with good
These happy summer days;
For all the joys of field and wood
We lift our song of praise. ~ Samuel Longfellow*



Music Appreciation Party

There will be an *End-of-Year Music Appreciation Party* on Wednesday, June 18, at 6:30 pm. If you contributed, assisted, or cheered on our Music Program this year, you are cordially invited! Bring some potluck food to share, and a willingness to sing, play, clap, tap or just listen to some fun rounds and other easy, enjoyable participatory ditties. All ages are welcome. I look forward to celebrating our Music Program with you.

Rehearsals for Choirs...

Chalice Singers: Three Sundays – June 1, 8 & 15 at 9 am

Family Singers: June 8 at 9:45 am

qUUartet: June 1st at 9:45 am

All choirs will resume in September.

June's 'Singing As We Gather'...

The *Gathering Hymn* for this month is #353 *Golden Breaks the Dawn*. In this month when the days get longer, and we welcome the dawning of summer, “*dawn breaks in me too, as in the skies above; teach me to be true, fill my heart with love.*”

The Chalice Singers...

This is the last month of the 'church year' for rehearsals on Sunday, from 9 to 10 am. Please note that we will have our last rehearsal of the season on Sunday, June 15, and will resume the first Sunday after Labour Day. We are happy for you to join the choir any Sunday. We are a welcoming group and singers do not need to be able to read music!

The Family Singers...

The *Family Singers* are for everyone who likes to sing – all ages and all stages! The music is easy to learn and sing. This group will rehearse and sing on Sunday June 8, for the multigenerational service.

The Afterchoir...

The *Afterchoir* (our folk/rock group) meets on most *Wednesdays* from approximately 4:45 to 6:15 pm. Contact James Morris at jamesmorris@morrisbureau.com to confirm dates and times.

Please use the following email address for things related to my position as Music Director!

uuchmusic@yahoo.ca or call 463-0988.

Happy summer everyone!

Deborah Wiggins

Music Director

Cleaning for the Soul



When people find out that I clean the church out of the goodness of my heart, they are often surprised to hear that I appreciate the role I have. I value this building,

the people in it and what we do (and can do) for the community. It isn't only that, however. I enjoy my time as the cleaner at the church. It is a part of my spiritual practices involving service to the community, and it also provides me a time each week to contemplate.

I clean the church twice per week. If I do it alone, it takes me about three hours per week, in total. If I have a friend, about two hours. I have been helped by Andy Blair, Elyssa Arielle, Steve Gale and Michael Hatton, as well as some personal friends not affiliated with the church. Although setting the chairs up for the weekly service was traditionally the job of the cleaner, Devin Murphy has volunteered to do this on Sunday mornings.

I clean the floors on the first floor, as well as the stairways. I vacuum the minister's office and the worship room. I clean the bathrooms and restock them. I take out the garbage. This is what I do, and I love it. I plan on continuing it.

This summer, however, I will need a bit of help!

I am looking for people to take over while I visit my family in Ontario in July and August. I will be gone from July 23rd to August 23rd. The church will need to be cleaned for the services of July 27th, August 3rd, 10th, and 17th. It will also need to be cleaned the Monday or Tuesday following these dates. I am told that because the church has less summer traffic it is not a heavy job. I will clean it for the service of the 24th. The other dates do not need to be filled by the same people, although that would be easier. I can show any volunteers what they need to do on any day before I leave.

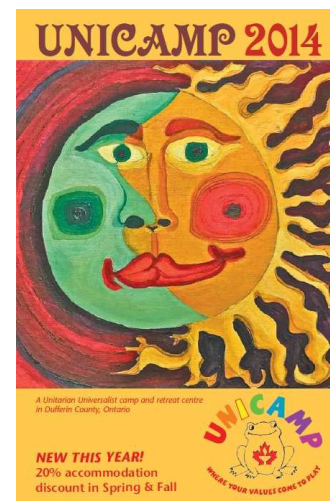
If I cannot find people from our congregation I need to give The Board notice to find a replacement for me during this time, which will cost money. So instead, spend your time! I am sure that together, we can keep our church sparkling.

Lauren Larsen

Unicamp time is coming!

Celebrating
our 45th
anniversary
this year

Families
friends
nature
learning
doing
FUN!



We are a Unitarian Universalist camp committed to providing a safe and welcoming seasonal camp and spiritual retreat to a diverse community. Our high quality UU values-based programs and activities are designed to enable this community to demonstrate a respect for our natural assets, for each other, and for the interdependent web of all existence.

Unicamp is located in Honeywood, Dufferin County, just north of Shelburne, Ontario, within the UNESCO Niagara Escarpment Biosphere Reserve. It boasts 50 beautiful, peaceful acres of meadows, coniferous and deciduous forests, marshes, streams, caves and two beaches on a 2.5-acre spring-fed pond that is always safe for swimming. This is a magical place to relax, explore, meet new people and reconnect with self, community and nature.

Unicamp is based on a long tradition of cooperation and caring in a relaxed and respectful environment. Campers are asked to help with chores such as tidying their dorm, cottage or campsite at the end of their stay, helping us to keep Unicamp affordable for everyone. We welcome members and friends from UU congregations near and far.

We espouse our liberal, non-creedal religion that emphasizes the inherent worth and dignity of each individual while at the same time recognizing the interdependent web of existence of which we are a part. We promote equity, democratic justice and compassion for all living things, based on respect for individuals, their uniqueness of spirit and the value of seeking one's own truths.

Check out the website for more, see photographs, print the registration form, etc.

www.unicampofontario.ca.



June 21, 2014