



# The Victoria Unitarian

## Services in June

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

### June 1 **Articulating Your UU Faith** **Rev. Melora and Company**



What do you believe? How would you describe your theology? Your core values? What do Unitarian Universalists believe? Can UUs believe anything they want? Do UUs share any beliefs in common? Is UUism a 'new age' religion? Is UUism a Christian religion? Based on the six-week course of the same name, Rev. Melora and class participants share insights gained while learning how to "Articulate their Unitarian Universalist Faith."

### June 8 **Life Transitions** **Rev. Melora and Faye Mogensen**



What has changed in the past year of *your* life? In this service, we honour a full range of life transitions—birth, loss, completion, accomplishment, and new beginnings. This is an intergenerational service. Kids are welcome in the sanctuary for the entire service. Child-minding will be available in the Sunflower Room for our youngest and/or most restless youngsters.

### June 15 **Walking in the Steps of the Ancients,** **or How I Survived Buddhist Boot Camp** **Rita Whitman**

Be still. Eventually the silence will sing for you. Rita will recount her experiences at a Zen monastery.

(This service is a 'pulpit swap' with our sister congregation in town, Capital Unitarian Universalist Congregation. Rita Whitman is a member of Capital. Rev. Shana will be preaching for their congregation).

### June 22 **A Place in the Heart** † **Rev. Shana Lynngood**

This Sunday we will conclude our focus on the second part of our mission, living with compassion. We have examined many facets of what compassion means and asks of us. This morning we will look at what being compassionate towards others may mean in terms of seeing the challenges others face and the struggles in our own lives.

### June 29 **From Stonewall to Pride** **Peter Scales**

Gays and lesbians were widely feared and openly persecuted in North America until recent historical times. How did a riot outside a gay bar, and an international medical crisis, lead Canadians of all affections to openly celebrate their GLBT neighbours in Pride parades? Historian Peter Scales will set the stage for Pride Week.

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† This sermon is a part of our preaching theme of the year: "Living With Compassion"

 denotes Chalice Choir

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The deadline for submissions to the  
**July** issue of the newsletter is **June 17**.

## SELECTIONS FOR JUNE

FAYE MOGENSEN

As the church year draws to a close, there is much to celebrate, including the eight youth who are “bridging” into young adults. We wish them well on their way! A series of workshops from the “Place of Wholeness” curriculum has helped them prepare for bridging, by encouraging them to reflect on how their Unitarian Universalist “outsides” match their Unitarian Universalist “insides”. It’s a good question for us all to consider.

The curriculum also reminds participants of the dynamic interdependence of UUs with their faith: “We are part of this living tradition. Through it we become whole, and through us it becomes whole.” What empowering words for a young (or old) UU: we shape our faith even as it shapes us. These words bring to mind our approach to the children and youth programs. Each week, SEL-CY volunteers brainstorm with one another or with me about how to lift ideas in the curricula off the page, and breathe fresh life into them. The big question is how to tweak the plan so that it will work in the context of our church setting and the children here. In so doing, we remain in touch with the issues and questions that keep our living tradition up to date.

This year, the leaders of “Spirit of Adventure” for our Grade 2-4 group have been especially adaptive. The guide was written in 2005 and, though it is full of great ideas, the section on food didn’t include local food issues or sustainable farming. We added that in. Similarly, the section on the web of life didn’t include any mention of native or invasive plants and we supplemented there.

OWLS leaders have been working with an even more dated curriculum for the gr. 5-7 group, and have done a wonderful job of modernizing it. They went so far as to supplement it to include Media Awareness issues, amongst much else. I’d like to offer an especially big thanks to Leslie O’Hagan, the lead volunteer in our OWLS program, for all her work and dedication to the children.

I feel grateful for the many creative and innovative ideas brought to the church and the SEL-CY program by all of you, and especially the SEL-CY volunteers. You shape the church and SEL-CY, even as it shapes you, and helps us all in living our UU “insides” on the “outside”.

A Happy June to all – the month that, according to Pablo Neruda, trembles like a butterfly. May we all tremble with the energy of transformation!

Warmly, Faye

### Father’s Day Hike to Tod Inlet

June 15 at 12 noon

Meet at the front door of the church to organize carpooling. *The hike starts on Wallace Drive, about 4 kms north of the church.*

We’ll walk down to lovely Tod Inlet where we will picnic before strolling back uphill—if we’re lucky, we’ll see Phantom Orchids in bloom en route! Horizontal distance from Wallace Drive to Tod Inlet is about 1.5 km; elevation change is about 60 m. The trail is wide with good footing. Bring weather-wise clothes, non-slip footwear and a lunch.

For more information and to RSVP, talk to Faye 250-744-2695 or [fayem@victoriaunitarian.ca](mailto:fayem@victoriaunitarian.ca)

**Mission-in-Action-Leadership-Development-Strategic-Direction-  
Innovation-Fund-or-is-it Innovation Team?!?!?!?**  
*(or, Ministers' Report July 2013- June 2014)*



Over the course of the past year and a half, you may have heard some or all of the above terms mentioned by clergy and lay leaders. I'm guessing you don't have a good sense of what it was all about – and that is, in part, because, when we were in the midst of it, our direction wasn't entirely clear to us either. In hindsight, it does make some sense to me. So I offer this narrative in hopes that it will help you make sense of it as well:

**January 2012**

Congregation votes to affirm our **new mission statement**, created by the congregation in fall 2011:

Strengthened in spiritual growth,  
supported in community,  
energized by diversity,  
we strive to transform ourselves and our world through compassionate action.

**January 2013**

**Mission-In-Action Team** convened. Having the mission in words is nice, but we needed to put the mission into action as well. The team was convened to consider ways we might engage the congregation in intentional and concrete ways of living our mission. In what ways can we support spiritual growth? In what ways can we support one another? In what ways can we practise engaging with one another across our diversities, finding richness and connection instead of division? In what ways might we transform ourselves through compassionate action? In what ways might we transform the world through compassionate action?

**Leadership Development Team** convened. Ever since Rev. Shana and I began our ministry here in 2010, we heard from you about a need for deliberate support of lay leaders—a systematic way to help lay people—newcomers as well as long-time members—plug into parts of our shared ministry about which they are most passionate, and provide them with any orientation, training, or support they need to do their part of our shared ministry. We sought to transform the old model of a Nominating Committee that once-a-year twists arms to get people to serve on the Board to the newer model of Leadership Development which has a Team active year round, helping people to discern and practice their ministries in all areas of church life, including serving on the Board.

**Mission-in-Action and Leadership Development Combine.** Good leadership development is grounded in mission. Thus, the two teams met together to see what, if any, of their goals and methods might overlap.

**June 2013**

**Heeding Our Call to Worship and Workshop**

At this event, the combined team (mission-in-action-leadership-development) asked us to consider:

- When you feel 'at home', most relaxed into your authentic self, to what do you feel 'called?' **What is your 'call,' your 'ministry' – your unique way of tending to this earth and those who dwell upon it?**
- **What in our congregational system, prevents us from heeding that call, from doing our part of our shared ministry?**

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## FROM YOUR MINISTER (CONTINUED)

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*One response of note was:*

**A culture of saying ‘no’ to new ideas.** New person: “How about we try *this*?” Long-time members: “We already tried that. It didn’t work.” “That would cost too much money.” “That wouldn’t work because of rule x, procedure y, and bureaucracy z.”

