



Newsletter of the
Universalist Unitarian Church of Halifax

Vol. 53, No 1
September 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

RE Director
Tanya Bilsbury

Margaret Galbraith
President

Newsletter
Etta Hamm
Sylvia Mattinson
Sandra Jamieson

Sunday service
10:30 am

All are welcome

Children & Youth Education
Child care available

Theme for September 2018: Welcome

September 2 Welcoming words

What makes our faith tradition different from others is our celebration of theological diversity. To build community in the midst of theological diversity we must understand each other's attempts to speak about our experiences, and that requires a common vocabulary. Rev. Norm will investigate the word "spiritual" as an example of the need for a common vocabulary. **Presenter: Rev. Norm Horofker, Service Assistant: Anne Knight-Gorman**

September 9 Ingathering welcome and Blending of the Waters

This is our annual "welcome back" service starting a new congregational year. You are invited to bring a small sample of water representing a significant place for you, from the bird bath in your backyard or from a melting Greenland glacier. We will blend these waters signifying the varied experiences that make up our community. This will be followed by a light lunch – then a visit to the Mi'kmaw Friendship Centre for a Blanket Exercise. Learn more in subsequent pages.

Presenter: Rev. Norm Horofker, Service Assistant: Troy Saulnier

September 16 Welcoming the soul

Our Young Adult group is using the book "A Hidden Wholeness" by Parker Palmer. It establishes "a circle of trust", drawing heavily on Parker's Quaker faith tradition. The process is best explained using a metaphor for the human soul, that aspect of our individual nature that we are born with and that calls us back to recognize our true selves if we listen. Parker says that the soul is like a wild animal that can survive difficult circumstances, that will appear when we are quiet, patient, and receptive. **Presenter: Rev. Norm Horofker, Service Assistant: Eileen Ross**

September 23 "Come Sing A Song With Us": The music and poetry of Carolyn McDade

NS and PEI women who have long been a part of Carolyn's annual Singing Circles will present an entire service of Carolyn's music and writing. Carolyn's songs celebrate women, social justice movements, endangered species and indeed, all sentient beings. They invoke our deep love for this planet Earth. **Service Leader: Marilyn Shinyei, Music Leader: Vanessa Lindsay-Botten**

September 30 Holding a sacred and welcoming space

Today's service will be shaped during a very important workshop that will have taken place on the previous day. The service will centre on the importance of Sunday services that meet the congregation's needs by holding open a sacred space that is welcoming to everyone. See the full-page ad within these pages. **Presenter: Rev. Wayne Walder, Service Assistant: Carole McCarville**



Theme for October: Abundance

SEPTEMBER 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 Noon: Worship Com..		4	5 4:45-6:15 pm Afterchoir	6 12-1:00 Tai Chi 6:30 Board meeting	7	8 10–noon UU Brunch
9 Ingathering Blending of Waters Lunch by donation Blanket Exercise	10	11	12 4:45-6:15 pm Afterchoir	13 9:30-11:30 am Parents & Tots 12-1:00 Tai Chi	14	15 10–noon UU Brunch 2:30 pm Celebration of Life for Michael Seary
16 Following service: Library book display Intro to UU ism with Rev. Norm 12-1:00 Humanists	7	8	19 4:45-6:15 pm Afterchoir	20 9:30-11:30 am Parents & Tots 12-1:00 Tai Chi	21	22 10–noon UU Brunch
23 <hr/> 30	24 12 noon (New time) Newsletter deadline	25	26 4:45-6:15 pm Afterchoir	27 9:30-11:30 am Parents & Tots 12-1:00 Tai Chi 5 pm Visit Hope Blooms	28	29 10–noon UU Brunch Afternoon Worship Workshop w. Wayne Walder



September 9th – a lively day for Halifax UUs

Ingathering, Blending of the Waters, Lunch, and a Blanket Exercise at the Mi'kmaw Friendship Centre

Unfamiliar with Ingathering? Blending of the Waters? On this first Sunday of our new church year, members and friends bring a small sample of water that represents an important place or event in their lives, perhaps something that happened over the summer, but not necessarily. Each sample of water is added to a large bowl, signifying the ways in which we contribute our own experiences to the life of the community.

