



The Victoria Unitarian

Services in February

Worship Service and Children's Religious Education at 10:30am. Child-minding available 10am - noon.

February 3 Unitarian Universalism: Then and Now
Reverend Shana Lynngood



This Sunday we welcome guests from the Victoria multi-faith society and will take this opportunity to re-examine our faith tradition. Are there a few formative historic stories we should regularly remind ourselves of? What does our faith have to offer in the 21st century? What is the link between our past and present?

February 10 Beyond Fear, Beyond Color-Blindness:
A UU Theological Grounding for Anti-Racism
Reverend Melora Lynngood



In some religious traditions, racism is named as a 'sin' and God can be called upon to help people fight the manifestation of racism in human hearts and human systems. Many Unitarian Universalists don't believe in traditional notions of sin or God. What is our Unitarian Universalist theological grounding for anti-racism? Do we have reasons for fighting racism that are deeper than, "because it seems like the right thing to do?" Does our theology give us any tools to help us ward off the prejudices we pick up from society that, despite our best intentions, sometimes make it into our own hearts? Can our theology help us move beyond fear of the other, and also beyond the facile claim of 'color-blindness'?

February 17 Sharing Our Faith
Group Presentation

This service focuses on our Unitarian Universalist connections across the country. Together we are more than we could ever be alone. Just as we come together as individuals to make this congregation, so our UU congregations come together to form an association—the Canadian Unitarian Council—because together we can help to create a world of love, justice, understanding and hope.

A special collection will be taken to assist congregations across the country to enhance growth initiatives. Presented by Kristina Stevens, John Hopewell and Christine Johnston and friends.

February 24 Living our Mission: Spiritual Growth through Supporting One Another ☪
Reverend Melora Lynngood

In this sermon we look at the intersection of spiritual growth (the part of our mission on which we are focusing this year) and another part of our mission—supporting one another. How might we care for one another in our congregation as a spiritual practice? How might caring for one another nurture our own spiritual growth?

We will welcome new members.

Inside this issue...

SEL Ections on Learning.....	2
From Your Minister.....	3
Hot Off the Prez.....	4
SRC Action of the Month.....	5
Green Corner.....	5
CUC Corner.....	6
Around the Neighbourhood.....	12
The Grapevine.....	13

Events Calendar.....	16
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Special Feature

Joop Schuyff: A Unitarian Activist.....	page 8
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The deadline for submissions to the
March issue of the newsletter is **February 12.**

SELECTIONS ON LEARNING

FAYE MOGENSEN

It should be no surprise that an educator would love Merlyn's advice (*found in The Once and Future King by T.H. White*): "The best thing for being sad... is to learn something. That is the only thing that never fails." And, while it's impossible to predict what anyone will take away from any experience, it is helpful for me to consider what the children and youth might learn at the church this month.

Senior Youth, with the help of other youth will be learning about putting on a successful, inclusive event – from planning and rehearsing some great entertainment to sorting out the number of goodies needed to serve a crowd (and far more). We hope you'll come to experience and perhaps learn from their talent at the Youth Coffee House on February 22 at 6:30.

Coming of Age Youth will have an opportunity to find out about some of the variations on the dominant religion of our culture, which flourish in our neighbouring Christian churches. We aim also to introduce them to cults, deepen their understanding of the fundamental human longing for community, and give them tools for critically examining opportunities that may come their way.

Junior Youth is set to wrestle with several profound questions: why do bad things happen? Is life fair? How can reflecting on our values help us wrestle with ethical dilemmas?

Intermediate Group will consider the significance of dragons in the Chinese New Year celebrations. They'll go on to explore Buddhism and some of its practices.

Primary Group will explore the difference between needs and wants and think about what it takes to create change in the world. They'll link with USC's Seeds of Survival program to enjoy the experience of making a difference.

Of course, the most profound learning might be in getting to know a new person. It might happen when a child chats with someone new in class or at coffee hour, or when participating as a **"Mystery**

Buddy." Perhaps you are signed up for this kind of learning too!

Not all topics will satisfy all the children all the time. But that's also what Merlyn was talking about: "when things don't go our way, what can we learn?" Perhaps it's an opportunity to ask, "What is life teaching me by this frustration, and how can I best respond?" On the flip side, we endeavour to create openness for children and youth to express their interests and concerns, so that the SEL-CY team can learn how to serve them best. Please remind your child to share their perspectives, and we'll do our best to take it into consideration as we plan.

We Care!

Care and Concern Committee for hospital and home visits, or just to talk...

Contacts: Daphne Dunbar at 250-381-7648 • Val Roberts at 250-477-7192

What's With All The Spirit Stuff?

Many of you have heard me say that I grew up Unitarian Universalist. Because I celebrate a birthday this month that heralds my clear arrival in mid-life, I have had the opportunity to see some significant theological shifts over several decades as part of our faith tradition.

The church of my childhood was full of academics and intellectuals. The quality they most wanted in a sermon and service was intellectual rigor. Services were thought-provoking and the sense of community was strong. Over time I felt a need (and heard others express a similar desire) for an additional spiritual component. I can't speak to what motivated that desire in others, but I know that for me it had to do with difficult life experiences that had me questioning and seeking greater meaning. Over time our church became more spirited and spiritual in its worship.

This transformation and movement toward inclusion of the spiritual along with the intellectual has continued. I know this shift hasn't always felt comfortable or welcome for the humanists and the atheists in our midst. I believe, however, that it can be a boon to us all. Whatever your approach to finding meaning in life--human relationship and potential, prayer that invokes a Source of Life, or long walks that help you feel a connection to the natural world--our congregation can serve as a home base. Whatever your theological orientation, together we seek the same thing. We all want to live in a way that is compassionate and loving; that leaves both the lives we touch and the planet we share better for our presence. We want to leave a legacy we can be proud of.