Someone suggested establishing a group of people whose job it would be to help people get new ideas going.

### Fall 2014

#### **MiA-LD Team morphs into Innovation Team**

Responding to the outcome of the June workshop, the “Mission-in-Action-Leadership-Development” Team morphed into the “Innovation Team.” They took, as their charge: to help people discern and practise their own ministries within our congregation’s shared ministry, and in particular, to **help foster a culture** in which we:

- look for ways to **say yes to new ideas**;
- adopt an **experimental mindset**—try out something small, build on it if it works, let it go if it does not work.

#### **Innovation Fund and Innovation Fund Trustees**

Fortuitously, at the same time, thanks to the generosity of Ted and Ruth Humphreys, the Ruth Humphreys Innovation Fund was established; specifically designated for the funding of new innovations that help our congregation live its mission. This fund helped break down that above-mentioned barrier of “No, we can’t try that. It would cost too much money.”

**Note:** *the Innovation Fund Trustees are **NOT** the same as the Innovation Team.*

- *The Innovation Fund Trustees determine what innovative projects will get funded.*
- *The Innovation Team works on fostering a culture of innovation within our congregation.*

#### **Board Initiates Discussions about Strategic Direction**

We had a mission. We needed strategic direction. We have more ideas for programs—more things that we could do in our shared ministry than we have resources for (money, lay effort and time, clergy effort and time, etc.). We needed to focus our efforts. We needed ‘strategic direction.’

The idea was that having ‘strategic direction’ would help the Innovation Fund Trustees determine what should get funded, and would help the ministers determine what we should prioritize in terms of our time and effort.

Possible areas of focus were proposed:

1. UU outreach
2. Lifespan Spiritual Exploration and Learning
3. Our Buildings (both as welcoming space and as rental space)
4. Worship and Music
5. Social Responsibility

In consultation with the Mission-in-Action-Leadership-Development-Now-Innovation-Team, and after a strategic planning retreat in December, the Board hosted some congregational forums in January.

### Spring 2014

**Culture is Shifting! Experimental mindset working!**

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## FROM YOUR MINISTER (CONTINUED)

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We noted that the culture has started to shift. People have been trying to say ‘yes’ more than ‘no’ to new ideas. People are willing to ‘try things out,’ see if they work, build on them if they do (a.k.a. ‘beta testing’). Some examples:

- Trial of Coffee Hour in the Sanctuary (Dec-April) to alleviate the crowding in Lion Hall during winter months when Lion Hall patios are not used (and corresponding trial of Visitors’ Table by pulpit, and Care and Concern cards on Chalice table);
- After-service Conversation Circles (once/month);
- November trial of pre-service centering options, resulting in ongoing, twice/month, pre-service centering time with choir music;
- Experiments with Power Point to enhance worship experience;
- Circles of Connection (one-time gatherings for people who share similar life experience and/or issues);
- Depression and Anxiety Peer Support Group;
- AHA (Agnostics, Humanists, Atheists);
- Creativity Micro-Retreats;
- Monday Pub Night; and
- Trying Child Haven Fundraiser in Spring instead of Fall.
- Can you think of other examples?

### Priorities Emerge

From all the discussions about strategic directions, and from feedback we received through our ministerial evaluation, we, your ministers, and your Board as well, have a better sense of your priorities. Here is my attempt to articulate those priorities:

- **UU Outreach** (getting the UU message out in the wider community);
- **Welcoming:** Making our congregation and space welcoming to everyone who wishes to be here;
- **Meaningful Participation:** Helping everyone here, newcomers and long-time members alike, participate in congregational life in meaningful ways. To that end, areas that need development are:
  - ◆ **Lifespan Spiritual Exploration and Learning**
  - ◆ Helping lay people plug into our shared ministry in ways that suit their passions (a.k.a., **Leadership Development**)

### Looking Toward Fall 2014

#### Acting on the Priorities

- **UU Outreach** (getting the UU message out in the wider community)
  - ◆ Rev. Shana has begun serving as **Chaplain at University of Victoria** (UVic fee funded by congregant donation).
  - ◆ Rev. Shana and Gary Theal are leading five **Jazz Vespers** services at church and at UVic, funded by the Ruth Humphreys Innovation Fund. (See <http://victoriaunitarian.ca/program/adult-programs/special-programs/>).
  - ◆ Rev. Shana has become a regular contributor to the Times Colonist’s series Faith Forum and blog Spiritually Speaking. She has had three pieces published and will continue to write every few months. (Find the articles at [www.timescolonist.com/opinion/blogs/spiritually-speaking-1.61091](http://www.timescolonist.com/opinion/blogs/spiritually-speaking-1.61091)).

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## FROM YOUR MINISTER (CONTINUED)

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- **Welcoming:** Making our congregation and space welcoming to everyone who wishes to be here
  - ◆ Board appointed **Sunday Squeeze Task Force** to assess Sunday morning crowding issues; task force submitted report (<http://victoriaunitarian.ca/wp-content/uploads/sunday-attendance-TF-report.pdf>).
  - ◆ Board to appoint **Sunday Squeeze Implementation Team** to implement some of the recommendations of that report, including changes to parking, streamlining counting process for attendance and parking, refining usher role, and encouraging rideshare.
  - ◆ **Reconsidering Our Name.** In response to issues raised by congregants, a sermon and two listening circles were held on the name of our congregation—whether it accurately reflects who we are and welcomes into our congregation all who wish to join us. The conversation will continue through the fall, possibly culminating in a name change proposal at the congregational meeting in January 2015. (What do *you* think? Unitarian Community of Victoria? Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Victoria? Unitarian Universalists of Victoria? To hear or read sermon, go to <http://victoriaunitarian.ca/who-do-you-say-we-are/>.)
- **Meaningful Participation:** Helping everyone here, newcomers and long-time members alike, participate in congregational life in meaningful ways.
  - ◆ Lifespan Spiritual Exploration and Learning
    - ◇ 2014 Budget included hiring **new assistant for Children and Youth programing.**
    - ◇ **New Worship Associate Program**, financed by the Ruth Humphreys Innovation Fund (<http://victoriaunitarian.ca/wp-content/uploads/worship-associates.pdf>).
    - ◇ **Jazz vespers** (see above, under UU Outreach).
  - ◆ Helping people plug into our shared ministry in ways that suit their passions (a.k.a., **Leadership Development**).
    - ◇ The Innovation Team, having helped to nurture innovation and experimentation within our congregation, is considering renewing its emphasis on helping people plug into our shared ministry in ways that suit their passions and changing its name to reflect that emphasis (the focus of which I speak is what we used to call “Leadership Development”—but many objected to that phrase—feel free to suggest a new one!)
    - ◇ The Worship Associate Program (see above) is a great model of ‘Leadership Development’ (or whatever we’d like to call it). The Worship Associate Program plugs folks into an area of our shared ministry that suits their passions, trains them, and supports them as they grow. It is enriching to the Worship Associate him/herself and it enriches the experience of the larger congregation.

I hope that this overview helps shed some light on our congregation’s recent journey through Mission-in-Action-Leadership-Development-Strategic-Direction-Innovation-Fund-oh-I-see-now-it-is-different-from-the-Innovation Team!

