

U.U.&you

newsletter of the universalist unitarian church of halifax

Vol. 49, No 9
May 2015

Universalist Unitarian
Church of Halifax
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Deborah Wiggins
Music Director

Emily Dodge
Interim RE Director

Kim Turner
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Newsletter
Etta Hamm
Sandra Jamieson

Sunday service
10:30 am
All are welcome

Children & Youth Education
Child care available

Theme for May: Beauty

May 3

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

What is beauty and what is the role of beauty in your life? The filmmaker, Louie Schwartzberg tells us that beauty and seduction are nature's way of protecting itself. After all, he says, we protect what we fall in love with. Today our minister asks, "What have you fallen in love with because of its beauty? And are you protecting it?"

May 10

Presenter: Rev. Norm Horofker; Service Assistant: Louise Malloch

We do not see things as they are. We see things as we are. This quote attributed to Anais Nin suggests that if we want to see beauty we must cultivate beauty within ourselves. Today our minister explores what that suggests for living a good life.

May 17

Presenter: Rev. Helen McFadyen; Service Assistant: Wynne Jordan

Beauty & the beast: A complicated legacy of relationship with the Aboriginal people of Canada Turtle Island. May 19-22 will mark Aboriginal Awareness Week in Canada, a period set aside to honour the diverse cultures and traditions of the First Nations Peoples. Rev. Helen will reflect on the dissonant experience of celebrating the beauty found in Aboriginal culture, while recognizing the painful legacy of colonization and marginalization that persists.

May 24

Presenter: Dr. Don Bailey; Service Assistant: Rev. Norm Horofker

Seeking our Universalist self. We are all on a unique spiritual journey, but we can find paths that suit us and signs that will guide us through terrain that others have crossed before us. This morning Dr. Bailey, Senior Scholar, University of Winnipeg, will explore the roots of Universalist thought and how this faith tradition can help us give meaning to our lives today.

May 31

Presenter: Rev. Norm Horofker; Service Assistant: Margaret Galbraith

Restoring a river... what could be more beautiful? With help from Jocelyn Rankin of the Ecology Action Centre, our minister will explore how working to restore our rivers can sustain our spirits. We will look in particular at the project to "daylight" the Sawmill River in Dartmouth.



Our Mission is to provide a community which nurtures personal and spiritual and collective commitment to community service and social justice.

May 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 9 am Chalice Singers 9:45 am Family Singers 9 am Chalice Singers 12 noon Worship Committee 12 noon, upstairs: Pride Parade Meeting	4	5	6 4:45-6:15 pm After Choir	7	8	9
10 9 am Chalice Singers 9:45 am Family Singers 12:30 pm Field trip to Blue Beach	11 10 am Deadline for reports for AGM	12 11:30-3:30 Library Meeting	13 4:30 Soc.Resp.Mtng. 4:45-6:15 pm After Choir 6:30 pm Board Meeting	14 9:30 – 11:30 am Parents & Tots	15	16 7 – 9 pm DUP
17 9 am Chalice Singers 9:45 am Family Singers 12 noon Humanist Group	18	19	20 4:45-6:15 pm After Choir	21 9:30 – 11:30 am Parents & Tots 12 noon Tea & Bannock Lunch (Dining for Dollars)	22	23 Hike: Cole Harbour See page 6.
24 9 am Chalice Singers 9:45 am Family Singers 12 noon AGM ----- 31 9 am Chalice Singers 12 noon ACP Workshop for LGBTQ	25 10 am Newsletter deadline	26	27 4:45-6:15 pm After Choir	28 9:30 – 11:30 am Parents & Tots	29	30

Pride Parade 2015 Committee Launch May 3, 12 noon

Help us show UUCH Pride! Inviting one and all to meet (upstairs) after the service on May 3rd to plan a fantastic and fun float for Halifax Pride. Need more info? Contact me!



Last year's UUCH group, whose efforts won "Best Float in Non-profit" category.

Andy Blair
ahblair@yahoo.com

Notice of the Annual General Meeting of the UUCH, May 24, 12 noon

The UUCH Annual General Meeting will take place on Sunday, May 24th after the service.

There'll be reports from all committees, a financial update and a slate of nominations for the Board for the upcoming church year.

We need 20 percent of members for a quorum, so bring a brown bag lunch and try to attend!

