



Universalist Unitarian
Church of Halifax
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Rev. Norm Horofker
Minister
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Sandra Jamieson
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Mon, Wed, Fri, 10-3
Lunch-12 to 1pm

Religious Ed for Children
Marie-Claude Leroux

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: Expectation

Sept 1 *A musical journey* We are happy to welcome our new Music Director, Jessica Friesen as she leads her first service. Jessica writes: Music has the power to touch the lives of all people. In this service I will share my musical journey and meaningful personal experiences through various genres, methods, and forms of musical practices. The service will be a creative safe space incorporating singalongs and children's musical contributions. This is a multi-generational service, so there will be no separate Religious Exploration program for children. **Presenter: Jessica Friesen; Service Leader: Marie-Claude Leroux**

Sept 8 *Ingathering Welcome and Blending of Waters* This is our annual "welcome back service" starting a new congregational year. As is our tradition, you are invited to bring a small sample of water representing some significant place or time for you, from your bird bath to water from a melting Greenland glacier. We will blend these waters to signify the varied experiences that make up our community. The service will feature our Afterchoir and a fully multi-generational program. **Presenter: Rev. Norm Horofker; Service Assistant: Margaret Galbraith**

Sept 15 *Expectations of the congregation* What does our congregation expect from the Unitarian Universalist Faith Tradition, and what does that tradition expect from us? **Presenter: Rev. Norm Horofker; Service Assistant: Shripad Pendse**

Sept 22 *A common face toward poverty among our religious communities* We will look at the understandings of poverty and the poor among the great religions of the world and see if there is a common thread that brings us together in responding to this human condition. See inside for a brief profile of our special guest speaker. **Presenter: William H. Brackney; Service Leader: Rev. Norm Horofker**

Sept 29 *Celebrating Universalist Day!* September 30 is "Universalist Day." When the Unitarian and Universalist Churches merged in 1961 it was the expectation of many people that the Unitarian tradition would overwhelm the Universalist tradition. Many would argue now that it is Universalism that appeals the most to us today. Come and learn more about the enduring and saving message of Universalism. **Presenter: Rev. Norm Horofker; Service Assistant: Elinor Egar-Reynolds**



Theme for October: Belonging

September 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Musical Jamboree (see RE page)	2	3	4 4:45-6:15 Afterchoir	5 First day of school	6	7 10-11:30 am Neighbourhood Brunch
8 Ingathering, Water Communion After the service: Volunteer Fair	9	10	11 4:45-6:15 Afterchoir 6:30 Board meeting	12 Noon-1 pm Tai Chi	13	14 10-11:30 Neighbourhood Brunch 10 am-3 pm Eco Justice Fair
15 After the service: Volunteer Fair Humanist Group Intro to UU with Rev. Norm	16	17	18 4:45-6:15 Afterchoir	19 Noon-1 pm Tai Chi	20	21 10-11:30 Neighbourhood Brunch
22 Special guest speaker, Wm. Brackney	23 First day of fall	24	25 4:45-6:15 Afterchoir	26 Noon-1 pm Tai Chi	27	28 10-11:30 Neighbourhood Brunch
29	30 Universalist Day 12 noon Newsletter deadline					





Minister's Notes

Expectations

A lot has been written and said about how our expectations shape, or at least bend our reality. If our Board and Leadership retreat held on Saturday August 24 is any indication, our collective expectations are for a year of exciting, challenging and fulfilling events for UUs in Halifax.

First and foremost, we are expecting to take full advantage of the opportunity to host the Bi-annual Conference and Meeting of the Canadian Unitarian Council. This event will be held May 15 to May 17 of 2020. And if we nurture high expectations for ourselves, we can bend reality to ensure that the ACM in Halifax will be a watershed moment for our congregation and Unitarian Universalism in Halifax.

Hosting the ACM provides a unique opportunity to raise the profile of Unitarian Universalism in Halifax. I am expecting that we will set a new level of expectation for the ACM by publicizing the event and opening several aspects of the event to the general public. Vanessa and John Lindsay-Botten have accepted the role of joint music directors for the event. It is my expectation that we will have several music events that will be open to the public. Vanessa and John certainly have the profile and connections to make these expectations a reality with our support. Choir activities are one "stream" for participants. We

will also be hosting an evening of musical entertainment... perhaps a Cèilidh. This too could be open to the public.

And finally, someone you know has an expectation that we will have a workshop dedicated to teaching people to play the ukulele, led by a prominent local aficionado... Unitarian Universalist Ukuleles!

