



Universalist Unitarian  
Community of Halifax  
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Halifax NS B3H 1J8

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[info@uuch.ca](mailto:info@uuch.ca)  
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Rev. Ben Robins  
[minister@uuch.ca](mailto:minister@uuch.ca)

Andrea Dewar  
Office Administrator  
[admin@uuch.ca](mailto:admin@uuch.ca)  
902-429-5500  
Wed-Thur-Fri  
10 am - 3 pm

Pam Berman  
Kim Turner  
Co-Board Presidents

Etta Hamm  
Newsletter Editor

Sunday services  
start at 10:30 am

All are welcome



## Welcome to our June Services

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

For **Zoom**, if needed: User ID 666 004 431, password 010670.

### June 1 — Fresh Starts: Our Annual Flower Ceremony

From the flower ceremony itself (created in Nazi territory) to the Tower card in tarot, to Bob Dylan on being busy being born, we will consider the cycle of death and rebirth in cultures, in systems, in institutions, and in life itself. Bring a flower (or use one of our extras). **Ben Robins; Service Assistant: Laura Bain**

### June 8 — This is My Credo

Several participants in our Building Your Own Theology workshop series will share part of their new credos – their statements of belief on such topics as the nature of the universe, human nature, ethics, the meaning of life, and how their spiritual journey, or journey of belief weaves through it all. **Building Your Own Theology participants with Ben Robins**

### June 15 — Boyhood, Challenge and Adventure

With many boys and men being drawn to unhealthy social and political movements, on Father's Day we consider how to make more space in our communities, schools, and the larger world for healthy masculine drives that are too often constrained. **Ben Robins**

### June 22 — True Reconciliation and Human Rights

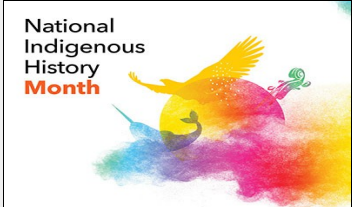


June 21st is National Indigenous People's Day as part of National Indigenous History Month. Our speaker will reflect on the significance of both from her perspective as a member of the Nova Scotia's Human Rights Commission. **Speaker: Angela Doyle-Faulkner; Service Leader: Brian Gifford**

### June 29

Our summer service series begins. Details TBD.

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.

**June 2025**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> 10:30 am Service: <b>Flower</b> <b>Communion</b> 12 noon: Building Your Own Theology			<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 10-11:30 am Brunch  <b>1:30 for 2 pm</b> <b>People's Parade</b>  5:30 pm on Zoom Farewell for LindaThomson
<b>8</b> 10:30 am Service: BYOT Participants  <b>11:45-1:00</b> Circle of Trust	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>  7 pm Worship Committee meeting	<b>11</b>  6:30 pm Board meeting	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 10-11:30 am Brunch
<b>15</b> <b>Fathers Day</b>  10:30 am Service: Boyhood, challenges ...  <b>Potluck</b> <b>Barbecue at</b> <b>the Shaws</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>  7 pm on Zoom Climate Crisis meeting	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 10 – 11:30 am Brunch    National Indigenous People's Day
<b>22</b> 10:30 am Service: Reconciliation, Human Rights  <b>11:45 Humanist</b> <b>Discussion</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> Newsletter Deadline  	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 10-11:30 am Brunch (last one until September)
<b>29</b> 10:30 am Service: Summer series begins	<b>30</b>	See inside for details on the People's Parade for Life on Earth, all programs including the barbecue potluck at the Shaws, Brian's notice of facts on and links for National Indigenous History Month -- and (again) the newsletter deadline. Busy month!				

*Love. Interdependence. Justice*  
*cuc.a*

# The People's Parade for Life on Earth is almost here!

**UUCH is registered as part of the People's Parade for Life on Earth on Saturday, June 7th (rain date June 8th). Please join us!**

In these tumultuous and difficult times, it is more important than ever to come together in community and celebration. Our joy, our love for each other and our resistance remain unstoppable!

