



***Theme for June 2019: Blessing***

Universalist Unitarian  
Church of Halifax  
5500 Inglis Street  
Halifax NS  
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Rev. Norm Horofker  
Minister  
Office hours  
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Sandra Jamieson  
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Fridays only  
June 17 to August 23

Interim RE Director  
Marie-Claude Leroux

Margaret Galbraith  
President

Newsletter  
Etta Hamm  
Sylvia Mattinson  
Sandra Jamieson

Sunday service  
10:30 am

All are welcome

Children & Youth Education  
Child care available

**June 2      *Blessings and Curses***

Both blessings and curses imply action by something outside of our power to control. But in both cases, we can learn to control our responses, and in both cases our response can be a spiritual experience. Presenter: Rev. Norm Horofker; Service Assistant: Marie Welton

**June 9      *Blessing Before a Meal***

Saying a blessing before a meal is a spiritual practice that seems to be dying. What are we losing? (Bonus! Those in attendance will get a list of Norm's UU table blessings collected over 10 years.) Presenter: Rev. Norm Horofker; Service Assistant: Anne Knight-Gorman

**June 16      *The Difference Between Fathers and Mothers***

Aside from biology, what are the differences between being a father and being a mother today? Presenter: Rev. Norm Horofker; Service Assistant: Martha Wilson

**June 23      *Flower Communion and Year End Picnic***

Join us for our annual church year-end celebration. Our Flower Communion is a simple and beautiful celebration of our diverse community. There will be something in the service for everyone with a picnic on the grounds to follow. Presenters: Margaret Galbraith and Marie-Claude Leroux

**June 30      *"From Those to Whom Much Has Been Given"***






Most of us feel blessed to be living in Canada. On the eve of Canada Day we ask: What spiritual obligations might come with that blessing? Presenters: Rev. Norm Horofker; Service Assistant: Dean White

Theme: During July and August our services will not be theme based.

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.



# JUNE 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		National Indigenous History Month				1 10 – 11:30 am Neighbourhood Brunch 
2 12:15 pm Kings College Tour	3	4	5 4:45 - 6:15 pm Afterchoir	6 9:30 - 11:30 am Parents & Tots Noon - 1 pm Tai Chi 6 pm Green New Deal (see inside)	7	8 10 – 11:30 am Neighbourhood Brunch 11:30 am Film: The Road Forward
9 Flower Communion  Noon: Intro to UU with Rev. Norm	10  9 pm Young Adult online check-in	11  1 pm Caring Comm.	12  4:45 - 6:15 pm Afterchoir	13  9:30 - 11:30 am Parents & Tots Noon - 1 pm Tai Chi 6:30 Board meeting (last one till Sept)	14  Sandra, most Fridays thru summer	15  10 – 11:30 am Neighbourhood Brunch
16 <b>FATHER'S DAY</b> 12 Noon Humanist Group 2:00-4:00 pm <b>Walk with Refugees</b> (see last page)	17	18	19  4:45 - 6:15 pm Afterchoir	20  World Refugee Day 9:30 - 11:30 am Parents & Tots Noon - 1 pm Tai Chi	21  First Nations Day 1st day summer 	22  10 – 11:30 am Neighbourhood Brunch
23  <b>Annual Picnic</b>	24  12 Noon Newsletter deadline	25	26  4:45 - 6:15 pm Afterchoir	27  9:30 - 11:30 am Parents & Tots Noon - 1 pm Tai Chi	28	29  10 – 11:30 am Neighbourhood Brunch (last one till Sept)
30  Coffee volunteers needed this Sunday!	July 1 Canada Day 					



**Sunday after church, June 23, to 2 pm  
In our own backyard. Plan to attend!**

Potluck: Bring salads, casseroles, desserts, beverages, snack foods. Hotdogs, burgers, buns and condiments will be provided.

Special guests this year! The SAH (Refugee) Committee is inviting the newcomers we have sponsored and the allies we have been working with.

Expect good food, music with the Afterchoir, the bouncy castle, new friends, and hopefully sunshine! It will be a great afternoon!