May we each find in this community the support and challenge that we need to grow in spirit. Whatever name we use for the mysteries of existence, may we find companions on the journey in this place.



CONSIDERING MEMBERSHIP?**BERT MACBAIN**

Are You Thinking about Becoming a Member of Our Church?

Come to a "Considering Membership" gathering, an evening designed to give you the information you need in order to determine whether you would like to officially become a Member of the First Unitarian Church of Victoria. We'll talk about what it means to be a member, the responsibilities and benefits of membership, how to make meaningful connections within our church community, and we will answer your questions. At the end, you can decide whether you would like to join now, not yet, or not at all. Whatever your decision, the evening promises to be informative and enjoyable, as we will be talking about things that matter in a small group setting with warm and interesting people. Child minding can be provided upon request.



Date: Tuesday, February 5, 7:00pm-9:00pm

Location: #117 – 2345 Cedar Hill Cross Road. Please call Lorna at 250-592-4831 for directions.

To sign up or if you have questions, please contact Reverend Melora at rev.melora@victoriaunitarian.ca or 250-744-2601, voice mailbox #1 or Cell 250-891-6330. We are so glad you have found us and we are looking forward to getting to know you.

Note: This may be 'step 3' for some of you on the 'pathway to membership.' Step 1 is attending an orientation. Step 2 was the two UU 101 sessions some of you attended. However, if you feel you are ready to 'consider membership' now, you are welcome to attend this gathering even if you didn't make it to the other steps. The next orientation will be announced soon.

Thanks to everyone, we've wrapped up another successful financial year. And a special thank-you to Treasurer Bob Dobbs, who has kept his adding machine well-oiled and his green eyeshade polished throughout 2012.

Bob's preliminary figures show that our income for 2012 is up by approximately \$7,000 over the estimated \$390,174 and our expenditures are about \$11,000 below what we expected. So it looks like we'll have a surplus of more than \$18,000 for 2012.

But a word of caution. We saved money by not immediately replacing administrative assistant Rowena Locklin when she left us in the late fall for a University of Victoria job and we also saved some when the ministers took partial salary while on three months of family leave for the birth of Demetrius.

Things are holding steady as we head into 2013. The number of pledges as of last month is about the same, but the total has increased over 2012, up to \$278,453 from \$268,153. Fifty percent of us increased our pledges for 2013, while 33 percent stayed the same as last year. Our property fund, to be used for major maintenance and replacement of our buildings, is also doing well -- \$22,000 donated in 2012 and hopefully a similar amount each year for the next four years.

And every year we contribute more than \$10,000 to Healing Our World projects plus about another \$7,000 to the wider community through our share-the-plate donations.

We can never rest on our laurels, though. Inflation constantly chips away at our gains; unexpected expenses can set us back.

One of the major costs this year will be work on the time-ravaged Boardroom -- or "Garden Room" as some of us like to call it. We voted at the January 20 congregational meeting to fix it -- put in new ceiling support beams, repair water damage and replace worn out items such as the carpet. We're relying on the Endowment Fund and an anonymous donation of \$15,000 to cover the costs.

Reverend Dan Hotchkiss, who was a Unitarian-Universalist minister and is now a consultant with the U.S.-based Alban Institute, has a quick guide on church finances. For example, he says related costs for buildings should not be more than 30 percent of total operating income.

This year we expect to spend about 13 percent of our annual operating budget on regular operations of our buildings, or around \$52,000 total. About \$38,000 of that goes to fixed costs for hydro, insurance and mortgage fees. That leaves \$13,000 this year for normal maintenance, or a bit more than three percent of our annual operating budget. Is that enough?

About 68 percent of the 2013 operating budget covers our payroll, on the high side of Reverend Hotchkiss's suggestion. "If this goes above 60 percent, there is a risk that programs may feel squeezed," he says. Are we short-changing our programs?

These types of questions, and many others, are being explored by John Hopewell and Jane Wilson. They're researching our past financial performance and in a few months they will provide the board with an outlook for our financial future.

COVENANT OF GOOD RELATIONS *Question*

You are concerned when a friend tells you, 'I didn't go to the Congregational Meeting in January, I didn't want to listen to so many people giving their opinions about spending money on the Board Room' How could you respond?

See page 15 for answer.

WE NEED A UUA DELEGATE! General Assembly 2013 of the UUA June 19-23, Louisville, KY

Our congregation has remained a member of the American UUA and so we have one vote. If anyone is interested in attending and being that delegate, please speak to christine_johnston@telus.net

For February the Social Responsibility Committee has chosen First Nations Rights and legal support as the topic for action. The hunger strike of Chief Theresa Spence, and the growing “Idle No More” movement makes this very timely.

In 1996 the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples (RCAP) issued its final report. The five-volume, 4,000-page report covered a vast range of issues; its 440 recommendations called for sweeping changes to the relationship between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people and governments in Canada. In response, Aboriginal communities and organizations pressed for action on the recommendations. The Government did not act for eight years.

Finally in 2005 after 18 months of round table consultations the Federal Government announced The Kelowna Accord” at a First Ministers Conference. They would fund and implement it over 10 years. Next the minority government fell and the following federal administration rejected the ‘Accord’.

Aboriginal leaders saw this as another example of broken promises. Now they are concerned that their inherent rights to consultation are at risk.

The Social Responsibility Committee has chosen to contribute to the legal costs of Frog Lake First Nations court case ‘that omnibus Bills C-38 and C-45 with regard to the environment and fisheries is contrary to their ‘inherent rights’ that require consultation with First Nations.’ They were ignored again.

Mikisew Chief Steve Courtoreille told a news conference, “This is going to affect our future, affect the future of all of Canada.”

GREEN CORNER

EDWIN E. DANIEL

Raven Coal Mine

British Columbia’s coal industry is a leader in pollution and contribution to global warming. Already, five mines and four mine expansions are underway. Plans have been made for two additional mines, as well as for construction of a special coal export facility in Vancouver Harbor.