Mi'kmaw Elders tell us that now is the time to come together across all our communities in defense of the Earth. The People's Parade is part of how we are answering this call. Following the leadership of the Mi'kma'ki Water Walkers, our celebration will be grounded in ceremony and in reciprocity with the earth and the waters.

Bring your creativity, your passion, your love and your rage. Let's join in celebration as we stand up for All Our Relations, now and for seven generations in the future.



In this photo, Molly Hurd and Glenda Butt proudly carry the UUCH banner as they lead our participants in the April 2023 People's parade. Leslie Shaw is seen just behind them. Be inspired, join us on the 7th as we show our love of the Earth!

See more photos at <https://photos.app.goo.gl/syKG7JdFFWgLBpbc6>

For more information check out <https://ecologyaction.ca/peoplesparade>

**We will gather at Sackville Landing between 1:30 and 2 pm for the opening ceremony at 2 pm**, led by the Mi'kma'ki Water Walkers and the White Bear youth drumming group from We'koqma'q. We'll then parade along the waterfront to the end of the boardwalk for a potluck community feast.

The Mi'kmaq Native Friendship Centre will be providing chili, but if you want to bring something – no pressure – someone will take it at the beginning of the parade for you. You do need to have your own plate, cup and utensils.

Come and be part of our larger community as we celebrate the Earth and honour the Waters.

Sponsors: The Ecology Action Centre, the Mi'kmaq Native Friendship Centre, and School Strike 4 Climate HFX

# June Programming

## Building Your Own Theology Sunday, June 1st, 12:00-1:30

This is an opportunity to develop your own personal credo, the fundamental beliefs, values and convictions that inform and direct your life. In this final session, we consider the meaning of life. All are welcome.



## Circle of Trust

### Sunday, June 8th, 11:45-1:00

Using Quaker practices from Parker Palmer's Center for Courage and Renewal, we will sit in a circle and make space for silence and personal reflection. This is an experiment that could spark a series in the fall.

## Potluck Barbecue at the Shaws

### Sunday, June 15th after the service

End-of-year potluck barbecue at Leslie & Allan Shaw's after the service. 1440 Birchdale Ave, Halifax. Bring something to barbecue; or a salad or dessert.



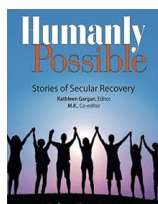
There is parking on Birchdale and on Coburg. Please leave the spots in the driveway for those who are less mobile.

Children are welcome but the property is on the water and kids must be supervised at all times by their carers. No children are permitted on the wharf, ever, unless accompanied by an adult. Help transporting an extra barbecue would be appreciated; email [minister@uuch.ca](mailto:minister@uuch.ca)

## Humanist Discussion

### Sunday, June 22nd, 11:45am

Irene Baros-Johnson will lead a discussion on Sara Bakewell's book, *Humanly Possible: 700 Years of Humanist Freethinking, Inquiry and Hope*.



# Board Buzz

Just a few notes as we head into our summer season.

Thank you to the members who are departing from our Board of Directors: Joe Britto, Mary-Frances Lynch and Avard Woolaver

Following the approval of the nomination report at the Annual General Meeting on May 25th, the current board consists of Co-Presidents, Pam Berman & Kim Turner; Past President, Pam Griffin-Hody; Treasurer, Molly Hurd; and Members at Large, Paul Galbraith and Scott Wood.

The Vice-president and Secretary positions are currently vacant.

Also approved were three members for the Committee on Shared Ministry: Joe Britto, Mary-Frances Lynch and Angela VanAmberg.

And for at least the next year, Marilyn Shinyei has agreed to be the contact person for Membership – and Mary-Frances Lynch will take any questions about RE.

