



Newsletter of the
Universalist Unitarian Church of Halifax

Vol. 52, No 9
May 2018

Universalist Unitarian
Church of Halifax
5500 Inglis Street
Halifax NS
B3H 1J8

902-429-5500
uuchurch@eastlink.ca
uuch.ca

Rev. Norm Horofker
Minister
Office Hours
Tues, Wed, Fri 10-3
Cell 902-229-9239

Sandra Jamieson
Office Administrator
Office hours
Mon, Wed, Fri 10-3
(lunch 12-1)
Deborah Wiggins
Music Director

RE Director
Tanya Bilsbury

Kim Turner
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 – Embodiment

May 6

Don't explain your philosophy. Embody it. – Epictetus

It has been many years since this congregation drafted its Mission Statement, and perhaps it is time to revisit that process. A way to start may be to take counsel from the first century Greek philosopher Epictetus. Perhaps we should imagine what an outside observer would say our mission is, based not on what we are saying, but what we are doing.

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

May 13

Giving thanks daily as a spiritual practice

"I'm learning to shape the words "thank you" with my first breath each morning and my last breath each night." These words by poet Sarah Kay capture the essence of embodiment as being present and living fully every day. This service will include a special contribution by our Director of Music, Deborah Wiggins.

Presenter: Rev. Norm Horofker; Service Assistant: Carol McCarville

May 20

A reintroduction to the Second Commandment:

"Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image. Accept no substitutes for the power of liberation." "A way to live a spiritual life for those suffering from a post-traumatic God disorder." (Rabbi Ingber)

Presenter: Dean White; Service Assistant: TBA

May 27

Dances of Universal Peace

This spiritual practice is a participatory group form of meditation in motion to simple sung melodies—a joyous way to touch the spiritual essence within ourselves and others. Originated in the 1960s as a means to facilitate peace, the Dances draw upon numerous religious traditions and continue to spread throughout the world.

Presenter: Kathy Spencer; Service Leader: Marilyn Shinyei






Our theme for next month (June): *Revelry*

Our Mission

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



May 2018

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---|-----------|--|--|-----------|---|
|  | | 1 | 2 4:45-6:15 Afterchoir | 3 9:30-11:30 am Parents & Tots Noon Tai Chi | 4 | 5 10 – 11:30 am UU Brunch 11:30 am Property Spring Clean-up |
| 6 9.30 am Choir 12 Noon Special Mtg: CUC ACM & AGM, Halifax 2020 12 noon Intro to UUism, Rev. Norm | 7 | 8 | 9 4:45-6:15 pm Afterchoir | 10 9:30-11:30 am Parents & Tots Noon Tai Chi | 11 | 12 10 – 11:30 am UU Brunch 6-8 pm Dances of Universal Peace |
| 13 9:30 am Choir  | 14 | 15 | 16  4:45-6:15 pm Afterchoir | 17 9:30-11:30 am Parents & Tots Noon Tai Chi 6:30 Board meeting | 18 | 19 10 – 11:30 am UU Brunch Hike: Hospital Hill |
| 20 No Choir 12 pm Humanist Group | 21  | 22 | 23 4:45-6:15 pm Afterchoir | 24 9:30-11:30 am Parents & Tots Noon Tai Chi | 24 | 26 10 – 11:30 am UU Brunch |
| 27 9 am RE Family Outing: Neighbour- hood Clean-up 9:30 Choir Noon UUCH AGM | 28 10 am Newsletter deadline | 29 | 30 4:45-6:15 pm Afterchoir | 31 9:30-11:30 am Parents & Tots Noon Tai Chi | |  |

SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING — SUNDAY, MAY 6
to discuss
the Canadian Unitarian Council Conference and Annual Meeting
hosted by Maritime UUs in May 2020!

Your Board of Directors is enthusiastically recommending that our congregation offer to host the Bi-annual Conference and AGM for Unitarian Universalists from across Canada in May 2020!