The Raven underground mine in the Comox Valley is one of the planned new mines. It would last only thirteen years but would potentially diminish local water quality and quantity, allow acid, heavy metals and other toxins in streams which reach the ocean nearby. These toxins could decimate the Baynes shellfish beds, a major industry. The mined coal would be transported in huge trucks three times/hour to Port Alberni for shipment to Asia. In Asia it would be burned to further increase global warming. Over eighty-five percent of the coal is soft coking coal, ideal for thermal power generation and pollution. This is not what Vancouver Island wants.

Most people and local and environmental groups on Vancouver Island, including First Nations, oppose the mine. It, along with other coal mining and transport plans, would be non-sustainable, a source of local pollution and ecosystem damage, and a significant contributor to global warming. Adding to pollution and global warming should not be the way that British Columbia goes. Public comment periods will be part of a final environmental review process, so stay tuned. For more information: <http://wildernesscommittee.org>.



Do you have a friend in need ... of a ceremony?

A wedding, child dedication or memorial?

Tell them about FUCV's

Lay Chaplains

It's what we do!

Email: laychaplains@victoriaunitarian.ca

Board Members on Duty for February



February 3	Lynn Hunter
February 10	Forrest Smith
February 17	Thane Waldie
February 24	Jennifer Young

**Forum: Have your say on Unitarian Democracy
Sunday, February 10, Noon – 1:00pm, in the Sanctuary**

The forum will explain and discuss proposals for changes to the way we in the Canadian Unitarian Council make decisions. These proposals will be voted on by congregational delegates (including ours) at the CUC Annual General Meeting on May 17 in Calgary.

This forum is our opportunity to review and solidify our position on these proposals. It is also our sole opportunity, if we see fit, to craft suggestions, changes or revisions and submit them for consideration. So mark your calendars and plan to attend this important congregational forum. It is especially important if you plan to be a delegate in Calgary or if you have concerns about the functioning of the CUC.

You can access the proposals contained in the report of the Active Democracy Study Group, Strengthening Our Democratic Voices, at <http://cuc.ca/active-democracy-study-group/> For a paper copy or further information, contact John Hopewell.

Information on other resolutions being proposed at the ACM is now online at <http://cuc.ca/governance/resolutions-process/> including:

New bylaws, to conform to the new Canada Not-for-Profit Corporations Act;

Establishing a CUC "national voice" through a triumvirate of CUC President, UUMOC President and CUC Executive Director;

Opposition to the Enbridge pipeline;

Opposition to the newly passed Federal Immigration Act; and

Support for advocacy of climate change mitigation.

These resolutions will not be discussed at this forum but there could be options for future discussion if there is sufficient interest.

Go Hungry for Justice

In support of Chief Spence, for the sake of fairness to First peoples, and in solidarity with KAIROS, the Canadian Unitarian Council invites Unitarians and Universalists across Canada to fast on Friday, January 11 – or, if that presents health challenges, to give up one meal to show willingness to sacrifice.

"Fasting is a spiritual practice that reaches across a number of faiths," said Reverend Debra Faulk, acting President of the Unitarian Universalist Ministers of Canada. "As Unitarians who respect diversity, and who honour the inherent worth and dignity of every person, we would like to stand alongside the First Nations and Aboriginal communities, and show our support through fasting."

While the Canadian Unitarian Council applauds Stephen Harper's decision to meet with First Nations leaders on January 11, we would applaud louder if it had happened from goodwill and intention rather than in response to protest. "This is an opportunity for dialogue and re-building," said CUC Board President Gary Groot. "The Harper government needs to make a significant step forward to show our first peoples their sincerity in honouring the treaties and the Canadian government's apology offered in 2008."

In 2010, Stephen Harper's government did Canadians proud by finally endorsing the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, representing a commitment from the Harper government to work together with indigenous leaders on mutual problems. In 2008, the Prime Minister apologized for Canada's residential school policy, saying "The Government of Canada sincerely apologizes and asks the forgiveness of the Aboriginal peoples of this country for failing them so profoundly." Yet we suggest that the Prime Minister is at risk of failing Native people again, by not engaging in the mandated consultative process prior to introduction of legislation that impacts First Nations rights, and then initially refusing to meet with their leaders to discuss impending legislation. Peaceful demonstrations across Canada and around the globe show that many people feel the same.

First Nations, and their allies in the environmental and faith movements, are hungry for justice." The CUC invites congregants to go hungry for a day or part of a day, to show their support for genuine dialogue," challenges Vyda Ng, Executive Director of the CUC.

UNITARIANS SPEAK AGAINST ENBRIDGE PHILIP SYMONS

Global climate change results from burning of carbon-based fuels. Oil tankers have polluted many kilometres of Canada's Atlantic and Pacific coasts. So why is our federal government determined to add to damage already done by promoting the building of a pipeline from the Alberta tar sands to Kitimat.

Because it's good for the economy and jobs, we're told. But the long-term job production and economic activity will be caring for millions of refugees from flooded cities, cleaning up oil spills, and replacing drowned cities and farmland. That money and work could be much more productively used developing renewable energy resources, eliminating poverty, improving health care, and more.

Thirteen members of our congregation have spoken out publicly at the Enbridge public hearings against developing the pipeline. Many of these speakers are not Social Responsibility Committee (SRC) members. Their speaking out is doubly appreciated by the SRC. Congregation members who spoke at the hearings were (asterisk denotes a SRC member): Ruth Miller* on Jan 4; Louise Cole* on Jan 5; Judy* and Bill Gaylord on Jan 7; Sarah Versteegen, Don Vipond* and Forrest Smith on Jan 9; Don Armstrong, Cecil Bannister, Sonya Ignatieff* and Pat McMahon on Jan 10; Hanny Pannekoek and Hugo Suttmoller on Jan 11. (Submission transcripts will soon be available on-line. Please check the e-weekly for details.)