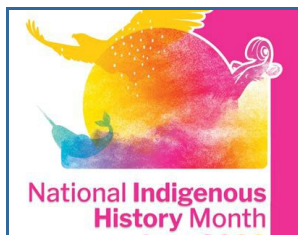
A number of the committee reports presented mentioned the need of new members. To help with that, there is what I'm calling a 'Volunteer Fair' posted on the community wall in the Ballroom Gallery. There, you will see posters describing the work of the board and a number of committees, along with sign-up spaces. I'm hoping people will think about where their time and energy would be best suited, and leave a lot of signatures for future projects and meetings!

Board meetings are currently held at 6:30 pm on the second Wednesday evening of every month. The June meeting will take place at the church on June 11th – hopefully on the back deck under a warm sun!

Cheers,

**Pam Berman**  
**Co-President**

## Reconciliation and Dismantling Racism Committee (RDR)



Angela Doyle-Faulkner will be our guest speaker on June 22nd for a service organized by the RDR Committee.

June is National Indigenous History Month, with June 21st celebrated as National Indigenous People's Day. Angela will talk about what it means to her. She is a highly respected Mi'kmaq leader and a member of the Nova Scotia Human Rights Commission.

National Indigenous People's Day is a day that recognizes and celebrates the cultures and contributions of the [First Nations](#), [Inuit](#), and [Métis Indigenous peoples of Canada](#). This date was chosen as the national holiday for many reasons, including its cultural significance as the [Summer solstice](#), and the fact that it is a day on which many Indigenous peoples and communities traditionally celebrate their heritage.

It was established after years of advocacy by Indigenous leaders and after being recommended in the final report of the Royal Commission on Aboriginal People issued in 1996. (source: Wikipedia) See the [National Indigenous History Month](#) for information about the full month.

You can watch many wonderful Indigenous shows year-round on **CBC Gem** and on **the Aboriginal People's Television Network (APTN)**. GEM is available for \$6/month + tax, or you can watch it at no cost with ads. Their Indigenous collection of stories is listed here:

<https://gem.cbc.ca/collection/indigenous-stories>

A \$5 monthly subscription + tax gives you access to more shows on APTN: <https://watchaptnlumi.ca/>



Enjoy the transition from spring into summer this month, mindful of its significance to Indigenous communities, including the Mi'kmaq people of the Maritimes.

**Brian Gifford**  
for the RDR Committee

### UUCH Board of Directors

June 2025 – May 2026

Approved at May 25-25 AGM

#### Officers

Co-Presidents	Pam Berman Kim Turner
Vice-president	Vacant
Past President	Joe Britto
Treasurer	Molly Hurd
Secretary	Vacant

#### Members at Large

Paul Galbraith  
Scott Wood

### Directory Updates

#### New members!

BAIN, Laura 902-789-7687  
laurabain@live.com

DRURY, Kaitlin 782-234-8297  
226-80 Camelot Lane  
Halifax, NS B3M 4K8  
japaneselindsay@gmail.com

RICHARDSON, Geoff 902-410-3843  
42 Halef Court  
Halifax, NS B3N 0C1  
grichards99@hotmail.com

### Deadline

for the July newsletter

#### Midnight

**Tuesday, June 24th, firm.**

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





## From the Climate Crisis Team

### Halifax is going electric!

Or at least our transportation system is. Halifax has just put 60 new **electric buses** into service, and officially opened the upgraded Ragged Lake Terminal, expanded to accommodate the new buses and the essential electrical charging systems. The buses have been arriving over the last several years, and are now well-tested for our hills and winter weather. The costs were shared with the federal and provincial governments. The new buses will save thousands and thousands of litres of diesel fuel each month, and are anticipated to reduce carbon emissions by 2,800 tonnes annually.

And then there are electric vehicles for individuals. A new company called Bird Canada has opened in Halifax, providing **e-bikes and e-scooters** for rent in our city. Bird Canada is a Canadian company with branches in over 20 cities across the country. They design their own e-bikes and e-scooters in-house to make them as sustainable as possible. Their batteries are fully tested to get the most efficient ones for their vehicles. Their waste products are recycled or repurposed -- and they analyse the data from their vehicle use to advocate for more protected bike lane infrastructure. Their goal is to lower carbon emissions by keeping cars off the road and reducing traffic congestion.

