



# The Victoria Unitarian

## Services in July

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

**July 7      The Secret Life of Poems**  
**Denis Donnelly**

Throughout human existence, the poetic tradition has flowed on with us and under us, defining and refining deeper currents that are often hidden as we live our daily lives. How does it do this? Our own cultural approaches to poetry have often not helped us to drink from poetry's deeper springs. We will explore some ways that poetry can enrich our spirit and enliven our transitions.

**July 14     Divine Comedy**  
**Ryan Guenther**

Comedy and religion are polar opposites in terms of tone, but often serve the same fundamental purpose: to help us deal with the parts of life that are horrible. This will be a serious discussion of comedy, a light-hearted look at religion, and an exploration of the many ways the two overlap. (This a special "birthday gift" Service for Ryan's mother Suellen. Ryan is a former member of our church but now belongs to the North Shore Unitarian Church in North Vancouver).

**July 21     A Gift from Buddhism**  
**Lama Janet Tara**

**July 28     Brokenness, Sorrow and Resilience in Loss**  
**Tom Attig**

When we lose the living presence of a loved one, brokenness and sorrow come over us. Stories of resilience illustrate how, as we struggle to overcome this suffering, we draw upon what is not broken within us, the depths of our soul and spirit.

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The deadline for submissions to the  
**August** issue of the newsletter is **July 16**.

## ...and Summer Days

In preparing for the service on June 9 where we celebrated "Life's Transitions," I began to think of how children are almost constantly going through transition. I coined the term "midwives of transition" to apply to and honour the volunteers in our children and youth program. The "mid" in midwife refers to "being with", and my experience is that the Spiritual Exploration and Learning (SEL-CY) facilitators truly are "with" the children and youth of this church. They create a safe space for all; they are generous with their time; and, very importantly, they are willing to make adjustments according to the needs they hear being expressed. I appreciate each and every volunteer very much! I also appreciate the warmth for children and youth that I feel throughout the church – thanks to each of you for the smiles and patience for children that you bring.

Throughout the summer months, from June 30 through to September 1, the SEL-CY program and its usual volunteers take a break. Instead, we offer child minding during the service for children ages 1 -11 years, and we welcome older children as helpers. Jenny, who has been part of the child minding team all year, will be assisted by a rotation of adult volunteers. If preferred, families are welcome to stay in the Sanctuary or enjoy the service in the Lion Hall, where there are fewer worries about making noise.

On Homecoming Sunday (September 8), when the SEL-CY program resumes, we'll want to hear how the summer days went, and so we'll begin our year together with "story communions". Children are invited to bring an object that represents something they enjoyed this past summer and share the story of it with their group. Youth are invited to bring an object that symbolizes a "yearning," in readiness to help co-create plans for a year of "Living with Compassion" – our mission focus for the year. I anticipate both as lovely ways to come back together.

With warm wishes for inspirational summer days,  
Faye

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## BOARD SPLINTERS

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## MIKE GRAHAM

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### From the May board meeting

- ✓ The board welcomed new members Tracy Sitter, Jan Y. Li, Terri (Tera) Elizabeth Ziegler, and Ruth Nellie Wellburn and new friends Don and Eleanor Lloyd.
- ✓ The board also voted to repair the Sanctuary piano, at an approximate cost of \$3,000, with half the cost paid from the Music Fund and half the cost from the Property Fund.

### From the June board meeting:

- ✓ Reverends Shana and Melora Lynngood reported to the Board that their worship theme for 2013-2014 church-year will be "Living with Compassion". A special focus on compassionate communication will be included in religious spiritual classes. Committee of Ministry members conducted an informal survey among the congregation on the 2012-2013 church-year theme of "Growing in Spirit."
- ✓ President Mike Graham reported that the Leadership Development Team will be asked to fill one vacancy on the board, a trustee to be chair of the Congregational Life Council.
- ✓ Treasurer Bob Dobbs reported that church income of \$182,411 to the end of May is ahead of the 2013 budget projection, and total expenses of \$155,443 to the end of May are slightly below the projected total.
- ✓ The Board approved the appointments of Lisa Greenly, Ted Humphreys, Bert MacBain and Clare Vipond as trustees of the Ethel May Trust Fund and approved new terms of reference for the trust.
- ✓ The Board welcomed new members Kathy Gallegos and Ross Beauchamp and friends Don and Eleanor Lloyd.
- ✓ The lay chaplain committee reported to the Board that Kjerstin Mackie has been chosen as a lay chaplain in training.

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# ABOUT OUR SPEAKERS

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## **Denis Donnelly**

Denis was born in Scotland, but moved to Canada as a young child. He got involved in folk and choral music in the early 1960s, eventually graduating in 1977 from the University of Victoria with a Bachelor of Music Degree. After graduation he became Director of the Victoria Conservatory of Music, leaving in 1999 in order to pursue his own creativity.

Denis is a songwriter and poet, and also plays guitar, Irish harp, and piano. He is director of Soundings, a twenty-eight-voice vocal ensemble, and co-director of the Gettin' Higher Choir and the highly successful Community Choir Leadership Training Program. In 2011 Denis was awarded the Herbert Drost Award for distinguished service to choral music by the BC Choral Federation.

For many years Denis accompanied the poet David Whyte on his tours to Ireland, where he also met and became friends with the Irish poet and philosopher John O'Donohue. Those experiences and others led Denis to explore deeply the meaning of poetry in his own life, and the deep resonances between poetry and music. Denis now leads courses and workshops in poetry, where he seeks to bring others into an awareness of the wisdom that is expressed through the poetic tradition.

