



FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA  
*Growing in Spirit, Living with Compassion, Inspired to Serve*

VOLUME 53,  
ISSUE  
JULY, 2014

# The Victoria Unitarian

## Services in July

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



**July 1**

**July 6**      **Focus on Ghana - AIDS Orphans and How We Can Help**  
**Alexandra Stephanson**

Having parents die of AIDS in Ghana is shameful. Join Alexandra Stephanson as she describes what it is like for children who find themselves alone in this impoverished nation. She takes you behind her camera to see not only these children's realities, but also the ways Unitarians have joined with local matriarchs to help.

**July 13**      **Mottainai**  
**Mary-Wynne Ashford**

"Waste Nothing" is the English translation of a traditional Japanese concept, "Mottainai". It refers to the sacred nature of all the gifts we have in this life: our time, our resources, our talents, our life experience, our spirit...

"Mottainai" calls upon us to be mindful of living with gratitude for all we are given, and careful about what we throw away.

**July 20**      **Fables From The Stacks**  
**Charles Gee**

Our presenter, Charles Gee, will tell us how books have shaped a life, taught trades, built houses, wandered the byways of great minds and amused countless hours.

**July 27**      **How others know us**  
**Marlene Goley**

Marlene Goley is Manager of Women's and Family Services at the Cridge Centre for the Family in Victoria and she knows more about us than you might think. For years now, the Lifeline List Project at this church has answered calls for help from people also cared for by the Cridge. Marlene has stories for us. They will tell us of hardships most of us will never know but they will also tell us something about our community.

**Our co-ministers, Reverends Shana and Melora Lynngood, will be on study leave and vacation until Tuesday, August 12. Reverend Shana will preach on August 17; Reverend Melora will lead the animal blessing on August 24. 'Ingathering Sunday' with both ministers will be Sunday, September 7.**

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The deadline for submissions to the  
**August** issue is **July 15**

## SEL

FAYE MOGENSEN

### SElections on the Children and Youth

June has become a time of reflection over the past year's program. To thank properly the group leaders this year, we asked the children and parents for their feedback and were truly moved by the responses. Just a few examples include:

"The Youth Advisors are easy to talk to and treat us like equals even though they are in charge".

"The leaders are very good at teaching the OWL program without putting me too far out of my comfort zone".

"I felt like my leaders understood me and everything I said. That feels really good".

"I appreciate that we do creative things and get to go outside even if it's raining".

"Everyone in Julia's preschool wants to meet Martha".

"As a parent, I have been touched so many times by the leaders' warmth and support and been so grateful".

I loved being able to share these words with the teachers, and found that the heartwarming feedback also gave me energy to begin planning next year's program. We have lots of great curricula in store! Details will soon be available on the website at <http://victoriaunitarian.ca/children-youth/our-theme-living-with-compassion/>

Throughout the summer months, from June 29 through to August 31, the SEL-CY program and its usual volunteers take a break. Instead, we offer child minding during the service for children ages one to eleven years, and we welcome older children as helpers. Our childminder-on-duty will be assisted by a rotation of adult volunteers. If preferred, families are welcome to stay in the sanctuary or enjoy the service in the Lion Hall, where there are fewer worries about making noise.

Fall events to note:

- September 7 – our "Homecoming" Sunday – children and youth programming recommences.
- October 12 (Thanksgiving) - Run for Biodiversity in support of USC – Mike Greenly is heading up the church team again this year and would love to include as many families as possible. All funds raised will support Nepalese farmers, to help ensure they have a diverse and healthy seed for growing nutritious food. For more information contact Mike Greenly at [team.r4b.victoria@gmail.com](mailto:team.r4b.victoria@gmail.com)
- October 24-26 – the BC Regional Fall Conference – hosted here! Already, a large number of volunteers have joined CUC staff in making plans for Pathways to the Spirit with inspirational programming for adults, youth, children, and all ages together. Watch for postings on Facebook and in our e-weekly. There will be a Saturday only option for children in the program.

*Wishing you some lazy summer days, with lots of time to enjoy the beauty,*

*Faye Mogensen*

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

Due to changes by Canada Revenue Agency related to requirements of charitable donations, the Board is currently reviewing the status of the HOW project. Tax interpretations now appear to indicate that the Church may only issue tax receipts if funds are directed to charities that are resident in Canada and registered with CRA.

