

U.U. & you

newsletter of the universalist unitarian church of halifax

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May 2016

Universalist Unitarian
Church of Halifax
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Music Director

David Ballum-Haftka
Interim RE Director

Molly Hurd
President

Newsletter
Etta Hamm
Sylvia Mattinson
Sandra Jamieson

Sunday service
10:30 am

All are welcome

Children & Youth Education
Child care available

Theme for May – Tradition

May 1

Presenters: Margaret Galbraith and Deborah Wiggins

Earth Day service

A belated Earth Day celebration of our beautiful planet—from the local to the global. Visuals, music and readings. Come and be enchanted.

May 8

Presenter: Martha Wilson; Service Assistant: Louise Malloch

To know and be known: An intergenerational service

UUCH is a place of community and sharing where, ideally, we feel free to be ourselves. The ways we see and know one another in the congregation have a real impact on our daily lives. A special intergenerational service that you will not want to miss.

May 15

Presenter: Rev. Norm Horofker; Service Assistant: Allyn Clarke

Tradition as an experience – not the worship of ashes, but the rekindling of the fire

Today we explore the idea of tradition as an experience of connection to one another and to our shared values... something that brings joy and feeds our spiritual needs.

May 22

Presenter: Terry Choyce; Service Leader: Dean White

My spiritual journey: From traditional to cosmic!

Terry is eager to share with us the theological meanderings and insights that have guided her life. Answering life's big questions has given her purpose and passion on her spiritual quest.

May 29

Presenter: Rev. Norm Horofker; Service Assistant: Marilyn Shinyei

Our tradition of struggling for social justice

How does this UU tradition move you and how can it shape the future of this congregation?



Our mission is to provide a community that nurtures personal and spiritual growth, practices inclusiveness, celebrates diversity and affirms individual and collective commitment to community service and social justice.

MAY 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:30 am Choir Last chance for dinner theatre tickets 12 pm Worship Committee	2	3	4 No Afterchoir	5 9:30 – 11:30 am Parents & Tots	6	7
8 9:45 am Choir (upstairs) 12 pm Social Responsibility	9	10	11 4:45-6:15 pm Afterchoir	12 9:30-11:30am Parents & Tots 6:30 pm Dinner Theatre	13 6:30 pm Dinner Theatre	14 6:30 Dinner Theatre
15 No Choir 12 pm Humanist Group 12 pm Intro to UUism with Rev.Norm	16	17	18 10 am Reports for AGM are due 4:45-6:15 pm Afterchoir	19 9:30 – 11:30 am Parents & Tots 6:30 pm Board meeting	20	21 Hike to Polly Cove . 7 - 9 pm DUP
22 No Choir	23 10 am Newsletter deadline	24	25 4:45-6:15 pm Afterchoir	26 9:30 – 11:30 am Parents & Tots	27	28 2:00 pm Memorial service and reception for Laura Hody
29 9:45 am Choir (upstairs) 12 pm AGM 	30					



Notice of the Annual General Meeting of the UUCH May 29, 12 noon

The Annual General Meeting will take place on Sunday, May 29th at 12 noon.

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

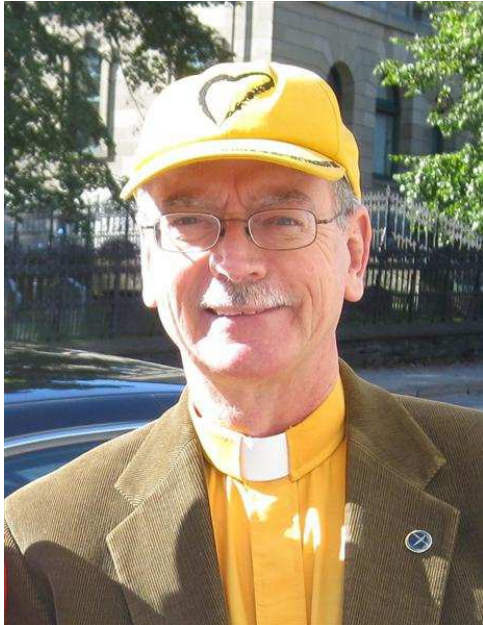
A highlight will be a report from the Building Task Force with discussion to follow.