All are welcome, including non-members.

Pam Berman
Secretary, Board of Management





Minister's Notes *in a month of beauty*

We, the Unitarian Universalist Ministers of Canada... Part II

I am running out of time... time to write my “notes” for the newsletter... time to implement ideas to make our church life even more engaging and meaningful before the summer break... time ... period. May and June... only two months to go before I am on my study month and summer holidays. And in those two months I will be attending the Canadian Unitarian Council annual conference and meeting in Ottawa, and the Unitarian Universalist Association annual general meeting in Portland, Oregon. Both of these meetings include ministerial retreats that are a very special part of my year in ministry.

I want to use my time to strengthen our congregation and to contribute toward strengthening Unitarian Universalism and our role in Canadian society. I am encouraged by some recent developments.

The “Common Voice Project” of the Unitarian Universalist Ministers of Canada (UUMoC) provides just such an opportunity. I am participating in a task force charged with the responsibility of getting the voices of Canadian UU ministers heard on the great social, economic, and environmental issues of our time. In the April newsletter I wrote about the UUMoC statement on Bill C-51, “The Anti-terrorism Act 2015.” Helping to craft a statement on this bill that could be agreed to by the majority of UU ministers in Canada was an inspiring experience.

In order to develop a single statement it was necessary to enter into dialogue with ministers that held very divergent opinions on the topic.

Discussion among ministers is not unusual, but in this case we needed to go beyond dialogue, toward reaching a consensus opinion. In the process I realized that our theology of diversity was both a blessing and a curse.

Our respect for diversity allows each of us, minister and lay person alike, to formulate our own position on the issues that face us, and our commitment to diversity requires that we respect the opinions of others. The negative side of this relationship is that we do not spend enough time trying to reach some kind of consensus, some common ground that would unite us and provide vision and clarity that goes beyond our individual perspectives. We can agree to disagree, and in our disagreement we become impotent as an organization.

In the process of trying to craft a UU position on Bill C-51 I was caught up in spirited discussions about our UU perspective on war and violence and fear and safety and security and manipulation of the political system.

I am very optimistic that our “Public Voice Project” will provide a needed forum for UU ministers to clarify how our traditions, our theology and our “sources and principles” ought to shape our role in the public debate over the great issues that face us as a nation.

Ironically, this involvement in the public and political process has been spurred on by the recent activities of the Canadian Revenue Agency (CRA), activities that many believe are the result of an attempt to silence voices of dissent. The CRA has been auditing charitable organizations including our own Canadian Unitarian Council, to determine whether our political activities are within the “proper” scope of a charitable organization.

This has caused us to reflect on what our “proper” political role is and ought to be. It is clear that we are a church, and that churches are expected to publicly proclaim what they believe in and to attempt to persuade the public that what we believe in matters.

I believe that this “Public Voice Project” and the effort to get more consensus among UU ministers will strengthen us as a congregation and as a dynamic and important religious voice in Canada.

Rev. Norm Horofker



Reports please!

The Annual General Meeting of the UUCH will be held on May 24th as per the official notice on page 2.

Reports for the AGM are due in my Inbox by 10 am, Monday, May 11th. Early submissions would be very helpful.

Your cooperation will enable me to:

- organize reports in the right order
- include all reports on the agenda
- email the package to members via UUinfo on Friday, May 15th

On the 15th I will also print a number of hard copies of the agenda and all reports and staple them together in sets of 'packages'. There will no opportunity to insert late submissions.

A number of AGM packages will be available by request on Sunday the 17th, one week prior to the meeting. All of the above are normal business practices.

To minimize the use and expense of paper, anyone taking a set of reports on the 17th would not help themselves to a second set at the meeting on the 24th.

Thank you for your cooperation, everyone.

Sandra Jamieson
uuchurch@eastlink.ca

DEADLINE

The deadline for submissions for the June newsletter is **Monday, May 25th.**

Please submit to both
braeside@eastlink.ca
and
uuchurch@eastlink.ca

Inspired

Perhaps you will recall that last fall Kay Smith used \$10,000 of a recent inheritance to double the balance in the UUCH Endowment Fund.

Inspired by that, and now in possession of an inheritance from her father's estate, Marilyn Shinyei is kicking in \$6,000. Added to that will be \$2,000 from each of Laura Hody and Eileen Ross who are sharing the benefits of their retirement allowances.