At their monthly meeting in January the SRC wished to acknowledge these speakers. At the same time, they recognized some congregation members may have a different view. This caused one SRC member to ask whether Unitarians could be excommunicated, but the SRC chairman responded that dissenting members could only be burned at the Chalice Flame. Seriously, though, Unitarians celebrate diversity, and if anyone has a different view and would like to express it, please speak with Louise Cole or Nikki Wright, co-chairs of the Environmental Action Team or Philip Symons, SRC chairperson.

WEST COAST TOUR

CHRISTINE JOHNSTON

Visit and Learn About Several IARF Memberships in California, Oregon and Washington!

IARF, the International Association for Religious Freedom, the oldest international inter-religious organization, has been engaging in inter-faith dialogue and social justice projects from its beginning in 1900. Founded by Unitarians, we now have seventy-five member groups of different faiths from around the world.

When: September 21-28, 2013. Vancouver, BC to San Francisco, CA. We will gather in Vancouver on Saturday, September 21 and depart for Granite Falls after the church service in a fifteen-passenger van. We will arrive in San Francisco on Saturday, September 28.

Groups and Locales:

- Vancouver, BC.
- Granite Falls, WA: Tsubaki Grand Shrine, a branch of the ancient Shinto shrine in Japan.
- Portland, OR: Unitarian-Universalist Church.
- Ashland, OR: Oregon Shakespeare Festival.
- Pacifica, CA: Rissho Kosei Kei, a large lay Buddhist organization based in Japan.
- San Francisco, CA: Unitarian-Universalist Church.
- Fo Guang Shan: Taiwanese Buddhist Group.
- Possible sightseeing on the way: Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Crater Lake National Park, Mount St. Helens, Oregon Coast.

Let us know of your interest, because space is very limited:

betdarr@gmail.com or jgilbert@frontier.net

JOOP SCHUYFF: A UNITARIAN ACTIVIST ALASTAIR MONT

In the 90's Joop and I became buddies and I recall countless hours in his Admiral's Gate residence, sharing stories of our lives especially involvement with our women.

Joop loved recalling memories of growing up in the Netherlands with his three brothers—all very successful in their careers—remaining in Holland. But Joop had a restless manner and so with his first wife Ilsa and his children, Peter and Quirine, came to Canada to find a place where he could explore his ideas within a more diverse society.

He found his brand of individualism welcomed by some in his new country and enjoyed a teaching role in economics at the University of Lethbridge. He quickly utilized his in-depth research along with his charismatic personality in confronting institutions and conservative beliefs in social justice and economics.

Landing in Victoria, Joop initially was an economist with the provincial government, but he soon found that his involvement with local Unitarians became a vital community in which he would thrive. At one point we co-chaired a large and impacting social justice committee of our Victoria congregation. Joop had found his base of operation in which he wouldn't hesitate confronting other academics and government and business leaders re the values being conducted in our society.

With his love of the ladies and recently being divorced, Joop's next wife was Dorothy, who always supported him even when that relationship dissolved. Within social justice circles Joop met up with Hanny Pannekoek who is a well-known champion of the disadvantaged. It was inevitable that a partnership evolved which lasted over ten years into 1997. This was truly a remarkable dynamic relationship that witnessed their combined energies into challenging the status quo in Victoria and beyond.

Joop also utilized his economic strengths when he was a vice-president of our congregation and basically got members thinking beyond our church walls into becoming meaningful participants in social justice organizations like the Council Of Canadians. His main thrust I sense, was towards the end of the twentieth century when he became Chair of our Committee on Globalization. This attracted more talent like Philip Symons and Mel Johnston and a document entitled 'CUC Policy on Globalization' was produced. It was dramatic in style and substance, bringing forth issues involving Canada and beyond our borders. Basically it spelled out the inherent dangers of globalization that created serious problems for countries and individuals around the globe.

It was the year 2000 at our CUC AGM in Calgary that The Globalization Report was presented to the delegates from across the country. Much to our amazement, and for the first time in our CUC history, the delegates, having read the Report, came to the floor and when the question was asked, they rose as one body, completely accepting and passing without debate our findings. Then it was also passed unanimously that Joop Schuyff be acknowledged for his leadership. A standing ovation greeted the overwhelmed Joop. It was truly a moment that he always cherished.

But what happened next was typical of Joop and his love of the ladies. We shared a room on University of Calgary campus but he had disappeared. Eventually I found him already at the banquet dressed in his tuxedo. By his side was his newest lady, Julia Varga, from Ottawa.

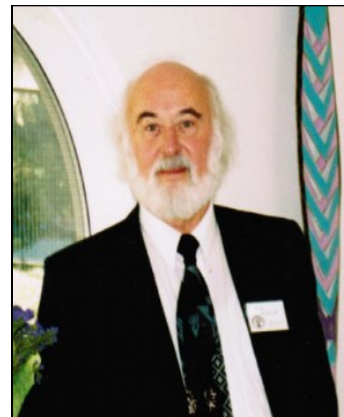
Love followed and I recall being best man at their wedding later in a packed Ottawa Unitarian Church where Julia was the president. During their relationship Joop shared the fact that Julia challenged him by saying "Joop, either you propose marriage or just forget I exist." He had met his match!

Later at a PNWD AGM in Vancouver, Joop continued his concerns about Globalization. Adding Keith Jobson to our group, Joop led the charge by confronting the Americans in attendance, adding to their awareness and uneasiness about corporations determining the social and economic trends of our societies.

His body was gradually wearing out and so in 2008, Joop moved to a care facility in downtown Vancouver to secure treatment for his multiple medical issues. Ilsa and Quirine live nearby and his daughters supported him to the end which arrived on Nov 28, 2012.

My memory of Joop is that whatever he was involved with was never dull.

alamont@islandnet.com



JOOP SCHUYFF MEMORIAL

Location: First Unitarian Church of Victoria.

