



Newsletter of the Universalist Unitarian Church of Halifax

Vol. 56, No 1
September 2020

This Month's Sunday Services

Universalist Unitarian
Church of Halifax
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Rev. Norm Horofker
Minister
Cell 902-229-9239

Jessica Friesen
Music Director

Marie-Claude Leroux
Director, Religious Ed
for Children & Youth

Margaret Galbraith
President

Etta Hamm
Newsletter Editor

Sunday services
10:30 am
Online this month

All are welcome

Children & Youth
Education

Note: All services in September will be online. Please join us between 10:20 and 10:30 am on Sunday. The service will start at 10:30. Use this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/666004431?pwd=RjQvVEtjUjM1MEdnMDgxU0VSRzVLQT09>

Meeting ID: 666 004 431 Password: 010670. You can also watch the service live on YouTube on our UUCH Channel. www.youtube.com/channel/UC3Lw1hW1n7z3mNapa6yY7Jw. Services are posted to the YouTube channel for later viewing after a day or two.

WATCH FOR NEWS ABOUT HYBRID SERVICES... It is possible that we will have some services in September where people who choose to, can attend the service in our church sanctuary (with appropriate precautions) while others will be watching the service on line.

Our Theme for September: Renewal

September 6 A Celebration of the Role of Protest Music in Bringing About Social Justice

This is a special service for the Labour Day weekend. Our Music Director Jessica, and Pam will lift your spirits with songs that have changed our world for the better.

Service Leaders: Jessica Friesen and Pam Griffin-Hody

September 13 Our Annual Ingathering and Water Communion Service — This service officially marks the beginning of a new church year for UUCH. We will celebrate September's theme of Renewal, exploring and renewing what it means to be a church bound not by creed or dogma, but by our covenantal tradition.

Service Leader: Rev. Norm Horofker; **Service Assistant:** Marie-Claude Leroux

September 20 UU Wellspring – Spiritual Renewal — “What will you do with this one wild and precious life?” asks the poet Mary Oliver. UU Wellspring.inc is a 10-month program of distinctly Unitarian Universalist spiritual development designed to help participants answer that provocative question. Begun in 2005, the program celebrates the depth and breadth of our rich religious tradition. Rev. Norm plans to lead this program for those in our congregation, and this Sunday he will explain why and how.

Service Leader: Rev. Norm Horofker; **Service Assistant:** TBD

September 27 A UU Perspective on the Jewish High Holy Days — The Jewish New Year, Rosh Hashanah, began on September 18, and observance culminates today, September 27 on Yom Kippur, the most sacred day of the Jewish calendar. The 10 days between these two holy days are known as the Days of Awe, a time for repentance and forgiveness. What might a UU learn from this ancient spiritual practice of renewal?












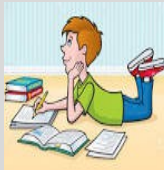

Service Leader: Rev. Norm Horofker; **Service Assistant:** TBD



The theme for October will be: Deep Listening

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.

September 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3 7-8 pm Thursday Night Online Chat	4	5 10-11:30 am Neighbourhood Brunch take-out 
6 10:30 am Online Service	7 Labour Day 	8 	9 6:30 pm Board Meeting 	10 7-8 pm Thursday Night Online Chat	11 10am-2 pm Bring yard sale items to Quinn St., buy stuff	12 10-11:30 am Neighbourhood Brunch Take-out 9am-3pm Yard Sale
13 10:30 am Online Ingathering & Water Communion Service	14	15	16 	17 7-8 pm Thursday Night Online Chat	18 Rosh Hashana (Jewish High Holy Days begin) 	19 10-11:30 am Neighbourhood Brunch Take-out
20 10:30 am Online Service	21	22 2 pm Celebration of Life of Alison Chipman	23 1st Day of Autumn 	24 7-8 pm Thursday Night Online Chat	25	26 10-11:30 am Neighbourhood Brunch Take-out
27 10:30 am Online Service Yom Kippur (Holy Days end)	28 Newsletter Deadline 	29	30 Universalist Day 			

Our Annual General Meeting will be held Sunday, August 30th, at 1pm.

It will be mostly mostly virtual with a few people at the church.

Invitations to join on Zoom will be sent out on UUinfo.

Please contact Margaret Galbraith at president@uuch.ca

if you have questions.

Minister's Notes

A Time for Renewal ...