This total amount of \$10,000 now triples our Endowment Fund in less than one and a-half years since since it was formalized.



Perhaps we will reach \$100,000 faster than we thought! Remember we must reach that target before we can begin to spend any of the interest on special projects. Much appreciation to Laura, Eileen and Marilyn, and thanks for agreeing to "go public" with your generosity.

Your Endowment Trustees
Kay, Mary Lu & Marilyn

Grass Cutters (may be) Needed



*I look out my window, and what do I see?
Snow, landing, where a lawn ought to be.*

Just my small attempt at words with which to inspire you, our wonderfully tenacious Halifax UUsers, to take care of our wet, grey, snow-covered "lawn".

If you want to be on the list of grass cutters, i.e., lawnmower pushers (in case we ever need any), please contact me at wietske@ns.sympatico.ca or 902-835-9272. *You never know...*

Wietske Gradstein

Dining for Dollars Events in May

Don't be left out of the feasting and the fun of dining with UU friends—take action and get in on these great offerings!

Preakness Stakes Supper at Alison's

*Saturday, May 16
5:30 pm*



There is one spot left for Alison's "Preakness Stakes Supper" on May 16th featuring tandoori chicken, rice, vegetables, salad, dessert, and beer or wine.

Then at 7 it's all eyes on the telly for the Preakness—a thrilling event of awesome horsepower, thundering hooves and the adrenalin rush of the race. If your horse wins, you get a second helping of dessert. All for \$25!



Tea & Bannock Lunch at UUCH with Rev. Helen

*Thursday, May 21
12 noon*

Bannock events are popping up across North America. On Thursday, May 21st, Rev. Helen will host a Tea & Bannock lunch at the church at noon.

Celebrate Aboriginal Awareness Week by sharing bannock and other foods of Canada's indigenous people including wild nut soup, bison chili, and a variety of teas. Helen will play her Native American flute.

All this for \$15. Four spots left.

To sign up for these D4\$ events, contact me at kay.kathy@ns.sympatico.ca, or 902-429-9665.

Kay Smith



The Caring Column

Devin Murphy had to undergo a second surgery and is slowly improving. We send our thoughts and prayers for Devin's recovery and soon return to the church family.

Louise Malloch sang in the Kiwanis Music Festival in April and received two first-place awards! Congratulations, Louise!

Brendan Osberg defended his PhD thesis in Statistical and Biological Physics at the Ludwig Maximilians University of Munich on March 25th, about the complexities of proteins in DNA. Congratulations to Brendan on this great achievement. Brendan is now enjoying a travel vacation in Cambodia.

Laura Hody recently retired from a 25-year career as an Obstetrics Nurse. Congratulations, Laura! She estimates that she assisted in the arrival into this world of approximately 4,200 babies. That's amazing!

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, and who care a lot about you.
~ Kathleen Edwards.



UN-UNO News

We have once again been awarded a "Blue Ribbon Congregation" award for the THIRD YEAR running!

Thank you for your support and continued interest in the immensely important work of the United Nations.

I will be at the ACM 2015 in Ottawa on Sunday, May 17th, for the Awards Banquet.

Valerie Chapman
UU-UNO Envoy for UUCH

Editor's note: It is ENTIRELY due to Valerie's efforts, of course, that "we" receive this award. Well done, Valerie, you make us proud!



Social Responsibility Wednesday, May 13

The Social Responsibility Committee's May meeting will be held on Wednesday the 13th at 4:30 pm at UUCH.

All are welcome. An agenda will be available closer to the date.

Margaret Galbraith

Hike through Cole Harbour Heritage Park Saturday, May 30

Join the UU hikers for a walk through the Cole Harbour Heritage Park on Saturday, May 30th. The park encompasses the old Halifax County Poor Farm and is a wonderful mix of fields and forests providing glorious views of Cole Harbour. The trails in the Poor Farm part of the park are the old farm roads surfaced with crushed stone.



The continuation to the Salt Marsh trail is an old unimproved cart road. Hikers wishing to stay on the crushed rock roads could return to their car along a shorter route.

Meet at the church at 12:20 to car pool, or at the first parking lot on the left (overlook-

ing a large field) on Bissett Road at 1 pm. If you want a pick-up in downtown Dartmouth, contact me by Friday evening. If you are lost or running late you can reach me on my cell 902-483-4731 around 1 pm.

