



newsletter of the universalist unitarian church of halifax

Vol. 51, No 3  
November 2016

Universalist Unitarian  
Church of Halifax  
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Rev. Norm Horofker  
Minister  
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Sandra Jamieson  
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Mon 11-3, Wed, Fri 9:30-3

Deborah Wiggins  
Music Director

RE Director-Vacant

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 November – Letting Go*

### **November 6**

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

#### *Letting Go as a Step Toward Growth*

This Sunday is the kick-off for our annual pledge drive, and the theme for the month is “Letting Go.” The thought of letting go of money immediately springs to mind, but the issue of letting go in relation to our pledge drive is not all about money. It is more profound than that. This is always an uplifting service with music and celebration, so come prepared to let go of some of your inhibitions... if nothing else.

### **November 13**

Presenter and Service Assistant to be determined  
Presentation: TBD

### **November 20**

Presenter: Norm Horofker; Service Assistant: TBD

#### *Rituals of Letting Go...*

The most important rites of passage in our life are about letting go of one thing as we experience another. Birth as much as death is a matter of letting go. And so it is with our transition from childhood to adulthood and retirement and old age. If we are to live fully, we must learn to let go. How do we learn to let go graciously?

### **November 27**

Presenter: Rev. Norm Horofker; Service Assistant: TBD

#### *Letting Go of Retribution*

November 20 to 27 is Restorative Justice Week in Canada and throughout the world. This service will be held at the end of a national event, a week-long National Restorative Justice Symposium that will be held in Halifax. What is gained and what is lost if we consider letting go of retribution and vengeance in our justice system?

**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.**



## November 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> 4:45-6:15 Afterchoir	<b>3</b> 9:30–11:30 am Parents & Tots  Noon Tai Chi	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 10-Noon Brunch
<b>6</b> 9.30 am Music 12 noon Canvass Kick-off Luncheon 12 noon Worship Committee	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> 4:45-6:15 pm Afterchoir	<b>10</b> 9:30–11:30 am Parents & Tots  Noon Tai Chi	<b>11</b> 	<b>12</b> 10-Noon Brunch 5 pm Verses & Vittles (food & music fundraiser)
<b>13</b> 9:45 am Music 12 pm Soc. Responsibility	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> 4:45-6:15 pm Afterchoir	<b>17</b> 9:30–11:30 am Parents & Tots  Noon Tai Chi 6:30 Board Mtg	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> 10-Noon Brunch  Hike: Susie & Quarry Lakes Area
<b>20</b> 9.45 am Music 12 pm Humanist Group Bring bazaar items	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> 4:45-6:15 pm Afterchoir	<b>24</b> 9:30–11:30 am Parents & Tots  Noon Tai Chi	<b>24</b>	<b>26</b> 10-Noon Brunch
<b>27</b> 9:45 Music (upstairs) 12 pm Intro to UUism with Rev. Norm Bring bazaar items	<b>28</b> 10 am Newsletter Deadline	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 4:45-6:15 pm Afterchoir	And ...	then ...	<b>Dec 4</b> 10 am – 2 pm Annual 4R Bazaar 

### Canvass Kick-off Soup Luncheon Entertainment by the Afterchoir November 6 at noon



Join us for a delicious lunch of soup and bread on this date to celebrate together the many comforts and joys of belonging to this wonderful community of friends—all made possible by our combined generosity of spirit, vision, energy, and of course, our financial contributions.

Ours is a self-sustaining church—it's up to us to keep the building warm in winter, to keep our programs going, to pay staff salaries and the never-ending stream of incoming bills.

We'll hear inspiring words from our leaders and rousing music from the Afterchoir. See you there!

*The Pledge Drive Committee*

\*

*Also November 6, Atlantic Standard Time resumes.  
Remember to set your clocks back the night before.*



## *Minister's Notes*

Last month I wrote my notes from Thunder Bay. Tonight I am writing from The Ermitage Sainte-Croix in Montreal where I am attending a retreat with my colleagues from Eastern Canada. It is one of the blessings of ministry to have colleagues committed to our faith tradition to listen to, to hear my prayers and learn from.

I am writing through the fog of a bad head cold and the effects of decongestants, antihistamines and analgesics. I tell you this, not to elicit your sympathy, although the thought of your concern (real or imagined) for my health, provides me with great comfort.