Planning for CUC 2020 of course is in the very early stages, but this is the time to think creatively and generate the enthusiasm we will require to convert expectations into reality.

Sadly, on the other hand, as your minister I am fully aware that many people are not in a position to be filled with optimistic expectations for the future. Individual health concerns and financial concerns, and family or interpersonal strife can produce expectations that are frightening and soul destroying. The world is grappling with expectations around Global Climate Change that add to the stress we are all feeling.

My hope for all the members and friends of UUCH is that you expect that our congregation will be an important part of giving your life meaning in the year ahead. Holding onto that expectation is the first step in making it reality.

With Love, Norm

Board Buzz

Summer is over! I hope you have all had a chance to relax and take advantage of the wonderful weather we have had, because as I write this fall is definitely in the air.

For many this is the effective "new year" and for our UUCH community we are starting a very special year indeed! Not only do we have two wonderful new staff members to bring new energy to both our Religious Exploration programs and our church music, but we are also going to be involved increasingly over the next eight months with our role as hosts of the CUC AGM and Conference ("Making Waves"), May 15-17, 2020.

In preparation for the upcoming year the Board had an informal retreat instead of a business meeting on the morning of Saturday, August 24th, before the annual congregational event. A highlight was the presentation of the history of the CUC and our relationship with it by our own Kim Turner, who is only one of several members of our congregation who were involved at key moments in that history.

Marilyn Shinyei gave us a comprehensive look at how the financial resources of the church are currently managed, preparatory to a discussion on improving how we do it in the future, considering both volunteer and staff roles. Troy Saulnier will be leading a task group in the next few weeks to develop a long term financial strategy.

UUCH Board of Directors June 2018 - May 2019

Officers

President	Margaret Galbraith
Vice-President	Troy Saulnier
Past President	Kim Turner
Secretary	Pam Griffin-Hody
Treasurer	Marilyn Shinyei

Members at Large

Jim Morrison	Katherine Hutka
Michael Belland	Jean-Francois Turcotte

A final but very important discussion for our current situation was the one led by Pam Griffin-Hody about an about our human volunteer resources and the critical need for volunteers in a variety of often small but key roles, aside from the one-time CUC 2020 needs. See the notice elsewhere about the Volunteer Fair on September 8 to address this issue. I hope many of you will find appeal in one, or more! of these activities and contribute your time and talent to strengthen the ties within our church community.

This morning of information and discussion gave us all a better grounding for managing the work we will be doing together over the coming year.

It also led to lunch and other members of the congregation joining us as we prepared for the Annual Congregation Retreat in the afternoon.

Margaret Galbraith
Board President

Annual Retreat Report

About 30 congregation members and friends, Board members and staff got together on Saturday afternoon, August 24th for our annual Retreat. Our theme was to focus on our Mission which had been so strongly supported by the congregation in all the work we did last year around our Values, Vision and Mission. Are we really a community that nurtures personal and spiritual growth, practises inclusiveness, celebrates diversity and affirms individual and collective commitment to community service and social justice? We need to keep these broad goals in mind when we are planning UUCH projects and have to choose our strategic priorities, and, conversely, to periodically ask ourselves what more our congregation could do to live out these ideals.

We first focussed on the really big project for the upcoming year: CUC Conference (“Making Waves”). You can read elsewhere in this newsletter more details of the event and our roles as host, which we learned together on Saturday from both Glenda Butt, one of our co-chairs for the Conference Host Committee, and later Vyda Ng, the Executive Director of the CUC who joined us briefly by video conference. She particularly thanked us all for volunteering, explaining that while we as the hosts are in for a lot of work, the CUC national office manages the logistics and programming—and volunteers from other congregations across the country will be supporting the event as well.

Then we got into the fun stuff! One of our responsibilities is to provide entertainment for the Saturday evening of the Conference—



and the brainstorming began! Molly Hurd, the other co-chair with Glenda, now has more than two long pages of great suggestions—and in keeping with our Mission, there are a number that would showcase the diverse cultures of Nova Scotia.

We spent the last hour thinking more about the actual goals of the Mission, brainstorming in chattering dynamic groups as we moved about the room making suggestions for each of its three components, then finishing with a quick prioritizing exercise, since the CUC Conference will inevitably occupy more and more of our energy until spring.

As we ended the Retreat there was a strong sense that after our afternoon of both learning and contributing, we are all looking forward to this exciting new UUCH year!