Allyn Clarke

Advance Care Planning Workshops hosted by Dying with Dignity Nova Scotia

Do your family and doctor know your wishes for care if you are hospitalized or incapacitated?

Are you prepared?



This workshop to be held at UUCH will help you get the best out of your free advance care planning kit (available free at <http://tiny.cc/nhbixx>). Providing insights and opportunities for discussion and reflection, this hands-on workshop will assist you to complete your Advance Care Plan. Participants are guided through the process step-by-step. Full use is made of question and answer periods.

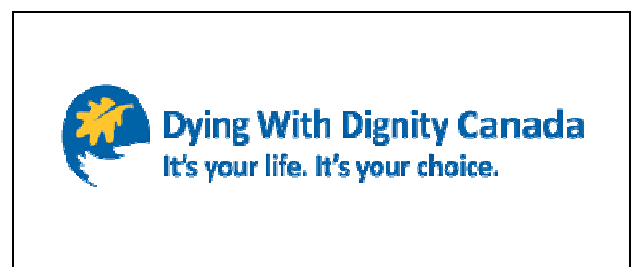
LGBTQ Community ACP Workshop
May 31, Sunday, 12 noon

Public ACP Workshop
June 7, Sunday, 12 noon

Workshops are free of charge but space is limited to 14 participants.

Contact me at ahblair@yahoo.com or **902-717-2639** to reserve your seat.

Andy Blair



Religious Exploration



I am going to try to pay attention to the spring. I am going to look around at all the flowers, and look up at the hectic trees. I am going to close my eyes and listen.
~ Anne Lamott

This past month saw a lot! We had an Earth Day focused Intergenerational Service, which tied in nicely to the nature-centered curriculum the children have been learning.

In that service, the children each represented an animal that lives in Nova Scotia. We had animals from the forest, rivers, and the ocean. The congregation served as each of the animal's habitats and they each had their own discussion about the importance of healthy habitats for our Nova Scotia wildlife and what people can do to help ensure those healthy habitats. In the weeks leading up to the service, the children had fun choosing their animals and making their costumes.

May, and warmer weather, will bring more opportunities for outdoors exploration. On May 10th we have our field trip to Blue Beach after the regular service. This will be an excellent opportunity for the kids to continue their connection to nature and our local ecosystems here.

As always, we are looking for new volunteers. If you have a skill or knowledge set that you would like to share with the RE program, or if you would like to teach or help observe, please contact me. Our volunteers are the backbone of our program! To reach me, please contact me at esdodge@gmail.com or **902-817-1489**, Tuesdays 1 to 4 pm, and Thursdays from 8 am to 12 noon.

Happy spring!

Emily Dodge
Interim RE Director



Music Montage

Life's music and it's poetry surround and bless us through our days. For these we sing in harmony, together giving thanks and praise.
~ Dana McLean Greeley



May's 'Singing as We Gather'

The Gathering Hymn for this month is #326 *Let All the Beauty we Have Known*. May's theme is 'beauty', and this hymn's lyrics show how beauty can enhance our lives through awareness, inspiration, caring and appreciation. "*Let all the beauty we have known illuminate our hearts and minds. Rejoice in wonders daily shown, in faith and joy, and love that binds.*"

If you are interested in learning more about our music program and the many opportunities to participate, such as our *Chalice Singers*, *Family Singers*, *qUUartet*, or *Afterchoir*, please contact me.

Deborah Wiggins

Music Director

uuchmusic@yahoo.ca

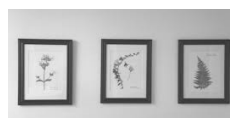
902-463-0988

Ballroom Gallery

If you or someone you know would like to explore the possibility of exhibiting works of art in our elegant gallery space, please contact me. The duration of an exhibit is approximately two months. Two or more artists may share an exhibit, and we welcome group shows.

Members and friends will find me listed in the church directory. Others may reach me by contacting the office, for which you will find contact information on the front page of this newsletter.

Ella Wilson





CUC Perspectives *UU Commitment*

Commitment reveals itself in congregations in many different ways. Commitment is visible in leadership roles on the Board, in Religious Exploration, in Music ministry, chairing a committee, leading a service or leading hikes all summer and fall.