## **Lama Tara**

Lama Tara was born Janet Goforth in 1949 in Toronto. She graduated from York University and the Toronto Montessori Institute. She taught primary level children for several years in Toronto and vicinity.

In 1975 she met Buddhism. Through the Sixteenth Karmapa, Kalu Rinpoche, and Bokar Rinpoche she studied and did retreats (including the traditional three-year retreat under Kalu Rinpoche's direction.) in India and North America through to 1989.

She assisted with two three-year retreats under Bokar Rinpoche's direction and at his request has supported his North American Mahamudra Seminar for the past ten years.

She currently lives in Sidney in semi-retreat and continues to lead meditation seminars.

## **Tom Attig**

Thomas Attig, Professor Emeritus in Applied Philosophy at Bowling Green State University (Ohio), is Past President of the Association for Death Education and Counselling and is best known for his pioneering writings on grief and loss, including *How We Grieve: Relearning the World* and *The Heart of Grief: Death and the Search for Lasting Love*. He still teaches online courses on ethical and spiritual issues at the end of life for King's University College (U. of Western Ontario). Now living in Victoria, he serves as chair of the Spiritual Care and Wellness ministry at First Metropolitan United Church.

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## **LAY CHAPLAIN IN TRAINING**

## **CHRIS COOK**

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It is a great pleasure to announce to the congregation that the Lay Chaplain Search Committee has accepted Kjerstin Mackie as a "Lay Chaplain in Training" effective immediately. Kjerstin completed her Basic Training last fall and will spend time this year shadowing the three Lay Chaplains Fran Pardee, Joyce Murphy and Liz Graham as they perform many ceremonies.

Applications to become a Lay Chaplain will open again in September. If you think being a Lay Chaplain may be for you, please contact one of the Lay Chaplains for further information.

We humans love to categorize. It seems to be built into our DNA.

Every type of bird, every type of bug, every type of plant is slotted in place. And every human-made object must also be filed as to type -- yes, it's a plane, but what kind of plane and what are its attributes and how is it common to other planes so that we can separate it into an understandable, definable group?

It's not surprising, then, that those of us at the recent Canadian Unitarian Council conference could spend a May long weekend discussing categories -- in this case humans -- under the broad umbrella of diversity.

Generally speaking we are reasonably diverse in some areas. But are we diverse enough? And if not, what can we do about it?

And just how diverse are we here?

For a start, Greater Victoria is not a particularly diverse urban area. In 2011 Statistics Canada found that more than ninety per cent of the population speaks English at home (the next largest group is one point four percent who speak German.)

Despite our rather homogeneous urban lifestyle, we at First Victoria are committed to diversity. Our mission statement says we are "energized by diversity" and in January 2009 our congregation passed a motion that said, in part: "We seek to be a people of diverse racial identities, diverse ethnicities, diverse cultures, diverse languages. We celebrate the presence of people of all ages, abilities, and economic levels. We are welcoming to people of all sexual orientations and gender expressions. We value and celebrate diversity".

We are slowly changing to a more diverse community.

In 2009 we were surveyed by the ministerial search committee -- which completed its task in a brilliant finale by inviting Reverend Melora and Reverend Shana Lynngood to join us. That survey found that we members and friends were quite alike.

Most of us said we had a Christian background (eighty percent), the majority of congregants were female, more than eighty percent were over fifty (less than twenty percent of the Greater Victoria population is over sixty-five), and ninety-five per cent said they were heterosexual. Most of us had degrees or diplomas (ninety per cent), and sixty percent had an income of more than fifty thousand dollars a year.

In some ways since then we've changed, and that's all for the better. A diverse congregation is a lively congregation.

But there is a challenge to diversity, as Edmonton Unitarian Church's minister Reverend Brian Kiely explored in one workshop. To Reverend Kiely churches can be like families, resistant to change and upset at power shifts.

There is no doubt we are all conflicted to a degree, comfortable with routine but, as the survey found, desiring personal theological exploration and spiritual growth.

It is this push and pull that makes for a dynamic mix as we continue to grow in outlook. The challenge is to remain united in our diversity.

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## THE PROPERTY FUND AND YOU

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### **Join the Property Fund and Help Maintain Our Buildings!**

Many of us have already contributed to the Property Fund, with either a one-time donation or a commitment to contribute over the next four years.

By contributing annually you can help ensure we pay our way. Looming in our future are things like a new roof for the farmhouse at an estimated cost of \$12,000 and replacing the gutters and downpipes for an additional \$14,000; updating our kitchens as equipment expires at a cost of about \$20,000; replacing our worn out sanctuary floor for \$40,000. And there are the constant costs -- replacing expired fire extinguishers, first aid kits and furniture. The list goes on as our buildings and equipment age.

Anything you can do to help will be appreciated. To join the Property Fund please contact our Treasurer, Bob Dobbs at [bobdobbs@shaw.ca](mailto:bobdobbs@shaw.ca). A commitment form is on the following page.

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# Property Fund 2013-2016

## COMMITMENT FORM

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Please return this form to

Treasurer,  
First Unitarian Church of Victoria  
5575 West Saanich Road  
Victoria BC V9E 2G1

### Commitment Details

My total commitment to the Property Fund for the four-year period, 2013 through 2016, will be

\$

I will pay the following amounts in each year

2013

2014

2015

2016

\$

\$

\$

\$

- I have already made payment in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_.
- My currently-dated cheque in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed.
- My post-dated cheque(s) are enclosed.