I mention my miserable condition because I am largely to blame for it. When you try to do too much, when you go without sleep, as when you drive from Halifax to Montreal for example, you can expect consequences. This is a lesson that I seemingly must learn over and over. But pushing the envelope of what you can accomplish has benefits as well as occasional setbacks.

Despite my miserable condition at the moment, (forgive my shameless self pity), the Universalist Unitarian Church of Halifax is about to celebrate its 179th year in remarkably good health. Our Semi-Annual General Meeting on October 30 will, I expect, be an event filled with optimism and a celebration of our potential. Nothing captured this spirit better for me than our recent Thanksgiving potluck dinner. Marilyn Shinyei played down her role in coordinating this event, but it is true that we are good at this kind of community-building celebration. We had over 65 people present, members, friends, friends of friends and neighbours to share a meal together in a spirit of abundance, gratitude and confidence in who we are and the future we are building together.

This is phenomenal at a time when traditional churches are facing a questionable future. I am forever thankful for those who in 1837 saw a different vision for what church could be. We continue to explore that vision and to clarify it for our times. At the bottom of it all is a desire to live a good and meaningful life free from fear and predicated on generosity.

May it be so for all of us...

***Rev. Norm Horofker***



## *Board Buzz*

*From Mia*

The semi-annual meeting will be held on the last Sunday of October. Perhaps through first-hand experience and via the communication avenue such as this newsletter, we will be reminded of how our members participate and contribute to the needs of our church community and the greater society.

The mainstay programs and occasional single projects have kept us very busy this fall. I will mention just a few examples:

When I think of food and fun, the Thanksgiving Dinner certainly comes to mind. It sure was well appreciated by all those who attended.

Next, we are looking forward to November 12<sup>th</sup> when we celebrate our 179<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with Verses and Vittles Through the Years, a music and dinner event organized by Deborah Wiggins and Kathy Spencer.

Here, one must also mention the ongoing weekly Saturday brunch organized by our minister, Reverend Norm, for our neighbours who very much appreciate the gathering and the caring.

Projects such as these are maintained and supported by enthusiastic, committed UU volunteers. We couldn't show enough gratitude towards to those who make sure that these functions occur.

Starting early November, we set aside a time to canvas our members. So, beforehand, we can as individual members, think about and be mindful of how we can contribute to this community during the coming year. To be sure, there are ever more opportunities and means to participate in our Universalist Unitarian community.

During the October board meeting, the Board discussed and brainstormed about the following:

- The budget for 2017
- The annual fall canvass
- Hiring of a new RE Director.
- Our building (long-term and short-term)
- Business for the semi-annual meeting
- Grant requests
- The possibility of acquiring a Communications chair
- Further follow up from the Leadership Retreat

During our semi annual meeting, we shall re-address and report on some of the above mentioned issues.

We are hoping to have a salon within the next month or so, to discuss our use of the word 'church', and whether to exclude it from our congregation's name.

The Board is striving toward our "Commitment to Growth"; to expand on this term, our time and energy in our community would grow with synergy through our shared purpose. After all, UUCH is a joyous, inspirational, inclusive community with emphasis on social justice, giving supportive space and time to experience personal and spiritual growth.

***Mia Huh***

***Member at Large***

**UUCH Board of Directors**

**Verses and Vittles  
Through the Years  
Saturday, November 12, 5 pm**

Get your tickets by Sunday November 6<sup>th</sup> for our 179th anniversary party!



This exciting evening is entitled **Verses and Vittles Through the Years** because it covers a variety of both foods and music going back as far as our first sermon preached in Halifax in 1837!

There will be a strong sing-along component, so you can join in with gusto if you are inclined. Good for the digestion.



\$25 per person  
with discounts for families  
of 3 or more.

**Tickets available from  
Kathy Spencer  
& Deborah Wiggins.**

**Make sure this gets on your calendar!**



**Saturday December 3**

*Incredible but true— “IT” is just around the corner, your Fundraising Collective is planning for it now, and we need your help!*

**Starting Sunday, November 13th** (no sooner, please) we will be looking for:

**“Re-giftable” items** with values of \$5 to \$20—those gifts you've received or items you've bought that are still in the box, or never or barely used. Décor, home or kitchen items. Luxe or glam pieces such as ladies or gents' accessories (no clothes). Well-crafted items, hand-knitted items. Artsy things. Useful things. Nifty-gifty things.