We need 20% of members for a quorum, so please try to attend to discuss the important business of your church. Bring your own lunch.

The meeting is open to all, including our new people, visitors ... anyone.

Pam Berman
Secretary, UUCH Board of Directors

Minister's Notes



The Power of Tradition

“The questions that we must ask ourselves, are these: How will what we create compare with what we inherited? Will we add to our tradition or will we subtract from it? Will we enrich it or will we deplete it?” — Leon Wieseltier, literary editor of The New Republic

To a large extent, congregations, communities and nations are defined by their traditions. If we are to understand a group of people we must understand their traditions. If we are to be friends we must respect and appreciate these traditions.

We as a congregation and a faith tradition have committed to a journey of healing and reconciliation between Canadian Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal people. We must begin this journey by building friendships with individuals in the indigenous community. In order to do so, we must begin by acknowledging and appreciating their traditions.

The recent history of the First Nations peoples of North America is a rich source for deep reflection on the theme of Tradition. As we have learned from the Truth and Reconciliation process, it is possible to

devastate the fabric of an entire human civilization by denigrating their traditions.

But change in traditions is not always negative; if it is controlled by the people themselves, it can be empowering. The horse was unknown to the plains Indians of North America before the arrival of the Spanish in the sixteenth century. The tribes of the plains quickly mastered this new technology and “horse culture” became a source of strength, pride and prosperity for tribes like the Navajo, Apache and Plains Cree. A new tradition, built on the old ways, empowered a people.

On Sunday June 5, our service will be presented by Tom Christmas and Debbie Eisans of the Mi’kmaq Friendship Centre. They will share with us their knowledge of the spiritual traditions of the indigenous peoples of this land. That service will be followed in a week or so with a “Cultural Circle” conducted by Debbie. Debbie has supervised these Cultural Circles for the RCMP, the Halifax Police and the Canadian Navy to share and explain the traditions of our First Nations. This event will be open to our members and the general public.

A third step is possible. Debbie Eisans, the Program Director at the Mi’kmaq Center has offered to help us connect with the local indigenous community by working on a joint project, the details of which are left open at this time. The project would be one intended to help us build friendships between our cultures and create a new tradition of respect, cooperation and friendship.

I am writing this a month in advance of the service planned for June 5 to solicit your support and help in this initiative.

Many years ago this congregation had a close relationship with the people of the Bear River reservation. I hope you will be personally involved as we revitalize that tradition and continue the journey...

Rev. Norm Horofker



LAST CHANCE FOR TICKETS!

If you do not have your tickets yet, hurry fast! The official deadline to purchase seats is **Sunday, May 1st.**

**Deliciously Playful
Musical Dinner Theatre**

**THE MAGIC
CHAIR**

Thu / Fri / Sat
May 12, 13 & 14
6:30 pm



Universalist Unitarian Church of Halifax
5500 Inglis Street

Google: "Magic Chair EventBrite" for tickets on-line
Information: DartmouthMusic@yahoo.ca
902-466-7246

Don't Miss Out! Locally sourced food!
EARLY BIRD SPECIAL - \$35.00 (by May 1)

THE MAGIC CHAIR is a fictional tale interspersed with lots of great songs about people coming together to create a better tomorrow.

As the three-act show unfolds our fine chorus of actors will lovingly serve a tasty meal of salad, ham, baked beans, coffee, tea and a fruititious dessert.

Not only will this event be musically delightful as well as delicious, but with your participation, it becomes a major fundraiser for our beloved UUCH. So invite your friends and family, too!