**Note: Please ensure that all cheques payable to the Property Fund are so marked.**

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

This space is for any comments you may have about your donation, the campaign, or the church.

*Thank you for your participation!*

## Camp Pringle Weekend — Vancouver Island Unitarian Summer Camp, August 9 to 11

Come spend a wonderful weekend at Camp Pringle on the shores of Shawnigan Lake with fellow Unitarians. The theme for camp this year is:

### **Reconnect with Camp — Rejuvenate your Spirit — Rejoice in Community**

Besides being fun, the weekend offers a chance to forge deep, meaningful relationships and feel part of the larger Unitarian community. All this while taking in the relaxing natural setting and breathing in the clean air. Campfire, a meaningful ingathering ceremony and Sunday worship service, delicious food, programming for all ages, the infamous talent show and a fabulous waterfront are included with your registration.

Although it is often referred to as a “family camp”, you are welcome on your own, or with friends and family. It’s only children and youth that need family to come with them. It’s a great way for grandparents to spend special time with grandchildren!

There are three streams of adult programming to choose from, a youth program, children’s program, as well as wee care during program time on Saturday morning. Registration forms and brochures are available online at <http://www.unitariancongregation.org/capital/viuc/>

## From the Library

Many thanks to every one who supported Our Library by purchasing books at the mini-book-sales in May. The next mini-book-sale will be September 22, the day after the Giant book Sale of September 21.

### **How To Take Out A Book**

Sometimes we think it's a good thing to stay simple and 'low tech' so we're going to try a simple way to take out a book from Our Library. Whether it's Sunday or any other day, once you find a book you'd like to take home (and please know there are LOTS of books worth taking home) please use one of the pencils in the small rectangular basket to write 1) your name, 2) your phone number, and 3) the date that you're taking it out on the card in the front of the book; then put the card (and the pencil) in the rectangular basket. The book is yours for a month, due one month from when you took it out. When you've finished just return the book to the larger basket.

Thank you—Enjoy!

## HOW Coffee Sales

Did you know that you can purchase Level Ground free-trade coffee for \$8 a bag? It's available in the office. We stock Regular (dark and medium roast) and Decaf...in whole beans and ground.

Pay by cash or cheque. Slip it into the box by the coffee stand.

HOW Coffee is a modest fundraiser (\$1.30 profit on each bag) for the Healing Our World (HOW) projects. Every bag sold helps!

We also have some dried fruit (\$4) that is being sold at a ten-cent profit. We will not be ordering more. Please help us clear out this inventory.



June Fukushima and Leslie Gillett are managing the HOW Coffee program for the summer. Leslie will continue to oversee the program in the fall. The HOW team is evaluating the effectiveness of this as a fundraiser. We will make recommendations to the Social Responsibility Committee in 2014.

Thank you to our loyal coffee drinkers, and special thanks to Office Administrator Karen Uldall-Ekman for her support. She knows how much you coffee drinkers like having your favourite kind of coffee.

## Grandiose Plans for Ten LNG Export Terminals: Feasible, Reasonable?

The government of British Columbia is proposing to make BC a powerhouse of export of liquefied natural gas. Its plans include ten LNG terminals along our North Coast, intended to make BC the new Alberta. However, there are problems:

First, most of the additional natural gas required will have to come from fracking. Fracking involves forcing water laced with chemicals into shale beds at high pressure, cracking them and releasing gas and oil. Many of the chemicals are toxic, contaminating ground water, and polluting the air. Is this what BC wants?

Second, liquefaction of natural gas requires enormous amounts of electrical power, not currently available in Northern BC. One proposal to provide the needed power is to build a dam at Site C on the Peace River. Building this dam would submerge thousands of acres of productive farm land. It could not be built until about 2023, too late for the current plan to have three LNG plants in operation by 2020. Further, if labor for construction is used to build LNG plants, will construction labor be available to build the dam and transmission lines?

Third, since natural gas is a greenhouse gas, LNG export from the five plants to be built by 2020 will markedly increase the amount of greenhouse gases produced and exported. The Pembina Institute estimates that operation of just two LNG plants will make the thirty-three percent reduction in GHG (greenhouse gas) required in BC law in 2020 impossible.

Fourth, the price of natural gas is low. Many countries are increasing their own production. It is unclear that there will be a market for all that BC gas at a price which justifies the cost.

Thus, it is clear that the current plans for LNG export are neither feasible, nor consistent with keeping BC green, hence unreasonable.

See: <http://www.pembina.org/pub/2450>

## GRAPEVINE

## DAPHNE DUNBAR

On May 4, **Doreen Burgess'** eleventh great-grandchild was born in Belize. There are now four children in that family where their father, Doreen's grandson, has a small farm with lots of chickens, goats and sheep. The three older children go to school, in English, where they also study Spanish. Her other great-grandchildren live in Calgary, a girl and two boys, and Kelowna where there are two great-grandsons, and there are also two here in Victoria. Her eldest great-grandchild, in Calgary, is now twenty-two, and she hopes to become a lawyer.



In Nova Scotia, **Jean Evans'** twenty-second great-grandchild is expected on July 1. The eldest are in their twenties living in Edmonton, where she usually sees all of them each time she visits. There are four others in California.

And I, your writer, Daphne, have two greats, both in Chilliwack.