Date: February 23, 2013. **Time:** 1:00pm.

Minister:

Reverend Debra Faulk, Unitarian Church of Calgary.
(In recognition of her meaningful history with Joop over the years, our ministers have agreed that Rev. Faulk should be invited to lead the service).

Reception:

Please contact Marya Nijland (250-592-6484) re bringing food, setting up the reception, making donations to our church in memory of Joop.

Family:

Quirine Schuyff, daughter; Peter Schuyff, son;
Bram Schuijff, brother

In Meaningful Memory, Alastair Mont

ARTIST OF THE MONTH

Faye Mogensen

Faye Mogensen's art includes a potpourri of styles and influences. During her year as "artist in residence" at Kirsten Kjær's Museum in Denmark, she used watercolour and silk paint to play with images of people, landscapes and Norse Mythology.

On Haida Gwaii, the wild landscape and her weekly "Craft and Yack" group inspired her to use papier-mâché and felting techniques to create some surprising pieces. More recently in Victoria, she's been painting tiles with narrative images from near and far. She hopes you'll enjoy the colours and variety!

Everyone is invited to drop by between 2:30-5:00pm on Saturday, February 9, to join Faye for goodies and conversation about her work.

CIRCLE DINNERS

ELAINE HANSON

Circle dinners are a great way to get to know each other in an informal setting.

Do you have to be a member to participate? No, some of us are, some of us aren't. Friends and guests are most welcome.

Do you have to be a gourmet cook? No, some of us are, some of us aren't. Be a host and plan the menu, each guest contributes to the meal.

Do you have to be a wine connoisseur? No, some of us are, some of us aren't. Some of us drink alcohol and some of us don't, we usually have wine, we always have cold drinks, coffee and tea.

Do you have to be a brilliant conversationalist? No, some of are, some of us aren't. Someone will always keep the conversation flowing.

Do you have to have a spacious home, fine china, solid silver and glasses that match? No, some of us do, some of us don't. Plastic plates and jelly glasses are just fine!

Do you have to help create an atmosphere where people can learn more about each other? Yes, the whole idea of circle dinners is to get to know people better. Everyone has a story and we want to hear yours.

If you would like to join us, call or email me, our dinners are held in small groups in each other's homes once per month.

There are those who don't like to drive at night, especially in the winter months; it is the host's prerogative to have a luncheon instead of a dinner. If there are guests who cannot attend on a Friday, why not change it to a Saturday?

It has also been suggested to me that for those who would like to host but don't have room, perhaps they could all go out for Chinese Food.

Or how about a beer and pizza night!! The possibilities are endless, the whole idea is to include and enjoy!

Elaine Hanson 1-250-743-9644, or elainehanson@shaw.ca



WHAT IS HOW (HEALING OUR WORLD)? LISA GREENLY

HOW is a way our congregation is putting its principles into action by proposing and funding projects that help heal our world.

HOW PROJECTS

- 2006 - Rebuilt a school in Sierra Leone, \$21,500.
- 2007.-.Provided a single-parent, working poor, local family with a subsidy of \$300 a month for a year. The congregation liked that project enough to provide that subsidy for three single parent-working-poor families. \$10,800.
- 2008 - 1. Guaranteed ten orphaned children ten years of education as well as health care for the host families in Ghana. \$8,000.
2. Provided the funds to build one hundred communal toilets in Kenya that would reduce the amount of disease carried by flies. \$7,000.
- 2009 - 1. Helped fund one hundred and forty micro-loans to women entrepreneurs in the developing world through Kiva.org. We committed to reloan the money for five years. \$3,200.
2. Supported a local family living in poverty by paying their rent for one year. \$6,000.
- 2010 - 1. Feeding one hundred orphans, in South Africa, for one year whose parents have died from AIDS. \$12,000.
2. Helped subsidize young teens attending 'The Power of Hope' summer camp here in BC. \$10,000.
- 2011 - 1. Paying the school fees for Burmese children living in refugee camps in Thailand. \$3,567.
2. Fixed a roof for a library at a school in Sierra Leone \$2,000.
3. Riverbank restoration for farmers in Nepal \$5,000.
4. Feeding injured animals at Victoria's Wild ARC \$3,160.
- 2012 - 1. Feeding thirty kids at Brown's Town Primary in Jamaica every school day for a year \$3,400.
2. Supply Reverend Al Tysick with the goods he needs to care for members of the street community afflicted with addictions or mental illness. \$5,000.
3. Cover the cost of the host Drum and Emcee for the Yellow Wolf Powwow. \$2,400.
- 2013 - ??? Yet to be decided. Application deadline is February 3. For more information go to: <http://www.victoriaunitarian.ca/programs/src/how.php> or call Lisa Greenly.



Everyone is welcome!!

FIESTA NIGHT

Friday, February 8 at 6pm

Please join us!!

Fiesta Night is a multi-generational event and an opportunity to meet new people or catch up with friends over a casual, fun, delicious meal. We will be serving tacos with all the fixings, chili and much more!
Vegetarian options available.

Dinner is by donation. Please bring a dessert to share.

To help with clean-up please bring your own plate and dessert bowl. A rinsing station will be provided.





SERVICES AUCTION

Friday, April 19, 6:00pm-9:00pm

"Will you, won't you, will you, won't you,
will you join the dance?"

From Alice In Wonderland

We're gearing up for another fun, intergenerational evening, and we need your help. You provide the wonderful services and items for the silent auction that help us raise money to support our wonderful church community. Here are some ideas to get you inspired:

- Has your service become a tradition, and you still like offering it? Offer it again.
- Are you famous for a recipe or skill or special interest?
- Could you offer a meal with a theme? Ethnic menu, mystery night, costume event?
- Breakfast, brunch, lunch, appies, tea, picnic, dinner?
- Could you feed the cat, walk the dog and/or water the plants? Babysit? Gardening or home repairs? Bridge party? Fishing? Games night? Airport rides? Bake a cake or pie or cookies? Lead a hike?
- Knit, crochet, quilt, mend, sew doll clothes? Haul trash? Build a birdhouse? Fresh veggies or fruit from your trees? Offer a professional service?
- A boat ride or stay in your cabin? Paint, carve, write a poem, create jewellery?