If you come without a sample of water, we have a supply of magic water that takes on the characteristics of whatever setting you have in mind. Also, if you can send Rev. Norm a digital photo showing the water's origin or depicting its significance to you, please send it to him at nhorofker@aol.com.

This is an inter-generational service and we expect that all the children will participate and that the adults will be delighted to have them present. This lively service also features our very talented Afterchoir.

Immediately following the service there will be a **Sandwiches & Sweets lunch** by free-will-donation, proceeds going toward costs of our **Truth & Reconciliation program**. Around 12:30 we leave for a **Blanket Exercise at 1 pm at the Mi'kmaw Native Friendship Centre**. All members and friends are invited. More details farther on.

Minister's Notes

Truth, Reconciliation and Sunday Worship

The new year for our congregation begins in September, and 2018/19 shows every indication of being transformative. When you enter our building for the Ingathering Service on September 9th, I hope you will see our newly revitalized entrance as a metaphor for our future together... an expression of community that is welcoming, renewed, fully functional, accessible to all, built on a solid foundation, and integrated into a historical edifice.

I recall the congregational meeting where we approved this new project. The Board was tentative, suggesting that we might not yet have all the answers we needed to satisfy everyone's concerns. The Board expected that we would provide an update and then have a vote on the project at a later date. But two people stood up and took leadership positions, saying that we had talked enough and needed to get on with the work before us. The mood in the room changed immediately and we never looked back.

There are two new major initiatives underway in September that have nothing to do with the building, but have the potential to be part of the transformation that I envision: The first is the Truth and Reconciliation Reflection program that will have its first event on Sunday September 9th. The second is a very special workshop on Saturday September 29th, to reshape our ideas of Sunday services and to invite your participation in that reshaping. Both of these items are mentioned elsewhere in the newsletter, but I would like to elaborate here on how they will relate to the renewal of our congregational life.

In 2014 our faith tradition made a public commitment to walk with the indigenous peoples of this land in the implementation of the "Calls to Action" from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. If there is one social justice issue that calls us as Canadian Unitarian Universalists to take action, this is it. And to paraphrase, we choose to

do this not because it is easy, but because it is hard. The road ahead for Truth and Reconciliation is by no means certain. It is not simply a matter of legislation, or federal budgets or political action. The process of Truth and Reconciliation requires first and foremost an acknowledgement of past and present injustice. It requires that we build personal relationships that span huge cultural divides. The issues involved are financial, legislative and political, but they are also deeply spiritual.

Your task team has been working on this project for over two years. We have studied the material prepared by the task team of the Canadian Unitarian Council and we have engaged with the local indigenous community. The program will be co-facilitated by members of our task team and Debbie Eisan, the community program director of the Mi'kmaw Native Friendship Centre. This program has the potential to transform our congregation and you as an individual.

The second initiative launching in September is a revitalization of our Sunday services and our Worship Committee. The Reverend Wayne Walder is conducting a workshop on Saturday September 29th. He will present a model for a Worship Committee as developed at the UU Neighbourhood Church in Toronto. We hope that many members of our congregation will participate in the workshop and that some of them will then form the core of a revitalized Worship Committee, planning and executing our Sunday services. We are hoping for participation from those who already act as Service Leaders, Assistants, or ushers but we want others to be involved who have ideas and energy to help us create the best possible experiences for the congregation on Sunday morning.



Transformation is in the air.
We will welcome it.

Love, Norm

Board Buzz

Hello, all!

I hope you have been enjoying our amazing summer weather, but it is surely time for that sudden seasonal change we get in late August, that brisk invigorating rush of fresh air that signals the real New Year: September, the start of so many things in our lives.