### BC Fall Gathering 2013

Friday October 4 (evening) to Sunday October 6 (after church)

“MEANING, JOY, JUSTICE”

At the Holiday Inn Hotel and Suites in

North Vancouver, BC. Registration and accommodations information coming soon.

Hosted by North Shore Unitarian Church

## What? So What? Now What?

On Friday, June 7, seventy individuals and families of the First Unitarian Church of Victoria gathered for a soul-full service of story, exploration and discovery of our gifts, connections with each other, and our spiritual home. On Saturday, June 8, forty formal and informal ‘leaders’ in our spiritual community deepened individual and collective perceptions and perspectives on the church culture; our longings and ‘stuck’ places, from which we can/will learn to adapt/shift. This begins the dialogue this coming church year about what will have our mission ‘come alive’ in our personal lives and the collective life of this community.

What we long for in this our spiritual home, in the words of some individual participants, are to:

- be ‘alive’ with the passions of everyone’, and ‘feel a vibrancy that calls out’
- be a thriving, integral part of the Victoria community
- to hear and be heard, to see and be seen’, and to be supported and inspired.

In the coming months we will be inquiring and exploring:

- Where and how do we see this happening NOW?
- What are the gaps between what we aspire to and where we might be ‘stuck’, caught in our individual and collective blind spots?
- So what? Now what?

We’ll be ‘trying stuff’—beta-testing—that you will see in action as we experiment and learn to fail, change and adapt. Stay tuned, and be in contact with Reverend Shana Lynngood, Diana Smith, Jane Wilson and/or John Waters to ‘be heard, be seen’, and to support this direction and focus.

Intrigued? Interested in further background, go to these online sources:

- Beta Church :  
<http://www.churchcentral.com/blog/9171/6-attributes-of-a-beta-church>
- Basic Guidelines for Calling a Circle:  
<http://www.peerspirit.com/gifts/PeerSpirit-Circle-Guidelines2010.pdf>
- Becoming an Adaptive Leader:  
[http://www.lifelongfaith.com/uploads/5/1/6/4/5164069/becoming\\_an\\_adaptive\\_leader.pdf](http://www.lifelongfaith.com/uploads/5/1/6/4/5164069/becoming_an_adaptive_leader.pdf)
- Leadership Development in the Large Congregation, Reverend Stephan Jonasson:  
<http://www.uua.org/documents/jonassonstefan/leaderdevelopment.pdf>
- Addressing the Blind Spot of our Time:  
<http://www.presencing.com/executivesummary>
- 2013 CUC ACM workshop on Technology and Our Congregations website:  
<http://acmworkshop.patienceandfortitude.com/> New Types of Change

## 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

# FROM THE COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY DAVID ANDERSEN

## Response of the Congregation to a Committee on Ministry Survey

The Committee on Ministry did an informal survey of the congregation after service during the weeks of April 21 and May 5 and 12. We were interested in your feelings about the Ministers' ministry and the theme of this year "Growing in Spirit". We heard from sixty of you and received a wide range of opinions. We did hear over and over that people are very happy with our ministers. Most of you appreciate the theological diversity presented as well as the coupling of heart and mind. Many of you appreciate having two ministers (and worry that both of our ministers work much more than half time).

The response to the spirituality theme was decidedly mixed. It seems the way in which the ministers use the word 'spirituality' has not been heard clearly\*. Some of you reported that you don't see a role for spirituality in your lives and would rather focus on other issues in church. On the other hand, there are many who are thirsting for new ways to grow their spirit and have really appreciated the focus this year.

We heard many more opinions of church life as well. We heard that the church should increase its presence in the larger community. We heard that some of you want a quiet space before and after service to meditate and enter a state of mind that is ready to listen and learn. We also heard from several of you that there's an interest in discussing sermons after church.

The Committee on Ministry reported all of your responses to our ministers and they are thinking about how best to serve the congregation. Many of your ideas will be passed along to other councils and teams. The worship committee is looking into ways to experiment with quiet time before church services. The ministers and SELA (Spiritual Exploration and Learning for Adults) are looking into hosting small group listening circles after selected services next church year (Fall 2013- Spring 2014).

We realize that not all your thoughts and ideas are expressed in this short article and we only had the chance to speak with a small fraction of you. If you have other opinions positive or negative that aren't expressed here, please contact the Committee on Ministry. We're here to listen. Our goal is to enhance a strong and healthy relationship between our professional ministers and the congregation, thus empowering us all to live our congregation's mission together: growing in spirit, living compassion, inspired to serve.

Thank you,

Co-Chair David Andersen (drandersen1@gmail.com; Term ends May, 2014)

Departing Co-Chair Don Armstrong (armstrongdon@shaw.ca; 2013)

Martha McDougall (martha.mcdougall@broadmeadcare.com; 2014)

Sonya Ignatieff (sonyaignatieff@shaw.ca; 2015)

Joyce Murphy (joymur@shaw.ca; 2015)

New member Allan Dakin (adakin9@gmail.com; 2016)

New member Herb Girard (hcgirard@uniserve.com; 2016)

\*Spirituality, as Reverends Melora and Shana have been using it, is a very broad term. It can be a word for the felt sense of interconnection with something bigger than yourself (eg., the web of life) or spirituality can be about what makes life most meaningful. See Reverend Shana's article in the May newsletter.



**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](mailto:laychaplains@victoriaunitarian.ca)

## Spiritual Exploration and Learning for Adults (SELA)—*A look ahead to this fall.*

We invite you to deepen your inquiry with others through:

**Facilitation Workshop.** How to Support Group Conversations. Saturday Sept 21, 10:00am-2:00pm with Reverend Shana Lynngood and Diana Smith. This is recommended for anyone interested in co-facilitating the January - May 2014 Covenant Groups.