Here are some ideas offered at the auction at another Unitarian church:

- Better Than Chocolate: Lunch with wine for women only
- Continental breakfast on Canada Day • Slide show and discussion • Carving workshop
- Charades • Yoga • Team Scrabble; players work together to create words with 100 tiles
- Mask Hysteria for Mardi Gras • Poker night
- Men-U Dinner. Women guests only, with the food cooked and served by men.
- Offer an event at the church or outdoors with a set price and unlimited guests. Do it with friends or a group. A dance? Party? Coffee House? Slide show? Games?
- Offer something no one else would think of. Or something only you can do.

Please contact Jen Young at hellojenyoung@gmail.com or 250-370-5106 to offer your service or ask questions. Services offered by February 12 will be printed in the March newsletter, so please contact her soon. Also, please hold on to your silent auction items for now, as we have nowhere to store them.

yU*Uth Coffee House

Friday, February 22
6:30-9:30pm



Terrible jokes

Beautiful music

Great acting

Delicious snacks and drinks

All proceeds will be shared between the Youth Fund and Social Action projects.

Please come and support this initiative of yU*Uth Group.

Cadboro Bay: On December 14, Chris Cook and Shirley Travis set up a very long dining table in their living room and were able to seat eighteen people for an elegant turkey dinner, with all the trimmings provided potluck by the guests. Entertainment included a slide show by Richard Parfett, a Christmas quiz by John Tibbles, and then some of the guests gathered around the piano and sang Christmas carols.

Esquimalt: Fran Pardee writes, "The Esquimalt NG met at Fran Pardee's home on December 16 for hot spiced cranberry punch and a cookie exchange. About twelve folks gathered to enjoy each other's company and sweet treats. The next meeting is February 1 at Betty Sherwood's home. The group is delighted to welcome Marion Pape to the neighborhood. She has moved to Victoria from Saltspring, where she has been an active member of the UU fellowship and a Lay Chaplain."

Far Out: We have this group to thank for providing the after-service treats in January.

Grand Central: This group was invited to Paula Steele's home for a potluck at 5:00 on January 19, for their first gathering in 2013. The family-friendly event provides toys to entertain the children and scrabble for the adults. Paula designed and sent a very beautiful invitation for this event that included a rainbow-coloured chalice and a graphic of railroad tracks to illustrate their NG name.

James Bay: Despite illness and schedule conflicts, a small group was able to gather for a potluck lunch at Myra Rippon's on Monday, January 14. James Bay will be organizing the after-service baking for February.

Nearby: This group worked with Royal Oak West to provide eleven kinds of soup, buns, baking, and volunteer support for the Souper lunch on Sunday, January 13. They are also helping with preparations for Kimberly and Michael's wedding in March.

Oak Bay: Karla Thomson writes, "The Oak Bay group is meeting on January 26 at Lance and Jennifer Young's home. The theme is a "Hibernation Party". Although this party is at dinner time we will be bringing breakfast foods, wearing very comfy clothes, PJ's, sweats, old sweaters, slippers etc. We will be sharing thoughts on winter and the return of the light." Wouldn't you love to don your jammies and slippers and join them?!

Royal Oak East: Although this group won't be meeting until February, their Care and Concern contact checked in with everyone at the beginning of the year. Hanny Pannekoek writes, "The next potluck gathering for Royal Oak East will be on Tuesday February 26. Our Care and Concern contact, Elaine Dakin, has made a caring 'Happy New Year' round of calls to our neighbourhood group members and reported that all of us are reasonably well or better. Some have recovered or are making the best of it, some have recurring health issues, but at the moment everyone seems to manage okay. Our next gathering will be smaller in numbers because several of us have gone or are going to be away on their travels, hoping to find drier and warmer weather."

Royal Oak West: Fran Hancock writes, "Royal Oak West and Nearby hosted the Souper Sunday on January 13, serving Faye Mogensen, the RE teachers and their children first so that they could have a relaxing meeting together in the Fireside Room. Altogether, lunch was served to 126 people, and \$733 was donated to the church.

During the lunch, audio-visual equipment was set up at the front of the sanctuary so that members could participate in a forum on the Boardroom immediately following the lunch, and quite a few people stayed for the forum and participated. It was great to see meetings planned on a Souper Sunday to accommodate these church gatherings and to make them more open and comfortable. BON APETIT for future Souper Sundays as well!"

Western: This group is looking forward to a potluck at Oz Tilson's on Saturday, January 19. Their convenor, Susan Lean, will be away in February, and Elaine Hanson will be the back-up convenor, in her absence.

CHRISTMAS RAFFLE BASKET WINNERS!

The lucky winners were Phyllis Gardiner and Pat Conroy!

Many thanks to all who contributed items so generously - and to those who bought tickets so abundantly!



YOUR LIBRARY: MAKE A RESOLUTION! LOUISE PARSONS

Thank you very much to all those who supported the Library in 2012. Your gifts of time, energy, materials and dollars are very much appreciated.

I'm writing to suggest that we all choose to support the Library over the next twelve months, to make that one of our 2013 resolutions. Who knows? It might become a habit! Can you imagine? Our Library could become a place that is overflowing—enthusiasm filling the library space with questions...and the joy in finding out something new bursting through its windows and doors.

There are many ways we can each support our Library:

1) Come in and use it. We currently have a large number of really great books. Spend a few minutes before or after a service (or a committee meeting) seeing what is there. If you find something you like, check it out using the Honour System that's in place. If you can't find anything you like, make a suggestion (see below).