Contact either one of us now for tickets, or go online and google 'Magic Chair EventBrite'.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Deborah Wiggins uuchmusic@yahoo.ca
Kathy Spncer kathy.spencer@dal.ca

Bluenose Marathoners (running for great causes) not to hold UUs back from church

*Sunday, May 22:
leave a little earlier
than usual*



The church office has received a thoughtful advisory from the Scotiabank Bluenose Marathon organization, alerting churches within runners' routes to be mindful of peak running time on Sunday May 22nd: 8:00 to 11:15 am. They assure us that security personnel do their best to allow vehicular traffic through between runner groups—while reminding us that wait times can be expected. For specific route information, check:

www.bluenosemarathon.com, Full Marathon

So please do not miss our much-loved, always inspiring Terry Choyce as she presents the service on this date. Just leave a little earlier than usual and arrive with a smile on your peaceful face.

Etta Hamm

Introduction to Unitarian Universalism

Introduction to UUism is a monthly, informal, educational opportunity hosted by Rev. Norm Horofker, normally held on the last Sunday of each month.



The discussion can be helpful to the newcomer pondering membership, or anyone who would like to know more about our faith tradition and its history.

Please note, however, that the May discussion will take place on the 15th.



The deadline for submissions for the June newsletter is **10 am, Monday, May 23rd.**

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

The Caring Column



A memorial service and reception for **Laura Hody** will be held at UUCH on **Saturday, May 28th at 2:00 pm.**

Laura was a lifelong UU and a longtime member of UUCH. She was the beloved partner of member Eileen Ross.

We send our condolences to **Kathy Spencer** on the loss of her stepmother and very close friend Florence Frisina Henry, who passed away on April 6th, 2016 in Butler, Pennsylvania at the age of 92. Kathy was planning to visit her for her 93rd birthday but instead she will attend the memorial service and family gathering in May.

We send our condolences to **Cynthia Connor** whose father Ralph David Connor passed away peacefully at his home in Dartmouth on April 5th, 2016 at the age of was 86. Cynthia says his journey with his health issues and COPD was courageous. In his younger days he had a keen passion for nature and loved outdoor activities and passed those loves on to Cynthia.

Norm and Janet Horofker will be traveling to Ontario from April 28 to May 4 for the marriage of **Kayla**, the younger of their two daughters. The groom is Andy Preston, son of Marlene and Wayne Preston of Georgetown, Ontario. The wedding will take place at the Unitarian Congregation of Mississauga at 3 pm on Saturday April 30th, with Norm officiating. Their other daughter, Marta, will be married on September 17th. Janet says that Norm will be officiating at Marta's wedding as well... assuming he does OK for Kayla's.

Congratulations go out to **Leela Pendse Shaw** on her graduation, May 19th, from the University of Kings College with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology. Proud parents are Shripad Pendse and Elizabeth Shaw. Elizabeth, a very active member of this congregation in the past, is visiting until early June for this and other occasions.



Mary Ellen Onno

UUCH Refugee Sponsorship Update



Our Syrian refugee family is settling in nicely. Sharifa with Anwar and Nawras live in the apartment on Glenforest Drive, while Diyaa and Noor with their two little ones in the apartment on Evans Avenue. They are close enough to visit, yet have sufficient independence from each other.

As refugees, they have been given bus passes and have learned to use them. Sharifa commutes daily to the St. Andrew's Community Centre, Bayer's Road area, for her English classes. Anwar and toddler Sarah have started pre-ballet classes at separate community centers on Saturday mornings. Anwar is doing well at Duc d'Anville School and celebrated her 10th birthday on April 23rd. With Paul Galbraith's technical help, there is a working TV and DVD player. Paul showed Nawras how to find international radio stations on the Internet. There was a problem getting broadcasts from Syria, but Beirut came in loud and clear.