**How Do We Listen?** The Brain Science of Effective Communications - Sunday October 6, 11:50-1:00pm. A presentation by Dr. Ross Beauchamp, professor and clinical neuropsychologist.

**Gratitude Circle** - Sunday October 27, Noon-1:00pm. Come, share what you appreciate and enjoy an uplifting experience. Hosted by June Fukushima.

**After Service Conversations** - November 3, December 1. A chance to reflect and share in small groups, what has been sparked from the sermon.

**Spiritual Exploration Workshops with Reverend Shana Lynngood** - November 7, 14, 21, 1:00-3:00pm; 7:00-9:00pm in central Victoria area.

**Ongoing-** Tibetan Buddhist Meditation with Lama Tara - Every Saturday 1:00pm. Sunflower Room. Donations appreciated.

The SELA team welcomes more participants. Bring your passion to this vibrant part of church life. We co-ordinate the Covenant Group program and support Reverend Shana Lynngood and others in presenting workshops of interest to our congregation. Tasks are related to program co-ordination and communication. Please contact Fran Pardee, June Fukushima, Margot Lods or Phyllis Aherne for more information. We meet monthly with Reverend Shana Lynngood.

Many thanks to Diana Smith for being a member of the team for the past two years and to Fran Pardee who has now completed a two-year term as Chairperson.

## Contact Changes

### New Addresses

Laura Anderson  
12-1300 May Street  
Victoria, BC V8S 1B7  
Phone 778-433-7893



### New Phone Number

Leslie Gillett  
250-592-7032.  
(Note: This corrects information in the June newsletter where Leslie's work phone number was provided by mistake).

### New Email

Dar Gareau-Levy  
darlevy@gmail.com

Fran Hancock  
hancockf@telus.net

Peter Hancock  
hancockp@telus.net

Jon Taylor  
wildjon4@gmail.com  
(Note: Be careful not to confuse Jon with John Taylor).

## Board Members on Duty



July 7 John Tiffany  
July 14 Jennifer Young  
July 21 Bob Dobbs  
July 28 Laura Doyle

# NEW ELDER DON ARMSTRONG

# MARY CRAMER

Don Armstrong was nominated and became an Elder at our congregational meeting on January 20. He was presented his Elder's certificate at the Sunday service, 'Life's Transitions', on June 9. Following is the letter that was read to the Congregational Meeting for his nomination...

"Don began attending our church in 1987 and officially became a member in 1989. In the years since then, Don has served on an exhausting number of committees, including the Nominating Committee, the Committee on Ministry for Reverend Vann Knight, the Canvass Committee and the Recognition and Awards Committee. He served as Chair of the Finance Council from 2001 to 2003 and was President of our Congregation from 2003 to 2005.

"It was during his term as President that he overcame his shyness and began to share his wit and marvellous dry sense of humour with us. In that connection, many of us look forward to his roles in the Canvass skits each year and of those in attendance that day, who can forget his stellar appearance as Scrooge at the Christmas Pageant? Outside of our church community, he allows that he has also carried off an exhausting six-word part at the Langham Court Theatre!

"More recently, Don was a member of the Parental Leave Team while our ministers were on leave from July to early December last fall.

"Currently, he serves on the Committee for Ministry for the Reverends Shana and Melora, the Planned Giving Committee and the Worship Committee. In his role on the Worship Committee, he was instrumental in securing Bruce Knotts from the UUUNO New York to come to Victoria as a speaker for our informative UN Sunday service in November.

"In Don's previous profession as an anesthesiologist, one of his jobs was to put people to sleep. In his role in this church, he has kept us awake with his quick wit and his great sense of humour.

"Given his continuing thoughtful dedication to the life of the church, Don Armstrong richly deserves to be an Elder of our church and we welcome him as our newest Elder".



## Recommended Movie

The **EAT (Environmental Action Team)** recommends that congregation members view

**Seeds of Death:  
Unveiling The Lies of GMO's - Full Movie**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a6OxbpLwEjQ>

Even if you only watch the first five minutes of this movie – you will have a fairly complete overview of GMO's, the what and why ....(Though it has much USA content, it applies to Canada also.) One hour, twenty minutes.

Virginia Daniel

## Photo Directory Omissions

Many of us had our photos taken last fall for our new Photo Directory. After several months of waiting, the directories finally arrived, and the distribution is almost complete. **The following information was omitted in the final printed version:**

The Photo Directory 2012 Committee was Lisa Greenly (Chair), Mary Cramer, Patty Disbrow.

The photos in the 'Our Church Community' section were taken by Mary Cramer.

We would like to thank everyone who participated in this church-wide event and made it such a success.

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# NEW MEMBERS

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## Penelope Hagan with Stella and Henry

I'm an artist, writer and musician living, working, dreaming, camping and making friends here on the beautiful west coast. My background is Christian, and since the late 1990s I have also interwoven a lot of pagan and Eastern spiritual practices like yoga, meditation, earth worship and seasonal rituals into my faith. I began attending First Unitarian in October 2011 and immediately felt drawn to the seven principles of Unitarianism. To me, this is a modern-day church – one that truly celebrates and invites rather than merely tolerates religious differences. I'm happy to be bringing my kids to a church where they learn about the multitude of ways in which human beings connect with each other, themselves, and the Divine in a communal context.