2) Decide to spend time there regularly. Commit to being in the library ½ hour before and ½ hour after Sunday service each month by signing up for a monthly shift. (see contact information below)

3) Give. Donate to the Library. Check the Newsletter and eWeekly for requests for specific items you can bring in (or donate the money to purchase them).

4) Join us. The Library Team is responsible for the look, content and running of the Library – on behalf of all of the people who come to First Unitarian Church of Victoria. If you don't like what you see when you visit – or you do – join the group that decides how things will be.

THIS MONTH: Our records tell us that you do like reading magazines! We're looking for donations of three particular magazines – Resurgence, Humanist Perspectives and the New Internationalist. If you already have a subscription to one of them would you consider bringing it in to the library after you read it each month? (think recycling). We don't mind if it's a month old (and neither will anyone else)...or could you see your way clear to donating money towards a subscription?

Contact Louise at louise.parsons@shaw.ca or the church office for more information and to make a suggestion or donation.

THE GRAPEVINE

DAPHNE DUNBAR

🍇 Diane McLaren sends her good wishes from Thailand and reports that she will return to Victoria the end of January.

🍇 Unitarians from Edmonton, Sylvia Krogh and Alan Boyle usually spend the winters in Victoria. When in Victoria, they enjoy attending the church and appreciate the friendships they have made here. This winter they were not able to come to Victoria as Sylvia is receiving chemotherapy for cancer. For those who wish to follow her health journey, her web-site is <http://www.caringbridge.org/visit/SylviaKrogh/journal>.

🍇 Cody Walker has finished his degree at the University of Victoria School of Law and is now articling with Batchelor Stamm Law in Colwood. Congratulations, Cody!

🍇 Faye Mogensen's daughters are currently in Denmark. Kaya, her eldest, is living in Copenhagen, where she studies Danish, works and delights in European city life. In order to be eligible for Danish citizenship, Nadia is spending a total of three months there, taking a few workshops and visiting Kaya and their cousins, aunts, uncles and grandfather. In mid-February, Nadia will head south to enjoy Mediterranean climes until late May, when she'll fly home from Istanbul.



MINI BOOK SALE: "A Touch of Romance"

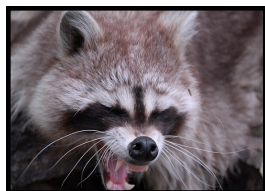
The Library Committee is holding this sale Sunday, February 10 after the service in the Lion Hall. To celebrate Valentine's Day we are asking for books from your library, those with a touch of romance...be they novels, biographies, poetry etc.

Please leave your donations in the library. If you have any questions or are willing to help at the sale or volunteer in the library on a Sunday please leave a note with Karen in the office.

Thank you from your Library Committee.

CUSTOMER APPRECIATION

Barbara Nyland has come to appreciate even more how well-mannered those Unitarians were who so faithfully purchased her apple pies! Not so with all her customers: One night she set the last half of Edo's pie on patio freezer, covering it with a glass dome. A crash in the night brought her outside, and there two very fat raccoons polishing off the pieamong shards of glass; angry at being disturbed, they both sat right up and growled menacingly!



Contact Changes



New Address

Paula Steele
2547 Cedar Hill Road,
Victoria, BC V8T 3G8
Grand Central NG

New Email

Pat McMahon and John Lancaster

Pat: patinvic@telus.net

John: john.lancaster@telus.net

February Birthdays

- 1 Jean Mihell
- 2 Brenda Pengelly
Christina Lloyd
- 4 Nanw Cariad
Kieran Domney
Anne Swannell
- 6 Clara Buttemer
- 7 Laura Anderson
- 8 Jerrelyn Dause
- 11 John Lancaster
- 12 Phyllis Gardiner
Anna Isaacs
- 16 Kellina Dyer
Robin Sacker-van Gessel
- 17 Larry Boldt
- 20 Ted Humphreys
Penelope Hagan-Braun
- 21 Leslie Gillett
- 22 Sheila Drew
Marie Horncastle
Ruth Ralston
- 25 Leslie Ann Ross
- 27 Thane Waldie
- 28 Jean Wallace

New Members



John Tiffany
1823 Gonzales Avenue
Victoria, BC V85 1T9
778-265-1210
johntiffany0705@gmail.com
Oak Bay NG

Larry and Sharon Boldt
#60 - 7570 Tetayut Road
Saanichton, BC V8M 2H4
250-652-5009
Emails:
Larry: 1wboldt@shaw.ca
Sharon: callahan1@shaw.ca

CALLING ALL ARTISTS AND ARTISANS

Artist and Artisan Fair
Sunday, April 7, in the
Lion Hall, 11:30-12:30

Do you make jewellery, sew, knit, or crochet? Are you a potter, painter, photographer, sculptor, woodworker or carver?

Please contact Suellen Guenther, 250-727-0454 or sguenther@shaw.ca, to reserve space at a table.

Proceeds will be split: 80% to the artist or artisan, 20% to the church.