We cannot do this without the joyful support of UUCH volunteers!

We are planning an information meeting to follow the Sunday service on May 6th. Please come out to see how you can get involved and have a lot of fun in the process!

Mia Huh, UUCH Board member



Minister's Notes

Spring is bustin' out all over

I am writing this after a spectacular spring day. After the service today, the deck at the church was a glorious place to be with old friends and new acquaintances. Thanks to Allyn for his work to coax one more summer out of our old deck before a scheduled re-build.

Our theme for the month of April was Transformation—metaphorically embodied by the image of a Monarch caterpillar transformed into a butterfly. The transformation I sense underway in our congregation is one of renewed energy and initiative that is manifesting in many exciting developments.

In April an enjoyable time was had by all at our “Kitchen Party” to celebrate our newly rebuilt kitchen and to dedicate a plaque to the memory of our benefactor, Cynthia Davis. The dust has hardly settled from that project and yet we are just weeks away from rebuilding the storm porch entrance to the church, repairing its foundations and making the church (at least the first floor) truly accessible.

There is lots of energy swirling around new initiatives for welcoming young adults. Thanks is due to Martha Wilson who got the ball rolling here when she took on this opportunity with staff from the Canadian Unitarian Council. Jesse Robson, Devin Murphy and Tanya Bilsbury continue to help the leadership of our church to recognize issues and to see new opportunities in this regard. This involves change, and change involves discomfort; that was on my mind when I delivered a sermon in April on The Pain of Transformation, but it is only a little pain... growing pains.

Similarly, there is wonderful energy around our Religious Exploration Programs. A few short weeks ago we passed a clipboard around asking for people willing to spend one Sunday morning with our

children. The results have been very positive for the 17 or so volunteers involved, and this has given a lift to the whole RE program and, most importantly to our Director of RE, Tanya Bilsbury.

Elsewhere in this newsletter you will see photos of Nick Baros-Johnson's swearing in as a Canadian citizen. This is due to Nick's efforts and the support of our Caring Committee. Much goes on behind the scenes with this committee. If you are looking for a way to get involved and lend a hand in a small way to members and friends in need, please contact (soon to be retiring) Mary Ellen Onno who chairs this committee, or speak to me.

Deborah Wiggins, our Director of Music for more than 10 years, has announced her plans to move to Ontario to be close to family, including a first grandchild. It is hard to imagine the church without Deborah and Devin. They will be greatly missed, but we are happy for them as they start a new chapter with family close by.

Finally, I am thrilled that the Board of our church is enthusiastically supporting our hosting the Canadian Unitarian Council's Annual Conference and Meeting in May of 2020. This is a great opportunity for the congregation to connect with UUs from across the country and to stage an event that will further energize our congregation and promote our vision in the Halifax community.

I feel the energy of spring in the air....

With love... Norm

Board Buzz

The April Board meeting featured live video Zoom conferencing technology. Participants were the CUC's Executive Director, Vyda Ng in Toronto, and those of us located at the church in Halifax at the time. Joining us were Molly Hurd from France and Ginny Girard from New Brunswick—plus Shripad Pendse by telephone from Australia.

The purpose of the conference was to discuss the proposal that **UUCH host the 2020 CUC AGM and Conference**. The discussion was very helpful, and it was evident during and after the meeting that the Board is keen to take this on. We hope to make it an Atlantic Canadian event with help from our friends in Fredericton and those remaining from the congregations in PEI, St. John's, Saint John, and maybe even Moncton. Moreover, we need full support and enthusiasm from our Halifax congregation with enough people stepping forward to help—and hopefully equal enthusiasm from the other Atlantic Canadian UUs. With that in mind, there will be a congregational meeting after the service on **Sunday, May 6th** to bring you all into the picture.