The Sunday Share the Plate program has been adjusted to reflect the tax agency's regulations.

Committee on Ministry members Joyce Murphy and Allan Dakin attended the Board meeting to report on the results of the Ministerial Survey. A survey of this type is recommended every three years to assess the congregation's relationship with the ministers. There was a high response to the survey — 155 participants (more than 50% of congregation). Among other things, Joyce and Allan said, the survey results indicated the congregation needs to be educated on the breadth of ministerial duties and responsibilities. There was also a desire to see the Church reach out to the broader community. The survey also suggested that the respondents would like to see more social justice issues brought to the pulpit. Joyce and Allan thanked Committee on Ministry members David Andersen's and Martha McDougall's contribution to the successful survey.

Board trustee John Hopewell reported that the Generosity Campaign will launch next fall on September 28 with a kickoff luncheon. John, who is also campaign co-chair with Roberta Clair, said the campaign this year will be centred on home visits. The campaign will be recruiting 40 volunteers — there are already 15 ready to go — as visiting stewards. Some training and orientation will be provided. Board members will be expected to be part of the visiting steward program.

The Board approved the appointments of John Hopewell, Gerry Brimacombe, Al Hoffman, Lynn Hunter, and Linda Nicholson-Brown as trustees for the Ruth Humphreys Innovation Fund.

The Board established the Zoie Gardner Overseas Trust Fund. Church member Jim Hackler attended the Board meeting. He has established this fund as a financial aid program for young women students. It is anticipated that the Trust Fund will be disbursed so that it advances approximately \$15,000 each year to each of three charitable organizations: Child Haven International, The Caia Connection and the Taiami Project. It is also anticipated that at least 95% of the Trust Fund will be disbursed within seven years of the deaths of Jim Hackler and Bunny Hackler.

The Board approved the appointments of Frances Hancock, June Fukushima and Christine Johnston as the first trustees for the Zoie Gardner Overseas Trust Fund.

## **Vancouver Island Unitarian Summer Camp**

**August 8 to 10, 2014**

“Building Bridges, Reaching out, Making Harmony”

Friends new and old are waiting to meet you at camp on the shores of beautiful Shawnigan Lake.

Camp Pringle offers a lovely outdoor setting to have fun, relax, deepen friendships, explore spirituality and feel part of the larger Unitarian community. Take part in campfire, a Friday BBQ, talent show and family dance. As well, Saturday morning offers great programming for all ages, and the fabulous waterfront will be open in the afternoon. Docks, kayaks, canoes and sailboats will add to the fun!

Vancouver Island Unitarian Camp has something to offer everyone. Whether you are part of a family, single, senior or young adult, you are welcome here, and are sure to have a wonderful and enriching experience.

This year there are two streams of adult programming to choose from, a youth program, children's program, as well as wee care on Saturday morning.

To find out more details about the programs, registration forms and brochures please check out the website at: <http://viuc.unitariancongregation.org>

## ARTIST OF THE MONTH:

## MICHIKO SAKAMOTO-SENGE

I began painting in watercolour following my retirement from work. As my professional and volunteer work were demanding in time and nature, I did not have a sufficient time to engage in my art. Also, I wanted to use the other side of my brain. Throughout my life I was interested in the arts, in particular painting. I appreciated its beauty and what that beauty meant to me.

Although I enjoy different aspects of visual arts, I am attracted to how colours convey the artist's impression of the subject. Two watercolour teachers taught me different techniques. Meanwhile, I realized that I enjoy mostly painting flowers. I love the softness of watercolour that brings life to the subject.

I also became interested in acrylics but hesitated to approach this medium as I carried a misconception that acrylic colours are harsh. However, talking with those who have used this medium, I was convinced that colours do not need to be harsh. I took lessons in abstract acrylic painting. I found it exciting as it challenges me to explore beyond previous boundaries. Also, compared to watercolour painting, acrylic is forgiving and allows you to be playful.

I truly enjoy painting in two different forms of medium; I can express and discipline myself differently as they transfer my state of mind to a different plane.