Helpers will be needed to set up in the backyard, serve food, and clean up all evidence afterwards. Be prepared to just jump in and help! **Faith Piccolo** [fpic6@gmail.com](mailto:fpic6@gmail.com)



# Minister's Notes

## Back from Sabbatical Leave

Last Sunday's service is on my mind as I write these notes. The topic was "creating our lives in community" and I used the metaphor of weaving ourselves into the fabric of community... with help from Edie, Sylvia, and Etta. I feel that my life is deeply woven into the fabric of our beloved community and that through that process I give my life meaning.

I say that to explain the trepidation that I felt as I took the month of April to be away from the congregation on sabbatical leave. Janet and I are extremely blessed (the theme for June) as in celebration of our 70th birthdays we were able to take a Mediterranean holiday that started with 3 days in Lisbon followed by a cruise with ten stops at wonderful locations, and ended with three days in Rome.

I took with me the book, *White Fragility*, by Robin DiAngelo. My intention was to get a perspective on the issues of "White Privilege" that have had such a profound effect on the Unitarian Universalist Association in the United States in the last few years. The book was easy to read and the message impactful. In her concluding pages DiAngelo says that she strives to be "less white", to be less racially oppressive and more racially aware... to break with white silence and white solidarity, to stop privileging the comfort of white people over the pain of racism for people of colour.

I lowered my book for a moment and looked around. Here I was on a Dutch cruise ship with 800 passengers, 793 of whom were white, senior citizens and well off... being served by a staff that was largely Filipino or Indonesian. Rather than being less white, I was doing the most white thing I could imagine! I emailed my colleague Mark Morrison-Reed to let him know my distress and ask if I should get off at the

next port. He told me to relax and enjoy the sabbatical learning experience.

I was also reading *The First Eden: Mediterranean World and Man*, by David Attenborough. I was deeply impressed with the way humanity has changed the landscape of that part of the world as civilizations flourished and perished. That understanding has implications for me in my thinking about how we are changing the entire face of the earth with dire consequences for all life on earth. Seeing the historical sites and ruins had a powerful effect on me.

Rome was an overwhelming experience. I will relate one experience there, at a site that I was advised to visit by my Roman Catholic and Anglican colleagues here in Halifax. The Basilica of San Clemente is not on the A-list of attractions in Rome, but it is amazing. The exciting structure is a 14th century Christian church, beautiful to see, like a hundred others in Rome. But beneath the existing structure they have excavated and opened up a 3rd century Christian church with original frescos still visible on the walls. And beneath that they have discovered and opened up a first century Roman building that includes a temple to the God Mithra. The Mithraic cult was a pagan cult in competition with Christianity in the first and second centuries. The temple has the altar intact, along with a statue of Mithra and the stone benches where worshippers sat. You access these three levels by going down a stairway, going back in time with each step. I know of no other place where you can experience this authentic sweep of western religion.

I am grateful to the congregation for building a sabbatical into my agreement with the church. I have come back changed and look forward to sharing more insights with you all. Now if I could only slow down my pace to what I experienced on some small Mediterranean Islands... **With Love, Norm**

## The Pact for a Green New Deal

*From Canadian Unitarian Council e-News*



The Pact for a Green New Deal launched on May 6. The CUC signed the pact, as have over 45,000 people.

Beginning on May 18th people have gathered to discuss what we want in a Green New Deal. Over 200 Town Halls have been launched to date.

The Green New Deal is a plan for massive public investment to meet the demands of the justice and climate crisis, to see the full implementation of the United Nation Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the Right to Free Prior and Informed Consent, and the Truth and Reconciliation Recommendations.

It's a plan to cut our national emissions in half within a decade in a way that works for working class families and creates millions of jobs in the process. The Green New Deal is far-reaching and requires a transformative policy platform stretching across sectors and jurisdictions.

People from all walks of life have gathered to discuss what is needed in a Green New Deal. Leslie Solomonian from the First Unitarian Congregation of Toronto has been concerned for a long time about the environmental crisis. She signed on and organized a Town Hall on May 21st at First Toronto. It drew over 250 people.