The City of Halifax has sent us an assessment and a **property tax bill**. The amount will be covered initially by the church, but in accord with the lease agreement with our tenant, the Halifax Early Childhood School, the amount is to be reimbursed by the school. Fair terms of repayment will be arranged. This is the first time we are taxed by the City for the HECS portion of our building. The school is registered as a non-profit organization, so we are preparing an appeal to the City in hopes of eliminating or reducing the tax amount.

In early April, some of the Board members and the HECS board members had a 'meet and greet'. We got acquainted with each other, and exchanged information on pending changes, planned renovations and future plans. We agreed that we should meet on a regular basis.

The Board is looking forward to **meeting with our Young Adult Group in mid-May** to listen, connect, build better communication, and create synergy with our young adults.

The **Sharing the Plate** initiative continues to receive generous contributions every Sunday. Again, the Board urges the congregation to keep the suggestions coming for charities with whom to share our plate. We need your input!

UUCH Board of Directors June 2017 - May 2018

Officers

| | |
|----------------|--------------------|
| President | Kim Turner |
| Vice-President | Margaret Galbraith |
| Past President | Molly Hurd |
| Secretary | Pam Berman |
| Treasurer | Marilyn Shinyei |

Members at Large

| | |
|----------------|---------------|
| Ginny Girard | Mia Huh |
| Shripad Pendse | Troy Saulnier |

During the congregational meeting of March 4th we unanimously voted to renovate the building's front porch and the ramp to the driveway. **We are looking to raise up to \$10,000 during the month of May**, to match the amount we would withdraw from the Building Reserve Fund, set up from the Cynthia Davis bequest.

Some of you will already know that **Deborah Wiggins, our Music Director of the past 10 years, has given notice of her resignation effective mid-July**. Deborah and Devin Kira are moving to Hamilton to be close to family including Deborah's soon-to-be-born grandchild. We shall greatly miss Deborah as our music director and as the valued contributor that she has been in so many ways. Devin also has been a dedicated and valued contributing member. We shall miss them both but look forward to their visits from time to time.

Avard Woolaver has tendered his resignation as our Worship Chair. Thank you so much Avard, for having dedicated much time and effort to this important role for the past three years.

On **Sunday May 27th we'll have our Annual General Meeting**. Then, as of mid-June, summer!



Mia Huh
Member
UUCH Board of Directors

**Notice of the Annual General Meeting of the UUCH
to be held at 12 noon, Sunday, May 27, 2018**

The meeting will conduct the following business:

1. Business arising from the minutes of the October 2017 Semi-Annual General meeting.
2. Receive and approve reports from the Minister, Board officers and committees.
3. Establishment of a Building Fund.
4. Nominations for the Board of Directors for the 2018-2019 church year.
5. Other business as may be raised before or at the meeting.

Members-only vote on motions, but non-members are most welcome to attend.

***Pam Berman, Secretary
UUCH Board of Directors***

Reports due

Reports for the AGM are due in my inbox by noon Wednesday, May 16th.
Early submissions would be most helpful. Your efforts will help me to:

1. Include your reports on the agenda.
2. Email a complete agenda and package of reports out via UUinfo.
3. Compile and print copies of the agenda and reports as hard copy packages.

Don't miss the opportunity of having your report(s) included.

A number of AGM packages will be available on Sunday, May 20th (one week prior to the meeting).

Thank you for your cooperation.

***Sandra Jamieson
uuchurch@eastlink.ca***

Spring, 2018

Front Entry

WELCOMING ACCESS TO ALL

RENOVATE PORCH
PLUS WIDER RAMP

*Congregation
Matching fund
goal*

\$10,000



**Universalist
Unitarian Church
of Halifax**

Capital Fundraising Campaign

As reported in the Board Buzz column, the Board has unanimously voted to mount a “matching of funds” campaign, seeking \$10,000 for renovations to our building's front entrance—to match the amount that we would withdraw from our Building Reserve Fund, set up from Cynthia Davis's bequest.

Since then, a contract has been signed with a contractor. Entrance doors now being fabricated will be delivered around the end of April or early May. That will be the beginning of actual renovation work that you will see.