First Unitarian Church of Victoria

5575 West Saanich Road • Victoria BC • V9E 2G1

Phone: 250-744-2665

churchoffice@victoriaunitarian.ca • www.victoriaunitarian.ca

Office hours: Monday - Thursday 9:30am - 4:30pm • Sunday 9:00am-1:00pm

Ministers

Reverend Melora Lynngood
Office phone: 250-744-2601
rev.melora@victoriaunitarian.ca

• Reverend Shana Lynngood
Office phone: 250-744-2601
rev.shana@victoriaunitarian.ca

Minister Emerita

Reverend Jane Bramadat
250-652-1272

Lay Chaplains

Fran Pardee 778-440-3098
Joyce Murphy 250-598-1506
Liz Graham 250-384-4351
laychaplains@victoriaunitarian.ca

Director of Spiritual Exploration and Learning for Children and Youth

Faye Mogensen 250-744-2695
FayeM@victoriaunitarian.ca

Director of Music

Phil Hallman
music@victoriaunitarian.ca

Church Administrator

Karen Uldall-Ekman
churchoffice@victoriaunitarian.ca

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Vice-President	Thane Waldie	250-658-4258
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Administration	Lynn Hunter	250-220-2240
Congregational Life	Anna Isaacs	250-472-0117
Outreach	Laura Doyle	250-595-6383
Property Management	Allan Dakin	250-744-1357
Spiritual Development	Forrest Smith	250-595-2538

E-RECYCLE4CHARITY

Keep those old computers, monitors, keyboards, connecting wires, TVs, DVD players, VCRs and any other electronic devices coming in. Old vacuum cleaners, fans, microwave ovens, radios, all have electric motors or transformers. Terry Czyz is scrapping all this e-waste for our charities; Our place, Out of the rain and the Dandelion Society. His goal is to make \$1000 for these charities. With your donations he is confident we can do it together. Bring your e-waste to the gravel parking lot on Sunday or anytime. Terry will gratefully pick it up. Don't worry about the rain as these items will all be scrapped for their copper, aluminum, silver, gold. If you have questions or need help to get it to the church call 250-655-3027 or tercz@gmail.com.

COVENANT OF GOOD RELATIONS

Answer

(Question on page 4)

You could say, 'I really like being in a church that is responsive to our different views.' In the Covenant of Good Relations it says 'I appreciate that I am a member of a religious community that makes decisions through a democratic process. As a responsible citizen in this community, I will actively participate in the process and will respect the outcomes of the collective wisdom.'

Events Calendar

Date	Time	Event	Location
2/1	7:15pm to 9:30pm	Mindful Yarning	Offsite location
2/2	12:45pm to 2:30pm	Meditation	Sunflower Room
2/3	10:30am to 11:30am	SUNDAY SERVICE	Sanctuary
	12:00pm to 1:30pm	Arts & Aesthetics	Chaplains Room
	12:30pm to 2:30pm	Covenant Group	Fireside Room
2/4	7:00pm to 9:00pm	Covenant Group	Fireside Room
2/5	9:00am to 12:00pm	Learning Circle	Library
	7:00pm to 9:00pm	Dying with Dignity	Lion Hall
	7:00pm to 9:00pm	Considering Membership	Offsite location
2/6	-----		
2/7	7:00pm to 9:30pm	Choir Practice	Sanctuary
2/8	6:00pm to 9:00pm	Spaghetti Night	Sanctuary
	6:00pm to 9:30pm	Youth Group Gathering	Fireside Room
2/9	12:45pm to 2:30pm	Meditation	Sunflower Room
	1:30pm to 6:00pm	Art Opening for Faye Mogensen	Sanctuary
2/10	8:30am to 1:00pm	Mini-Book Sale	Lion Hall
	10:30am to 11:30am	Parents Group	Library
	10:30am to 11:30am	SUNDAY SERVICE	Sanctuary
	12:00pm to 1:30pm	CUC Democracy Forum	Sanctuary
2/11	FAMILY DAY (Statutory Holiday)		
	10:00am to 4:00pm	Youth Coffeehouse Rehearsal	Sanctuary
2/12	9:00am to 12:00pm	Learning Circle	Library
	1:30pm to 4:00pm	Food Prep/Sandy Merriman House	Kitchen Sanctuary
	6:45pm to 9:15pm	Social Responsibility Committee	Sanctuary or Library
	7:00pm to 9:00pm	Spirit in Practice	Lion Hall
2/13	10:00am to 11:30am	Library Team	Library
2/14	7:00pm to 9:30pm	Choir Practice	Sanctuary
2/15	7:15pm to 9:30pm	Mindful Yarning	Offsite location
2/16	12:45pm to 2:30pm	Meditation	Sunflower Room
2/17	10:30am to 11:30am	SUNDAY SERVICE	Sanctuary
	11:45am to 1:00pm	Souper Sunday	Sanctuary
	12:30pm to 2:30pm	Covenant Group	Fireside Room
2/18	7:00pm to 9:00pm	Covenant Group	Lion Hall
2/19	9:00am to 12:00pm	Learning Circle	Library
	12:30pm to 2:00pm	Committee on Ministry	Library
	2:30pm to 4:30pm	Worship Committee	Library
2/20	1:00pm to 3:00pm	Care & Concern	Library
2/21	7:00pm to 9:30pm	Choir Practice	Sanctuary
2/22	6:30pm to 9:30pm	Youth Coffee House	Sanctuary
2/23	1:00pm to 4:00pm	Memorial for Joop Schuyff	
	12:45pm to 2:30pm	Meditation	Sunflower Room
2/24	10:30am to 11:30am	SUNDAY SERVICE	Sanctuary
2/25	-----		
2/26	9:00am to 12:00pm	Learning Circle	Library
	7:00pm to 9:00pm	Spirit in Practice	Lion Hall
2/27	6:00pm to 9:30pm	Board Meeting	Lion Hall
2/28	7:00pm to 9:30pm	Choir Practice	Sanctuary

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THE VICTORIA UNITARIAN

is a monthly publication of the First Unitarian Church of Victoria.

The **deadline** for submissions to the **March** issue is **February 12**. Copy to be sent to newsletter@victoriaunitarian.ca.

For those without e-mail, copy may be left at the church office. All copy is subject to editing.

Information for the calendar can be sent to calendar@victoriaunitarian.ca or left at the church office.

Feedback is welcomed.

Staff

Bob Dobbs and Barbara Nyland (editors); Doreen Burgess and Myra Rippon (proof-readers); and Karen Uldall-Ekman (production, distribution and paid advertisements).



Choir Dates

February 3: Chalice choir meets at 10
February 10: Chalice choir meets at 10

Happy Valentines Day