Looking forward to our next chapters together,  
Rev. Melora  
([Rev.melora@gmail.com](mailto:Rev.melora@gmail.com) 250-891-6330)

P.S. I should note that, in addition to supporting the projects and priorities above, over our summer study leave, Rev. Shana and I will be considering ways to respond to other feedback from the ministerial evaluation. In particular, we have heard expressed a desire for:

1. More preaching on social responsibility; and

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## FROM YOUR MINISTER (CONTINUED)

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2. our presence at more social “fun and fellowship” events.

We have already begun planning with the Social Responsibility Coalition for a few topics next year. After we have discussed the survey results with the Committee on Ministry and the Board, we will let you know more about our responses and plans as they develop.

### Board Splinters

The following items are from the May Board meeting.

1. The Task Force on Sunday Attendance submitted its report to the Board.

Specific recommendations are to be fulfilled by a separate work group, the Sunday Squeeze Implementation Team, consisting of two or three members of the original task force on Sunday attendance, Property Management Council chair John Tiffany, a member of the Worship Team, and a member of the EAT team (Ride Share) to oversee the implementation of the report’s recommendations. The team will report to the Board through John Tiffany in September and will also be asked to provide a report to the January, 2015, Congregational Meeting.

The Board extended its heartfelt thanks to the Task Force on Sunday Attendance members-- Don Armstrong, Nancy Dobbs, Hugo Sutmoller, John Hovzdanski, Karla Thomson, and Eunice Fast -- for their participation and for preparing an excellent report for the board and the congregation.

2. Treasurer Bob Dobbs reported the Property Fund now stands at \$36,160.
3. The Board voted to ask the Finance Committee to consider adjusting the 2016 budget to deal with the short and long-term property expenditures that continue to arise.
4. The Board approved the expenditure for two members (Bob Dobbs and another member) to attend the Church Treasurers of Canada seminar on protecting charitable status to be held in Victoria in late May.
5. The Committee on Ministry will report to the Board at the June Meeting.
6. The Board voted to name Suzanne Dearman as an Elder of the Congregation.
7. New members Oceanna Hall, Lynda Mazerolle, Shurly Mazerolle, Cheryl Hall, Timothy Hall and Mary Ellen Nicol were welcomed by the Board. Ross Beauchamp was recognized as a friend.



**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)



...continued from previous page they did and I attribute my spiritual growth over the last couple of years to their teachings which provide me a welcoming means for my own spiritual beliefs and practices to develop and grow.

- I would like to see occasional emphasis on social justice in services.
- Their sermons give me food for thought and provide me a time in my week to be reflective.
- There have been moments during services where I felt the congregation actually connecting together in a meaningful spiritual way, rather than just “watching” the service unfold. Pretty amazing!

**Providing Leadership** Respondents cited a number of examples of the ministers handling problems head on, respectfully and in a way that allowed the congregation to move forward. Respondents spoke of a culture that is building within our congregation that has a strong sense of a caring, beloved community. The leadership of the ministers is also evident in our improved view of the congregation’s ability to administer pastoral care, lead Sunday services and provide leadership in the church.

- They handle potentially difficult situations with exceptional skill and sensitivity. They are able to diffuse potentially divisive situations using great listening and speaking skills while allowing all to save face, decreasing the tension and folks feeling more relaxed.
- The question is where lay leaders can help. Your support of lay leaders has been super. They are succeeding in deepening and broadening the lay leadership of the congregation.
- They have a deep commitment to moving the church forward in a positive way.
- Their leadership when contentious issues arise has been fantastic. Directly confronting issues is a major strength that will keep issues from festering.

**Pastoral Care and Support** There was strong support for the work of the ministers in this area. The reorganization of the neighbourhood groups and care and concern were cited as work by the ministers that help us as a congregation to be more involved in pastoral care.

- They provide a comforting and reassuring presence for those among us who are hurting.
- I have found the ministers very responsive when a pastoral care issue arises.
- Pastoral care is exceptional which must be challenging for a congregation this size.

**Developing a Welcoming Community** The respondents felt that the ministers had made great progress in the four years they have been with us but there is still work to be done.

- I am amazed at how well the ministers know all members and friends – new, old, kids and pets. I think this reflects the depth to which the ministers have gotten to know the congregation.
- I feel a real difference in the tone of the congregation since the ministers have arrived and as they continue to remind us to lighten up and be respectful with each other and with ourselves.
- They have been able to move us beyond petty concerns and the congregation seems more accepting of new ideas.
- My struggle is still trying to find my place and to feel I belong. It is not a warm and heart felt place from my experience but the small cliques who know each other and the politics and the rigidity for ideas.

**Encouraging Diversity** The respondents felt that we were moving in the right direction in this area but there is still work to be done.

- I am extremely appreciative of how welcoming this community is and how accepting and open-minded they are of diversity. I love how they don’t shy away from potentially divisive questions, instead taking them as an opportunity to learn and grow.
- An atmosphere of welcoming diversity, fun and fellowship can certainly be added to by the ministers but it is up to the wider congregation to enact.

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...continued from previous page • *I am interested in in-depth explorations of the theological foundations and future possibilities, more variety in worship services, including embracing eastern traditions.*

**Spiritual Exploration and Learning – Adults** The congregation shared a desire for small group spiritual exploration and connection to each other.

- *Both Reverends Lynngood have made a significant change to the culture of church through not only what they do but how they do what they do. I see the efforts that both Ministers are making to make up for a decade or more of “back-burner” adult faith development.*
- *I really appreciate the workshops that are offered at night and on the weekends as I work full-time and am unable to attend during the week days.*
- *I enjoy the opportunity for small groups such as the covenant groups.*

**Spiritual Exploration and Learning – Children and Youth** Respondents wrote of a well run program with children and youth able to grow, learn and feel love. There is still work to do to ensure young children feel welcome in the congregation.

- *I really like it when the ministers come to our classes, it let’s us get to know them more as ministers and people.*
- *I appreciate that they acknowledge the children and youth of the congregation and involve them in worship services.*
- *I would like to see them more connected with the core SEL-CY teachers. As many of us teach so much it is challenging to feel connected with the spiritual leadership of the church. Both Melora and Shana have led workshops for teachers/ children/youth. I would like to see this happen more regularly.*

**Fun and Fellowship** There were comments that suggest the congregation would like to have the ministers attend more social events. Respondents who highly value Fun & Fellowship by and large think the ministers are doing very well. Many acknowledged that, with a young family and the demands of professional ministry, their time is limited. Though there was a desire to see the ministers at more Fun & Fellowship events, there was an understanding that they can't do everything and that they will need to balance priorities.

- *I respect and understand their need for personal and family space but I feel they keep quite separate from social and community events. They are often absent from fun activities. It is strange not to see the ministers at these occasions, as I and my kids would like to get to know them better.*
- *The ministers don’t need to focus on fun and fellowship, that is the job of the congregation. They should focus on professional ministry.*
- *I would love to see them at Community Dinners and Neighbourhood group pot lucks.*

**Promotion of Social and Environmental Responsibility** The congregation feels that as a community we are doing a very good job of tackling difficult issues facing our world. Many people feel the ministers should focus on other areas of their ministry and let the congregation lead on this issue. Respondents did wish to hear occasional messages relating to social justice and environmental issues and to lift up Canadian issues from the pulpit.