Michiko Sakamoto-Senge



## FROM THE STACKS

## CHARLES GEE

For those of us who have a love affair with books there is no better place in this whole wide world than browsing the stacks. Here waiting patiently for a reader are the greatest and some of the worst minds that ever lived. Here are the ideas that have shaped our culture, fomented rebellion, inspired our thinkers, roused our curiosity, filled our idle hours, challenged us, educated us and lulled us to sleep.

I know we have the marvels of modern communication. At our fingertips is a seemingly endless supply of information, along with an almost endless supply of advertising clamoring for attention. Without the World Wide Web I could not have completed the task of cataloging the Church Collection and I am very grateful for the help.

I do ask though is the printed page now obsolete? That technological marvel that for hundreds of years has put the resources of the worlds greatest minds along with information into the hands of people, in a format that is readily transportable, easily read, and has been instrumental in shaping the history and culture of our world. I suppose I am old fashioned, a trifle out of date, a bit of a fuddy duddy, but I still have a love of Books, those with two covers and pages, real pages. There is the sheer delight of being seduced by the cover art, the tracking down of an abstruse volume long out of print, the sheer pleasure of getting lost in the world of fiction. The delight of the stacks, more books than I can ever read waiting to be discovered. Ah! the Stacks, the closest I will ever get to Paradise.



## Five American Presidents

John Adams (1735-1848); Thomas Jefferson (1743-1826); John Quincy Adams (1767-1848); Millard Fillmore (1800-1874); and William Howard Taft (1857-1930) were all Unitarians but not one Canadian Prime Minister – yet. And Barack Obama was partly raised by a Unitarian Grandmother.

The most famous is probably Thomas Jefferson -- author of the Declaration of Independence and the Statute of Virginia for Religious Freedom, third president of the United States, and founder of the University of Virginia as he voiced the aspirations of a new America as no other individual of his era. As public official, historian, philosopher, and plantation owner, he served his country for over five decades

**Miniature portrait of Jefferson (1788)  
by John Trumbull**



## Our Seventh Principle Carving

You will have noticed this new addition to our Sanctuary. This is the carving we commissioned Tsartlip artist Charles Elliot to create for us to honour the friendship between our Church and the Saanich First Nations on whose traditional land this Church is situated. This plaque represents our Seventh Principle -Respect for the inter-dependent web of all existence of which we are a part.



## About Dr. Mary-Wynne Ashford

Dr. Mary-Wynne Ashford is a retired physician who practised Family Medicine and Palliative Care in Victoria.

For thirty years she has worked on disarmament and peace issues. She served for two terms as Co-President of International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War, and two terms as President of its Canadian affiliate, Physicians for Global Survival. Her award winning book, "Enough Blood Shed: 101 Solutions to Violence, Terror, and War" has been translated into Japanese and Korean.

## Covenant of Good Relations Question

You become aware that a highly respected and hard-working older member of the congregation is becoming increasingly incapacitated fulfilling their particular leadership position within the church. How can the Covenant of Good Relations offer you advice on this delicate issue?  
(see page 10 for answer)

## Environmental Awards and Blessings

On Sunday June 1 Reverend Shana performed a blessing ceremony for those who cycled to church and officially opened the new bike shelter. She proclaimed a set of Bike Beatitudes (see below) which will be posted in the shelter.

The Environmental Action Team (EAT) particularly appreciates the generously donated carpentry skills of Nellie van Leeuwen in its construction.

The shelter also represents years of effort involved in relocating the recycling bins from that site to their new area, which required new lighting, signage and upgraded ground surfacing. Many work parties involving EAT members and others were organized by Louise Cole, without whose efforts the projects would still be in limbo. In recognition of what Louise herself describes as an ability to be a “good nag” she was presented with the second annual EAT Green Apple award for successful environmental action.

The Oak Bay Neighbourhood Group was presented with a fine gift basket for their collective commitment to Rideshare by winning our spring challenge.



