



Universalist Unitarian
Community of Halifax

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October 2024

Universalist Unitarian
Community of Halifax
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Wed-Thurs-Fri
1 - 6 pm

Joe Britto
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Etta Hamm
Newsletter Editor

Sunday services
start at 10:30 am

All are welcome

Welcome!

Join us in exploring what it means to live our deepest values out loud. We extend a special welcome visitors and newcomers and hope you will come again.

The [Zoom](#) link stays the same from week to week and can be found at the top left of our web page at uuch.ca. If you need an ID and Password it's: ID: 666 004 431, Password: 010670

October Services

Oct 6

Like-minded Freethinkers in a Messy World

As freethinkers we don't always agree on how to do good in the world, especially when things are complicated. When do we expect agreement, loudly proclaimed, and when do we celebrate having a range of opinions? How many UUs does it take to change a light bulb?

Ben Robins with Mary Lu MacDonald

Oct 13

Giving Thanks in a Complex World

Whether it's arguing historic injustices at Thanksgiving dinner, or trying to find your heart when a loved one has let you down, we explore the challenges of giving thanks in a complex world.

Ben Robins; Service assistant TBD

Oct 20

Apocalypse Joy: Faith and Hope in the Face of the Metacrisis.

The title says it all.

Service leader: Margaret Galbraith with Rev. Charles Bull

Oct 27

Ancestor's Breath

As the nights grow longer, we might feel a special connection with those who came before. Your connection might be to family, chosen family, or to a weaver of one of your beloved traditions. We'll hear stories that connect our sense of belonging through time. **Bring photos** of loved ones for our altar, **or email** a photo to minister@uuch.ca for a slideshow. Not just photos, anything that helps you to feel the connection is welcome. **Ben Robins with James Morris and the Afterchoir**

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.

October 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>MI'KMAW HISTORY MONTH</p>		1 Treaty Day	2 12:30-3:00 Lunch Bunch 12-4 pm Seniors for Climate @ St Andrew's Rosh Hashanah 2nd to 5th	3 7-8:15 pm Poetry Dance Jam	4	5 10-11:30 am Brunch 
		6 10:30 am Sunday Service Climate Conversation	7	8 7 pm Worship Team meeting	9 12:30-3:00 Lunch Bunch 6:30 pm Board Meeting	10 7-8:15 Poetic Expression
13 10:30 am Sunday Service No-prep Book Club	14 3 pm Thanksgiving Dinner 	15	16 12:30-3:00 Lunch Bunch	17 7-8:15 Topic TBA	18	19 10 -11:30 am Brunch 
20 10:30 am Sunday Service Humanist Discussion	21	22	23 12:30-3:00 Lunch Bunch	24 7-8:15 pm Poetry Boot Camp	25	26 10 -11:30 Brunch
27 10:30 am Sunday Service Chanting	28 Newsletter Deadline	29	30 12:30-3:00 Lunch Bunch 	31 7-8:30 pm Cemetery Poetry Night 		

Interdependence. Love. Justice.



Minister's notes ...

Dear UUCH,

When I was searching for my next position as a minister, looking for a fabulous fit, I imagined a community in which events were happening every night of the week and all day every weekend. I was open and curious about what that programming might be - it would mostly grow out of the needs and interests of the congregation and the region.

In your retreat last year, and in your congregational survey as part of the minister search process, you said that you wanted to grow, you wanted more opportunities to interact, and you wanted to raise the Universalist Unitarian profile in Halifax. This year's retreat on Sept 14th went deeper into these topics, and afterwards the Board summed up the goal as "Growth through fellowship".

In last year's survey about your desired minister, you said that you didn't need the minister to be leading programming, but I have also heard that you want to take advantage of my strengths. I lived and worked at a retreat centre for 5 years, hosting groups during a time of growth and bustling programming, and I was Adult Programming Coordinator at Unicamp for a summer and the Programming Director on the Unicamp Board for 2 years. I love creating and supporting meaningful programming.

So let's do this. Let's stoke the fire of our tradition by bringing more life into the building. In October, there will be programming every Sunday after service: A climate conversation, a

no-prep book club, a humanist discussion, and music-making.