Thank you to all for coming and participating so enthusiastically, and, as always, a special thanks to those who looked after setting up, Norm for getting the technology working, Faith for organizing lunch and then all who stayed to clean up afterwards, especially Sylvia. It is all these individual contributions that keep our community strong!

***Margaret Galbraith, President
on behalf of the Board***

MAKING WAVES Conference in Halifax Eight Months Away and Counting!



Overview

Planning for the CUC's Making Waves conference being held in Halifax during the long weekend in May 2020, May 15–17, is shifting into high gear. 180–200 UUs from across Canada and elsewhere are expected to attend, making this the largest conference ever hosted by UUCH.

Packed agenda

There will be a packed agenda for the three days with social events each evening, workshops on several topics running throughout the days, and lots of opportunity for networking. Highlights will include the Sunday morning worship service, the Ceilidh Kitchen Party on Saturday evening, the Confluence Lecture Friday evening, and the Sunday night banquet and closing ceremony. It will be an event to remember.

Conference site amenities

The venue will be the delightful campus setting of King's College. It has large rooms for meals and full group sessions, smaller rooms for workshops, and plenty of accessible and affordable residence hall accommodation nearby.

Preparations in the works

Making Waves Host Committee Co-chairs are Glenda Butt and Molly Hurd. They have been working with the CUC staff for several months doing advance planning. The CUC staff is handling the logistical arrangements, including venue, meals, technical support, advance registration, etc. The Fredericton UU Congregation has accepted responsibility for on-site registration processing and exhibits. All local support (and there is a lot of it) and the social events will be provided by UUCH.

Conference teams

Molly and Glenda are setting up nine teams to handle a wide range of responsibilities such as the multi-generational program and supervision, site support, welcoming, volunteers, etc. The overall

goal of UUCH is to provide an outstanding hospitable Halifax experience, and that will require the help of many. Vanessa and John Lindsay-Botten have agreed to lead the Music team, which guarantees exceptional music for Making Waves.

Team volunteers

Glenda and Molly are hoping to get the teams established during September, with UUCH people who come forward to volunteer for particular areas—and with the help of the UUCH Volunteer Fair to be run by our Pams Berman and Griffin-Hody, opening on September 8th and continuing on the 15th.

Joining a team now means that you can provide your creativity and ideas during the early stages of planning. It will be fun!

Regular team meetings will start in September and become more frequent as May approaches.

Communications

It will take all of us for Making Waves to be the best conference ever, and sharing information will be important. The CUC has information at: cuc.ca/annual-general-meeting-conference/.

If you have a question about the conference or the UUCH activity, please send an email to me at: kjw19@eastlink.ca or phone me at 902-821-2015. I will look for the answer for you, and will share the information broadly via the newsletter and UUInfo. And if you have an interest in joining one of the teams, please speak directly to Glenda or Molly.

What we should all do now

- Let Molly and Glenda know now if you can help on a team and what your area of interest is.
- Save the dates May 15–17, 2020, for attending Making Waves yourself.
- Let your UU contacts across Canada and elsewhere know that a terrific conference will be happening in Halifax, and suggest that they attend for a whale of a good time!

Karen Woolhouse

Making Waves Communications



The Caring Column

Along with holidays, travel and visits, the summer months were eventful in other ways!

Iretia Cox moved to Northwood on July 9th, and she says she finds it busy and better than her previous apartment life.

On July 28th **Alison Chipman** reported that while she has been unable to attend services so often recently she anticipates that her health will improve again over time.

Cynthia Marshall had surgery, on August 1st, to have the knuckles of the four fingers of her right hand replaced. She reports that she is slowly improving, and we wish her all the best as that continues.

Scott Wood was back in church on August 18th following some time in Norway where he was hospitalized twice—first for the repair of a detached retina—then again with a serious case of pneumonia. He says that medical care in Norway could not have been better. Best wishes for a speedy and full recovery, Scott!

it was good to see **Glenda Butt** at the recent UUCH retreat, fully participating, following her surgery for a hip replacement on July 19th.

After several months of affliction with a mysterious and serious illness, it was also good to see **Troy Saulnier** at the retreat, facilitating some of the discussion. He is still undergoing tests but feeling much better.

John Paterson was hospitalized in mid-August after suffering a mini-stroke. We wish you well in the days ahead, John.

We're sorry to report that **Wietske Gradstein** fell from her wheelchair on August 19th resulting in a broken leg, strains and facial lacerations. She spent some days in the hospital and had a steel plate implanted in her leg to speed and strengthen the healing; her leg is in a cast. She will be going home on Thursday, August 29th. Wietske welcomes cards

phone calls. Her cell number is 902-499-4946. Best wishes Wietske, on your road to recovery.