- *I would attend more often if the sermon subjects had more to do with social justice and outreach to the needs of the community.*
- *Have more service time for local pressing issues i.e. homelessness, poverty, the environment, drugs and health etc.*
- *I would like to see them playing more of a role in social and environmental responsibility but recognize that we are only paying them for one job and they can’t do it all and take care of their own family needs as well.*
- *There are many important issues in the world today that threaten our very existence and surely we need to hear about them. We live in a time when self interest has never been higher but I do not get that much from sermons that promote it.*

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...continued from previous page **Interfaith Connections** Most respondents felt they did not know what the ministers were doing in this area and yet they would like to know more.

- *I would be interested in learning more about our interfaith connections within Victoria e.g. what form, if any does it take?*
- *I am glad the church is involved in the interfaith chapel at the University of Victoria.*
- *I am glad they are stepping into the wider community a bit more*
- *They are our face to the wider community, they give voice to what collectively we strive for or are invited to strive for – and they are both doing a superb job. We are blessed with their presence.*
- *Being an Atheist I consider Interfaith Connections to be a complete waste of time and resources.*

**Church Administration** There was theme throughout the survey that the congregation feels the church is well run and the professional ministers don't need to be as involved in this area.

- *The ministers don't need to involve themselves in the day to day running of the church as an institution. We are a congregation of people who have the ability and time to do that. I hope they focus on the things they are trained for, to provide pastoral care and innovative services.*
- *I am extremely encouraged by how the ministers relate to the staff. I have been in meetings with them and staff and watched how supportive they are of their needs, time and energy.*

**Music** Respondents felt this was an area that was well supported, growing and an area that the ministers did not need to focus their attention.

- *The music is great and I look forward to the different pieces played each week, either by the choir or just the piano solos by Braden.*
- *The music is lovely and moving.*
- *Worship services are well-crafted, with readings, songs, hymns and sometimes special music supporting a common theme.*
- *On a Sunday morning a soloist, a small choir, an instrument other than piano is always a welcome change for me.*

**Denominational Connections** This was an area where there were some questions about what the ministers were doing and a desire from the congregation to have a greater understanding.

- *The ministers need to be more aware of Canadian issues as this is important.*
- *I'm glad to see they are finding opportunities for a higher profile in speaking about Unitarianism to the wider community.*
- *In this past year both of them have shown some active interest in the Denominational Affairs projects at the local church level.*

If you would like to read the entire survey results you may get a copy (with all identifiable references redacted) from the church office. Please remember that the role of the Committee on Ministry is to act as the conduit between the Ministers and the congregation. You don't have to wait for the next survey to let us know your opinion. And as always, the ministers welcome feedback communicated directly to them. We thank you for providing your voice to our call for an evaluation of the ministers and the congregation.

Your Committee on Ministry:  
David Andersen (co-chair)  
Sonya Ignatieff (co-chair)  
Martha McDougall

## The Innovation Team – Reflections of the Past Year

We are completing one year of an experiment, a beta test, endorsed at the May 2013 AGM, to establish a group with the goals of guiding the process of reflection, consultation and development necessary to:

1. **Shift and broaden** the role of the Nominating Committee to a primary emphasis on learning and fostering leadership, while retaining the responsibility of recruitment and nomination of elected leaders.
2. **Draw people in** to deepen our connections with each other, through initiatives that encourage commitment and engagement.
3. **Engaging** the whole congregation in an exploration of our individual and collective ‘calling’.
4. **Encourage individuals** to create their own ministry statement. **Encourage groups** to create a ministry statement, based on how they contribute to the mission, as a ‘source’ for action and review/reflection next year.
5. **Begin to create the conditions** that foster strategic, systemic thinking and good decision-making in every setting in our community. We will ask the tough questions, bring to the surface the adaptive challenges we face, encourage trying/testing new ideas/activities, and learn from them.

During this formative few months, we have invited interested individuals to contribute their perspective and wisdom to shape what has come to be called the ‘Innovations Team’. twelve individuals have had some involvement, and we now are a committed core team of five individuals, who model shared leadership and responsibility: Jane Wilson, John Waters, Forrest Smith, Leslie Gillett, Diana Smith.

We were responsible for co-convening the June 2013 ‘Heeding our Call’ leadership day of dialogue. In August, 15 interested individuals met for a day of reflection and direction setting about leadership development and our mandate. The Innovations Team emerged to be a space/team/place that:

- supports those with good ideas to get going/flourish;
- listens to complaints/challenges, and supports the resolution to get to ‘yes’; and
- encourages communication and collaboration with each other

In the last year we have been:

- opening up the call for leaders ‘in every chair’;
- having ‘one-on-ones’ with individuals and families;
- becoming visible to the congregation [page on website, a service in November, regular contributions in the newsletter, and eweekly];
- ensuring that the wisdom of the past is a foundation for decision-making; and
- supporting the creation of an Innovations Fund.

We have

- listened to individuals about their passions, concerns, and
- helped ideas get going – creating the conditions where they can flourish;
- discussed what our purpose and role might be and let the congregation know through the newsletter and eweekly;
- collected and analyzed the ‘wisdom of the past’: task forces/ special initiatives of the past ten years; and
- opened up the nominating process, creating a job description for Board members.

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We have noticed:

- much commitment, energy, engagement at the church with new members and families;
- an entrenched pattern of turning to a few to do a lot;
- hierarchies in decision-making;
- lack of adaptation and change to address root causes and recommendations surfaced in task force reports; and
- confusion about who/what the Innovation Team is/does.

As we go forward we are committing to making progress in:

- clarifying and communicating our role/niche;
- developing leadership capacity;
- having one to one conversations with many individuals;
- structuring what are we [if not a committee – what are we?], and how do we relate/engage with others, including the Board and Councils;
- developing an ombudsperson/conflict resolution process; and
- engaging the congregation in setting medium to long term priorities and direction.

We meet in early June to chart our course for the coming year. Join us. Please be in touch with any of us to share your views and perspectives. You'll find our contact links in the directory, or from the church office.

—Diana Smith

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## GREEN CORNER

ED DANIEL

The response of thousands of the British Columbia public and First Nations against the Northern Gateway dual pipeline to carry tar sands bitumen from Alberta to Kitimat and out through Douglas Channel to Asia upset the planners in the PMO office. So when Kinder Morgan submitted its plan to add a new pipeline from the tar sands to Burnaby increasing bitumen flow from 300,000 to 890,000 barrels per day, the environmental review procedure was changed. This bitumen would be shipped by tanker out of Vancouver through the First Narrows and the Straight of Georgia to Asia.

For this review, only those “directly” affected” or who have “relevant information or expertise.” could intervene. Further, there would be no cross examination of witnesses except for those in the Aboriginal process. (There are 62 Aboriginal interveners.) The intent is clearly to prevent the views of the general public from being heard, and to try to fast track the review. As with the Northern Gateway proposal, it is clear that this new pipeline would provide minimal benefit for British Columbia. It would expose our interior and our maritime corridors and lands to risks of spills which would be very difficult to clean up, have lasting effects on land and maritime ecosystems, and devastate BC tourism. No wonder the Harper government wants to keep BC citizens out of the review.

Of course, no criticism of exporting of bitumen to be consumed in Asia was allowed, nor was concern about expanding the mining of tar sands. They are apparently irrelevant to our National Energy Board and our government.