Our congregation is a member of the Soul Matters group and as such we participate in a dialogue with about 150 congregations across the continent, working with a different theme each month. The theme for September is "RENEWAL"

This summer has been a time of renewal for me, as Janet and I finally made the trip to be with our granddaughter Millie Louise Preston who was born on March 18. We delayed the trip hoping that requirements to self isolate on our return would be lifted, but we could wait no longer.



Grampa



Millie

Grandchildren are the ultimate renewal... even more so than children. Millie Louise is coming into a world that I will never see... as Kahlil Gibran famously wrote... For their souls dwell in the house of tomorrow, which you cannot visit, not even in your dreams. But we each have opportunities for renewal regardless of our age.

On the practical side of personal renewal, I underwent cataract surgery for each of my eyes, one month apart. My eyes have literally been renewed... out with the old cloudy lens, in with a new one. I would like to think that along with a renewal of my eyes comes a renewal of my vision... but that is not so simple. Here I am speaking of a vision of our future as a congregation, our vision of our society in the years ahead. Renewing that vision requires hard work and inspiration.

In the days ahead, I will be speaking and writing a lot about a program of renewal that I hope to offer to the congregation beginning in October. I spend part of the summer investigating UUWellspring.

From the uuwellspring.org webpage:

"What will you do with this one wild and precious life?" asks the poet Mary Oliver.

UU Wellspring.inc is a 10-month program of distinctly Unitarian Universalist spiritual development designed to help participants answer that provocative question. Begun in 2005, the program celebrates the depth and breadth of our rich religious tradition.

I have spoken with Canadian UU Ministers who completed the first UUWellspring program and they all reported a very positive transformative experience.

I am aware of three other Canadian congregations that are planning to begin UUWellspring programs for their congregations this year.

To proceed I will need 10 to 12 volunteers from our members and friends to work with me as we explore our religious heritage, our sense of spirituality and our vision for what that means in our lives. This requires a major commitment as there will be two, two-hour sessions online each month for 10 months, plus homework.

It is my hope that this program will bring a sense of renewal to the lives of each participant and that this will, in turn, help create a renewed vision for our future together and for Unitarian Universalism in the larger community.

Watch for an invitation to learn more about this program and to consider participation. Details will be forthcoming soon over UUinfo. Contact me if you have questions.

With Love,

The Reverend Norm Horofker

BREAKING NEWS ...

UUCH IS HAVING A YARD SALE THIS FALL!

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12th, 9 am–3 pm

Driveway at 2361 Quinn Street, Halifax

In case of rain we will move inside.

Please bring masks and plan to wear them if social distancing isn't working!

COME ON DOWN AND BRING MORE STUFF

You are invited to bring any “stuff” you have been saving, just waiting for the chance to donate it to a church yard sale.

NO CLOTHING OR BEDDING OR BOOKS, PLEASE.

Bring your contributions on Friday, September 11th from 10am to 2 pm.

This will allow you a sneak peek and a chance for some early shopping.

ALL PROCEEDS WILL GO TO UUCH.

IT'S NOT TO BE MISSED

- CDs & DVDs & BOOKS
- Small items of furniture
- Miscellaneous kitchen items
- Variety of knick-knacks
- Christmas decorations
- Small appliances
- Lamps and fans
- Some very unique pieces
- Lots of items at 25 or 50 cents and freebies too



Please reply to marilyn.shinyei@eastlink.ca
if you plan to bring your stuff on the Friday

REFUGEE UPDATE

In April we reported that “Covid-19 has caused the whole world to grind to a halt and that includes refugee arrivals”. That has only begun to slowly change in the last few weeks with a few countries opening up. We have had no arrivals yet but one is booked for October 1st.

We have received a total allocation this year of 69 refugees and have submitted applications for all but 12 of those. As soon as we get those done, we will be able to request another 25 to finish off 2020.

One refugee stream has ceased completely for 2020 and that is the Blended Visa Office-Referred (BVOR) Program through which we brought the 37 Africans in 2018 and four individuals in 2019. Both years those arrivals were made possible by donations that came through the United Jewish Foundation of Greater Toronto. In March of this year I wrote the following letter:



*Attention: Ronit Holtzman, Edward Shapiro & Emilie Coyle
Philanthropy, Planned Giving & Endowments
UJA Federation of Greater Toronto/Jewish Foundation
4600 Bathurst Street, Toronto, ON M2R 3V2*

Dear Jewish Foundation:

We have been the fortunate recipient of donations from your organization in late 2019/early 2020 for the sponsorship of four individual refugees through the 2019 BVOR Fund.