There will also be programming every Thursday night in October: I'll be leading poetry-themed events, because words well-chosen can open the heart, stir the soul, and reflect back to us what we know of being human. If these events draw interest, great, and if not, we'll consider them an experiment, one of many that we'll do as we stoke the fire of this community. My personal rule when leading programming is to lead events that are simple and go deep; minimal prep time and volunteer time, maximal fellowship and growth.

Participating is a way for us to get to know each other and for you to deepen relationships and make new connections. Have a look at the events calendar, pick your favourite event, share it with your network. and tell me that you plan to come (minister@uuch.ca). And let me know what programming you'd love to participate in or lead sometime soon.

In this time of international upheaval and threat, as well as astonishing discovery and change, let's be ambitious in bringing ourselves, our principles and our aspirations into this community, this region, and the larger world.

**Love,
Ben**

(I'd love to hear from you. minister@uuch.ca)





Climate Crisis

For the Love of Creation ...

Many of us are concerned about the changing climate and what it means for our lives and our planet. However it is often difficult to talk about, or to know what we can do about it, or indeed, what difference our actions make anyway.

For the Love of Creation is a faith-based initiative for climate justice. It invites Canadian faith communities to come together under a unified banner to mobilize education, reflection, action and advocacy for climate justice.

It has created a series of guided conversations to encourage increased dialogue and to reduce polarization in the climate conversation in our country. Hopefully this will build consensus on the actions we must take to build a sustainable future for life on earth.

I would like to start a small group at UUCH to take the first step in this process by holding the first of these faithful climate conversations, after church on October 6th. It may or may not go anywhere, but I think it would be a good first step towards us getting over the hurdle many of us feel about actually talking about climate change and what it means for us.

Margaret Galbraith

Get Ready for an Interesting Month

Rev. Ben Robins

October after Sunday Services

Sun Oct 6

Climate Conversation -- with Margaret Galbraith
For the Love of Creation

Sun Oct 13

No Prep Book Club -- with Ben Robins

Bring a book you're reading, a book you love, or pull one off of our library shelf. We'll take 5 minutes to refresh our memories and then you'll

have the option to share about your book, or just listen to others and join the discussion.

Sun Oct 20

Humanist Discussion -- with Mary Lu MacDonald and group. All are welcome. See ad another page.

Sun Oct 27

Chanting -- with Ben Robins

We'll sing chants from our hymnal and beyond.

October Thursday Evenings 7 – 8:15 pm

We're experimenting with Thursday evening events. October's theme is poetry. Invite friends and neighbours who might be interested, spread the word in your networks, and let's see where the energy goes.

Thurs Oct 3 -- Poetry Dance Jam

Bring poetry that feels alive or meaningful for you (yours or someone else's). Or that random poetry book on your shelf. We'll read fragments of poems while allowing our bodies to move how they want to move; stillness, whether sitting or lying down is fine too. All bodies and abilities welcome.

Thurs Oct 10 -- Poetic Expression

We'll read poems aloud to play with self-expression and personality. We could also read song lyrics, lines from books or movies, or anything else that opens you up.

Thurs Oct 17 -- Topic to be determined.

Thurs Oct 24 -- Poetry Boot Camp

We'll do drills to tap into our inner poet.

Thurs Oct 31 -- Cemetery Poetry Night

On Halloween, we'll read soulful poems at a local cemetery. Contact Ben for the location:

minister@uuch.ca

You could also come by the church beforehand for hot chocolate, and we'll head to the cemetery together for 7:00.



SENIORS FOR CLIMATE



JOIN SENIORS ACROSS CANADA FOR A DAY OF CLIMATE ACTION THIS FALL

Come for a day of learning, action and connection
Drop in briefly or stay all afternoon

Wednesday, October 2nd

12-4 pm

**St. Andrews United Church Hall
6036 Coburg Rd, Kjiptuk (Halifax)**

Topic: Critical impact of fossil fuels on the environment, health and future

Speakers

1. **Understanding the Ocean Climate Connection – Dr. Anya Waite**
Chief executive officer and scientific director of the Ocean Frontier Institute led by Dalhousie University.
2. **Climate Change as it Affects Nova Scotia – Gerry Lethbridge**
Chairman of Kiwanis' Climate Change Committee.
3. **Sustainable Finance and Fighting Climate Change – James Gunvaldsen Klassen**
Managing lawyer in Ecojustice's Halifax office.