Learning English and finding jobs are the main tasks for now. Beth Abbott is tutoring Diyaa and Noor twice a week at their home. As well, Colleen Ashworth is tutoring Sharifa and Anwar. I spoke with Diyaa on the phone last Saturday. He reported that he enjoyed working at Black Diamond Construction Company and that everybody was very nice to him, but particularly Andrew Watts, the company's founder and CEO. He has received his first paycheck and for now, he has work for another couple of weeks.

Bringing Nabil and Kais Althyab to Canada: Nabil (Sharifa's husband and father of Noor, Nawras, Kais and Anwar), and younger son Kais are in Germany on temporary residence permits. At the April 7, 2016 Steering Committee Meeting, the motion that we apply to privately sponsor Nabil and Kais under the One Year Window Program was carried unanimously. Since then, the board of UUCH approved our starting this process. Andy, Margaret and Nawras are working on it.

Barbara Harsanyi and Margaret Galbraith

Hike to Polly Cove, Saturday May 21



UU hikers at Polly Cove, May 2014

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

There are two walks from this trail head, each about an hour in length. We could do one, or both.

We will meet at the church at 12 noon and will pick up additional passengers at the Park and Ride at the intersection of St. Margaret's Bay Road and Prospect Road at 12:15. Otherwise, meet at 1:15 pm at the southern end of West Dover where the highway makes a sharp right curve enroute to Peggy's Cove. The trail head is about half-way between West Dover and Peggy's Cove.

Call me at 902-483-4731 if you are lost or running late.

Allyn Clarke

More fresh air adventures with Allyn

It's NOT too late to get in on Allyn's spring auction offerings! Still to be snapped up by the lucky few:

One or two spaces for a **canoe trip on Soldier Lake, lunch included.** Mid-July to early-August (date to be agreed on by participants). \$30 per person.

AND three spaces for a **Musquodoboit Trail hike and lunch**, 11 am to 3 pm, July 30th. \$25 per person. Free for children under 10.

Email now to purchase: marilyn.shinyei@eastlink.ca



Deadline for AGM reports

The UUCH Annual General Meeting will be held on May 29th as per the notice on page 2.

Committee reports are due in my Inbox by 10 am, Wednesday, May 18th. Early submissions would be most helpful.

Your cooperation will enable me to:

- (1) organize all reports in the right order
- (2) include all reports on the agenda
- (3) email the package of all reports out via UUinfo on Friday, May 20th

On the 18th I must also print a number of hard copies of the complete agenda and all reports, and staple them together in sets. Don't miss the opportunity to have your report(s) included.

Complete AGM packages will be available on Sunday the 22nd, one week prior to the meeting.

All of the above is normal business practise. Thank you for cooperating.

Sandra Jamieson

Music Montage



*“We celebrate with singing hearts the loveliness
of sky and earth,
The inspiration of the arts, the miracle of every birth.
Life’s music and its 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 May is #79 **No Number Tallies Nature Up**. This month's theme is Tradition. I've chosen this hymn because there is nothing more traditional than the earth that supports us, and because we are celebrating Earth Day on May 1st. Words are by Ralph Waldo Emerson, a UU himself. Tradition is found in the ancient forming of the earth, from which we evolved and its continual renewal, gracing us with all we need to survive and thrive, if we but treat it with care.

Monthly Music Projects—To participate in the May 1st Music Project, attend a 9:30 am rehearsal on Sunday, May 1st.

On Sunday, May 8th we'll start preparing for the June Music Project, which will be presented on June 12th. The June theme is 'Revelry', so step up, now that the wintery days are over, and let's celebrate in song!

Rehearsals for the June 12th Music Project are:

Sunday, May 8th, at 9:45 am

**No rehearsals May 15th or 22nd. See below.*

Sunday, May 29th, at 9:45 am (upstairs)

Sunday, June 5th, at 9:45 am

Sunday, June 12th, 9:30 am *final run-through*

I will be away from Sunday services and their preparation from May 11 to 24th inclusive. I will be very busy with the 'Magic Chair' Dinner Theatre the first week, then attending the Digby High C's Choral Festival throughout the long weekend.