Of course, those four individuals have also benefitted greatly from your generosity. Three of our four are members of the LGBTQ+ community, a group to which we, as Unitarians, are particularly committed. Two of the four are Ethiopian and have been welcomed by an Ethiopian Constituent Group (CG) here in Halifax. Another is under the very competent care of Rainbow Refugees Association of NS and the fourth has a terrific CG which calls itself the Jubilee Group.

We are a relatively new and small SAH run entirely by volunteers. Although still a little less than two years old, we submitted applications in 2019 for 64 people and expect to top that in 2020. Thanks to the 2019 BVOR Fund's decision to give \$5000/case to the SAH rather than to the CG for start up, we have greatly benefitted.

We provided some money to assist those CGs with start up expenses, some to cover our administration expenses and the rest to create a contingency fund. We now have some peace of mind, knowing that going forward we can hire help with completing applications and still have a reserve to cover unexpected challenges that a newcomer(s) might present with and/or to cover expenses for a new family in the unlikely event that their CG should falter. This feels like an insurance policy is now in place for us that enables us to keep working flat out for refugees.

A sincere thank you to everyone involved with the Jewish Foundation and the BVOR Fund. We look forward to the possibility of sponsoring more BVOR refugees in the years ahead.

With gratitude,

Marilyn Shinyei, Co-chair, Universalist Unitarian Church of Halifax SAH

Submitted by
Marilyn Shinyei
Co-chair, Refugee Committee



The Caring Column

Glenda Butt's dialysis continues. She hopes that treatments will soon become shorter and/or less frequent. Glenda recently spent two days in Green Bay on the

South Shore with friends. While her friends went swimming she did an hour of yoga—a nice break from her usual activities.

We are happy to report that **Michael Smith's daughter Robin** finally had her surgery and is now on the road of recovery.

Norm Sabowitz, a member for many years, was admitted to hospital on August 2nd with a medical emergency. He has recovered physically but was assessed as unsafe to remain at home any longer. He will move to suite 131 in Lewis Hall at Parkland at the Lakes in Dartmouth on September 3rd. We wish Norm all the best in his new home.

Alison Chipman, also a longtime member, passed away on June 25th at the Halifax Hospice. A Celebration of Alison's Life will take place at UUCH on the afternoon of September 22nd.

Michael Smith reports that Alison's kitties are feeling at home and doing well in her care.

Open Heart Forgery, a monthly journal of poems and lyrics published in Halifax, included in their 10th anniversary anthology, a poem written by our own **Irene Baros-Johnson**. It is titled *Dazzling Halifax 100 Years Ago*, and is about the Group of Seven artist Arthur Lismer, a British Unitarian who briefly lived in Halifax back then. Congratulations Irene!

Best wishes to all as we transition from summer to autumn.

Sylvia Mattinson

Meet a Fellow UU

Pam Berman, our Membership chair, invites members to submit brief personal statements for publication in this monthly newsletter, particularly in relation to their affinity for, or connection to UUCH. Karen's responses to 'Pam's four questions' (below) are perfect examples for the column. Please submit your piece to Pam Berman at bermanpj@gmail.com

When did I become a UU?

It was forty or more years ago, when I was living in Boca Raton, Florida. My daughter was very young and I wanted to find religious education for her. I had good friends who were very active in the Boca Raton Fellowship, and



we became very active there. There were lots of family activities – camping trips, picnics, etc. The nice Florida weather makes it possible to plan lots of outdoor activities. Since then I have sought out the nearest UU congregation wherever I have lived.

What attracts me to the UU community? I really believe in the importance and the value of the seven UU principles. Also, I like the people who are drawn to the UU principles, and I am grateful to be part of a community with them.

What has kept me here? I like the people in the Halifax UU group and admire very much the dedication of the volunteer group that keeps it going. I also find Rev. Norm's words and writings very worthwhile.

One thing about me that most people may not aware of? I am in Halifax only in the summer months, which is why I am not very visible in the congregation, particularly this year when the pandemic has closed down the face-to-face Sunday morning services.