For information about the exhibitors visit www.seniorsforclimate.org

LATER IS TOO LATE

**Our sponsors
Nova Scotia Federation of Union Retirees
KAIROS**

Canadian Unitarian Council Co-Lab Online Nov 1-3



Get ready for an exciting virtual (free!) adventure at the CUC Co-Lab: Experiences of Transformation, Nov 1-3.

This event brings together Unitarians, Universalists, UU congregations & communities to connect, enjoy, and engage in meaningful conversations.

Our mission is to foster authentic connections, ignite inspiration, and explore big questions about change, transformation and renewal, all in harmony with our values. Through focused chats, captivating storytelling, and innovative events, we aim to cultivate hope and renewal.

Register at

<https://cuc.ca/events/cuc-co-lab/>

The CUC, through its small but dedicated staff, provides support for UUs and congregations across the country, fostering growth and outreach, particularly in the areas of lifespan religious education, spiritual growth, and social responsibility.

Time to Talk about End-of-Life Issues



Mark your calendars! Kathy Spencer and I are leading discussions on end-of-life issues.

Whether you are just beginning to consider this stage of life, or you have done this program before, we hope you will join us. Your friends would be welcome too.

In keeping with the recent input of the congregation at our August retreat, Ben and I are thinking about scheduling this for Sunday afternoons after church.

Tentative dates are:

- Nov 10, 24
- Dec 8
- Jan 12, 26
- Feb 9

There are lots of details to work out, so this is just a heads-up for now.

Please let me know if you are interested, or if you have any questions.

Marilyn Shinyei
marilyneshinyei@gmail.com

UUCH Board of Directors June 2024 – May 2025

Officers

President	Joe Britto
Vice-president	TBC
Past President	Pam Griffin-Hody
Treasurer	Molly Hurd
Secretary	Pam Berman

Members at large

Mary-Frances Lynch
Kim Turner
Avard Woolaver



**A POTLUCK
at UUCH
Monday, October 14, 3:00 pm**

This friendly, lively potluck dinner is open to anyone who wants to celebrate the feast of Thanksgiving with a gathering of friends and good food.

It's an annual tradition!

There are sign-up sheets at UUCH which will still be available this Sunday but you can also e-mail Pam at pam_griffin-hody@carleton.ca or call 613-897-1492. We need to know what you are bringing and how many guests.

Don't cook? Butter, rolls, juice, cranberry sauce, pickles, pies, etc. are needed.

Ideas? Various people say that we always run out of mashed potatoes. Pam says she didn't get enough mashed turnip last year.

We also need volunteers to help set up (hopefully after the service on October 13) and to do clean up on the day.

Please know that all are welcome, with or without a food contribution. Just let Pam know numbers so we have enough food.

We hope to see you there!

Humanist Discussions



The Humanist Group will resume meeting on the third Sunday of the month as usual. We will meet in the worship room on **October 20**, 15 minutes after the end of the morning service.

Initially, we will settle on a topic (topics?) for the coming church year. Study a book? Consider humanist morality in an AI world? Study one topic for the year or a different subject every month? Multiple possibilities. A lively discussion may lead to a workable consensus.

All are welcome to join in and have their say. The discussions never end, but we wind these down by 1 pm.

For information
Contact Mary Lu MacDonald

Wednesday Lunch Bunch

Bring-Your-Own Bag Lunch get-togethers are planned for **Wednesdays from 12:30 to 2:00 starting October 2.**



No agenda, just 'how's your spirit today' check-ins and a conversation topic. We'll start with weekly gatherings and see how that schedule works for the group.

Contact:

pam_griffin-hody@carleton.ca
or shripen@yahoo.ca

Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for submissions for the November newsletter is

Monday, October 28

Please send your items to Etta at braeside@eastlink.ca



Hold the date!

On Saturday, December 7, we will recreate the Moncton UU Fellowship Christmas Party of 1981 – the event that lured Pam Griffin-Hody to UU.

More to come in the November newsletter but for now, hold the date!

Fellowship, Festive, Fun and Frivolity!



Practising Reciprocity Fall 2024 Program September 25 to November 15



2169 Gottingen Street
everyone.everyday@mymnfc.com