Some of us already started our new church year with the Annual Retreat last Saturday, the 25th. It was again a lovely day, at a beautiful location, the grounds of the Atlantic School of Theology overlooking the peaceful Northwest Arm. I must congratulate the 30 dedicated participants for not being too distracted by the charms of the location!

This year we provided child care with Stephen Butler and Ron Haché ably minding the seven children under Tanya Bilsbury's supervision.

Many thanks to Marilyn Shinyei and helpers who provided a delicious hot breakfast in spite of the challenges of tripped, inaccessible breakers. It set us all up for a productive 3-hour workshop on the theme of Values to Vision to Mission, skillfully facilitated by our own Troy Saulnier.

A UUA video, "We Are Unitarian Universalists" got us thinking about the broad UU experience, followed by a video conference with the Rev. Wayne Walder of Toronto's Neighborhood UU congregation. He shared the experiences of his church as it grew over the last 15 years from a congregation of four to its current 140 members, developing its focus on Spiritual Growth, Developing Skills, and Social Justice.

We then used a dialogue method of creating community conversations by sharing, one at a time, in very small groups (triads), that changed (or not) with each question to be considered. The questions we asked of the participants were:

UUCH Board of Directors June 2018 - May 2019	
Officers	
President	Margaret Galbraith
Vice-President	Troy Saulnier
Past President	Kim Turner
Secretary	Shripad Pendse
Treasurer	Marilyn Shinyei
Members at Large	
Pam Berman	Mia Huh
Ginny Girard	Pam Griffin-Hody

- Opening: Who am I and why am I here?
- Question 1: What should UUCH's special gift to the world be?
- Question 2: Why do you and why should anyone participate in UUCH?
- Question 3: What does it mean to be "cutting edge"? e.g. the heretical early Universalists and Unitarians
- Question 4: What are your top 3 strategic priorities for UUCH?

Finally we brainstormed about words that would describe a vision for UUCH.

But I'm not telling you the answers! We want anyone who wasn't there, and possibly participants who want to add more, to have an opportunity to contribute to this community dialogue.

Thanks again to all who contributed to a very successful day, especially Norm, Troy, Kim, Marilyn, Stephen, Ron and Tanya, the others who always step in to help, and so many willing UUCH participants. We ended with a relaxed lunch, conversation, time to enjoy the view, and music.

We are indeed a community. I look forward to another year together.



Margaret Galbraith
President
UUCH Board of Directors

Preparing for Meaning-filled Sunday Worship

**Are you interested in being part of the
team that designs our worship services?**



On Saturday afternoon, September 29th, you are invited to participate in a workshop with Rev. Wayne Walder of the UU Neighbourhood Church of Toronto.

We will be exploring ways to involve members and friends in the design and presentation of Sunday worship services that help us to give meaning to our lives together.

The workshop will be held in our church sanctuary.

For more details contact Rev. Norm Horofker.



Reconciliation through Education, Understanding, and Relationship



Members and Friends of the
Universalist Unitarian Church of
Halifax

You are invited to participate in a
BLANKET EXERCISE

WHEN
Sunday, September 9th
1:00 p.m.

WHERE
Mi'kmaw Native Friendship Centre
2158 Gottingen Street

Adults and Children 12 and older
welcome.

The BLANKET EXERCISE is a workshop that explores the nation-to-nation relationship between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples in Canada. Blankets arranged on the floor represent land and participants are invited to step into the roles of First Nations, Inuit, and later Métis peoples.

It is a unique, participatory history lesson that fosters truth, understanding, respect and reconciliation among Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples.

Our BLANKET EXERCISE will be lead by an INDIGENOUS ELDER at the Mi'kmaw Native Friendship Centre, where there is room for all. Please come if you are able, and journey with us to deepen both individual and collective understandings of our history and relationship with the Indigenous peoples of Canada.

SIGN UP by talking to a member of the UUCH Truth and Reconciliation Task Group. We would very much appreciate your presence. Should transportation or accessibility be an issue, please talk to us about it.