### What you can do:

- Join a Town Hall near you.
- Sign the Pact for a Green New Deal in Canada. Notify your MP that you took the pledge as you sign up.
- Join the Pact as a congregation or a group.
- Help spread the word through [draft e-blasts](#) and [support graphics](#). (Learn how on CUC [eNews](#).)
- Interested in being part of the CUC effort? Email [socialjustice@cuc.ca](mailto:socialjustice@cuc.ca)

### Local News on

### The Pact for a Green New Deal

Dean White attended a recent Town Hall in Bridgewater and reports there were at least 200 people in attendance.

The Ecology Action Centre is hosting one on **Thursday June 6th at 6:30** at the Ummah Mosque (via Windsor & Chebucto, or Dublin & Summit).

This is your chance to contribute to a green future. Hope to see you there! Expect more updates via [uinfo](#).

**Margaret Galbraith**

Learn more at [www.Greennewdeal.org](http://www.Greennewdeal.org)  
*and follow CUC eNews – stay inspired!*



The Canadian Unitarian Council's *eNews* is the digital weekly newsletter of the Canadian Unitarian Council, connecting, informing and guiding Canada's Unitarian Universalists.

*eNews* seeks to highlight issues and events of regional and national interest.

Read *eNews* to find out what the CUC's board and staff are up to, get the latest social justice news, and learn what's coming up in your area.

Subscribe to *eNews* at [cuc.ca](http://cuc.ca), click on *News* and find the subscription form. Take the plunge today!

## Dining for Dollars (D4\$) is back!

*Time to bring back our tried and true Dining for Dollars fundraiser after a three-year pause. This fundraiser has some lovely spin-offs – namely splendid company and delicious food.*



Here is how it works. You agree to host a meal event and tell us the details including: menu, date, time, place, price, and how many guests you have room for.

We're thinking July through November for now. Summer suggests back yard barbecues or invites to your cottages. Fall could mean garden harvest meals or comfort food.

We set out sign-up sheets in the Ballroom and people sign up for the events of their choosing. Money goes to the church.

If you, as a host, would like a tax receipt, keep and submit your receipts for food and wine purchases (wine optional). UUCH reimburses you; then you write a cheque back to UUCH for that amount and receive a tax receipt for it.

Previous offers have included Italian, Irish, Nepali, Korean, Indian, Wine and Cheese Tasting, Triple Crown watching, Gourmet and Balderdash, Hike with a Picnic, Afternoon at the Cottage, Tea and Tarot, Munchies after Skating at the Oval, Pi Dinner, Pizza Night. In other words, your themes will be limited only by your imagination and cooking abilities! Please send us your offer and we will take it from there.

Reply to me at:

***[marilyn.shinyei@eastlink.ca](mailto:marilyn.shinyei@eastlink.ca)***



## Tour of Conference Venue for CUC 2020 – “Making Waves in Halifax”

at the University of Kings College

May 15–17 (18<sup>th</sup> Victoria Day)

Molly and I reported as follows on Making Waves in Halifax at the church's AGM on May 26th:

- We have had monthly online conference meetings with CUC staff. Several volunteers have already offered their services, having read the April CUC newsletter.
- We are inviting the UUCH congregation to join us after church next Sunday on a tour of the conference area. For those who were not at the AGM, please note the following:
  - **Where:** Kings College, Coburg Road (close to the Oxford St. intersection)
  - **When:** After church, Sunday, June 2nd, leaving the church at 12:15
  - Many folks at the AGM indicated interest so there should be ample transport, and parking at Kings.
  - **Purpose:** To ignite a little flame at UUCH before we tackle the congregations across the country!

**Molly Hurd, Glenda Butt**  
CUC 2020 Co-coordinators

**CUC Conference 2020, Making Waves in Halifax**, hosted by the UU Church of Halifax promises to have a unique Atlantic flavour.



The theme builds on the imagery of The Ripple Effect, the CUC's campaign on water and its related environmental issues. This theme encourages and challenges UUs to make waves that practice radical inclusion, challenge the status quo, and push us to remain relevant into the future.

## *The Road Forward*

Film Screening at UUCH  
Saturday, June 8, 11:30 am



Another film is coming our way from the CUC's cross Canada project, **Truth, Healing and Reconciliation Film Screenings**, on Saturday, June 8th at 11:30 am Atlantic time.