I enjoy my part-time job at Russell Books. I'm currently taking yoga teacher training and reiki training, so I can eventually begin to practise in the field of creative movement and therapeutic touch.

I was born and raised in northwestern Ontario, so I love nature, camping, beachcombing, gardening and being outdoors. I also spend time reading, writing, painting, drawing, making music, and taking care of my two wonderful kids, Stella and Henry, who are nine and seven years old respectively. They attend First Unitarian with me and First Metropolitan United with their father.

The people at this church have accepted and welcomed me warmly, and I appreciate the many opportunities for discussion and debate, learning, exploration and faith development.

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## Sharon and Larry Boldt

Sharon was born and raised in Victoria. Larry was born and raised in Midland, Ontario. They have two beautiful sons: Colin who lives in Saanich and James who lives in Nanaimo. Sharon's mom lives in Esquimalt and her sister and family live in Langford. Larry's mom lives in Victoria.

Sharon is a billing clerk for the Vancouver Island Health Authority. Larry is key account manager for Tree of Life Canada.

They value the principles that are practised and the inclusivity and diversity. They enjoy the music, spiritual programs, sermons and the energy of the church.

They decided to become members, "because we feel that the love, understanding, and acceptance offered us by the ministers and the congregation fills us with a sense of belonging".



*"When love of ourselves and love for others are wedded to love of place, then a bright fire burns in the hearth and we are deeply warmed."* -Gunilla Norris

## Last but not least—the split from reality disease

He was 18 years old and working as a delivery driver in Calgary. But he was becoming increasingly troubled—and so was his family in Victoria. In school, he had become withdrawn, downright antisocial. He skipped classes. He was convinced someone was fooling around with his car and he examined it constantly. Then a commanding voice came out of his car radio and told him to drive to Banff, so he did.

He was suffering sensory overload. Voices were overwhelming him. But he managed to drive himself back to Calgary and to a hospital. Diagnosis: schizophrenia, as well as an obsessive-compulsive disorder. He was very frightened and so were all those people who loved him. They badly needed to find and mix with other people who understood what was going on and who could support them.

This is not a rare story. Schizophrenia, in its varied forms, attacks one percent of the world's population.

By the time you read this, it seems likely that our second HOW project for this year, assisting twenty widows and orphans in Rwanda, will be fully funded and we will be starting on the third and last project that the congregation favored in voting this spring.

Through your generosity, we will provide a critical computer update for the Victoria branch of the BC Schizophrenia Society. Including training for staff, the update will cost \$5,000. It will enable staff and volunteers to much more effectively track and assist the 1,000 or so people they help in a year.

"We are so grateful for your efforts," said Executive Director Hazel Meredith, of the HOW initiative.  
"This past winter one of our computers began to smoke. We badly need this update."

Please make your cheque payable to First Unitarian Church of Victoria and on the memo line write, "HOW".

## DIVERSITY CORNER

KAREN LEE PICKETT

### Get your pride on!

The highlight of our FUCV Pride celebrations, the annual FUCV Pride Service, will be held on Sunday, June 30, at 10:30am. We'll be asking the question, "Is acceptance enough?" and presenting a play for four voices created from our congregation's stories.

The peak of Pride is, of course, our giant rainbow banner! The Pride Parade and Festival takes place on Sunday, July 7, leaving Pandora and Government at 12 noon (time to get there from church if you forego coffee!). This is a fun and festive event that everyone is welcome to join—and we need your help, as it takes many hands to carry one of the longest rainbow banners in Canada. We like to sing and chant as we go, and it's exciting to be a part of this celebration of all the colours of life. Victoria comes out in droves to cheer on the parade, and this is an opportunity for Unitarians to greet them all.



The parade route takes us to MacDonald Park, at the corner of Simcoe and Oswego in James Bay, where there will be an afternoon of festivities, including music, food, and a Unitarian table, where you can chat and refresh yourself. Hope to see you at this great family event!

In other news, we are welcoming new members to our Diversity Committee (which, for those of you who care about such things, is now a sub-committee of the Social Responsibility Committee, rather than a stand-alone committee). Anyone who has some energy and enthusiasm for LGBT or other diversity issues is encouraged to get in touch with any of our members and make yourself known. (klp@kaleepi.com, lauradoyle@shaw.ca)

Happy Pride, everyone!

*All members, friends, and newcomers to the church can be part of the Neighbourhood Group where they live. Groups meet monthly, bi-monthly, quarterly, or occasionally. If your group is missing from this column, there was nothing to report this month. If you don't know which group you are in, please phone the church office.*

**Cadboro Bay** is having no formal gatherings in the summer, but they may hold a tea at the Petch home in August. Valerie reports that "everyone seems to be dashing about hither and yon".

**Esquimalt.** Betty Sherwood writes, " We had a lovely potluck hosted by Barbara Boyle and Lillie Lentz, on June 7. We met at 4:30 as some of us went on to attend the Workshop at the Church afterwards. We did a little planning. June was our month to provide baked goods for coffee time at the church. We also planned our Services Auction offer of a trip to the Sooke Art Show on July 27. And we planned for the Reception after the Memorial Service for Manfred Pape on June 30. This Reception will be in cooperation with our group and a group of Manfred and Marion's friends from Salt Spring Island.