[http://www.vancouversun.com/business/energy/Kinder+Morgan+Northern+Gateway+tale+pipeline+reviews/9839446/story.html?\\_lsa=d829-22f2](http://www.vancouversun.com/business/energy/Kinder+Morgan+Northern+Gateway+tale+pipeline+reviews/9839446/story.html?_lsa=d829-22f2)

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## SRC ACTION OF THE MONTH

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### **Making Love a Crime - Amnesty International Canada**

The continued criminalization of consensual same-sex conduct in 38 African countries is a serious cause for concern. The existence and implementation of these laws violates a raft of international and regional human rights norms, and serves to marginalize one group of Africans based on their sexual orientation and gender identity alone. The last decade has witnessed efforts in some sub-Saharan African countries to further criminalize LGBTI (Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual, Transgender, and Intersex) individuals by ostensibly targeting their behaviour, or imposing steeper penalties and broadening the scope of existing laws.

Uganda's newly implemented Anti-Homosexuality bill imposes life imprisonment for 'aggravated' homosexuality, and criminalizes anyone in Uganda who does not report violations of the bill's wide-ranging provisions within 24 hours to authorities. South Sudan, on becoming independent in 2008, criminalized consensual same-sex conduct for women and men with up to 10 years' imprisonment. Nigeria and Liberia respectively introduced bills to toughen penalties for same-sex conduct. And Mauritania, northern regions of Nigeria, the southern region of Somalia and Sudan, retain the death penalty for the same.

In some countries, like Cameroon, individuals are regularly arrested, charged, and sentenced without evidence of same-sex conduct, and sometimes invasive medical examinations are performed in an attempt to obtain 'evidence' of such. Even in countries where anti-homosexuality laws are not routinely implemented, the existence of the laws alone provide opportunities for abuse, including blackmail and extortion, both by police and by non-state actors. Furthermore, the existence of laws that criminalize one group of people based on who they are and who they (are presumed to) have consensual sex with, sends a message to the broader population that discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity is acceptable, and that human rights do not apply to LGBTI people. This creates an environment in which harassment, intimidation and violence against LGBTI people can flourish, and people can perpetrate such acts with impunity.

Amnesty International Canada, our share the plate recipient for the month of June, has been hard at work documenting the laws and policies related to the criminalization of same sex relations, primarily in these Sub-Saharan Countries. Last Summer they published a report, (that the material here has been pieced together from), called 'Making Love a Crime'. Currently, at the request of the local grassroots activists, Amnesty is working quietly behind the scenes because of the common sentiment that many African political leaders hold that Western LGBTI activists are exporting their values to Africa.

Amnesty continues to monitor the situations in Uganda, Nigeria, Cameroon, and other countries in Sub-Saharan Africa very closely, (as well as in Russia, India, Saudi Arabia, Jamaica etc.) working toward systematic law reform, and on individual cases, and will take action whenever the need and opportunity arises.

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## ARTIST FOR JUNE — SUZANNE HERON

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I am an artist with a passion for community. After 30 years in community development and co-owning a small town toy store, I am using art to celebrate places that people love to be part of. Thinking about our summer place, used by four generations, I realized my connection to that place gives me deep roots. A sense of belonging, being part of a community, is critical for all of us. So I am still building community, by using art to document and share local places that have special meaning for people. The process of building the annual Victoria and Circle Tour Calendar—discovering favourite places and meeting people who love where they live—has given me a strong sense of home.

I paint digitally, using a Wacom tablet and stylus, linked to my computer. I can tell the tablet to be any kind of surface—canvas, watercolour paper, wet, dry, etc. I tell the stylus to be whatever brush is needed. I paint in layers, starting with a wash or blocking layer, and working from the background up to the foreground, just like with paint on canvas. I can “dip into” the colours of a reference photo, and if something doesn't look right, just erase it. It's very cool!

## Christine Johnston – 2014 Knight Award Recipient

(reprinted from a CUC posting of May 20, 2014)

EVERY YEAR, the Knight Award is presented to a living person who has, as a volunteer, contributed at the national level to furthering the principles of Unitarianism in Canada. Christine Johnston has made a distinguished contribution to Canadian Unitarianism for many years and at all levels from the local to the international. Her work in preserving our history has included many years of service as archivist of the First Toronto congregation, the writing of a full-length biography of Joseph Workman, one of the leading nineteenth-century pioneers, and serving as secretary of the Canadian Unitarian and Universalist Historical Society. She also facilitated the publication of the writings of former Toronto minister John Morgan. As a long-time member of Canadian Unitarians for Social Justice she continues to remind us of our social obligations to implement our principles. She has served on the board of the Toronto First congregation, eventually becoming chair, and served on the CUC Board from 2002 to 2006.

Usually a familiar figure at CUC meetings, Christine was unable to be present at the Annual Conference and Meeting to receive the award in person because she is this year's CUC delegate to the Congress of the International Association of Religious Freedom, in which she has been active for many years. Christine asked Frances Deverell to accept the award on her behalf, and to say a few words.

Funds were received in 1996 for the purpose of establishing a perpetual fund to honour the ideals exemplified by the lives and work of Nancy and Victor Knight. As an encouragement for others to follow their example, an award is made annually from the income of the fund to a living person, who has made a notable contribution to the furthering of liberal religious principles in Canada.

### Covenant Question

You are attending a meal at the church such as "Souper Sunday" which asks for donations and the person in front of you drops in a very small amount. You are about to comment to them but suddenly remember the Covenant. What does the Covenant say?

**Answer on page 22.**

### Thank You...

...from the members of the Child Haven Committee.

We would like to thank all of the many people who helped in many diverse ways to make it a fun occasion. Donations are still coming in so a tally is not yet available.

The key planners were: Adam Gottlieb, Dolores Appleton, Virginia Daniel, Christine Johnston, Katherine Jones, Sandra and Jim Jordan, Marya Nijand, Fran Pardee, Hugo Suttmoller.

### UU Women's Retreat

The 17th UU Women's Retreat will be held over the weekend of September 19-21 this year at the Bethlehem Retreat Centre. The Saturday morning workshop will be "The Labyrinth—A Metaphor for our Lives" and there is an outdoor labyrinth at the Centre. The workshop begins at 5pm on Friday evening and ends after lunch on Sunday. The cost is \$225.00 and this includes meals. Space is limited to 23 women.

If you are interested, email Janice Hocking at [tjhocking@shaw.ca](mailto:tjhocking@shaw.ca) or Patricia Hofstrand at [phofstrand@shaw.ca](mailto:phofstrand@shaw.ca) for further information and/or registration.

### 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 or your Neighbourhood Group Care & Concern person

## Project A: Solar units - lights/batteries for 30 women in Tanzania

Funding Request: \$5250 - we are very close to reaching this goal



Church member Anne Percival has proposed a project that will have long-lasting, multiple benefits for many Tanzanians in the Moshi area. Consider what Anne prepared in her proposal:

### Project Benefits

- In addition to providing solar light, business training and an income for up to 30 destitute families in up to 30 rural villages, this project will provide other villagers with access to reliable, inexpensive, nearby source of energy for recharging cell phones.
- In many of these villages, a power source will enable villagers to acquire cell phones for the first time. For other villagers, it will save days-long walks to the closest energy source.
- A UN study shows that cell phone technology creates a wealth of micro-enterprises, providing employment to those with little education and few other opportunities (e.g., selling airtime on the street and refurbishing handsets). This project has the potential to create additional job opportunities within each selected village.
- Clean energy solar lights will reduce the many eye problems associated with kerosene lights.
- Background Information:
- Extreme poverty is directly related to lack of access to electricity. Tanzania, one of the poorest countries in Africa, also has one of the lowest rates of rural access to electricity (2%).
- 75% of the population are covered by cell phone networks but further growth in rural areas is limited due to lack of access to reliable sources of energy for recharging batteries.