Karen Woolhouse

Religious Exploration

Welcome to a new upcoming year of Religious Exploration – online! As the pandemic stretches on, we will continue coming together in exploration via the online platform as we did this past spring. We will continue to assess on a monthly basis whether transitioning to in-person exploration is the most responsible choice for our families.



Our goal this year is to explore the many spiritual practices, within various faith communities, that center on the natural world around us. Our aim is to continue to practice inclusiveness and celebrate the diversity of worship while building a greater connection with nature, and ultimately our lifeboat, Earth.



We will also explore the Mi'kmaq culture and its integral ties to nature. Efforts with reconciliation start with connection, and over the coming year, we hope to build a bridge towards lifelong connections between our children and our indigenous neighbours, as well as the culture that sustains them.

I welcome anyone interested in sharing your connection to nature and its spiritual fulfillment by joining us in one of our virtual classes. Our community is only strengthened and enriched when intergenerational bonds grow.

And so, with the challenge of connecting with nature via online gatherings, the Religious Exploration program starts a new year. Programming starts on September 20th.

I look forward to the renewal of our program together!

Marie-Claude Leroux

Director

Religious Exploration for Children & Youth





Music

lifts our
collective
spirit

This fall, we begin a new and unknown journey as we live through this pandemic. We may feel alone, hopeless, and sad at times, but music will always have the power to lift us up.

We are grateful to have the opportunity to virtually come together and sing, and even though Harmony Singers, Soulful Sundown, and the Coffeehouse are postponed, we will always find joy through song!

*Always remember, music accepts everyone,
does not judge, and welcomes you into a safe,
therapeutic space of creativity and community!*

Jessica Friesen
Music Director

The deadline for submissions for the
October newsletter
is 12 noon
Wednesday, September 26.

Please submit to
Etta Hamm, braeside@eastlink.ca

Directory Updates

New, permanent room (with a view!)

DAVIS, Marie 902-466-6524

918-2630 Gottingen Street

Halifax, NS B3K 3C6

Retiring landline

KERR, Colin

Now cell only 902-414-9231

New address & phone

ONNO, Mary Ellen & Peter

206-5450 Kaye Street

Halifax, NS B3K 0G7 902-404-2936

Cell numbers remain the same.

New address, eff. Sept 3

SABOWITZ, Norm

Suite 131, Lewis Hall

Parkland at the Lakes

82 Baker Drive

Dartmouth, NS B2W 0C8

*

Updates repeated for your convenience:

Correct email

BUTLER, Stephen butlerstephen@gmail.com

Correct room number

PATERSON, John

222–2630 Northwood Terrace

To correct or update your contact
info via this monthly newsletter, or
to request a paper directory, please
contact:

Etta

braeside@eastlink.ca

902-443-8779

A Look at Some Cultural Remnants of Historic Africville—and more

Some months ago, church member Amy Moonshadow was intrigued by a public announcement stating that on Saturday July 29th, a mural of Africville-born George Dixon (a world-class champion boxer, 1890-1901) would be unveiled at the Africville Museum (housed within the Africville Memorial Baptist Church (pictured here) at Halifax's Seaview Park (also known as the Africville Park). Ever



ready for an adventure, Amy joined the trek from Mulgrave Park, where the mural was created, to the unveiling. I say trek, because walking the route from Mulgrave Park via Barrington Street to the park is definitely an adventure.

Squeezed between houses and properties on the one side and the railroad on the other, there is no room for a sidewalk on that stretch of Barrington Street. Busy traffic, no sidewalks. Irvine Carvery, president of the Africville Genealogy Society, in an interview with CBC, said this was already a problem when the historic Africville was the home community of generations of Halifax's black population the 1960s, when the approach to the then new MacKay Bridge was built. He stated that heavy truck traffic on Barrington Street made walking or cycling to and from work a daily challenge.

Like Amy, I too was intrigued and did some research into the Africville Baptist Church rebuilt in the 90's—which I often visited in the past with friends from abroad. The park is also a great destination for a picnic. The museum's website and Twitter account are definitely worth a visit.

About a year ago Reverend Norm and I attended a function at the United Church in North Preston, where most of the Africville community was relocated. There, we found a wonderful, vibrant and tight-knit community.

Another place where Nova Scotia's African heritage is preserved is the Black Cultural Centre, close to North Preston on route 107 in Dartmouth.

A lot of our black fellow Nova Scotians were here long before us. It is time we started to learn from these historic communities in Nova Scotia that we seem to know so little about.

Wietske Gradstein