On a happier note, it was lovely to have a social luncheon after the service on Sunday, August 4th with **Georges Merinfeld** and his sister and brother-in-law, Edith and Albert Goldbeter, from Belgium. They spent a week in Halifax visiting Georges.

And soon will come the autumn leaves. Best wishes for a good return to school, work and the other routines of our regular lives.

Sylvia Mattinson

Special Birthday Celebrations

We try to keep track of and to celebrate members' and friends' 80th birthdays and those every five years thereafter.



If your 80th, 85th, 90th or 95th birthday is coming up, and you would enjoy celebrating your special birthday with your church family, please let us know in advance and we'll all enjoy it! And if you're reaching 100, well that would indeed be very special!

Sylvia

**Are you a supporter of the UU-UNO?
Have you wondered what your membership
dues accomplish?**



As you may recall, UUCH achieved UU-UNO Blue Ribbon status once again for 2018-2019, indicating our congregation's strong support of the organization that connects our denomination with the United Nations.

In the letter she sent with our 2018-2019 plaque, CUC Director Vyda Ng gave details of the main program our membership dues went to this year. The following is from her letter:

Your contributions go to support the Every Child Is Our Child (ECOC) program in Ghana, where the UU-UNO works with children made vulnerable by aids. The CUC is proud to partner with the UU-UNO and ECOC program in this work.

With your support, the ECOC program helps the children reach their full potential by providing them with opportunities to attend school and receive medical attention. Your donations help buy school uniforms, books, school supplies, shoes and other items necessary for school attendance. ECOC also makes sure that the children and families they live with are receiving basic medical attention.

The Every Child is Our Child Program works toward achieving the United Nation's Millennium Development Goals of universal primary education, fighting HIV/AIDS, reducing hunger and poverty, and promoting gender equality. This effort is guided by the UU-UNO partnership with the Queen Mothers Association in the Manya Krobo region of Eastern Ghana.

Thank you to those members of our congregation who supported this work for the 2018-2019 year! Look for more news about our congregation's ties to the UU-UNO this fall.

Martha Wilson
UU-UNO Envoy



September 8

FUN! TREATS! PRIZES!

COME TO THE FAIR!

On September 8, after the service, we will be holding a volunteer recruitment fair.

This is YOUR opportunity to learn about some of the volunteer opportunities that sustain our UUCH community.

We will focus on our greatest need at this time:

1. CUC Halifax 2020
2. Religious Education (RE)
3. Sunday Support (Greeters, Ushers, Coffee)
4. Fundraising
5. Worship Committee
6. Pop Up Events (Thanksgiving, Holiday Bazaar, Odd Jobs List)

Any questions, please contact
Pam Griffin-Hody

CUC EASTERN FALL GATHERING

October 19th, Ottawa

Registration deadline: October 8

Details on the CUC website

cuc.ca — under Events

Refugee Committee Update

We thought you would all love to hear the latest news from the Althyab family. Nawras received his Canadian Citizenship in August although both his family and our committee are unhappy with him because he did not invite any of us to the ceremony! He said that he had no idea what a major event it would be.



Nawras, proud of his Canadian Citizenship certificate

Other good news is that Nawras's fiancé, Nairouz, has been given a travel date and will arrive on October 2nd. We will definitely attend that event at Stanfield International!



Nairouz

Work on the refugee front slowed down a little over the summer but for the year to date we have filed applications for the 18 spaces we were allotted in late February, as well as applications for eight more people who are Rainbow Refugee cases and don't require spaces.

A family of four Syrians and a single Syrian man all arrived in June. We hope to see the arrivals of at least 15 more people before the year is over but that is not guaranteed. These would be from Syria, the Gambia, Uganda and Azerbaijan.

Of course, we continue to work with the 37 Africans who arrived last November and of whom there are now 39 with one more baby on the way!

Marilyn Shinyei



Eco Justice Fair

**Saturday, Sept 14, 10 am – 3 pm
Victoria Park, Halifax**

- Displays and activities
- Everything from reducing your carbon footprint to climate change advocacy
- Artistic expressions of appreciation for creation (music, poetry, visual art)
- Opportunities to engage in spiritual practice with a focus on caring for creation
- Come and hear engaging, dynamic speakers.