**Bake table goodies:** Anything goes. Bread, squares, cookies, muffins, pies. We need enough for the sale table, and to sell with lunch. Start your ovens!

**Jams, jellies, preserves:** Didn't get around to making any this fall? Fortunately, there's still lots of time to make a couple of batches before the bazaar. ☺

**Gift basket (door prize) items:** Small, non-perishable. Special teas, jams, jellies, preserves, treats, chocolates, nuts. Packaged, bottled or canned savory gourmet items (spreads, paté, etc.). Also, small holiday trinkets or novelties.

**Books published in the last 10 years, like new:** Two categories only to keep things simple: **fiction** and **non-fiction**. Hardcover or trade (large) paperback.

**FYI: Leftover bazaar items** including food will be available at donation prices the next day after the service.

**Posting:** Do you know of bulletin boards where you could post our colourful bazaar poster? Where you live, shop, work, study, play, hang out? We'll let you know as soon as posters are available—please watch for that. Let's make sure the whole city knows of our great little bazaar!

For questions or more info, contact:

**Margaret Galbraith or Janet Horofker**

## Social Responsibility Committee



Last year much of this committee's energy went to our sponsorship of the Althyab family, so most other initiatives were ignored. However we have now resumed our monthly meetings—second Sunday of the month. We have welcomed two new members already, and more are always welcome! We are very fortunate to have the active participation of Rev. Norm who provides ideas and support for a range of initiatives.

The broad long-term priorities for the coming year are not new:

- **Participation in the Pride Parade.** We are now more actively supporting the Pride community than in some years, with attendance at the Halifax Pride AGM, and providing a meeting space for a local support group for trans-gendered people, and the board of the Rainbow Refugee Association of Nova Scotia. As supporters of the Pride Parade since its inception, we hope to continue to work with the LGBTQ+ community as they work out the issues arising from their AGM.

- **Follow-up on our commitment to the Truth and Reconciliation Process.** A task force to develop our connections with the local indigenous people is being set up, as advertised on uuinfo.

- **Various initiatives around climate action.** Currently we are considering the issue of a carbon price in Nova Scotia. With so many overlapping members, our Climate Action Team initiatives have not required separate meetings lately.

**The UUCH Refugee Sponsorship Group** reports directly to the Board, not to this committee, but we do discuss ongoing issues together. A separate article for this group follows.

**We welcome anyone** from the congregation coming forward with a social justice topic and we can look at it together, to consider an appropriate response in line with our UU principles. Our Terms of Reference are on the uuch.ca website.

I have announced to the committee and the Board that I am resigning as chair of this committee as of December 31st. I thoroughly enjoy working with the committee and will stay involved, of course! but no longer as the chair.

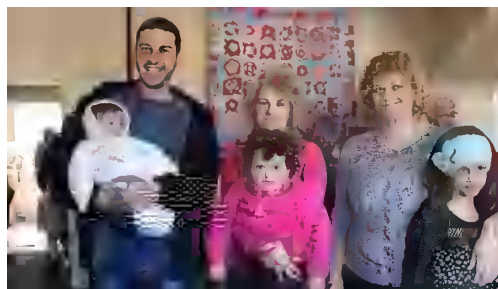
*Margaret Galbraith  
for the Social Responsibility Committee*

## Refugee Sponsorship Group – the latest

The Althyab family are adjusting to life in Halifax. Sharifa continues to take English classes five mornings a week and her daughter Anwar is doing very well in Grade 5 at school. She is also taking violin lessons through the school, twice a week, and is in the after-school karate club.

Sylvia Mattinson has enjoyed taking them to various events and festivals around the city during the summer and several of us continue to spend time with them. They also came to our Thanksgiving potluck, contributing a dish of delicious stuffed grape leaves.

Sharifa is now in the process of applying for public housing, since she will not be able to afford the rent for an apartment once our sponsorship funding ends in February. She is using the job search program run by ISANS to help her find work.



The Althyab family in April.

Sharifa's daughter Noor, her husband Diyaa and daughters Sarah and Lona live nearby in their own apartment. Noor has found work at the Future Inn, but unfortunately she had to work Oct. 10, missing our Thanksgiving dinner. The girls are both in subsidized daycare, and apparently thriving. Sarah, the 3-year-old, is picking up English very quickly. Noor also continues with the Halifax Karate club whenever she can. Diyaa has bought a car and both he and Nawras are taking driving lessons from Andy Blair, who keeps in regular contact with the family.