**Fairfield.** Herb sends this update: "Congratulations to Lynn Beak, who has retired from the Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation! She'll now almost have time for her many other projects and activities. And get-well wishes to John Taylor who recently had open heart surgery but is now back on the streets. Our group will gather in the sunshine at Linda Stanton's for our next potluck on Sunday, June 23, from 3:00 to 5:00."

**Far Out.** Barbara writes, "On May 24 twelve of the 'far-outs' gathered at the home of Sandra and Jim Jordan and we spent two happy hours exchanging stories about how we came to the Unitarian Church. Jim gave some of us a tour of the garden, resplendent in flowers, fruit trees and berries. We were all reluctant to leave! We will plan our next meeting in September."

**Gordon Head.** Several members of this group met at a local coffee shop in June for informal conversation. Their next potluck will be at Mary Carty's on June 21—a great way to spend the Summer Solstice!

**Grand Central.** Linda Nicholson-Brown reports that this group is waiting for warmer weather to schedule a get-together that doesn't conflict with other church functions.

**James Bay.** Pat Kinrade writes, "We are happy to learn that Katherine and Roberta are moving into James Bay." Katherine and Roberta have moved here from Calgary and have already joined the choir .

**Nearby.** Sadly, the planned barbecue for June 1 was cancelled due to lack of people able to attend. Jean reports that "people are too busy to get together during the summer, so we will not be meeting as a group until sometime in the fall". This group will also be busy in July providing baking for the after-church social time.

**Oak Bay.** Karla writes, " The Oak Bay group met recently at the home of Jean Evans. We were a large group, over twenty. We have several new members: Alan Baker, Kit Filan, Sheila Munro and Ella Small. Ella lives in Oak Bay Lodge so won't be able to attend our gatherings. Jean was a model hostess and was so organized that she was able to seat everyone for the meal. There was certainly no shortage of delicious homemade food. We are still hoping to find someone to host a summer gathering. Then we will meet again on October 19."

**Continued next page >**

## AROUND THE NEIGHBOURHOOD (cont'd.)

**Royal Oak East.** Elaine Dakin writes, "We had a very successful NG potluck on May 28, at Mary Ellen and Bruce Nichol's home, with about seventeen attending. After a delicious dinner, we reviewed how our Buddy system was working, updated on members who could not attend and discussed support for one older lady whose husband has dementia. Hanny and Hugo were not able to join us, as they had car problems down in Oregon, where they enjoyed an extended stay with family!"

**Royal Oak West.** Fran Hancock writes, "The Royal Oak West NG will be having a potluck dinner at our home at 5510 Forest Hill Road, Saturday, July 13 at 6:00pm. Children of all ages are welcome to help feed the horses and themselves! Astrid Firley-Eaton is progressing nicely from surgery on a fractured wrist and the resultant physical therapy."

**Western.** Elaine Hanson reports that their group did not meet in May as planned, but they did expect to gather at Mac Elrod's on Saturday, June 15.

## July Birthdays

- 1 Lisa Greenly,  
Hanny Pannekoek
- 2 Nadia Engelstoft
- 3 Ian Dillistone
- 5 Mildred Girard
- 6 Ian MacPherson
- 8 Nate Harris
- 10 Mary Cramer  
John Worton  
Nan Fairchild
- 11 Cody Walker
- 12 Myra Rippon
- 13 Judy Gaylord
- 15 Farrell Boyce,  
Suellen Guenther
- 16 Jim Black
- 17 Al Hoffman  
Thomas Ovanin
- 18 Marg Rose
- 22 Sheri Tromp
- 24 Wilma Neilson
- 26 Don Vipond,  
Joan Bennett
- 29 Cherry Brown,  
Dave Maxwell
- 30 Kisha Bramadat Chesterman,  
Janice Hlady
- 31 Katherine DeMille



## SHARING THE PLATE IN JULY

## DAR GAREAU-LEVY

The Share-the Plate recipient for the month of July is the Rainbow Refugee Society (RRS), a Vancouver based, grassroots organization, that supports and advocates for people seeking refugee protection because of persecution based on sexual orientation, gender identity, or HIV status. It also engages in outreach and public education on these issues, as well as providing information to asylum seekers outside of Canada. RRS is member- and volunteer-driven. While the government promises to provide \$100,000 in funding through the Society for the support of LGBT refugees for their first three months in Canada, RRS itself receives no government support and relies solely on donations to offer its services and programs. Currently, RRS is struggling to provide monthly financial support for three oversea refugees while working towards their sponsorship, as well as assisting in the sponsorship of a gay Pakistani couple, who have been approved by the United Nations High Commission for Refugees, and who are now in Sri Lanka waiting to come to Canada. The Rainbow Refugee Society's share of this month's plate will go directly into this sponsorship fund.



### An Update and an Invitation for Participation

As you may remember we went through a lengthy and thoughtful process about how to integrate the “Arbutus Coast” wall hanging with the “Continuous Rhythm”. At the end of that process we presented you with a plan for one year and that year has come to an end.

What next? On March 13 we met with Reverend Melora. We explored a variety of options and new ideas. We ended up with the following and invite your participation. We would like to continue to display both textile assemblages:

**January, February, March, April, May and June** we will hang the Continuous Rhythm. **September, October and November** we will hang the Arbutus Coast. **July and August** will be open for new ideas (such as projecting images on the front wall, three dimensional art, the notion of placing intentional objects that connect with the service. In **December** we hope to have something in connection with celebrations such as Solstice, Christmas or other spiritual year-end traditions.

We are inviting you to come forward with new ideas and suggestions for July and August, and are looking forward to hearing from you and exploring possibilities with you.

Please contact any of your Arts and Aesthetics team members: **Mariko Matsumoto, John Waters, Nille Fibiger-Crossman, Betty Sherwood** (co-chair), **Hanny Pannekoek** (co-chair).

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## SANCTUARY ARTIST FOR JULY

## GARY NYLANDER

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**Biography.** Gary Nylander was born in Victoria, BC in 1958 and began his interest in photography at fifteen years of age after graduating from high school in 1976. Gary landed a part-time job as a photographer at the weekly newspaper, the Goldstream Gazette on Vancouver Island, from there he moved to Ontario where he worked for The Brampton Daily Times for four and a half years.

Gary returned to B.C. in October of 1983 after being hired at the Kelowna Daily Courier where he is currently employed. During the past thirty years as a photojournalist Gary has received numerous awards and special recognitions which include seven Canadian Press picture of the month awards and the 2003 news picture of the year from Canadian Press. His work is also in the collection of the Harvard Art Museums in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Gary's personal work also includes black and white landscape images and other subjects from around Western Canada. The images are made with a traditional large format film camera. His work has been the subject of various exhibits.

**Artist Statement.** It's been said home is where the heart is. My "home" is Canada. One day while photographing from atop a large rock pile at the end of Moraine Lake in Alberta's Banff National Park, I gazed upon the beautiful scene before me, spectacular jagged mountains back-lit by the late afternoon sun filtering through high puffy clouds, the illuminating sun creating millions of sparkle like jewels on the lake — the scene was simply breathtaking. I knew right then that there was no other place I wanted to photograph. I had found my passion and I didn't have to travel thousands of miles to some exotic distant land to find what I had been seeking. It was right there before me. I'm quite at home in the visual world. For me, it's the best way I know to express my interest in the world around me, to capture the magic and the soul of my subject, something much deeper than what first appears on the surface.

Much of my artistic drive and what I do also comes from my curiosity to explore the world around me and to see "what is out there". I have tried to capture with my camera a sense of beauty, however fleeting it may be. I offer through my photographs what I feel is a reflection of our world and hope that my work will engage viewers to reflect upon their own place in the world.

## Giant Book Sale

Save the date: Saturday, September 21.

Save your books. Plan to bring them to the church in September.

Please do not donate textbooks, encyclopaedias, Reader's Digest Condensed books, computer books, or magazines. They don't sell and we have to haul them to recycling.



## Tiny Book Sale

### Need a book to read over the summer?

Check out the 'Tiny' Book Sale.

Look for it in the Farmhouse entryway - beside the door into the Church Office.

Same low prices as the 'Giant' Book Sale in September!



## New Members



Ross Beauchamp  
5427 Alderley Road  
Victoria, BC V8Y 1X9  
778-433-2829  
[beau77w@yahoo.com](mailto:beau77w@yahoo.com)

Katya (Kathy) Gallegos  
406-3800 Quadra  
Victoria, BC V8X 1H8  
778-440-1909  
[klgallegos@gmail.com](mailto:klgallegos@gmail.com)

## Services Auction Spaces Left!

Summer is here! Come and join us for a picnic lunch and a visit to the Sooke Art Show Saturday July 27. Transportation provided. This Services Auction offer by the Esquimalt Neighbourhood Group has room for four more. Cost \$20 (not including admission to the art show). Give your money with a note that this is a Services Auction contribution to Karen at the church office, and phone Betty Sherwood 250-382-4656.

## Help A Neighbour!

Would you store a few boxes of books for someone in your Neighbourhood Group until September?

We have no storage site for books donated for the Giant Book Sale on September 21, but some people have to clear out their books before fall.

I am hoping to identify people in each NG who would keep a few boxes of books for someone in their area, if necessary.

If you would be willing to help, please let your NG convenor know, or contact Suellen Guenther, [sguenther@shaw.ca](mailto:sguenther@shaw.ca) or 250-727-0454.

If you are someone who just has to move your books now, please let the same people know. Please do not leave them anywhere in the church or the church office. Thank you!



# 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

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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  
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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

## Board of Trustees

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Congregational Life	vacant	
Outreach	Laura Doyle	250-595-6383
Property Management	John Tiffany	778-265-1210
Spiritual Development	John Hopewell	250-721-3920

## Events Calendar

Date	Time	Event	Location
July		CANADA DAY	
7/1		Meditation	Sunflower Room
7/6	12:45pm to 2:30pm	SUNDAY SERVICE	Sanctuary
7/7	10:30am to 11:30am	Food Prep/Sandy Merriman House	Sanctuary Kitchen
7/9	1:30pm to 4:00pm	Meditation	Sunflower Room
7/13	12:45pm to 2:30pm	SUNDAY SERVICE	Sanctuary
7/14	10:30am to 11:30am	Library Committee	Library
7/17	10:00am to 11:30am	Meditation	Sunflower Room
7/20	12:45pm to 2:30pm	SUNDAY SERVICE	Sanctuary
7/21	10:30am to 11:30am	Meditation	Sunflower Room
7/27	12:45pm to 2:30pm	SUNDAY SERVICE	Sanctuary
7/28	10:30am to 11:30am		

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For those without e-mail, copy may be left at  
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Information for the calendar can be sent to  
[calendar@victoriaunitarian.ca](mailto:calendar@victoriaunitarian.ca) or left at the  
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Feedback is welcomed.

### Staff

Bob Dobbs and Barbara Nyland (editors);  
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(production, distribution and paid  
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