A light **LUNCH** will be served at the UUCH after the Sunday service (free will offerings welcomed but not necessary). We will leave for the Friendship Centre starting around 12:30 p.m.

Childcare will be provided.

**The Blanket Exercise was developed in 1996 by KAIROS in collaboration with Indigenous Elders, knowledge keepers and educators. Through the Blanket Exercise, students learn to combat racism and ignorance, newcomers to Canada learn to build relationships of solidarity with Indigenous peoples, and RCMP cadets learn invaluable lessons that are essential to their training.*

Update on UUCH's refugee work

Can you believe it is three years (fall 2015) since our first town hall meeting on refugees where your enthusiastic participation led us to sponsor the Althyab family? Those six people arrived very early in 2016. We have since served as co-sponsors for other community groups and/or given assistance in a couple of other situations. All good preparation for what was coming!

At the end of May we learned we were granted status as a **Sponsorship Agreement Holder (SAH)** and that kicked things up several notches. First, we were immediately granted six spaces and began selecting refugees to fill those spaces. We then learned that because we were in process with co-sponsoring the **SSRFR** group in Mahone Bay through the CUC, the CUC deemed it necessary to transfer those eight spaces to our new SAH. By the end of July, we had submitted the applications for that family group of eight, as well as one for the fiancée of Nawras Althyab. We are now working on applications for another five people.



Above, the extended Hamo family destined for Mahone Bay

Blended Visa Referral Office (BVOR)

BVOR is one of several federal government programs that brings refugees to Canada. The refugees have been identified by the United Nations High Commission on Refugees. The program offers 50% funding to the settlement group, with them raising the other 50% and providing all the settlement support in the first 12 months after arrival, i.e., finding accommodation, furniture, household goods and assisting with language, employment, medical, shopping and social, community orientation, etc.

In August an amazing initiative was announced in which the University of Ottawa Refugee Hub and the Shapiro Foundation, together with Jewish Family Services Ottawa, is partnering with the federal government to bring up to 1,000 refugees from the BVOR list. In brief this means that the government's 50% will now be matched by the Shapiro Foundation. Thus, community groups will be responsible for the work of settlement but not have any fundraising to do. They will, however, need to work through a SAH.

We have considered applying for a BVOR candidate in the past but have a few things on our plate and weren't sure if the congregation was ready for more refugee fundraising.

With this new announcement we looked at this list and contemplated whether we could/should apply and take on the settlement work involved. However, refugees often indicate what Canadian city they would like to settle in if they have friends or relatives there. No one specified Halifax so we were limited to considering those who didn't specify a location. And that meant mostly entire large family groups of 7 to 13 people. These were mostly African people and as I write this, **African Diaspora Association of the Maritimes (ADAM)**, along with another group, is applying for an extended family group of 13 people. We have agreed to act as the SAH for these two local groups. Our role will be one of coordination, oversight and managing the finances. These families will arrive by December 31st. (BVOR candidates are ready to travel; all security, legal, and health checks have already been done.)

Stay tuned for the announcement of a new town hall meeting at UUCH to talk about "Where to go from here." We can then update you on all the cases we are working on and get your feedback about the level of support/involvement you want to commit to for the future.

In the meantime, if you have furniture, bedding, towels and other household items to give away, please hang on to them for a few months until we see if they are needed by these groups.

Marilyn Shinyei
Co-chair with Andy Blair
UUCH SAHS Committee



The Caring Column

We were saddened to learn that **Allyn and Sandra Clarke's daughter, Nancy**, has been diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis. Nancy is responding well to treatment and she and her family are being well supported by the Jewish community in Halifax. Our thoughts are with them all as the future unfolds.

Cynthia Marshall had shoulder surgery on August 14th and was discharged home on the 16th. It was good to see her able to attend the annual UUCH retreat on August 25th, thanks in part because Mary Ellen Onno drove her to and from the event. We wish Cynthia an ongoing speedy recovery.