The applications for both Sharifa's husband, Nabil, and her other son, Kais, have been accepted by the Canadian government under the provisions of the One Year Window program. They have been sent to the visa office in Germany, which apparently has to give the final approval. We do not have any idea when that will be, or if both will be approved, or if both will come. Nabil has struggled in Germany, unable to speak the language or work, but Kais has picked up German quickly and is already involved with music and theatre. We do know that we will need more funding in 2017 either way, but not nearly as much as last year. We will let you know!

*Margaret Galbraith  
For the Refugee Sponsorship Group*



## Hike, November 19 Susie & Quarry Lakes Wilderness Area

The November hike will be to Charlie Lake in the proposed Susie and Quarry Lake Wilderness Area. This hike is along an upgraded hiking trail with boardwalks over most of the wet areas. It does involve several steep gradients as we pass over several high ridges as we climb from Kearney Lake to Charlie Lake.



A former UU hike on this trail

The trail provides a fantastic view from a high pinnacle above Kearney Lake. While Charlie Lake is a real jewel in all seasons, the land around the lake is owned by developers who have asked HRM to permit development on this land. HRM has restated their intention to include Charlie Lake in the wilderness park but has not yet acquired the land.

We'll meet at the church at 12:30—or at the last parking lot of the Maskwa Aquatic Club at the end of Saskatoon Drive at 1 pm. Please contact me at 902-483-4731 if you are lost or running late.

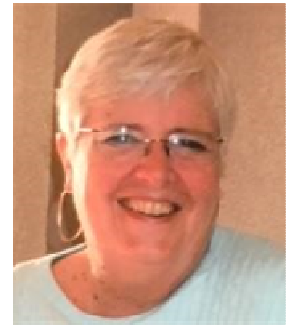
*Allyn Clarke*

**The deadline for submissions  
for the December newsletter is  
Monday, November 28.**

**Please submit to both:  
[braeside@eastlink.ca](mailto:braeside@eastlink.ca)  
[uuchurch@eastlink.ca](mailto:uuchurch@eastlink.ca)**

## The Caring Column

Reverend Julie Denny-Hughes, our minister from 2008 to 2010, died peacefully in her sleep on October 14th, 2016 in Bedford, Indianapolis. She was only 70.



Julie was compassionate and caring and served our and other congregations with kindness and devotion. Soon after leaving us she retired for health reasons, to Indianapolis to be close to her family. She continued to be an active member in the All Souls Unitarian Church and The Shepherd's Center at North United Methodist Church. While in Halifax she was a special mentor to Reverend Helen McFadyen during her journey to become a UU minister. A very interesting bio is posted at [www.fergusonlee.com](http://www.fergusonlee.com) where you can leave a personal message. We remember Julie with great fondness.

*Mary Ellen Onno*

## Notes for your Church Directory

*Errors corrected from last update:*

WOOD, K. Scott 902-823-2191  
287 Boutillier's Cove Rd. C: 902-495-8290  
Hackett's Cove, NS B3Z 3J6  
[k.scott.wood@gmail.com](mailto:k.scott.wood@gmail.com)

*Changed contact info:*

LUSK, Jean 902-697-2709  
7 Lynwood Drive  
Wolfville, NS B4P 1B1  
[jeanlusk@hotmail.com](mailto:jeanlusk@hotmail.com)

*New people:*

COULOMBE, Bonnie 902-423-7754  
401-1055 Lucknow St.  
Halifax, NS B3H 2T3

EGAR-REYNOLDS, Elinor 902-492-0283  
203-1540 Summer St.  
Halifax, NS B3H 4R9  
[elinorrey@bellaliant.net](mailto:elinorrey@bellaliant.net)

To have new or changed contact information published in the newsletter and/or the 2017 church directory, contact me at 902-443-8779 or [braeside@eastlink.ca](mailto:braeside@eastlink.ca).

## Music Montage



*“Through music, we may  
wander where we will  
in time, and find friends  
in every century.”  
~ Helen Thompson*

### ***November's 'Singing As We Gather'***

The Gathering Hymn for November is #51 Lady of the Seasons' Laughter. This hymn asks that we be held steady at the “turning of the year...turning of the day...turning of the earth” and at the “turning age”. This is all about letting go of the old to make room for the new, while celebrating our work and going forth to improve our future years. That's why it fits well with this month's celebration of UUCH's 179th birthday and the beginning our 180th year. Read through all the lyrics and terrific message the hymn brings. We will also enjoy this hymn's lovely, lilting melody each Sunday morning.