You do have to install an app on your phone to use the Birding system, so I did. Their map shows the many locations for picking up e-bikes and e-scooters, mostly on peninsula Halifax and Dartmouth within the Circumferential. With one click they tell you which vehicle is there, how many miles it is charged for and what the costs will be. Parking places are indicated all over, and they are quite particular about how and where their vehicles are to be parked. I think they include helmets with each rental but I didn't see that written anywhere.

So we have new electric ways to get around our city -- by bus or by Bird! Our future is getting cleaner all the time.

***By Margaret Galbraith and the Climate Crisis Team***

## From the Caring Committee



Our Annual General Meeting on Sunday May 25th saw a passing of the torch with longtime members **Sylvia Mattinson and Faith Piccolo** stepping off the committee. Sylvia and Faith,

your heart, care, resourcefulness and personal connections are appreciated. May you find the extra space you are looking for, and not get drawn too hastily into other pursuits (unless that is what you want).

Longtime UUCH friend **Bob Fredrickson** showed his care for the RadStorm art & music collective on Gottingen Street by donating money to allow them to buy their building. Radstorm is a non-profit community center that promotes creative and progressive cultural activities for all age groups. Some of us attended the celebration at RadStorm on May 25th; it was wonderful to hear how the space has saved and transformed lives by welcoming all sexualities, genders and abilities. **Dan MacKay**, also on the panel, was being honoured, and shared a history of the community.

**AA Agnostics:** We are gauging interest in starting an AA group for atheists/agnostics so that those who need a meeting can have one that fits their beliefs. Email [minister@uucha.ca](mailto:minister@uucha.ca) if you are interested.

**Cea Connor** seeks rides in July and August to a monthly health appointment near Windsor. She is able to contribute \$80, and helping even once would be a big help. The timing is flexible, and you might connect with the beauty of the region's nature and the charms of Windsor while Cea is at her appointment. Cea is at 902-466-9002.

**We offer a message of care** this month to those who are experiencing a loss, whether themselves or a loved one, who are not ready to share broadly about it. Much love to you.

**What we do:** The Caring Committee offers help to individuals in our UU community in circumstances where our support might be helpful. We also arrange for the receptions following celebration of life services at UUCH.

**Can you help?** Let us know if you, or someone you know in our community, could use a drive to medical or other appointments, home or hospital visits, grocery shopping, or other needs that arise. If you could occasionally meet a need, it would be a big help; perhaps phoning to check in on someone who is ill or homebound. Let us know your interest; email Ben at [minister@uuch.ca](mailto:minister@uuch.ca). We very much appreciate the help and support those in our community give to other UUCH members and friends.

**From the Caring Committee:**  
**Geoff, Shripad and Ben**

## Farewell Celebration for Rev. Linda Thompson, Saturday June 7

[Adapted for space from [cuc.ca](http://cuc.ca)]

After 23 years of dedication and hard work, our wonderful colleague and friend, Linda, is setting off on her next great adventure—retirement!



Since Linda, a happy camper, loves the great outdoors, we're sending her off in style with an event inspired by her favorite pastimes—camping and canoeing. Join us for a time of memories and celebration as we wish her well on this exciting new journey.

The event, taking place at the CUC offices in Toronto, will be on Zoom at **5:30 pm Atlantic time**. Online participants can register on the [cuc.ca](http://cuc.ca) website up to the time of the event.

Also on the site, you can type a farewell sentiment for Linda, and/or upload photos of Linda inspiring or enjoying your congregation. These will mean a lot to Linda.

Let's gather to share stories, express our appreciation, and give Linda a warm send-off as she embarks on this new chapter.

\*

*Note to our new UUCH members and friends:*  
*Linda was Congregational Life Lead for Central & Eastern Canada. We've enjoyed and benefited from her inspirational visits to UUCH over her 23 years with the CUC.*

# Frank Shinyei's UUobituary

## *Marilyn Shinyei*

Frank didn't want an obituary and there won't be one on-line or in a newspaper, but I want to share with my church community.