Deborah Wiggins
Music Director

Religious Exploration

May is a busy month for the RE programme. Here are some highlights to look forward to, as well as some opportunities for members of the congregation to help:

Sunday, May 8th: Multi-generational service led by Martha Wilson. Thank you, Martha!

Sunday, May 15th: Visit from SPCA rep. Courtney Zylstra will visit the RE class to provide an off-site orientation of the Provincial Shelter, an important presentation aimed at preparing us for our visit to the shelter on May 29th. Courtney will be bringing a furry friend from the shelter, too!

Sunday, May 22nd: Planting our vegetable garden. Conditions permitting, RE people will prepare raised beds for planting, and plant seeds and transplants. I plan to set up a schedule for weeding and watering, so please consider volunteering and watering one week this summer to do that. It would be a great act of kindness, grace and integrity for the whole family to do together!

Sunday, May 29th: Field trip to Provincial SPCA Shelter. As part of our mission of community outreach, RE has partnered with ElderDog Canada and the SPCA. On the 29th

we will tour the shelter in Burnside, visit behind the scenes, and learn how the SPCA cares for and find homes for unwanted pets.



Children will then hang out in “the cat room” and pet cats and kittens to their hearts’ content—or take a dog or two for a walk outdoors. Depending on numbers, we may need drivers-chaperones to accompany us. If you are able to drive a few of us to and from the shelter, and enjoy the experience with us, please contact me. The trip is anticipated to be from 10:30 until about 12:30. I'm very excited about this fun and educational outreach activity.

June will also be a busy month. You may look forward to information about the **RE Film Night** on Friday, June 3rd, and the annual multi-generational **service and picnic on June 19th**.

Again, thank you to the many volunteers who support the RE programme. It would be impossible without you. *Thank you. Thank you.*

David Ballum-Haftka
(Interim) Director of Religious Exploration

SUNDAY SERVICE VOLUNTEERS

May 1

Greeting Kathy Anthony, Anne Knight-Gorman
Ushering Brian McDonald (e), Janet Horofker (l)
Kitchen Devin Murphy, Stephen Butler (set-up)
Anne Knight-Gorman (clean-up)
Audio Devin Murphy
Library TBF

May 8

Greeting Tracy Boyer and helper, Wietske Gradstein
Ushering Dean White (e), Dean White (l)
Kitchen Louise Malloch, Stephen Butler (set-up)
Kathy Spencer (clean-up)
Audio Avarad Woolaver
Library Anne Knight-Gorman

May 15

Greeting Sandra Clarke, Sylvia Mattinson
Ushering Eileen Ross (e), Margaret Galbraith, Paul Galbraith (l)
Kitchen Paul Galbraith, Stephen Butler (set-up)
Stephen Butler (clean-up)
Audio Paul Galbraith
Library Alison Chipman

May 22

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


May 29

Greeting TBF
Ushering Wendy Ozon (e) Dean White (l)
Kitchen Nick Baros-Johnson, Stephen Butler (set-up)
Dean White (clean-up)
Audio Nick Baros-Johnson
Library TBF

The Sunday Service Support Team Needs YOU!



Joining the Sunday Service Support Team is an excellent opportunity to really get to know your fellow UUs. You often see me asking for Sunday Service Supporters, and people always come through. At the moment we have vacancies at the door (greeter—TBF means ‘to be figured out’), early usher, the sound box, the library and in the kitchen. If you join our wonderful team you will not spend more than one hour each month helping to make everything go smoothly. Everyone will know you, and you will know everyone. You will never feel left out again. To try out for one of these positions or any other, please contact me as soon as you can.

Wietske Gradstein,  902-835-9272



UUCH Maypole 2010
Photo by Avard Woolaver