### ***Themed Music Projects***

I am continuing with Themed Music Projects this church year and I invite you to come out and sing with us. Just commit to one month at a time. You do not need to know how to read music.

This month's Music Project is on **Sunday, November 6th**. The rehearsal that morning will be at 9:30 am.

The next Music Project will be on Sunday, December 4th with rehearsals as follows:

Sunday, November 13 at 9:45 am

Sunday, November 20 at 9:45 am

Sunday, November 27 at 9:45 am (upstairs)

Sunday, December 4 at 9:30 am

### ***Exciting November Event***

Make sure you get your tickets early for the special dinner and musical evening on Saturday, November 12th starting at 5 pm, to celebrate our 179th anniversary. See further details in this newsletter. Don't miss it!

***Deborah Wiggins***

***Music Director***

***uuchmusic@yahoo.ca***



## Religious Exploration



RE has no director at this point, but we're still having fun. We just finished off our month on Blessings with a Halloween party!

The RE committee continues to seek a replacement DRE, and is currently running the program with volunteers.

We are basing the lessons on the monthly themes, and will be offering two classes when we have the volunteers to manage it. We ask for the patience of the older students during this disrupted period.

Several members stepped up to volunteer after our call for assistance, which is greatly appreciated. If you've ever considered volunteering for the RE program, this would be a very helpful time for you to step up!

If you have any questions or would like to volunteer, please contact me.

***Louise Malloch***

***Religious Exploration chair***

## Passing the Baton



On UN Sunday, October 16th, the UU-UNO baton, in the form of the United Nations flag, was passed from **Valerie Chapman** to **Jane and Martha Wilson**.

The **Unitarian Universalist United Nations Office** in New York is the focal point of interaction between UU congregations and the United Nations. The UU-UNO is directed by Bruce Knotts, an experienced former State Department diplomat.

A key aim of the UU-UNO is to engage the youth in all congregations to learn about the importance of the United Nations to their own countries and to the world at large, and to this end the organization hosts the annual Intergenerational Spring Seminar in New York City, next year April 5-8. For information on the UU-UNO, see [www.uua.org/international/un](http://www.uua.org/international/un).

***Colin Kerr***



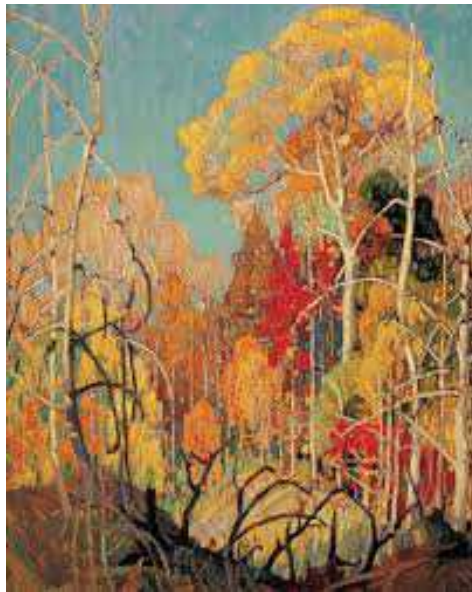
A poem by Irene Baros-Johnson,  
published in Open Heart Forgery,  
Halifax, August 2016.

### **Dazzling Halifax 100 Years Ago**

During Great War parsimony, when blue water shimmered, clear in Citadel sight, a Sheffield Unitarian came to Halifax, far from Toronto artist friends who tromped thru North Ontario's bright-hued wilds. Here, with Ester and Marjorie (just three), Arthur Lismer found Anna Leonowens' Victoria School of Art & Design all but moribund. Twelve students grew by 60. Stirred up, Ottawa sent art exhibits to The Museum of Fine Arts, enthusing many. Visits to a school encouraged youngsters to show their own visions. Downtown, Saturday's children drew, coloured, shaped. Sketching dazzle-ships was set aside to portray sudden horrors of The Explosion. Bedford home life comforted and picnics stimulated resolves. In three years Lismer left, charging Elizabeth Nutt's admin capabilities.



Arthur, Esther and Marjorie Lismer, circa 1915



Autumn in Orillia, Lismer