Cheques can be made payable to FUCV with HOW on the memo line. Bring to the office or put it in the collection plate at church on Sunday. For more information, contact Anne or email HOW - [how@victoriaunitarian.ca](mailto:how@victoriaunitarian.ca).

## Healing Our World 2014

### Project B: Schooling for Children in Slums of Pune, India

**Far Away Dreams: “I will no longer be a labourer but the father of an engineer.”**

When we approved the HOW project in the spring which will assist children living in the slums of Pune, India, we launched a spiritual and a practical connection across 7,689 miles. That connection is invisible to the eye but it is just as real as West Saanich Road. As real as Payal and Siddharth Bhalke, the brother and sister pictured here. And it's a connection which involves dreams—dreams of a little girl, a boy and their father



Siddharth is 12; his sister Payal is 10; they attend the school we are helping through HOW. Their father works as a painter in a project nearby, and the mother does some stitching work here and there to provide for the family, but it is not enough.

The children's father says: “All my life I have been a labourer and worked under my boss who is a site engineer. I want to educate my son so that he studies and becomes an engineer some day. Once that happens, I will no longer be a labourer but the father of an engineer.”

Payal is a smart looking child who wants to be an English teacher.

We help these things happen when we donate to HOW. Please make your cheque payable to First Unitarian Church of Victoria and on the memo line write “HOW.”

## Healing Our World 2014

### Project C: Multi-purpose room for Drapers Basic School, Portland, Jamaica

Funded - thank you!

Congregational members responded enthusiastically to Fran Pardee's Healing Our World (HOW) 2014 project requesting \$800 to build a room at a well-run primary school recommended by Fran's brother John Sutton who lives in Portland, Jamaica. Designated donations to this project allowed for this project to be funded first.

The multi-purpose room will offer much needed private space for parents and teachers to meet, to store supplies, to keep health and family information and for staff to plan lessons and hold meetings.

A cheque will be sent to the Canadian charity Project for the Advancement of Early Childhood Education or P.A.C.E Canada (<http://pacecanada.org/>). This charity will ensure the safe transfer of funds to the school's principal, Norene Pollock. Under the careful direction of Mrs. Pollock, this school situated in an impoverished area of Jamaica, serves a growing number of children between 3 - 5 years of age. She has been able to accomplish much with very few resources, including a hot lunch program.



P.A.C.E Canada requires annual reports from schools registered with their charity and so in addition to first-hand reports from John Sutton, we can expect a formal update from the Director of P.A.C.E. If this project is successful, Fran and John will consider more ambitious projects in the future such as additional classroom space and a library.

Congratulations to Fran Pardee for a successful presentation of a worthy HOW 2014 project. Draper's Basic School becomes the 19th HOW project that the First Unitarian Church of Victoria has made possible. Thank you to all those who have and continue to support HOW. Together we make a difference.

*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:** Fresh from the plant sale, Valerie Roberts reports that Cadboro Bay will be gathering for a garden party in late August at the home of Linda and Howard Petch.

**Esquimalt:** Betty Sherwood writes, "We will be meeting on Friday at 6pm on June 6th. Barbara Boyle will be our host for a potluck supper and discussion." After valiant effort in the RideShare competition with Oak Bay, Esquimalt came in second. This group also provided us all with baking for the Sunday coffee social hours in May.

**Fairfield:** This NG has no convenor at the moment, but they hope to continue to gather at three or four potlucks a year.

**Gordon Head:** Mary Cramer writes, "We are beginning to plan a potluck at the home of Sarah Harris for June or July. Our other commitments are completed and we are resting!"

**Grand Central:** Convenor, Linda Nicholson-Brown, is moving to the Nearby NG, so Grand Central is presently without a convenor. However, the group has planned a family-friendly spring get-together at Playfair Park on Saturday, May 24 at 3:00pm. They will bring their own drinks and snacks while they enjoy the beautiful gardens and playground equipment.

**James Bay:** This group will gather for a tea on Sat., June 14 at the home of Adeleine Morris.

**Nearby:** On Saturday, May 24th Nearby had the unique opportunity to use the Sea Change freight canoe for an outing on the idyllic Tod Inlet. Sea Change is managed by NG member Sarah Verstegen and her partner, Nicki Wright. The canoe accommodated nine passengers, aged 8 to 86 and two dogs. New Nearby member, Dee Heston, celebrated her 86th birthday with us. Nearby is geared up to provide the goodies for coffee time for all five Sundays in June.

**Oak Bay:** The RideShare competition was intense, and Oak Bay edged out Esquimalt by one point, with 62 points! This is particularly good for the environment, because Oak Bay members have a long drive to the church.

**Royal Oak East:** Hanny Pannekoek writes, "The Royal Oak East group will meet on June 10 for our second potluck gathering of this year."

**Royal Oak West:** Fran Hancock writes, "Royal Oak West is looking for volunteers to host a summer potluck. 'RideShare' was a big success in April within our NG as many rode their bikes and shared rides. Donna Greenburg mentioned the kindness of Suellen Guenther who has driven her to church for the last six years. Bravo!" All that bike riding helped Royal Oak West come in third in the RideShare promotion with 57 points!

**Western:** Susan Lean reports that Mac Elrod hosted a good-sized gathering for the NG potluck in April and is poised to host the next potluck, as well, in late May.

## Blessed be the Bicycles!

June 1st - 12:00 noon



Although the church may be inconveniently distant for many members to cycle to, the Environmental Action Team wishes to honour those who do manage to do so, as well as the many more who cycle to other destinations such as work or school. The end of Bike to Work Week, May 25th - June 1st, seems an appropriate time to celebrate.

At 12.00 noon on Sunday, June 1st, Rev Shana will perform a blessing ceremony for all cyclists wishing to participate, so try your best to bring your bike to church. All ages welcome. We will also be officially inaugurating our new bike shelter, recently constructed by carpentry wizard Nellie van Leeuwen.

This provides much needed covered bike parking in the old composting enclosure just east of the farmhouse. It will be particularly handy for staff and those attending meetings in the library or farmhouse.

Finally, we will be presenting the much anticipated prize for Rideshare during April to the Oak Bay Neighbourhood Group. It appears as if Rideshare is becoming a **norm** at our church.

Thanks to all of you who continue to reduce your carbon footprint via your transportation choices!

## Braden and Hillary News

Braden and Hillary have some exciting news that they want to share with their UU family. Braden has accepted a partial scholarship to attend the University of Toronto to pursue a Master's Degree in Collaborative Piano. He will be leaving his position at the church to move to Toronto in late August. Braden will be studying with Professor Stephen Philcox and is looking forward to honing his skills as a collaborative pianist, ensemble musician and vocal coach. He will also have a teaching assistant position as a studio pianist in the School of Music.

Hillary is graduating with her Master's Degree in Opera from UBC this spring. She has been awarded the Catherine Cooke Topping Memorial Medal for Music Excellence. She was also this year's winner of the UBC Concerto Competition. Hillary has been offered a full scholarship to pursue a Doctorate in Contemporary Voice Performance at the University of California, San Diego. She will be studying in the studio of Susan Narucki. Hillary will also be engaged by the university in a teaching/research assistant capacity.