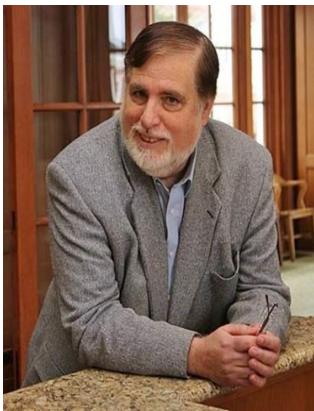
Thanks to all the environmental groups participating. If it rains, the Fair will be located in the Diocesan Centre across the road at 1340 Cathedral Lane, Halifax. Organized by the Environment Network, Anglican Diocese of NS & PEI and Kairos Halifax.

See you there!

Special Guest Speaker: Sunday Sept 22

William H. Brackney is the Pioneer MacDonald Professor of Baptist Theology and Ethics at Carey Theological College in Vancouver, British Columbia.

He is also the Millard R. Cherry Distinguished Professor of Christian Thought and Ethics Emeritus at Acadia University in Wolfville, Nova Scotia and an ordained Baptist minister. He was previously the Dean of Theology at McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario and has published numerous books and articles dealing with post-Reformation Protestant thought, particularly the Baptist and Radical Reformation traditions.



Brackney has done significant work in the areas of global ethics and human rights, and is currently the Director of the Acadia Centre for Baptist and Anabaptist Studies. He is also a regular columnist for websites focused on ethics.

Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for submissions for the October newsletter is 12 noon,

Monday, September 30

Please send submissions to both:

Etta Hamm braeside@eastlink.ca
Sandra Jamieson uuchurch@eastlink.ca

Friends of 5500 Inglis Work Party



The “Friends of 5500 Inglis Street” are organizing a small work party for Saturday morning August 31.

If you would like be a member of “Friends of 5500” to help with minor maintenance work, painting, cleaning or gardening — or if you just want to lend moral support, please join us for our first meeting. We would love to see you here.

This being our first meeting, we will spend some time just getting organized, so you need not plan on doing a lot of work this Saturday.

John Piccolo, Doug Fevens, Stephen Butler and myself plan to do some remediation work on the deck, and there are opportunities to help clean out the basement as well as gardening chores and perhaps limited painting.

We will serve pancakes, sausages and great coffee to anyone who wishes to partake ... 9 am. Hope to see you there!

Norm

Religious Exploration

Welcome to a new church year of Religious Exploration. I am so looking forward to the connections & bonds that will be forged among the children, families and the congregation.

During the Congregational Retreat in August, many UUCH members gathered to explore ways in which to use our mission to strengthen our church community. The mission, and the thoughtful ideas that were shared and discussed will help guide the RE program through the year.

With the mission to be a community that nurtures personal and spiritual growth, the two children's groups will continue to learn from *Tapestry of Faith* curricula. The younger children (aged 5-8) will be following the "Love Surrounds Us" program, which explores the Unitarian Universalist principles in the context of community and the love that surrounds us. The older children (aged 9 and up) will continue with the *Amazing Grace* program, which explores questions of ethics, religion and Unitarian Universalism, aimed at their age level.

With the mission to be a community that practices inclusiveness and celebrates diversity, we will be offering a series of outings aimed at familiarizing ourselves with other houses of worship and spiritual practices.

We will also continue *Spirit Art* classes where we create art together either as an exploration of cultural traditions or a craft or art form presented by a congregant. If you would like to share an art or craft form with the children, I would love to help implement it into a Spirit Art session. Reach me at marieclx@hotmail.com.

With the mission to be a community that affirms commitment to community service and social justice, I will be working with the RE committee and Norm to find ways to include the children in the Saturday brunch, refugee sponsorship and Truth & Reconciliation. These initiatives also further teach the practice of inclusiveness and celebration of diversity for all involved.



The children's butterfly garden in the church's backyard is in full bloom! We've spotted Monarch butterfly eggs in the milkweed over the summer.



And so, being guided by the UUCH mission, the Religious Exploration program starts a new year. Programming starts on September 15th. Prior to that, the church will be holding two multi-generational services. There will be a **musical jamboree** on September 1st, a service focused on music and how it moves the spirit. Families are invited to join, sing along, and possibly shake a tambourine! On September 8th, the Ingathering and Water Communion is an intergenerational service wherein we look forward to having the children participate with the readings, songs, ushering, and in bringing water that has special meaning to them and their summer. I look forward to seeing everyone!

Marie-Claude Leroux
Director
Religious Exploration Program



Trellis photos: Etta Hamm