In church volunteering commitment can be less visible for one-time events like being a UUCH delegate to a CUC Annual General Meeting or in planning regular events like the annual Pride Parade and all the fundraising and social events. Then there are the volunteer greeters at the door and in the kitchen every Sunday.

Even less visible are those who grab the moment to feel comfortable stacking chairs and books after every service, or picking up an ice pick or shovel in the winter or rakes in the summer. Commitment can also be just showing up, keeping in contact and just letting the rest of us know you are still one with this UUCH caring community.

We do know that people move from the area or families separate. However, we do ponder why people leave this cherished community; why they were unable to maintain any long-term commitment. When explored in the past we heard: my children are grown now, I've moved on to other things, my kids (or I) have sports on Sunday mornings, I go to the Quaker group now, I found it too intellectual, too much ritual, there was an incident, to recall a few responses.

Those comments might direct us in several areas. One might be to offer an alternative group(s) to Sunday morning. Another might be to explore sharing Sunday service in whole or in part online, in writing or video.

Yet another approach might be to determine what it would take, by our UU principles and actions, to facilitate the individual making of a UU commitment. Maybe that's partly what the visioning is all about, and certainly the topic of another discussion.

I attended a funeral on Saturday of a woman who was very active in her Anglican church and a part in the eulogy stuck with me: "My mother was known to make bold statements, like 'My time in this church will long outlive this issue. It will go away, but I will not.' "

Yes, what would it take?

Glenda Butt

President, Canadian Unitarian Council
Member, UUCH

Statements of Intention to Guide Canadian Unitarian Universalism

Published in CUC eNews, December 2014

Theologically Alive

Canadian UUism is theologically alive. We gather regularly to worship, rooted in & inspired by our living tradition.

Spiritually Grounded

Canadian UUism is spiritually grounded. Our spiritual growth is characterized by depth & maturity.

Embodying Our Principles

Canadian UUism challenges us to live our Seven Principles and inspires action for justice.

Boldly Inclusive

Canadian UUism is boldly inclusive with hospitable, diverse, multi-generational communities.

Beyond Congregations

Canadian UUism reaches beyond congregations to include UU individuals & groups who express their faith through diverse avenues (e.g., urban ministry, faith-based social enterprise, online communities, etc.).

Deeply Connected

Canadian UUism is deeply connected and fosters relationships within UU communities, between UU communities, with the broader world and with all life.

Canadian Unitarian Universalism is dynamic, transformative, and joyful.

Sunday Service Volunteers

May 3

Greeting Kathy Anthony
Anne Knight-Gorman
Ushering Andy Blair (e), Janet Horofker (l)
Kitchen TBF (set-up)
Anne Knight-Gorman (clean-up)
Audio Avard Woolaver
Library Valerie Chapman

May 10

Greeting Tracy Boyer and young helper
Wietske Gradstein
Ushering Valerie Chapman (e)
Sylvia Mattinson (l)
Kitchen TBF (set-up)
Kathy Spencer (clean-up)
Audio Avard Woolaver
Library TBF

May 17

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

May 24

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

May 31

Greeting Sandra Clarke, Alison Chipman
Ushering Wendy Ozon (e) Dean White (l)
Kitchen TBF (set-up), Dean White (clean-up)
Audio Ryan K.
Library Alison Chipman

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



Automatic monthly withdrawals

Tired of writing cheques or rooting through your purse or pockets at the last minute for cash to put in the Sunday offering?

Did you know you don't have to wait until our Annual Budget Drive in November to switch to an automatic withdrawal from your bank account? It's very easy to set up. Ask Darla or me for a form to complete and bring a void cheque. You don't have to set anything up with your bank; it's all handled through the church office. That's it!

Marilyn Shinyei

No Scents Makes Sense

Some people, when exposed to strong scents, can experience symptoms such as breathing difficulty, headaches, dizziness, nausea, fatigue, confusion and anxiety, among others. Children with these issues have extreme difficulties.



Please consider those who are sensitive to scented products by not wearing highly scented products to church.

Scented products include perfume, cologne, body lotions and sprays, aftershave and deodorant—as well as highly-scented flowers and plants. Scent that remains on clothes such as the smell of cigarette smoke is also a problem for some.

We can't control what visitors do (and we should not correct them), but we who 'own' our church space can do our part. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

Thanks