Erika Kulnys, granddaughter of Barbara Harsanyi, is in hospital in Bridgewater. Rev. Horofker has been in touch with her by phone and lit a candle at the August 26th service to express our concern for her.

Norm Sabowitz celebrated his 80th birthday with everyone on August 19th after the Sunday service. Happy Birthday again, Norm!

Our long-time friend **Rob McClure** has retired from his position at Dalhousie's Fountain School of Performing Arts and has returned to Toronto. We extend our best wishes to him as he pursues further interests there, and hope he might be in Halifax and visit with us another day.

Michael Seary, long-time member of our church, died on July 13th. His life will be celebrated at the UUCH on Saturday, September 15th at 2:30p.m.

Sylvia Mattinson



NEW AND FORMER UPDATES

DAVIS, Marie (correct address)
201-2630 Gottingen Street
Halifax, NS B3K 3C6

HILLIER, Gary (new friend)
902-670-0812
garyhillier@outlook.com

McClure, Rob (new address)
#1202 - 35 Fontenay Court
Toronto, ON M9A 0E2

PATERSON, John (new address)
322-2630 Gottingen Street,
Halifax, NS B3K 3C6

SARRATT, Pat (correct address)
177 Sunningdale Road E.
Qualicum Beach, BC V9K 1L1
1-250-594-7773

SMITH, Michael (new phone #)
902-877-9137

STINSON, Robin (new phone #)
902-719-0505



Tai Chi classes at UUCH

Tai Chi classes at UUCH, resuming on Sept 6th, are held every Thursday from 12 to 1. This group emerged from the Pain Self-management Program at the QE11 Health Centre. The main form practiced is Tai Chi for Arthritis (taichiproductions.com). There is no cost and everyone is welcome.

You can contact us by joining 'Tai Chi for Better Function' on Facebook—or you can see me at church, or contact me at quiditazi@hotmail.com.

Michael Smith



Book Display September 16

On September 16th during coffee hour following the service, your church library will host a display of recently acquired books. Each book was carefully chosen with a view to its potential value in helping UUs in their individual "search for truth and wisdom", to quote from one of the new books on the Seven UU Principles.

Topics include grief, compassion, and gender and transgender issues.

A highlight is Rev. Philip Hewitt's classic, *The Unitarian Way*, a must-read for the spiritually-minded and humanists alike, plus everyone else on the faith continuum.

And there will be food too!

The Library Committee

Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for submissions
for the October newsletter
is 12 noon (new time),
Monday, September 24th.

Please send your submissions to

braeside@eastlink.ca

AND

uuchurch@eastlink.ca

Letter of Appreciation

Formerly sent to
UU people@googlegroups,
July 14



Dear UU friends:

Last Wednesday, I wrote the following message to my piano-playing friend, whose grand piano is inaccessible for me: "The church is accessible again! Do you think Thursday is manageable for you? We could go to Uncommon Grounds for coffee first, about 12 noon?"

Thursday was excellent. We got to the church and just sailed in, never interrupting our conversation!

Once we were done at the piano a couple of hours later, my elderly friend and I were alone in the building, dreading the usual struggle of getting out. After turning everything off, we left. She opened the one door that is left, holding it, letting me get by her. Once I was out I could turn around to see if she was alright. Able bodied people do these things automatically. They (i.e., you) may not know what a gift that was! Looking behind me, I gratefully noticed that not only was there enough room, there was no railing to hit and no danger of falling off the walkway slab and into the grass. It was absolutely beautiful!

Let it be known that I am the one who always said that it was OK to get into our church in my wheelchair, but now that I see what is possible, I tell you, it was NOT OK! I don't know who is on our building committee or who is running the capital fundraising campaign, but kudos to their creativity, forward thinking and transformational activities. With this new entrance our building finally has a chance of growing up.

As a wheelchair user, I love it! As a baby boomer already in a wheelchair, I know this was truly a step in the right direction. Soon, many more people will come to our doors in wheelchairs!