*The Road Forward*, third in the film series, is a musical documentary by Marie Clements.

It connects a pivotal moment in Canada's civil rights history: the beginnings of Indian Nationalism in the 1930s, with the powerful momentum of First Nations activism today.

Viewings are followed by reflective group discussion. So come and view, learn and discuss!

**The call for streams and workshops will be issued in the late summer or early fall of 2019.**

Do consider volunteering for the conference (because it takes a team to make it happen) and we are the host church, after all. The Conference 2020 section of the CUC website has a volunteers' form where you can choose the skills you would like to offer. This is going to be very exciting. We will hear much more from Molly and Glenda and the CUC in the coming months.



## The Caring Column

We were dismayed to learn that **Troy Saulnier** appeared to have a heart problem while travelling to Denver Colorado to speak at a conference. He is still active however, with his busy family life and attending church and meetings. Hopefully, test results will get to the bottom of the problem and see Troy back to his usual health.



With Norm's help, **Georges Merinfeld** and his sister and brother-in-law in Belgium again communicated via Skype – a very special event for Georges.

Rev. Norm also reports that **Barbara Dacey** is somewhat housebound with a circulatory problem. We wish Barbara a prompt return to better health.

Our committee is sorry to have lost two members: **Eileen Ross** and **Jean-Francois Turcotte**. Thank you, Eileen and J.F., for your contributions to the committee. At the same time, we are pleased to welcome **Mike Belland** as a new member of our committee.

*Sylvia Mattinson*

## UUCH in Hike for Hospice



UUs again participated in the annual fundraising drive for Hospice Halifax on Sunday May 5th, with the 'Halifax Universalist Unitarian Team' raising \$655. This year the hike raised a record total of \$55,000, with hikers making their way from the Halifax waterfront, up Inglis past UUCH to the new hospice on Francklyn Street. After years of work by countless volunteers, Halifax's first hospice is just days from completion.

Tours of the new 10-bed facility, located beside the Atlantic School of Theology, were available after the hike's celebratory barbecue.

Hospice Halifax should be accepting its first patients by the time you read this.

*Andy Blair*



### Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for submissions for the July newsletter is 12 noon,

**Monday, June 24th.**

Please send submissions to both  
Etta Hamm, [braeside@eastlink.ca](mailto:braeside@eastlink.ca)  
and

Sandra Jamieson, [uuchurch@eastlink.ca](mailto:uuchurch@eastlink.ca)

## **RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION**

We are nearing the end of the year for the Religious Exploration program, and I am grateful to have had the opportunity to play a small part in it these past few months.

This year has seen a change in the programming by offering the older children (approximately 9 years old and over) the chance to explore questions of ethics, religion and Unitarian Universalism in a meaningful way, aimed at their age level. Using the Amazing Grace curriculum from Tapestry of Faith, Janet Horofker and Pam Berman have led these sessions by engaging the youth, exploring these themes with lively discussions.

The youth have also been participating in services more frequently of late. Their deeper involvement within the church community enriches us all. Along with some time set aside with Norm, they are presented with the importance of ritual and community. In participating in the service by helping as ushers and with readings, the importance of each person in the congregation is affirmed, whatever the age.



Tristan reading the chalice opening words, May 26

The bonds between the younger and older children, as well as between the children and congregants were strengthened throughout the year during the Spirit Art classes, once a month. These sessions included children of all ages, creating art together either as an exploration of cultural traditions or a craft presented by a congregant, such as candle making, quilt making and even "sugar" skulls for Day of the Dead. We hope these bonds will continue to grow with family activities occasionally offered after church.

Of these activities, in June we will be offering the first in a series of outings aimed at familiarizing ourselves with other houses of worship and spiritual practices.

I'm looking forward to our time with both the children and youth as we wrap up this year of religious exploration together!

**Marie-Claude Leroux**  
**Interim Director**  
**Religious Exploration for Children**



## **Religious Exploration** For Children & Youth

Join us on Sundays from 10:30 for our one hour age-appropriate programs to explore questions that matter. Learn more about our current curriculum and schedule below.