Franklin Tadao Shinyei was born in Winnipeg, MB, on May 3, 1945. We met 57 years ago in May of 1968 and were married on Aug 16, 1969. He also completed his master's degree in electrical engineering that year.

Besides me, he leaves behind our children; Tak (Jocelyn) in BC; Julie (Damon) in New Zealand, and Marlo in NS; and our four grandchildren: Valin and Gracyn in BC; and Maeve and Arden in NS.

Three years after we were married, we went to Bogotá, Colombia with CUSO. While there we adopted our first two children. Tak came to us as a toddler and 15 months later we adopted Julie at five days of age.



**Christmas in Bogota**

We returned to Canada to a job for Frank with Montreal Engineering in Calgary. Two years later he accepted a job in Edmonton and for the remainder of his working life he worked for either Edmonton Power in Research & Development or for the Public Utilities Board of Alberta. Our third child was born to us in Edmonton.

We joined the Unitarian Church of Edmonton in the early 1980s. Our kids were raised in the church. When we moved here in 2008, he didn't join but he came to all the social events until his health declined. We hosted and attended many Dining for Dollar events, attended Coffee Houses, Dinner Theatre, etc so this community was his community as well as mine.

Frank retired in 1995 at 50 which was way too early and not a good plan for an introvert. However, he had always been the bread winner and supported me in being the stay-at-home parent as well as in my poorly paid endeavours such as being a home-birth midwife and later starting an adoption agency, both of which were illegal at the time. It was definitely my turn to be the bread winner.

We remained in Alberta until 2008 when the prospect of grandbabies drew us to Nova Scotia. Again he supported me in that move and as a team we cared for both girls for their 2nd year of life.

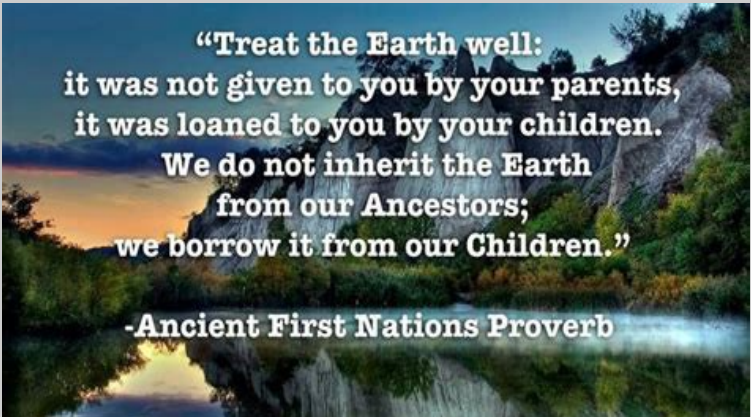
After Frank retired, he really developed his artistic side, even trying to get a political cartoon series of his syndicated. He was a talented caricaturist. He played with art off and on for the rest of his life.



**Our 40th anniversary in 2009 with all three kids**

Some of you are aware of the final chapter but many are not. I want to be open about that as behooves someone who has been urging the rest of you to talk about end-of-life issues. Frank was becoming increasingly frail over the last couple of years and his ability to walk was really going downhill. Although he never had a diagnosis (which is what happens if you refuse to ever see a doctor!), he had had enough and announced that he was going to end his life by VSED – Voluntary Stopping of Eating & Drinking. When he made that announcement, Marlo and I agreed that if anyone could pull that off it would be Frank! He stopped eating on April 25th but kept drinking until our other two children could get here for his 80th birthday (May 3rd) after which he stopped drinking as well and died on May 10th. I understood that the last few days of the process could be very difficult, but they were not, and I was grateful to be able to honour his wishes to die at home.





**"Treat the Earth well:  
it was not given to you by your parents,  
it was loaned to you by your children.  
We do not inherit the Earth  
from our Ancestors;  
we borrow it from our Children."**

**-Ancient First Nations Proverb**