***Gratefully yours,
Wietske***

Let's help Hope Blooms to bloom some more!



Jessie Jollymore, the founder and Executive Director of Hope Blooms, spoke to UUCH on July 15th about the work that Hope Blooms does with youth and families in the North End. Hope Blooms works with about 60 youth and 50 families involved in tending community gardens on Brunswick Street between the Public Housing towers and produces salad dressings and teas for sale to enable scholarships. They also work with refugee families and other families in their area on community and social programs. The youth who started with Hope Blooms ten years ago are now succeeding in universities such as Stanford, U of T, Dalhousie, CCNS, etc., in spite of the handicap of poverty.

Hope Blooms was the recipient of the UUCH Share The Plate for the month of June.

The week after Jessie's presentation to us, Hope Blooms was requesting permission from the City to build a community kitchen on city land at the edge of a park near their gardens, so that they can expand their food preparation and nutritional programs with youth and families. They have donations for the construction of the kitchen for their programs, so it is just a question of a place to put it. The request was supported unanimously by the members of the Community Planning and Economic Development Committee, including the Mayor who spoke strongly in favour of Hope Blooms. Now there will be a community consultation, necessary before the request to build the kitchen can be approved.

Four of us (Elinor, Sylvia, Shripad and I) attended the City Hall meeting to be supportive. Jessie brought about 20 of the Hope Blooms youth with her, and

several of them spoke as part of the presentation, which was very impressive.

Jessie is very appreciative of the UUCH support, and is inviting the congregation to the gardens for tea and a tour in the late afternoon of Thursday September 27th. The arrangements and the address will be circulated on UUinfo closer to the date.

Also, Elinor has gathered the names and email addresses for the members of the Community Planning and Economic Development Committee to whom the Hope Blooms request is being made, so that anyone who wishes can send a brief message of support for Hope Blooms to them directly.

These are the Community Planning and Economic Development Committee members and their contact information:

Mayor, M. Savage	mayor@halifax.ca
Waye Mason, Dep. Mayor	waye.mason@halifax.ca
Sam Austin, Vice-chair	austins@halifax.ca
David Hendsbee	david.hendsbee@halifax.ca
Lindell Smith	smithli@halifax.ca
Steve Craig	steve.craig@halifax.ca
Tim Outhit	tim.outhit@halifax.ca

Elinor also provided a sample letter which she sent to the members of the Community Development Committee to state support for Hope Blooms. It reads: "Jessie Jollymore is an amazing teacher and leader. The young people who spoke to your Community Planning meeting on Thursday July 19 are our future leaders. Their creativity and energy are impressive, a credit to Jessie, their neighbourhood and Halifax. The community support for Hope Blooms is inspiring. This should be encouraged. Hope Blooms needs a kitchen for the future development of young people and our community. The Community Planning and Economic Development Committee should support the Hope Blooms kitchen location request."

Will you lend your voice as well?

Karen Woolhouse



UUCH in 2018 Halifax Pride Parade

Once again UUCH had another great Pride Parade entry. Despite the rainy start to the day, the rain let up but the clouds stayed as the parade got underway. Volunteers carried the Standing on the Side of Love banner to lead us.



Rev. Norm drove the yellow jeep; Gary Hillier drove his truck with Paul Galbraith in the back playing great dance music that Faith Piccolo picked out. Gary's truck pulled our float, donated by Frontline Trailers, with about eight people seated for the ride. South End Florists (Hana and Halim) donated dozens of roses and carnations to give away along the route.



The barbecue afterwards was put together by Faith Piccolo and was well attended. There were lots of volunteers to unload and un-decorate the trailer.

Thank you to everyone who got everything together and those who came out to walk and support us, including members of the Spiritual Science Fellowship.

Janet Horofker
UUCH Pride Committee Chair

***And many thanks to you, Janet, for all
the coordinating. Good job! Ed.***



*You cannot step twice into the same river,
for other waters are continually flowing on.
~ Heraclitus*