### **Schedule**

Jun 2 Children & Youth: Spirit Art

Jun 9 Children & Youth: Climate Change & Monarch Migration

Jun 16 Children & Youth: Plant a Butterfly Garden

Jun 23 Intergenerational Service & picnic

Jun 30 Youth: Service Participation

### **Children & Youth**

Children & Youth will be exploring an adapted version of "Climate Change: Creating Solutions for Our Future" curriculum. Sometimes together, and other times in their respective age groups, they will be learning about climate change in age appropriate & empowering ways. With hands on activities & experiments, participants will be guided to explore the interdependence of all life on earth, concepts of climate & the carbon cycle, and actions we can all take to reduce our impact & show our appreciation of Earth.



**R.E. children and youth (and moms & dads) explore the great outdoors**



A nature scavenger hunt at Point Pleasant Park, April 28. Back row: Brad, Tanya, Marie-Claude, Abigail, Danielle, Kyla, Troy, Rohan, Claudia, Katherine, Elvia. Front Row from left: Tristan, Ivy, Jason, Terran, Miranda, Alice, Destiny, Sarah, Maya. Andy took the pictures.





## From your Refugee Committee

*Submitted by Marilyn Shinyei, Co-chair*

*I thought that you might find this recent report from the Canadian government to be interesting. The Private Sponsorship of Refugees is exactly what we have been doing, in fact over decades, but more recently with the sponsorship of the Althyab family in 2016 as a Constituent Group and then by becoming a Sponsorship Agreement Holder (SAH) ourselves last May. As a SAH we submitted applications for 15 refugees last year and are working on another 18 right now.*

### **By the Numbers – 40 years of Canada’s Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program**

*From Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada*

#### **Backgrounder**

Since the late 1970s, Canadian citizens and permanent residents have joined together to provide protection to refugees and to help them build a new life here through Canada’s Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program.

Private sponsorships are arranged by humanitarian, cultural, or faith based organizations, community associations, or groups of five or more individuals. These groups commit to supporting resettled refugees during their first year in Canada by providing income support, arrival and orientation services, accommodation and basic household needs, and food, clothing and emotional support.

#### **Did you know?**

- 2 million Canadians report that they have been personally involved in helping Syrian refugees come to and settle in Canada
- 327,000 refugees have been welcomed by private sponsors since 1979, over and above those resettled with government funding
- 62,000 since 2015, more than half of the Syrian refugees who have been resettled to Canada were privately sponsored
- 59,000 privately sponsored refugees will be welcomed to Canada between 2019 and 2021



- More than 49,000 privately sponsored Polish refugees were welcomed from 1980 to 1996
- 34,000 privately sponsored Indochinese refugees were resettled to Canada in the late 1970s and early 1980s. This involved some 7,000 sponsoring groups
- Nearly 28,000 Iraqi privately sponsored refugees were welcomed from 1988 to 2018
- More than 26,000 Afghani privately sponsored refugees were welcomed from 1988 to 2018
- More than 17,000 Eritrean privately sponsored refugees arrived from 2004 to 2018
- More than 9,000 Iranian privately sponsored refugees were welcomed from 1982 to 2018
- Nearly 9,000 Somali privately sponsored refugees were welcomed from 1988 to 2018
- 117 incorporated organizations have signed agreements with the Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship to sponsor refugees
- **Canada was the only country ever to be awarded the Nansen Medal, the highest distinction bestowed by the United Nations for aid to refugees**
- **Canada’s place among resettlement countries worldwide: No 1**

Private sponsors play a significant role in thousands upon thousands of new Canadian success stories. Sponsors help newcomer individuals and families who affect our communities in many positive ways.

It is thanks to the efforts of private sponsors and the support of thousands of volunteers that Canada’s Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program continues to be a success.

# Walk with Refugees for a Stronger Canada

Sunday, June 16  
2:00 - 4:00 pm

For World Refugee Day, join us as we Walk with Refugees to put refugee voices up front and change the conversation. Bring your family, wear **YELLOW** and bring noise makers to show your support!



## All are welcome!

We will gather at **Garrison Grounds** at **2:00 pm** at the **grassy space between the parking lots**. From there we will walk up Sackville Street, around the Public Gardens and down to the Halifax Central Library where a reception will take place.