Please mark your calendars –  
Friday, August 15, 7:00pm at the First Unitarian Congregation of Victoria

### 'ORGANIZED SOUND' - BRADEN AND FRIENDS

Braden will be performing in a concert 'Organized Sound' that will feature gifted musicians that Braden has collaborated with in the past two years. Confirmed guests include his sister Hillary and the Cool Beans Trio (Braden Young, Philip Manning and Ashley Green). He is also excited to introduce his audience to several brilliant University of Victoria musicians. Proceeds from the concert will go to assist Braden with tuition and living expenses in Toronto. As always, a reception will follow the concert. Please plan now to attend this special evening as Braden and Hillary bid farewell to Victoria and continue their musical journeys..

## Rev. Shana in the Times-Colonist

You may have noticed recently that I have had a few articles published in the Times-Colonist--both the print edition and on their Spiritually Speaking Blog. I have made a lovely connection with Anna Bowness-Park, the editor and moderator of the Faith Forum columns and Spiritually Speaking Blog for the paper. Anna is an active Christian Science Practitioner and invited me to sit on an interfaith panel about Spirituality for Children that was held at her church in February. She has graciously invited me to be a regular contributor. My first column appeared on March 5th and was entitled, Has Religion Become a Bad Word? My second column was first published in the Times-Colonist print edition on May 10th, Finding Meaning in Life. A third post was published directly on the blog on Thursday, May 15th.

I hope you enjoy the content of my writing and what I hope will be increased attention for our faith tradition and congregation.

Blessings,  
Rev. Shana

<http://www.timescolonist.com/opinion/blogs/spiritually-speaking-1.61091>

### Beyond the Veil of Sand:

Saharawi people in exile and under occupation.  
The Canadian Connection: From garden fertilizers  
to the Canada Pension Plan.

**Friday, June 13, 6:45pm**  
(following the Community Dinner)

An illustrated talk by Theresa Wolfwood, long-time church member, recently returned from Western Sahara refugee camps in Algeria. No entrance fee and sponsored by the refugee sub-committee of the SRC.

**Background:** Western Sahara, Africa's last colony, was brutally occupied by Morocco when Spain abandoned its colony of 90 years. The Saharawi Arab Democratic Republic was created in exile in 1976 and is recognized by more than 50 countries. Since it was occupied by the Spanish in 1884 and by Morocco in 1975, Western Saharans have been fighting for the independence of their resource-rich nation. Canadian companies, Saskatchewan Potash Corp. and Agrium Inc., buy phosphates mined in Western Sahara by a company wholly-owned by the Moroccan government. Under international law and the Geneva Conventions on War, occupying powers are forbidden to exploit resources of the occupied territory.

### EAT Suggests...

The Environmental Action Team (EAT) suggests a web site to read/explore this month—Action & Awareness. As you read and learn about Canada's vanishing natural heritage, you should know what an individual can do about it. This site includes many practical and doable ideas that you can begin implementing to help Canada's wildlife right now. You'll enjoy the sense of accomplishment you get from making the world a better place for wildlife. <http://www.hww.ca/en/things-you-can-do/action-awareness/>



## Lots to be Proud of!

Summer is fast approaching and with it Victoria's Annual Pride Parade and Festival. Our own Peter Scales will set the stage for Pride Week at FUCV with his Sunday Service on June 29th, 'From Stonewall to Pride'—a historical look at how “a riot outside a gay bar, and an international medical crisis, led Canadians of all affections to openly celebrate their GLBT neighbours in Pride Parades”.

And of course, as is our tradition, our church will carry the largest rainbow flag in Canada in the July 6th Pride Parade, as well as maintain a presence at the festival in MacDonald Park. This year, we're adding a bit more colour to our group (if that's possible), with Penelope Hagan offering free face and body painting for adults and children, before the parade, and afterwards at our booth.

Of course it's too early yet to share with you all the details with regards to the where and whens, but I'll keep you updated on these and more through regular posts in the e-weekly. So mark these dates on your calendar and come out in support of our LGBTI brothers and sisters! For me, it's one of the highlights of the year; I get to celebrate both my Queer family and my UU family all at once, both of whom I am very proud to belong to!



Dar Gareau-Levy  
SRC Diversity Team



Did you stock up on summer reading at the Times-Colonist Book Sale?  
Would you like to give them a good home after you have read them?  
Save them for our

### Giant Book Sale on Saturday, September 20

Do you have books you need to get out of your hair now? Please bring them to church in boxes and put them in the storage space under the sanctuary.  
*(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).*

## What is in a name? It can mean a lot!

The Social Responsibility Committee spent considerable time in a visioning process this spring. The goals were to look at where we are now and what the future might look like. It has been an exciting process that will see us make many changes. The first of those changes happened in April 2014 with a name change from the Social Responsibility Committee to the Social Responsibility Coalition. The motion read: *“Given that members of the Social Responsibility Committee each tend to have their particular social justice issues and given that committee members listen to and support each other and given that the committee is anxious to attract more members from the congregation, it is moved that the name of the committee be changed to Social Responsibility Coalition, to more accurately reflect its nature and to be more appealing to those outside the committee whose social justice issues are not being represented.”*

Want more information? [src@victoriaunitarian.ca](mailto:src@victoriaunitarian.ca)



## Notable Unitarians

### Margret Jónsdóttir Benedictsson (1866-1956)

**Margret** was a Canadian Icelandic Unitarian. A strong feminist, she edited and published *Frena* (a newspaper named after the Icelandic community in Winnipeg). Born in Iceland, she emigrated to North Dakota, working as a domestic servant to support herself and walking six miles to school to learn English. She joined the Ethical Culture Society and was among those who eventually left to form the Winnipeg Unitarian Church. She married Sigfus Benedictsson, an outspoken critic of outmoded institutions and staunch supporter of women's rights. Together they founded *Freya*, a widely circulated women's paper, which Margret kept going for 20 years, even after her marriage broke up in 1905. A popular speaker and organizer, she founded the First Icelandic Women's Suffrage Association in 1908. She died in Blaine, Washington.



### Contact Changes

Jean Evans  
#309 - 161 Festival Way  
Sherwood Park, AL Y8A 4X2  
587-269-0701



Ted Humphreys  
118-2315 Mills Road  
Sidney, BC V8L 5W6  
250-655-6436



John Tiffany (Tiff) & Jan Li  
1536 York Place  
Victoria, BC V8R 5X2  
778-432-0881



Jennifer Young  
250-888-4746



### June Birthdays

- 1 Dar Gareau-Levy
- 2 Jean Simpson
- 4 Bridget Barr-Hoadley, Matea Branch, Jean Foxall
- 6 Bel Paul, Bruce Bennett
- 7 Jane Bramadat
- 8 Marion Irish
- 9 Allan Dakin
- 10 Kathryn Saunders, Mike Thorne
- 12 Rene Taylor-Lowen
- 13 Sevanna Grunwald
- 14 Gita John-Iyam
- 15 Andrew Beak-Taylor
- 17 Jan Van Gessel, Anne Percival
- 19 Brad Clarke, Emilia Quibell
- 20 Elizabeth McGugan
- 24 Joe Girard
- 25 Eunice Fast
- 27 Keiran Marrett-Hitch
- 28 Vera Tudor, Adrian Fine
- 29 Kieran Hall Locklin
- 30 Marian Foucault



### Answer to Covenant Question

on page 15.

The Covenant states: "Together we will strive to create a healthy spiritual community in which the contribution of each person is valued. Each of us will show generosity of spirit to other's needs and contributions".

### Board Members on Duty



- |         |                 |
|---------|-----------------|
| June 1  | Jennifer Young  |
| June 8  | Bob Dobbs       |
| June 15 | John Hopewell   |
| June 22 | Mike Graham     |
| June 29 | to be announced |



# Community Dinner Survey

The Community Dinner Crew has noticed that our attendance and revenues are down this past church year. Therefore, we would like to collect your feedback as to why this might be so. Please take a few minutes to fill in this brief Survey.

Please rank our menu choices from 1 (low) to 4 (high):

Spaghetti Night \_\_\_\_\_

Fiesta Night \_\_\_\_\_

Baked Potato Night \_\_\_\_\_

Breakfast for Dinner Night \_\_\_\_\_

What frequency would you prefer for Community Dinners?

Once per Month \_\_\_\_\_

Every other Month \_\_\_\_\_

On which day of the week would you prefer Community Dinner to be held?

Sunday  Monday  Tuesday  Wednesday  Thursday  Friday  Saturday

If you COME to Community Dinner, WHY do you come?

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If you DO NOT come to Community Dinner, WHY NOT?

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Additional Comments:

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# New Members



Name	Address	City	Postal Code	Phone No.	Email
Cheryl Hall	1174 Hewlett Place	Oak Bay	V8S 4P7	250-595-8616	tchall1@shaw.ca
Tim Hall	1174 Hewlett Place	Oak Bay	V9S 4P7	250-595-8616	tchall1@shaw.ca
Oceanna Hall	2094 Beacon Avenue	Sidney	V8L 1W7	250-886-1077	oceanna.hall@gmail.com
Lynda Mazerolle	513-870 Short Street	Saanich	V8X 2V5	250-380-3509	lrmazerolle@shaw.ca
Shurly Mazerolle	513-870 Short Street	Saanich	V8X 2V5	250-380-3509	shurmaz@shaw.ca
John Stewart	105-455 Sitkum Road	Victoria	V9A 7N9	250-385-1603	annevaasjohnstewart@gmail.com
Anne Vaasjo	105-455 Sitkum Road	Victoria	V9A 7N9	250-385-1603	annevaasjohnstewart@gmail.com
Reese Willis	1250 Roy Road	Saanich	V8Z 2X2	250-381-3527	reesey@shaw.ca



**Nearby NG Outing at Tod Inlet**  
 ...including 86th birthday celebration for Dee Heston. (Thanks to the Sea Change Society and Sarah Verstegen).



## 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

Liz Graham 250-384-4351  
 Kjerstin Mackie 250-598-5975  
 Joyce Murphy 250-598-1506  
 laychaplains@victoriaunitarian.ca

### Director of Spiritual Exploration and Learning for Children and Youth

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

### Director of Music

Nick Fairbank  
 music@victoriaunitarian.ca

### Church Administrator

Karen Uldall-Ekman  
 churchoffice@victoriaunitarian.ca

### Assistant Church Administrator

Sarah Verstegen

### Board of Trustees

#### Officers

President	Shirley Travis	250-386-3455
Vice-President	Linda Nicholson-Brown	250-474-7182
Past President	Mike Graham	250-384-4351
Treasurer	Bob Dobbs	250-652-5438
Secretary	Jennifer Young	250-370-5106

#### Trustees

Suzanne Beauchamp	778-433-2829
John Hopewell	250-721-3920
Susan Layng	250-370-2247
John Tiffany	778-265-1210
John Worton	250-220-6258

*Council representative  
 assignments will be  
 determined in August.*

## Events Calendar — June 2014

Date	Time	Event	Location
6/1	10:30-11:30am	New Members Ceremony	Sanctuary
	10:30-11:30am	SUNDAY SERVICE	Sanctuary
	11:30am-1pm	Foundation AGM	Farmhouse Common Room
	12:15-3pm	Creativity Micro Retreat	Chaplains Room
	12:30-2pm	Atheists, Humanists, Agnostics	Big Sky Room
6/2	7:30-9:30pm	Pub Night	Offsite location
6/3	9:30am-3:30pm	Innovation Team	Farmhouse Common Room
	1-3pm	SELA	Library
6/4	noon-2pm	Care and Concern	Farmhouse Common Room
6/5	7:30-9:30pm	Choir Practice	Sanctuary
6/7	12:45-2:30pm	Meditation	Sunflower Room
6/8	10:30-11:30am	SUNDAY SERVICE	Sanctuary
	noon-2pm	Church Picnic	
	noon-1:30pm	Diversity Group	Chaplains Room
	noon-1:30pm	Environment meeting	Farmhouse Common Room
6/9	7:30-9pm	Jazz Vespers Service	Sanctuary
	_____		

Continued on next page...

## Events Calendar (continued from previous page)

Date	Time	Event	Location
6/10	10am-4pm 1:30-3:30pm	Sandy Merriman cooking Social Responsibility Committee	Kitchen Sanctuary Farmhouse Common Room
6/11	7-9pm 7-8:30pm	Choices in Dying Depression & Anxiety Support Circle	Farmhouse Common Room Library
6/12	7:30-9:30pm	Choir Practice	Sanctuary
6/13	11am-1pm 6-9:30pm 6:30-8pm	Fall Gathering meeting Community Dinner Talk on trip to Sahara	Farmhouse Common Room Sanctuary Lion Hall
6/14	12:45-2:30pm	Meditation	Sunflower Room
6/15	10:30-am 10:30-11:45am noon-1pm	SUNDAY SERVICE Parents' Group Neighbourhood Group convenors	Sanctuary Farmhouse Common Room Farmhouse Common Room
6/16	_____		
6/17	12:30-2pm 2:30-4pm 7-8:30pm	Committee on Ministry Worship Committee New Member/Friend Reunion	Farmhouse Common Room Farmhouse Common Room Offsite location
6/18	11am-2pm 6:30-8:30pm	Board Meeting SELCY meeting	Farmhouse Common Room Farmhouse Common Room
6/19	7:30-9:30pm	Choir Practice	Sanctuary
6/20	7-8pm	Solstice service	Farmhouse Common Room
6/21	12:45-2:30pm	Meditation	Sunflower Room
6/22	10-noon 10:30-11:30am noon-1pm noon-1pm	YOUTH WORSHIP SUNDAY SERVICE After Service Conversations After Service Conversations	Lion Hall Sanctuary Farmhouse Common Room Fireside Room
6/23	_____		
6/24	_____		
6/25	7-8:30pm	Depression & Anxiety Support Circle	Library
6/26	_____		
6/27	_____		
6/28	12:45-2:30pm	Meditation	Sunflower Room
6/29	10:30-11:30am	SUNDAY SERVICE	Sanctuary
6/30	_____		



- Learn to use your iPad/tablet, smartphone, e-reader, Mac/PC
- Get assistance with technology purchases and home installations.
- Gain confidence and skills with specific programs and websites.

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Canadian Publications Mail  
Sales Product Agreement No. 40010260



## THE VICTORIA UNITARIAN

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

The **deadline** for submissions to the **July** issue is **June 17**.

Copy should be sent to [newsletter@victoriaunitarian.ca](mailto: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 Events Calendar should be sent to [calendar@victoriaunitarian.ca](mailto: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).



## Community Dinner (last one before summer)

June 13th at 6pm

We will be serving tacos with all the fixings, chili and much more!

Vegetarian options available.

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.

Everyone is welcome!! Please join us!!

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.*