So, besides our beautifully renovated kitchen, we will soon also have a more attractive front entrance with much improved accessibility for all.

If approved, our applications for provincial grants would contribute a further \$5,000 to \$10,000. Should there be any amount left over from capital funds raised, it will be allocated to future renovation projects. Our back deck seems to be next in line. Let's hope that our old building is sound enough to preclude any cost overruns in the front entrance project.

As we are able, fellow UUCH members and friends, let us contribute as generously as we can to this much needed fundraising campaign.

Let's make it happen!

Mia Huh

***For the UUCH Board of Directors
and the Front Entry Renovation Team***

Hike to Hospital Hill, Saturday May 19

This hike follows a gently ascending woods road to the summit of Hospital Hill. The view from the summit is superb in all directions, particularly the view of the West Pennant peninsula and its neighbouring islands. The trail is generally dry but there are short occurrences of peaty soils on the paths leading to the final summit.



UUs on a former Hospital Hill hike

Meet at the church at 12:30—or at 1 pm in the parking lot of the convenience store at the intersection of the Old Sambro Road (Route 306) and the West Pennant Road. A pickup could be arranged along the Herring Cove Road or the Old Sambro Road. If you are lost or running late, call me at 902-483-4731.

Allyn Clarke

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The deadline for submissions for the June newsletter is 10 am, Monday, May 28th.

Please submit to both

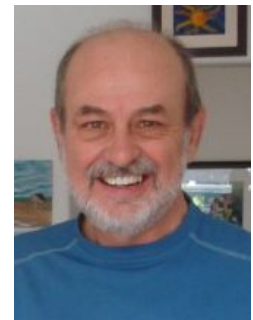
braeside@eastlink.ca

and uuchurch@eastlink.ca

Annual church property clean-up

The annual church property spring clean-up will take place at **11:30 am on Saturday May 5th** just after the Saturday morning community brunch. We need helpers to rake leaves, put them in the fenced compost area, trim trees and brush, do some power washing, clean windows, and maybe do some minor general repairs. Bring your garden gloves and help us prepare for an awesome spring, summer and fall at our place of spiritual renewal.

Our new friend Gary Hillier (pictured here) is coordinating the clean-up. For any questions or suggestions, Gary may be reached at 902-670-0812 or garyhillier@outlook.com.



Allyn Clarke

Religious Exploration family outing

May's Religious Exploration Family Outing will take place at **9 am on Sunday May 27th**. The outing will be a neighbourhood clean-up in the area surrounding UUCH.



UUs of all ages are encouraged to join us for this outing. Please feel free to bring your own gloves and garbage bag. We will meet at the front entrance of the church at 9 am.

Hope to see you there!

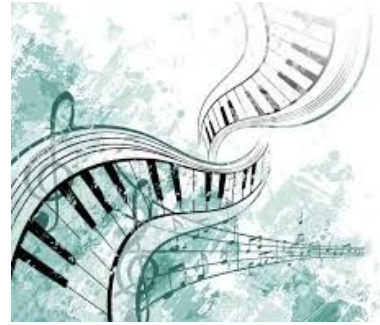
Jesse Robson

on behalf of the UUCH RE Committee

MUSIC MONTAGE

*"Music is in the connection of human souls,
speaking a language that needs no words."*

~ Mitch Albom



May's 'Singing As We Gather'

The Gathering Hymn for May is #22 Dear Weaver of Our Lives' Design. May's theme is Embodiment. May we all embody in our thoughts, words and deeds, the beauty and joy that is the greening and blooming of the earth around us.

*Let eyes that in the plainest cloth
a hidden beauty see
discern in us our richest hues,
show us the patterns we may use
to see our spirits free.*

Monthly Music Projects

May's Music Project will be on Sunday, May 6th. The rehearsal opportunity for this is Sunday, May 6th at 9:30 am.

June's Music Project will be on Sunday, June 10th

Rehearsal opportunities for this are:

Sunday, May 13th, at 9:30 am

Sunday, May 27th, at 9:30 am (minister's office)

Sunday, June 3rd, at 9:30 am

Sunday, June 10th, at 9:30 am

My Resignation

By now, most of you may have heard that I tendered my resignation as Music Director on April 11th. I will be playing in services until the end of June and will then take my vacation the first half of July. Devin and I will be moving to Hamilton, Ontario to be close to my son Curtis, my daughter-in-law Carly and their baby who is expected to arrive the second week of July.

Halifax has been my home again these past 10 and a-half years. Although I grew up in Ottawa, I was born here and also spent a couple of years studying at Dalhousie in my 20s. It has been a treasure for me to be back, living here in this wonderful province, and I will especially, greatly miss all the dear folks I have come to care so much about. It will be hard for me to stay away all the time, so expect to see me popping in for a visit now and then. Meanwhile, let's make more wonderful music together!



Deborah Wiggins

Music Director

Religious Exploration

I would like to acknowledge Jesse, Danielle, and Troy for teaching in April. Here are some of the things we did or learned about:

- a (non-competitive) Easter egg hunt
- the transformations of caterpillars and spring
- Earth Day: exploration of the church's neighbourhood and beautifying it with sidewalk art

Thank you to Jesse and Jean-Francois ("JF") for coordinating an RE outing to the BodyWorlds Exhibit at the Museum of Natural History, though it is unfortunate nobody attended. Let's try to do better next time! ***The May excursion will be a neighbourhood cleanup event held before the service at 9 am on May 27th.***



Art classes with AGNS artist Agne Kilibiute have been going really well. In her latest class she guided the kids in transforming a picture by slicing it up and rearranging the pieces into a mosaic. The last scheduled art class will be held May 20th. The RE committee will plan what we do next.

March kicked off Norm's highly successful campaign for RE volunteers to sign up to spend one Sunday morning per academic year upstairs with the children. The congregation's support for RE has been tremendous. Volunteering in this way offers the following benefits:

- More adult support in the RE classroom, usually from older, experienced adults
- An opportunity for children and adults in the congregation to get to know each other
- An opportunity for adults to learn about the RE program and offer feedback

Thank you to the following April volunteers: Stephen Butler, Eileen Ross, Sylvia Mattinson, Dean White, Ron Haché, and Etta Hamm.

Tanya Bilbury
Director of Religious Exploration

From your UUCH Truth and Reconciliation Task Group

As settlers on this land, our journey of reconciliation with the Mi'kmaq and other First Nations Peoples of Canada is one of ongoing learning, awakening, and relationship building.

To that end, the UUCH Truth and Reconciliation Task Group (TRTG) would like to offer a few suggested readings.

The TRTG meets monthly with the dual mission of education and relationship building.

Suggested readings:

Allyship, Advocacy, and the Legitimate Role of Non-Indigenous Folks

A written account of a Lakehead University presentation by Chantelle Bryson, a lawyer and community activist. By Kelsey Raynard. February 5, 2018.

Go to "theargus.ca" and search for the title of the article (above).

'Come with us': new Mi'kmaw friendship centre named Wije'winen

Conceptual drawings unveiled, construction of 70,000-square-foot building to start next year

Written online report by CBC. April 19, 2018.

Go to cbc.ca and search for "new-mikmaw-friendship-centre-named-wijewinen".

If the search doesn't take you there right away, highlight the information in your browser and hit Enter.

Cornwallis rally in Halifax celebrates statue's removal

The bronze monument of Halifax founder was removed from the south-end park on Wednesday

Written online report by CBC. February 4, 2018.

Go to cbc.ca and search for "cornwallis-statue-rally-goes-on-after-statue-removed".

If the search doesn't take you there right away, highlight the information in your browser and hit Enter.



Halifax schools to start each day by recognizing Mi'kmaq lands

Halifax Regional School Board unanimously voted to introduce the declaration this fall

Written online report by CBC. June 22, 2017.

Go to cbc.ca and search for "halifax-regional-school-board-mi-kmaq-lands-declaration"

If the search doesn't take you there right away, highlight the information in your browser and hit Enter.

Why are Indigenous women disproportionately represented in federal prisons?

Streaming 27-minute audio recording, written transcript, and article with photos. Aired on CBC Radio's "The Current". March 28, 2018.

Go to cbc.ca and search for "why-are-indigenous-women-disproportionately-represented-in-federal-prisons".

A memo to Canada: Indigenous people are not your incompetent children

Opinion piece by Alicia Elliott, a Tuscarora writer from Six Nations near Brantford, Ontario. January 5, 2018.

Go to theglobeandmail.com and search for: "indigenous-memo-to-canada-were-not-your-incompetent-children". ■

The UUCH Truth, Healing and Reconciliation Task Group



The UU Church of Halifax formed the Truth, Healing and Reconciliation Task Group in 2016 after the CUC formed the Truth, Healing, and Reconciliation Task Force as a follow-up to the Canadian Unitarian Council and Unitarian Universalist Ministers of Canada's Truth and Reconciliation Statement of 2014.

In the Statement, the CUC committed to assembling and promoting educational materials for its congregations regarding the history and impact of the Indian Residential School system.

Our UUCH Task Group meets once a month. In addition to working on the CUC Truth, Healing and Reconciliation Reflection Guides, we are addressing our own, more local, or East Coast centered ideas, observations and concerns, including the issue of the Cornwallis monument, the incredible financial needs of the Mi'kmaq Friendship Centre in view of their upcoming move, and the fate of Shannon Park.

The work of our Task Group is ever-evolving. The congregation is kept abreast of the Task Group's thoughts, progress and reflections via articles in this newsletter and through other activities.

Wietske Gradstein
Task Group member

Nick Baros-Johnson becomes a Canadian

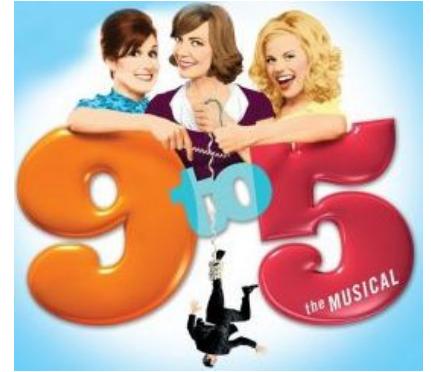


Nick Baros-Johnson, April 4 2018, taking the Oath of Canadian Citizenship; waving the Canadian flag; standing with proud parents Irene and John Baros-Johnson. A fine Canadian is our Nick.

Dartmouth Players Charity Night Benefiting the UUCH

This is a great opportunity: Have fun!

Be entertained while donating to the UUCH!



Monday, June 4th - 8 pm

33 Crichton Avenue, Dartmouth

All profit from tickets to this full-production dress rehearsal of the Dartmouth Players' upcoming *9 to 5 - the Musical* will be gifted to the UUCH by this vibrant volunteer-led community theatre.

With upbeat music by Dolly Parton, *9 to 5 - the Musical*, is based on the seminal 1980 hit movie and book by Patricia Resnick. This hilarious story of friendship and revenge, set in the 1970s "Rolodex era" is outrageous, thought-provoking and even a little romantic. Pushed to the boiling point, three co-workers concoct a plan to get even with their sexist, egotistical, bigoted boss. Violet, Judy and Doralee live out their wildest fantasy — giving their office a dream makeover and their boss the boot.

On-Tickets Sales: www.ticketpro.ca

In Person: through UUCH vendors/promoters

- or: Alderney Landing Theatre box office

Phone: 1-800-311-9080

General Admission \$19

Seniors/Students \$17



Help with the FUN RAISING by selling tickets.

Bring your friends and family!