For more information, contact:

Denise Scott | 902-406-8851 | [dscott@isans.ca](mailto:dscott@isans.ca)

Put on in partnership by :



## Sunday Service Volunteer Roster — June 2019

tbf: to be filled

Date	Greeter 1	Greeter 2	Early Usher	Late Usher	Early Coffee	Late Coffee
Jun 02	Anne K-G	Sylvia M	Faith P	tbf	Janet H	tbf
Jun 09	Elinor E-R	tbf	Angela V	Mike B	Peter B	Krista L
Jun 15	Margaret M	Jim M	tbf	Eileen R	Marilyn S	Faith P
Jun 23	Etta H	tbf	Kathy A	Sylvia M	Doug F	Danielle/Tristan S
Jun 30	Anne K-G	Sylvia M	tbf	tbf	tbf	tbf

A big **Thank You** to our much appreciated Sunday helpers!  
 Note: All 'tbf' spaces are 'to be filled. Email me and you're in. Pam

### Summer Coffee

Aaahhh... summer coffee... it brings to mind a delicious cold brew on a sunny patio on a perfect summer's day.

It also brings to mind a nice hot cup in our own UUCH community on our own sunny deck on a Sunday morning.

I recently learned that many years ago at UUCH, there were no services in the summer but that the church was open for coffee and conversation.

Fast forward to the summer of 2019 and we may be looking at summer Sundays with services but no coffee!

There are nine Sundays from July 7 to September  
 If you are able to volunteer to look after making coffee and cleaning up on one (or more) of those Sundays, please e-mail me. Thank you !

**Pam Griffin-Hody**  
 pam\_griffin-hody@carleton.ca





## Our Bear River Mi'kmaq Friends

In the Spring of 1992, Allyn Clarke organised a canoe trip for the church in the multitude of lakes and streams in Queens County. At our campsite, the tents put up, the fire lit, the singing started, the black flies were bad, but the whole experience was awesome.



The 7 Paddles brochure

When this year, in preparation for my trip to Digby, I was looking at the Bear River First Nation website, I noticed to my delight that the Mi'kmaq community in Bear River had started a program called 7 Paddles, which was to re-establish traditional Mi'kmaq canoe routes for eco-tourism in Nova Scotia.

We are very lucky to have Allyn, since the UU paddlers of long ago must have had to use Mi'kmaq guides for their canoe trips. When I asked my friend Louise, when I visited her on my Victoria Day weekend in Bear River, if the old outreach program of our Church could have started with some UU paddlers using Mi'kmaq guides, befriending them and seeing their need, she replied, "Oh yes, most likely. But that was true friendship," she added. "The Mi'kmaq helping your paddlers and your paddlers helping the Mi'kmaq."

We had been discussing how ever since Truth and Reconciliation had become a buzzword in Canada things had become difficult for the Band. She said that the Band members had to be careful with outside contacts. "Every church group wants to

have them as their token truth and reconciliation example. We see the Band members here all the time, that is not to be avoided in a small place like Bear River, but they mostly keep to themselves. They have their own problems— many of them. They don't need the spotlight."

A mutual friend had introduced me to Louise in 2012 on my earlier visit. During this year's visit I learned that Louise's daughter is Sarah Harlow's great-granddaughter. Sarah Harlow was our main Bear River contact for our annual Christmas Drive, collecting the truck full of clothes and food items we used to send up there.



UUCH members visit the Bear River Heritage and Cultural Centre, 2005

The UU Church visited the Bear River First Nation in 2005. At that time we received a grand and joyful welcome in their newly opened teepee-shaped Mi'kmaq Heritage and Cultural Centre. Louise was the head interpreter at that time. She has her hand on the exhibit.

I asked her about the now empty building. Her face lit up. "That building is serving the community very well," she said. "It is a true community centre," telling me of all the things happening there.

It was great to learn that in spite of an overwhelming amount of pain and suffering, the Band is alive and thriving!

**Wietske Gradstein**

National Indigenous History Month  
June 2019



[www.rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca](http://www.rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca)