



The Victoria Unitarian

April Sunday Services: Living With Compassion for the Earth

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

April 6 **The Wonder of Creation** **Reverend Shana Lynngood and Faye Mogensen**

In this intergenerational service we will begin a month focused on the Earth by looking at Creation stories. How did our Earth come to be? What is our place in the ecosystem? How much are we moved by the magnificence and majesty of the Earth?

April 13 **RideShare: A Gift of Spirit**

As we struggle with the multitude of challenges facing our planet today, we will do well to remember the tribal based "Gift" economy that sustained over 90% of our species history. As First Victoria Unitarian members explore aspects of RideShare, Marion Pape will remind us that we can be grateful that this generosity of spirit from the ancient 'Gift' economy still exists amongst the First Victoria Unitarian congregation. "RideShare; a Gift of Spirit" will include testimonials from members of the congregation.

April 20 **Salvation for Unitarians?** **Reverend Melora Lynngood**

This Easter Sunday, we take a look at the many concepts of 'salvation' and consider which if any, may have meaning for us, a congregation that includes Christians, Buddhists, Atheists, Spiritual Seekers, and more. In this season of your life, in this moment in our earth's history, what kind of salvation might you crave?



There will be an Easter Egg Hunt for the Kids.

April 27 **Our Place in the Family of Things** **Reverend Shana Lynngood and Faye Mogensen**

This intergenerational service takes its title from the closing line of Mary Oliver's poem *Wild Geese*. How do we honor creation? How do we live in such a way that our connection to the Earth is life-giving?

 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
May issue of the newsletter is **April 15**.

In April we celebrate “Earth Month” – and what better time than now? Earth Day is approaching; the first flush of spring colours has begun to brighten our gardens and forests while our province continues to grapple with questions that, when boiled down, are about whether to prioritize the economy or ecology.

I believe we need to feel a deep and abiding love for this earth and this planet before we are moved to or want to see change take place, at home or abroad, for the betterment of other humans and the environment. This month, over the course of two intergenerational services (April 6 and 27), we’ll explore the awe and the action that are integral to dwelling with integrity on a healthy “Mother Earth”. Both services will include participatory elements that we hope will be inspirational to all ages.

The children and youth considered their relationship to the Earth in March, when they participated in a much abbreviated “Council of All Beings” (based on JoAnna Macy’s *Thinking Like a Mountain*). During the Council, they made masks depicting Earth elements and animals. Their work will adorn the sanctuary walls through-out April – and come to life during the service on April 27.

On April 13, the SEL-CY team invites you to an “awe-some” experiential opportunity. After the service, please join us for a stroll in Gore Park, Brentwood Bay where, in April, the forest and fields are typically carpeted with pink, purple, blue, yellow and white flowers dancing between about a thousand shades of green. Please see the insert for details.

More specials: On April 18, for yet another celebration of creation, come to the Third Annual Youth Coffee House. Please see the poster. On April 20, the children can look forward to our traditional Egg Hunt.

April is also a time when the SEL-CY team begins to vision the coming year. If you have thoughts or opinions to share about the program, please be in touch with me. As well, I urge you to fill out both the Ministerial Survey and the Sunday Service Squeeze Survey (see Shana’s article) – we’d much appreciate hearing the voices of families on these important issues. To the old adage that “it takes a village to raise a child” a friend has added, “It takes children to raise a village!”

With warm appreciation to all of you, Faye Mogensen, Director of Spiritual Exploration and Learning.
Children and Youth

The Wonder of Wildflowers – A Stroll

April 13, immediately following the service. All ages are welcome!

We will meet outside the main doors to the church at 12 noon to organize carpools and a convoy for the 10-minute drive to the Gore Park entrance on Amwell Drive. We aim to leave by 12:15.

The terrain is relatively flat, but there are many exposed roots on the trail. The round trip of about one kilometer will take us through the park. We’ll picnic, then stroll and likely be ready to leave again by 2pm.

We’ll go light rain or shine. Wear sturdy walking shoes, and dress for the weather. Please bring your own lunch - and be ready to enjoy the beauty!

To sign-up or ask questions, contact fayem@victoriaunitarian.ca or 250-744-2695.

New Programming Assistant

Over the coming month, you’ll meet Danyl Knapp-Fisher, the new Programming Assistant at the church. She comes to us with administrative experience, an M.A. in Counseling Psychology, and lots of energy! She has worked with children, youth and adults as a counselor, and in program development, group facilitation and planning. She looks forward to helping nurture your well-being here at the church - I look forward to working with her!

Faye Mogensen

Decisions, Decisions

By this point in the church calendar we are well into looking ahead to “next year”. Church program years run from September through June, so when Spring is in full blossom we are often in assessment mode. What has gone well? Where did we fall short of our hopes? What does it all mean for the 2014-2015 church year?

As I write this, two critical processes of assessment are underway. Both require your attention and input. The first is the Committee on Ministry’s evaluation survey. Reverend Melora and I are to be formally evaluated in our job performance every three years. We received formal input at the end of our first year with you, and it is time now that we have settled into a pattern and rhythm of ministry with you to get your “further-down-the-road” impressions. This is critically important. The more detailed responses you can offer, the more we can plan and tailor what we take on to fit the needs and hopes you express. By the time we leave for our summer study leave in June, we want to have clarity of purpose around what we should be studying and preparing for September and beyond. Please take to time to fill out a survey.

The second process of assessment underway is a look at the Sunday morning experience. Most worship services are packed, with both the Sanctuary and the parking lot very full. The Board has created a Task Force to look at the crowding we are experiencing. They will be looking at raw data (attendance—adults and children and youth—as well as parking numbers), UUA materials, other churches’ experiences, interviewing staff and surveying members. In addition they will be looking at options such as parking expansion, adding space to the sanctuary, and the possibility of additional services. I hope you will offer the Task Force your thoughts. As you think about the Sunday morning experience, I invite you to see it both from the perspective of what you experience when you come to worship on any given Sunday and what a guest might feel. Is there enough room for everyone and anyone who wants to join us? Can a family of four that arrives five minutes before the service begins sit together? What are we here for? Who are we here for?

I look forward to the discernment ahead.

Blessings,
Reverend Shana



Land, Sea and Sky

On Friday, April 4, at 7:30pm, our sanctuary will be the site of a unique and exciting concert to kick off the Environmental Action Team's "Earth Month" celebrations.

Enjoy music by local composers, Diane Berry, Sylvia Rickard, Leila Lustig, Josh Layne and Lynne Penhale.

The performers will be the Vis-a-Vis Saxophone Quartet, cellist Paula Kiffner, clarinetist Gord Clements, harpist Josh Layne, flautist Diane Berry, mezzo-soprano Arlene Overman, soprano Marnie Setka-Mooney, with special guests, the St. Mary's Children's Choir.

Each musical selection will be dedicated to a local environmental organization such as the Georgia Strait Alliance, the Dogwood Initiative, the Rocky Point Bird Observatory, the Natural History Society of Victoria and others.

Because four of the five featured composers are women, the concert is co-sponsored by the Association of Canadian Women Composers.

A second performance of the concert will take place at 7:30pm, Saturday, April 26 at the Swan Lake Christmas Hill Nature Sanctuary (3873 Swan Lake Road).

Tickets are \$20 and will be available at the doors, from the Church Office for the April 4 concert (5575 West Saanich Road, 10am to 4pm, Monday through Thursday, 10am to 1pm on Sunday), at Ivy's Bookstore, at Long and McQuade or by calling Diane Berry at 250-472-2590.

Our Property Fund is entering its maturity -- and appears healthy if not completely wealthy.

There are 55 households – or “pledge units” – that support the Property Fund for a total commitment of \$71,500. According to Earl Anthony, who has kept an eagle eye on the fund, in 2012 – the fund’s first year – \$33,362 was donated. In the second year another \$39,125 was added, including several donations for the renovation to the new Farmhouse Common Room.

Some donated a lump sum when the Property Fund was launched in 2012. Others committed to making annual payments over five years until 2016. Hopefully, we’ll continue to contribute to the fund after 2016. In addition, members voted to set aside one per cent of the pledge income for each year to the fund. For 2014 that’s \$2,960.

To make it easier to contribute to the Property Fund a “donate” button can be found on the homepage of our website <http://victoriaunitarian.ca/>. Use your credit card to join the Property Fund or top up your current donation. Collect air miles – and it’s tax deductible. You may choose to make annual payments. For example, an annual payment of \$400 is less than a cup of coffee a day.

Every religious institution knows that donating to property is not the most glamorous of items for a congregation’s attention. But, it’s worth noting that one of the things our newcomers admire -- aside from warm greetings, smiling ushers, the joy of the children, dynamic choirs, our attentive ministers -- is the Sanctuary. Visitors remark on the fact that the worship space portrays us very well -- modern, open and bright. Compare it to many others: shrouded in gloom with a few congregants lost among the dusty pews.

Our establishment is estimated to be worth more than \$2 million and the normal regular monthly maintenance totals up very quickly. Our property committee members estimate it may cost as much as \$18,000 this year for everything from painting (thanks to Nellie Van Leeuwen and her team the Lion Hall has just been done) to pest control (flying ants were discovered in the children’s religious education wing.)

The annual maintenance goes on every year; the property committee estimates the cost at about \$16,000 over next three years after this one.

The Property Fund is not earmarked for regular annual maintenance. Instead, it covers items beyond the regular “normal” list. For example, from now until the end of 2016 it’s estimated we’ll have to spend more than \$14,000 on replacing such things as worn out windows, doors and kitchen and office equipment. That doesn’t include an estimated \$15,000 for the now aged Sanctuary heat pump or another \$13,000 to replace the deteriorating siding on the old farmhouse.

And who knows what else we’ll discover in the meantime?

BOARD SPLINTERS

MIKE GRAHAM

February 20 Meeting.

- The Board approved the appointment of Forrest Smith and Leslie Gillett to the Nominating Committee until new committee members are elected at the Annual General Meeting on Sunday, May 25.
- The Board also approved the appointment of Christine Johnston and Martha McDougall as Victoria Unitarian representatives on the Vancouver Island Unitarian Committee.
- The Board appointed a Worship Service Attendance Task Force to research the current worship service attendance and propose solutions to crowding. The Task Force will report to the Board no later than April 30, 2014 at which time the Board will review recommendations and report the findings to the Annual General Meeting on Sunday, May 25.
- The Board voted to approve the hosting of the Canadian Unitarian Council BC Regional Gathering on the weekend of October 24-26, 2014.
- New member Koba ter Neuzen was welcomed and *members emeriti* Winnie Bocking, Joe Fleming, Faye Sturrock, and Vera Tudor were recognized.

RideShare: How To Make it Work for First Victoria

Would you like to get to know some of your fellow congregation members better, spend a little time with them without taking any more time from your day, and do your part in reducing the number of cars in the First Victoria parking lot? Or help a Unitarian who is ill, has a disability or just needs a little support to walk.?

RideShare is an excellent way to reduce greenhouse gas emissions because there is very little additional environmental impact by taking more than one person. It also reduces wear and tear on the family vehicle if you can take turns sharing rides with others.

Many of you know that RideShare has already been tried and so you wonder, “What, again?” But we have a number of new folks who have recently joined our church. The EAT RideShare Team (June Waters, Katya Gallegos, Doug McGinnes and Marion Pape) are all recent additions to First Victoria. Also, the church is changing. There are a number of us who are slowly giving up our cars due to age and health restrictions and so will be seeking rides. Neighbourhood Groups are currently discussing RideShare to help identify people in your area that would like to share a ride to church in April. You can also reach out to those you already know.

We want to have fun and find new people to share rides and so, for the month of April, here are some incentives. We will award a prize to the Neighbourhood Group that gets the most points throughout April. You can get points for each of the following:

- 1 point for each person including family members you carry*
- 1 point for finding out a new fact about the person with whom you ride*
- 2 points for non-drivers you carry*
- 2 points for helping people who are disabled*
- 3 points for driving an all-electric vehicle*
- 3 points for riding a bicycle or walking*

A whiteboard will be on display at the front entrance each Sunday for you to mark your points on the honour system. In addition, for all those who share rides throughout April, we are inviting you to a special celebration of RideShare in the Lion Hall on April 27 after the service at 12noon. Treats will be provided by the SRC and EAT teams and prizes awarded.

As we gear up to share more rides, let’s consider how each of us can make it work not just for April’s Earth Month initiative but also for the long term. Let’s consider that the driver is taking the extra overhead of time, and marginally of cost, than if s/he would have travelled alone. As riders, what can we offer? We can take our turn equally as drivers, be prompt at pick-up, and make the commute fun. Non-drivers can also offer to contact the people on the Ride Share list and confirm their ride. Perhaps you can think of even more ways to offer your appreciation.

This project is a natural for Unitarians. Plan it now so you can reduce vehicles on your commute to Church.

Notable Unitarians

Canada has famous Unitarian heroines for us to celebrate on International Woman’s Day. One was a member of First Victoria. Dorothy Livesay (1909-1996) was poetess, social worker, teacher and radical journalist, protesting oppression and war. She worked not only in Canada but in France with UNESCO and in Zambia doing teacher-training. Over time she was “Writer in Residence” at five Universities; was awarded the Order of Canada; and twice won the Governor General’s Award. One theme she loved was nature where springtime was identified with hope.



CHALICE LIGHTER OF THE MONTH—FRAN PARDEE

In recognition of her many contributions to the life of our church, Fran Pardee has been nominated as Chalice Lighter of the Month of April.

Honoured recently for her 25-year membership in our congregation, Fran was first introduced to the Unitarian church in Edmonton by her mother in the 1970s. She was much taken by its beautiful wall hangings, each with a symbol of one of the world's religions; she sensed an inclusiveness that was missing from her United Church upbringing. When her children were small she began attending regularly here in Victoria, though she admits that in all honesty it was for the moment of meditation and the uninterrupted cup of coffee afterwards - when the children were in RE!

Soon, however, the church became a source of support and inspiration for Fran and she has 'given back' in so many ways. Serving on our Board for four years, she was also recently recognized for her six-year term as a Lay Chaplain. Says retired Lay Chaplain Joyce Murphy, "I have known Fran and her children since they joined the church many years ago. Her support and clarity of thought was much appreciated during her time as Lay Chaplain. She provided non - judgmental comments and was always available to listen to us and to give support. Her contribution to the outreach provided by the Lay Chaplaincy program has been a model to me and continues to be so". Indeed, Fran is still a member of its Committee.



There's more. Fran has been part of our Ministerial Search Committee and SELA. Says John Hopewell, "I co-chaired the Search Committee with Fran and she was a great co-chair. She is very easy to work with; works hard, always meets her commitments and is able to get her point across without offending anyone. I've attended a couple of meetings of SELA and she brings those qualities to that group".

Maybe you've seen Fran revitalizing the parking lot garden (aka Mertie's bed) with Marion Pape. That they rooted out the Russian sage without a backhoe is a testament to the physical strength of both! Fran is also a member of the crew that prepares casseroles for the Sandy Merriman Women's Shelter.

Years ago in James Bay Fran served as an RE teacher and today is still a back-up RE teacher here for kindergarten-age children. She has just put forth a HOW proposal to build a multi-purpose room at a Jamaica pre-school in Drapers, where her eldest brother lives. A member of the Child Haven fund raising committee, she is considering going to Nepal to be an intern with Child Haven.

Fran says that one of the things she so much enjoys at our church is the opportunity to be of service, which I can readily believe! She also enjoys singing in the choir, the inspirational sermons and being in a beloved community. Her favourite of our principles? Number Seven—the interdependent web, for she tells us that her degree was in biology and psychology and that the intricacies and complexities and relationships in all existence excites and humbles her.

Fran grew up in Edmonton and after her family bought property on Thetis Island in 1967 she decided that this was where she wanted to live. Graduating in 1975 from the University of Victoria, she worked for 30 years with the provincial Ministry of Children and Family Development, creating policy for services to people with developmental disabilities. In 2009 she retired. Fran is separated and her two children are 28 and 30 years old.

Barbara Nyland

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

Green Sanctuary Up-date

Your Environmental Action Team conducts a Green Audit of the church every two or three years with the previous evaluation of our environmental practices having been completed in the spring of 2011. At that time, we were doing well with our recycling program, practices on our gardens and grounds, janitorial products, office and kitchen products and procedures. Prior to that audit, we had installed efficient lighting and programmable thermostats thanks to the efforts of Cecil Bannister. We are looking forward to an up-date of “how we are doing” in the near future.

In the meantime, we are making some changes to improve our green practices by moving the recycle bins from their present location by the farmhouse to the garbage enclosure closer to the church. This frees up the space for us to install a second bike rack. (The first one is located between the outside entrance to the Lion Hall and the Children's Religious Education CRE entrance).

In order to make this change, the enclosure was modified by an EAT work party in March which also included making the composting barrel more accessible. During April, new composting pails will also be installed in the kitchens with new signage inside and out.

If you have ideas or suggestions on how we can make our Sanctuary “greener”, contact me at iotrends4@pacificcoast.net

April is Earth Month.

We celebrate Earth Month at the church through the many activities such as the month long **RideShare to Church Initiative**, the **Land, Sea and Sky Concert** on April 4 and our **Earth Sunday Service** on April 13.

Community celebrations include **Earth Walk** on Saturday, April 26. Meet at Centennial Square under the First Unitarian Social Responsibility banner at 12:00 noon. The Walk begins at 12:30pm and culminates at the **Creatively United for the Planet Festival** at St. Ann's Academy.

The **Third Annual Festival** sponsored by Creatively United for the Planet is April 25 and 26 at St. Ann's Academy grounds, 835 Humboldt Street in Victoria. The mission of this Society is to empower communities and individuals to take better care of the earth.

Becoming Intimate with the Earth

with author **Pauline Le Bel**

This is a workshop co-sponsored by FUCV's Spiritual Exploration and Learning for Adults (SELA) team and Programs in Earth Literacies.

Saturday, April 5, 9:30am – 3:30pm in Lion Hall

We have a new sacred narrative for the world – a scientific cosmology that redefines the role of humans and offers hope in these challenging times.

Pauline Le Bel, in her book, **Becoming Intimate with the Earth**, offers powerful ways to live inside that story. With wisdom, wit, and poetry, she will guide workshop participants through the Ways of Intimacy described in her book: Wonder, Emptiness, Imagining, Transformation, and Community. There will be many opportunities for group interaction as we look at the stories that have led to our isolation and separation from the natural world, and unwrap the new stories—scientific, cultural, economic, environmental—that demonstrate how intimately we are connected to everything in the Universe. The workshop includes storytelling, Intimacy Practices, and one or two of Pauline's Earth-honouring songs.

Cost: \$60.00. Please bring your lunch. Refreshments are included.

Contact information: 250-220-4601; earthliteracies@gmail.com; www.earthliteracies.org

Are You New to Our Church? Welcome!!

If you have recently started attending worship and/or events at the First Unitarian Church of Victoria, welcome!! We are so glad you are here! If you would like to know more about our church and our faith tradition, you are invited to attend either or both of these events:

Orientation—Sunday, April 6, noon - 1pm

Whether you just walked in the door or have been coming several months, the orientation will give you basic information about our congregation and ways to make connections in our church community.

Considering Membership—Sunday, April 27, noon - 2pm

A gathering designed to give you the information you need in order to determine whether you would like to officially become a Member of our church. Whether you join right away, not yet, or not at all, the event promises to be informative and enjoyable, as we will be talking about things that matter in a small group setting with warm and interesting people.

Light refreshments and childminding will be available at each event.

Both events will be held at church, in the **Farmhouse Common Room** in the farmhouse just north of the main sanctuary building. To sign up or if you have questions, please contact Reverend Melora at rev.melora@victoriaunitarian.ca or 250 744 2601, voice mailbox #1 or cell 250 891-6330.

The next New Member Ceremony will be on June 1, 2014.

We are so glad you have found us and we are looking forward to getting to know you.

Creativity Micro Retreat: Back by Popular Demand!**Sunday April 13, 12:15pm****Library (social) and Chaplains Room (silent)**

Be inspired by the beauty of nature surrounding you. Be supported by community shared with others who value creativity so much that they are sitting beside you and actually creating too. Any activity that can be done at a shared table works (lego, doodling, writing, sketching, knitting, etc).

Space is limited, so sign up now to avoid missing out. Text or phone 250-472-0117, or email isaacs.anna@gmail.com, [facebook.com/events/1469327229948406](https://www.facebook.com/events/1469327229948406)). All welcome. Invite others.

Youth welcome as participants. Free child minding if you register before Friday, April 4. Space open until 3pm but you may leave anytime.

Can't make it? Sign up now for next micro retreat June 1.

**Board Members on Duty**

April 6 John Hopewell
April 13 Mike Graham
April 20 Shirley Travis
April 27 Mike Graham

**Art in the Sanctuary for April**

The artists this month are our Children. They will make interesting masks to decorate the Sanctuary walls.



The Northern Lights team is delighted to announce that Comox Valley Unitarian Fellowship in British Columbia has been awarded the next Northern Lights Call. The Fellowship will ask Northern Lighters to help them extend professional religious leadership for an additional year so that they can undertake their most ambitious growth project yet: moving to weekly Sunday services.

Comox Valley's project grew out of a "leap of faith" in the spring of 2012, when the congregation voted to pursue a quarter-time consulting minister. They secured the services of the Reverend Meg Roberts, and the results were so clearly beneficial that they applied for a Sharing Our Faith Grant to support a second year.

In the past two years they report growing "tremendously" in organizational strength, as well as seeing growth in numbers.

The Comox Valley Unitarian Fellowship announced in its application that they are "primed for growth" and they invite Northern Lighters to help them take this next big step: "...we believe this is the time to invite other Canadian UUs who believe in the growth of our national movement, to make an investment in our fellowship".

Comox Valley is the fifth congregation to receive an award. The Northern Lights Team is excited to see the Northern Lights program gain momentum, building on the achievement of previous recipients - Saskatoon, Halifax, Mississauga and UUEstrie (North Hatley) - and the generosity of Northern Lighters who answer the call. The congregation at UU Estrie in North Hatley is receiving responses to their 2013 call even now.

Northern Lights is a joint endeavor of the Canadian Unitarian Council and the UU Ministers of Canada. Individuals pledge to respond to calls for donations to selected projects twice each year. The recipient congregations (or other related organizations) receive and receipt the donations and provide reports and thanks to the donors. To qualify for a Call, a congregation must have 20% of its membership enrolled as Northern Lighters.

At present, about 260 Canadian UUs are committed Northern Lighters. To become a Northern Lights donor, or to find information about applying for a grant, go on-line at <http://cuc.ca/northern-lights/>, or call the CUC office at 1.888.568.5723.

Register now for the 2014 Annual Conference & Meeting at ACM 2014!

Spring Paint Job!

Just in time for Spring, Nellie Van Leeuwen, our Building Maintenance Chair, organized the repairing (where needed) and painting of some of our walls! Betty Sherwood worked as Nellie's



assistant to paint the Foyer and Lion Hall; Terry Czyz, Sylvia MacDonald, Anne Vaasjo and John Stewart were also part of the team. Many thanks to Nellie and the other volunteers for their efforts. This was a much needed upgrade and looks wonderful! .

Mother's Day Regifting Sale Sunday, May 4

Nellie Van Leeuwen will hold a one-Sunday-only regifting sale the week before Mother's Day before and after the service.



She would appreciate receiving any old and interesting or nearly new items that you may like to contribute...things that your mother might like! If this sale is a success, look for a similar one before Father's Day in June.

Books do things to people, all sorts of things, some good, others well, not quite so good. I should know as the task of cataloging the Church collection of over 1200 books has landed in my lap. Simple task that needs to be done, so that everyone might be able to access what is in the collection. All I had to do was to pick up a book, note down all of the numbers that identify it, copy the title, the authors' names and then note the subjects contained in the book. Simple, tidy, neat, but very dangerous.

It means I pick up a book and open it, some are no problem, two or three minutes and the task is done; others, well they are the problem. Take for instance "A History of Pagan Europe." Dewey #200.94 by Prudence Jones and Nigel Pennick. I picked it up and the cover shouted at me. I ignored it, I dutifully entered all its details until I got to the subject headings. I tried, I really tried to just carry on, but like a child in a candy store I just had to have a look around. Terrible mistake – an hour later I surfaced pulled out the card from the pocket and signed the book out.

What a great read, chock full of information, a sweep of Pagan knowledge from the dawn of history through Greek, Roman, Celtic, Germanic, Baltic, Russian and modern day just sitting on a shelf, unread, waiting to be discovered.

There have been other less comforting aspects – working my way through the rest of the 200s to the 230s was enough to make me somewhat miserable and out of sorts. One can have a surfeit of Religion and the numerous books devoted to the subject. Like the clouds that finally come to an end, the sky clears and for me excitement awaits on the next shelf.

I do apologize for the gaps on the shelves. I find it easier to transport the books back to my condo for processing, as I can use all those spare moments to add another book or two to the listings. I hope that in the near future the full catalog will be online and you will be able to make use of this wonderful resource tucked away in the church corridor.

HOW 2014 Voting Results

These Three Projects Will Be Funded in the Following Order:

Project 1. Using solar energy to light up the lives of destitute Tanzanian families. \$5,250.

Thirty women from thirty rural areas will be given (and trained how to use) solar powered batteries/lights. They will thereby earn money from recharging cell phones and will pay back the cost of the units.

Project 2. Schooling for children in slums of Pune, India. \$3,800.

One classroom will be rented and the salaries of three teachers paid for one year in an existing charitable school.

Project 3. A multi-purpose room for a preschool in Jamaica. \$800.

The HOW Committee wishes to thank the congregation for voting (118 votes). We will keep the congregation updated on the progress of these worthwhile projects, **which can only succeed by your generous donation(s) to HOW over the next five months.**

Donation can be made at the church office or at Sunday services by writing 'HOW' on the memo line of your cheque. You may designate your preferred project by writing 'Tanzania', 'India', or 'Jamaica' beside the word 'HOW'.

If you have any questions, please contact the HOW committee: how@victoriaunitarian.ca



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF HOW.

I have been with you at First Unitarian for almost three months now, and I'm beginning to know my way around. I really enjoy the work with the choirs and other musicians and am looking forward to learning more about the UU Church and the role of music.

Coming up soon is the **Choir Concert** on Friday evening, **April 25** beginning at 7:00pm. All the groups will be performing and we'll be welcoming a couple of special guests as well! Please book this date on your calendar.

Other dates to note: The **Chalice Choir** will be singing on April 20 and 27, May 11 and 25, and June 1. The **Men's Choir** are scheduled for April 6, and the **Women's Choir** on May 4. The **Youth and Children's Choirs** will be joining us for the intergenerational Earth Day service on April 27.

I'd like to thank Reverends Shana and Melora for their guidance, and Shirley Travis and the members of the Music Committee for their support. Thanks also go to Kristina Stevens, Assistant Choir Director, and Nancy Dobbs, Youth and Children's Director, for their continuing work.

I look forward to attending the UUMN conference in San Diego this summer, and I hope to bring back plenty of inspired ideas for next year.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

JANE WILSON

Heeding the Call...Are you ready?

As you know, new board members will be elected at the Annual General Meeting on May 25th (mark your calendars now!). Your Nominating Committee is interested in hearing from any members who are interested in finding out more about serving the congregation in this way. We'd like to speak with you to discuss your interest and let you know more about the available positions. Please contact one of us to find out further information; as a start, here is a brief summary of what board members do for us:

The Board of Trustees is the formal governing body of our spiritual community, and is entrusted by the membership to help put our purpose and mission into action, implement and evaluate programs and ensure responsible stewardship of resources.

All board members...

- attend Board meetings once a month (approximately two-three hours), read Board reports/minutes and participate in one or two full day board retreats each year;
- share duties such as being the 'board member on duty' at Sunday services until 1pm;
- deal with special projects and issues that come up throughout the year, including such things as approving the hiring and dismissal of staff and purchase and sale of major assets; and
- play a liaison role with the congregation by encouraging open communication and democratic decision-making.

Board members who act as one of five Council Chairs...

- are current in their council's activities and report to the board monthly on council committee and team activities; and
- hold periodic council meetings and attend some committee meetings as needed

We look forward to hearing from you,

Your Nominating Committee,

Jane Wilson 250-598-4348 Diana Smith 250-595-2538/cell 858-2538 Leslie Gillett 250-592-7032
Forrest Smith 250-595-2538/cell 882-2538 John Waters 250-704-1231

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: Chris Cook writes, "We have a new member, Nick Fairbank, and he was able to join us at Lorna and Earle Anthony's for a gathering on March 9 for appetizers; we are grateful to them for hosting this fun event. Several people didn't come due to their travels. We had a visitor, Doug, from the environmental group who hosted a lively discussion on the transportation issues around getting to and from church. The next meeting will be in July or August at the Petch's. The date is to be arranged."

Cadboro Bay NG provided the baking for coffee time in March and they will be working together in August to provide the "Bocce Beer and Burgers" event in the Auction.

Esquimalt: Betty Sherwood writes, "We will be meeting on Friday April 4. Barbara Boyle will be our host."

Fairfield: Four members came to Fairfield Community Place on Monday February 24 and explored the "fish & frog" story from Reverend Melora's sermon. They enjoyed snacks while examining ideas for further gatherings, and Nanw reports they are working on something for May.

Far Out: Barbara Nyland coordinated the members of Far Out and Grand Central to offer the Souper Lunch on March 9. They offered complimentary soup to visitors and soup makers and served over 100 guests, bringing in donations of \$593.20 for the church.

Gordon Head: Mary Cramer reports they are settling on a date for a potluck in April at the home of new members to their group, Anne Percival and Adrian Fine. Gordon Head will also put on their oven mitts to bake for after-church coffee in April.

Grand Central: From icy Manitoba, Linda Nicholson-Brown coordinated members of her group to contribute soup, treats, and energy for the March 9 Souper with Far Out.

James Bay: Pat Kinrade writes, "We will have enjoyed our first weekend potluck in the form of a lunch at the home of Pat Kinrade (March 22). By meeting on Saturday afternoon we hope to be able to accommodate our working Neighbourhood Group members. We look forward to meeting a few new members and friends."

Nearby: Nancy Dobbs writes, "Nearby Neighborhood is experimenting with gathering monthly for a walk in a park after church. Kids and dogs are especially welcome. Our second walk, talk and possibly picnic will be March 23."

Oak Bay: This NG is looking forward to a potluck on April 12 at Philip and Marya's. Karla notes that "we all have our fingers crossed that Jean Evans, who is moving to Edmonton next month, will be able to join us one more time." Oak Bay is also pleased to welcome a new Care and Concern person.

Royal Oak East: Hanny Pannekoek writes, "Our Neighbourhood Group, Royal Oak East, met on Tuesday, March 11 for our first potluck gathering of this year. As usual we had a good turnout, great food and lively conversations. In our larger circle after dinner the main issue, raised by Hugo, was the possible expansion of our church. Hugo is on the Sunday Service Task Force and our group asked him to forward our request that there will be discussion groups first, before the survey. In April our group, together with the Western group, will do

AROUND THE NEIGHBOURHOOD (cont'd.)

Souper Sunday lunch. We continued our sharing-our-life-story. Two members took their turn. It was agreed that it is more important to share meaningful personal details than cover one's life till the end; eventually the person may share "chapter two". Our next gathering will be on June 10."

Royal Oak West: Al Hoffman and Martha McDougall warmly welcomed seventeen adults, while Maria hung out with three other teenagers, for a potluck on Saturday March 15. Newcomers Isabel Grenon and her husband Francois attended, and the group discovered how many members live nearby, in that pocket of Royal Oak West. Martha promoted the August Unitarian church camp and Suellen thanked the group for offering three group-sponsored events in the Auction: a dinner and games night, an animal adventure, and an evening of contra dancing. They then had a brief discussion of the RideShare program, led by Doug McGinnis of the Environmental Action Team and went home with a questionnaire to fill out..

Western: Susan reports that Emily Whitney is hosting a tea for their older group members on Friday, March 21, and on Saturday, March 22 the whole group will gather at Emily and Stu's for their monthly potluck. On April 6, Western will strap on their aprons and work with Royal Oak East to host the Souper Sunday lunch.

Share the Plate for April

Friends of Tod Creek Watershed are a local group working to restore the wetlands across from First Unitarian Church of Victoria. We have previously been host to the group in a meeting with local farmers. Their mission is to protect and enhance the integrity and biodiversity of the Tod Creek watershed. Their overall focus is riparian habitat restoration. They have done significant invasive species removal and replanting of native species along other parts of the creek such as Whitehead Park on Prospect Lake.

Tod Creek drains Prospect Lake and runs into Tod Inlet. Tod Creek Flats is about 1 km north of the outlet of the lake (across from the church). In summer most of the 75 acres are farmed. In winter months it functions as a flood plain. This land is under threat as it no longer provides enough drainage to support agriculture. A restored meandering stream with ponds would provide better functioning for fish and other wildlife.

Friends, working with the District of Saanich funding, have completed a concept plan called the Integrated Management Plan which includes much research on the area through scientific consultation. They are now looking for further funding for the implementation stage. The first phase is the relocation of the stream flow to the far side of the wetland which they hope to implement this year.

A close working relationship of Community Partners with Friends of Tod Creek provide support and environmental restoration throughout Saanich and the Peninsula. These are the Habitat Acquisition Trust, The Nature Conservancy of Canada, Prospect Lake District Community Association, Seachange, Swan Lake Christmas Hill Nature Sanctuary and Peninsula Streams Society. Peninsula Streams assists Friends by being a registered non-profit for receiving monies to support Friends work. For more information on Friends and their partners, see www.todcreek.rd123.ca



Your Chance To Have A Say

In their fourth year with us, Reverends Melora and Shana are looking to us for another evaluation of their ministry that would provide an honest assessment of their role as a professional team as well as a snapshot of how we feel about this moment in our collective history. What exactly is it about the ministry that we appreciate and what direction would foster your self development and spiritual growth?

Between March 1 and April 15, you will be asked through a survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/6YQZB3G> to evaluate Melora and Shana's job performance and leadership, and share your impressions on how well the congregation as a whole is doing in living out our Mission and prioritizing our efforts.

Many aspects of the work of ministry are performed behind the scenes. In fact, there is an adage that 90% of what a minister does is not seen. As you answer the survey, consider the following elements as a ministerial job description, well described in a recent publication by the Unitarian Universalist Ministers Association. They include: 1) Leading worship 2) Officiating rites of passage 3) Providing pastoral care and presence 4) Encouraging spiritual development 5) Witnessing social justice in the public square 6) Leading administration 7) Pursuing personal renewal and spiritual development, and 8) Serving the larger Unitarian Universalist faith.

The survey tries to capture these principal areas in which our ministers work, and also leave room for you to add your own special interpretation of their performance. It should not take more than twenty minutes to complete the survey. If you do not have computer access, you may obtain a hard copy of the survey from the office or look for the Committee on Ministry member who will be available after the first two services in April with a laptop you can use to answer the survey.

Please take the time to answer the survey as your answers will give valuable insight and clarity of focus for both of our ministers as they allocate their time in those areas deemed most critical, and for lay leaders, as they too try to discern the best next steps in being the strongest and most vital community we can be. Bearing in mind our Mission, "Strengthened in spiritual growth, supported in diverse community, we strive to transform ourselves and heal our world through compassionate action," your thoughtful and thorough comments will be very helpful in shaping our shared future.

For further information, contact David Andersen (250-479-1499) or Sonya Ignatieff (250-380-4015), Co-Chairs, Committee on Ministry



Worship Service Attendance Task Force

Please join the Worship Service Attendance Task Force for a forum on April 13, after the Sunday service, to discuss crowding in the Sanctuary and problems in parking during some Sundays.

The Task Force is also conducting an online survey this month, from April 1 to April 21, to determine your thoughts about any crowding you may have experienced at Sunday services.

Members of the Task Force are Don Armstrong, Nancy Dobbs, Hugo Suttmoller, John Hovzdanski, Karla Thomson, Eunice Fast and Reverend Shana Lynngood.

The Task Force was appointed by the Board to "produce a clearly understandable report to the Board, and then to the Congregation, providing a workable solution to relieving crowded conditions at some Sunday services".

It will report to the Board by April 30, and the Board will make recommendations based on that report to the congregation at the Annual General Meeting on Sunday, May 25.

You Are Invited to Our Community Dinner

Friday, April 11 at 6pm

April will be 'Breakfast for Dinner'! We will be serving pancakes, several types of eggs, sausages and much more!

Community Dinner 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 or drinks to share.

To help with clean-up please bring your own plate and dessert bowl.

A rinsing station will be provided.



Planned Giving

My three children are looked after by a family trust, and I have left something to each of my seven grandchildren.

I had to mention the church in my will as discovering Unitarianism has transformed my life.



Daphne Dunbar

EAT Recommended Video

The EAT recommends CAR POOLS and if you don't, be kind to the elderly! See this very short video

<http://www.jewsnews.co.il/2014/01/26/what-this-driver-did-to-an-elderly-woman-was-unthinkablebut-how-she-responded-was-priceless/>



Covenant of Good Relations

Question

You become uneasy when a friend tells you something damaging about another person in the church and it begins to feel like gossip to you. How does the Covenant of Good Relations support your response?

See page 16 for Answer

Child Haven Lunch

Sunday, May 11

Once again our Child Haven committee is meeting to plan our next Fund Raiser. For many reasons the fall is not a good time for this event. So we are planning to have a spring lunch at the church on May 11. We hope that many of you will stay and help us raise much needed money for the 1400 orphan children that Bonnie and Fred Cappuccino look after with our help in India, Nepal, Bangladesh, and Tibet.

We are hoping that you might also like to join our committee to pull this event off. This year we are hoping to have the Marimba Band perform for us. They play a variety of instruments with much energy and four part harmony and if you haven't heard them you are in for a real treat. For more information about how you might be involved please contact Sandra at sandrajordanca@gmail.com or 250 654 0672 or Christine at christine_johnston@telus.net or 250 385 5444



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

A wedding, child dedication or memorial?

Tell them about FUCV's

Lay Chaplains

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New Members

Katrin van der Leeden
5551 West Saanich Road
Victoria, BC V9E 2G1
250-385-6017

Koba ter Neuzen
2871 Ashley Road
Victoria, BC V9A 2S9
778-679-0151



New Friends

Raymond (Ray) Page and Elinor Tennyson
7014 Brentwood Drive
Brentwood Bay, BC V8M 1B4
778-351-1003

Henry (Harry) Moore
604-9805 Second Street
Sidney, BC V8L 4T9
250-655-7176

UUA Meeting

The General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association is meeting in Providence, Rhode Island, June 25-29, 2014.

We are invited to send one lay delegate. Does any one want to attend?

Our three ministers are also invited to attend and may be going.

RSVP to Christine_johnston@telus.net

Canadian UU Tour of Holy Land October 24-November 5, 2014

Reverend Wayne Walder and Bev Carr of the Neighbourhood Church of Toronto are again offering a "mindful tour" in a fascinating part of the world. The focus is Jerusalem, the Dead Sea and Petra, looking at the cradle of Jewish, Christian and Moslem faiths in Israel, Palestine and Jordan. Cost is \$3995 plus taxes (and single supplement) and excluding airfares. Travellers are encouraged to stay longer if they can. Further information from travel@worldwidequest.com or 1-800-387-1483.

Christine Johnston has a copy of the itinerary if you wish to browse it.

April Birthdays

- 1 Rob English
- 2 Ross Beauchamp
- 5 Earle Anthony
- 6 Lindsay Bagshaw, Jean Foxall
- 9 Martha McDougall
- 14 Jan Thomson
- 15 Nokuthula (Tuli) Porcher
- 16 Michael Fibiger-Crossman
- 17 Suzanne Beauchamp
- 18 Joyce Berry
- 19 Nille Fibiger-Crossman, Sue Thorne
- 21 Barbara Nyland
- 23 Hugh Mackie, Alan Baker
- 24 Barbara Boyle
- 25 Leslie O'Hagan, Chris Cook
- 28 LeAnn Andersen and Jamie Van Gessel



Covenant of Good Relations

Answer to Question on page 15

The Covenant of Good Relations says:
'I will not engage in harmful gossip and, while respectfully truth speaking, I will learn the necessary skills to express my emotions and beliefs in a constructive way.'

First Unitarian Church of Victoria

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 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

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Vice-President	Linda Nicholson-Brown	250-474-7182
Treasurer	Bob Dobbs	250-652-5438
Secretary	Jennifer Young	250-370-5106

Council Representatives

Administration	Lynn Hunter	250-220-2240
Congregational Life	Shirley Travis	250-386-3455
Outreach	vacant	
Property Management	John Tiffany	778-265-1210
Spiritual Development	John Hopewell	250-721-3920

April Events Calendar

For the latest version. please check our church website; (look under Members/Calendar)

Date	Time	Event	Location
4/1	9:30am-noon	Learning Circle	Library
4/2	noon-2pm	Care and Concern	Farmhouse Common Room
4/3	10am-noon	Planned Giving Meeting	Farmhouse Common Room
	7:30-9:30pm	Music Program	Sanctuary
4/4	7:30-9:30pm	EAT Concert	Sanctuary
	7:15-9:30pm	Mindful Yarning	Offsite location
4/5	9:30am-3:30pm	Becoming Intimate with the Earth	Lion Hall
	10am-4pm	Shaping Our Future	Sanctuary
	12:45-2:30pm	Meditation	Sunflower Room
4/6	10:30-11:30am	SUNDAY SERVICE	
	11:30am-2pm	Souper Sunday	
	Noon-1:30pm	Environment meeting	Library
	Noon-1pm	Orientation	Farmhouse Common Room
	12:15-1:45pm	After Service Conversations	Fireside Room
	12:45-2:30	Atheists, Humanists & Agnostics	Children's Resource Room
4/7	7:30-9:30pm	Pub Night	Offsite location
4/8	9:30am-noon	Learning Circle	Library
	10am-4pm	Sandy Merriman cooking	Sanctuary Kitchen
	6:30-8:30pm	Articulating your UU Faith	Farmhouse Common Room

Continued on next page...

April Events Calendar (continued)

Date	Time	Event	Location
4/9	7-8:30pm	Depression & Anxiety Support Circle	Library
4/10	7:30-9:30pm	Music Program	Sanctuary
4/11	6-10pm	Community Dinner	Sanctuary
4/12	8am-2:30pm	Meditation Retreat	Lion Hall
	6-8pm	Oak Bay NG Potluck	Offsite location
4/13	EARTH SUNDAY		
	10:30-11:30am	SUNDAY SERVICE	
	Noon-1:30 pm	Attendance Task Force	Farmhouse Common Room
	12:15-3:00pm	Creativity Micro Retreat	Chaplains Room and Library
	12:15-1:30pm	Gardens and Grounds Spring Meeting	Fireside Room
	12:15-2:00pm	Gore Park Stroll	Meet at Sanctuary walkway to carpool
4/14	-----		
4/15	12:30-2pm	Committee on Ministry	Farmhouse Common Room
	2:30-4pm	Worship Committee	Farmhouse Common Room
4/16	9:00 – 5:00	SRC Retreat	Sanctuary
	6:30-8:30pm	SELCY meeting	Farmhouse Common Room
4/17	11am-2pm	Board Meeting	Farmhouse Common Room
	7:30-9:30pm	Music Program	Sanctuary
4/18	GOOD FRIDAY		
	1-3pm	Jammers	Farmhouse Common Room
	6-9pm	Youth Coffee House	Sanctuary
	7:15-9:30pm	Mindful Yarning	Offsite location
4/19	12:45-2:30pm	Meditation	Sunflower Room
4/20	EASTER SUNDAY		
	10:30-11:30am	SUNDAY SERVICE	
	10:30-11:45am	Parents' Group	Farmhouse Common Room
	10:30-noon	YUUth Worship	Lion Hall
4/21	EASTER MONDAY (office closed)		
4/22	-----		
4/23	7-8:30pm	Depression & Anxiety Support Circle	Library
4/24	7:30-9:30pm	Music Program	Sanctuary
4/25	7-9pm	Spring Concert	Sanctuary
4/26	12:45-2:30pm	Meditation	Sunflower Room
4/27	SUNDAY SERVICE		
	11:30am-1pm	RideShare luncheon	Lion Hall
	Noon-2pm	Considering Membership	Farmhouse Common Room
4/28, 4/29, 4/30	-----		



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THE VICTORIA UNITARIAN

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The **deadline** for submissions to the **May** issue is **April 15**.

Copy should be sent to newsletter@victoriaunitarian.ca.

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

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

Feedback is welcomed.

Staff

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

April is Earth Month