## Bike Beatitudes

- **Blessed are those who help reduce carbon emissions and love the planet by pedalling to work, school, church, and for fun.**
- **Blessed are those who ride for exercise--their bodies thank them for the strengthening of muscles, expansion of lungs, and quickening of the heart.**
- **Blessed are those who doggedly ride through rain and cold--who set an example for us all--that the Earth deserves all we can give, not just when it is convenient or easy.**
- **Blessed are those who use paths, helmets, lanes, and signals. May you be safe and may cars be mindful and appreciative of your presence.**
- **May our world be better for your efforts. For all of this, we offer our gratitude and blessings.**
- **May the journey be sweet.**

## Thank You From Your Environmental Action Team (EAT)

### From Louise Cole, Taskmaster

Sunday, June 1 marked the official opening of our second bike rack area behind the Farmhouse. Many hours of planning and work went into the resurrection of the old Recycle enclosure into a bike shelter. Getting this done depended on the renovation of the new Recycle/Garbage enclosure, which is open for business for day-to-day church activities and events. It took many people working as a team to accomplish these tasks and after nearly three years, we have reached our goal.

Thank you to Marion Pape and Mike Fibiger-Crossman for planning the renovation of the new Recycle area and to Nellie Van Leeuwen and Judy Gaylord for planning and persevering with the new Bike Shelter. Special thanks to Nellie who built the shelter single-handed. Thanks to all who came out to work on the Recycle enclosure: Mike Fibiger-Crossman, Peter Hancock, Jim Jordan, Doug McGinnis, Marion Pape and June Waters. Special thanks to Peter and Fran Hancock for arranging the crushed screenings and to Doug McGinnis for picking up the supplies and materials. Lunches were provided by Judy Gaylord, Louise Cole and Emily and Stuart Whitney.

## EAT suggests you watch the following video before you plant your garden:

Invasive Species (60 seconds)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YpMMG75Zkd4>



**Tushal Jadhav, Thirteen years**

This faith community is now on the home stretch for funding our three HOW (for Healing Our World) projects this year. Two projects have been fully funded; it only remains for us to donate the money to enable rental of an additional classroom (\$1,400 for a year) and pay for three more teachers (\$800 each for a year) for non-denominational Emmanuel School to better serve children living in the slums of Pune, India. The school has 300 pupils and has been operating five years.

Total cost of this project is \$3,800. We have raised about \$1,500. We need about \$2,300. Look at the face of this lad again. Somehow what you see there and the word “slums” don’t fit, do they? That’s due to the powerful hope and resilience in children – and also to this resourceful school. The children are fed, clothed and taught not only academics but also basic hygiene, manners and other life skills. Their lives are transformed. Without this school, these children would have no education, meager meals and would end up as child labourers.

Tushal is the son of a watchman and his mother is a maid servant. He studies in Class 8 in the Emmanuel Public School. Being one of the oldest kids in the School, a lot of responsibility is given to him, and he performs it with great care. His smile is infectious, and he spreads it wherever he goes. About his future plans, Tushal says, “My parents are just able to make ends meet. One day I shall own my own security company so that my father does not have to work as a watchman anymore.”

If you would like to help Tushal and slum children like him be all they can be, please make your cheque payable to First Unitarian Church of Victoria and on the memo line write “HOW.” As a community, we have voted to do this. Together we can.

## **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**

### A Trip to Basque Land, from Barbara Nyland

Though we'd thought our travelling days were over, Edo received an invitation we just couldn't refuse. He was asked to speak at a conference on the Basque language, conducted by the Basque linguistic society Euskeraren Jatorria - a mouthful that translates as "Origin of the Basque Language". It was to be held at Gernika and Donostia in the Basque Autonomous Community in northern Spain. Adventure trumped age and away we went!

The Society was familiar with Edo's *Linguistic Archaeology* (it's in our church library); in it he tells how he discovered that the Basque language could be used to decode the Ogam script carved into the standing stones of Ireland. He also describes how it can decode the Pharaoh's names, Biblical names, the Sanskrit, Hebrew, Greek and Latin languages. Edo spoke about this and also how the high incidence of the Rh negative factor found in Basques also occurred along the west coasts of Ireland and Scotland, the Norwegian Islands and indeed all the way up to Arctic Finland. There the Basques had hunted reindeer for millennia to provide sails for the many boats plying the Mediterranean and had stopped to tan the hides; eventually their blood had mixed with that of the local inhabitants. Edo also discussed the Basque settlement of West Virginia, which had been established 1000 years before Columbus was credited for discovering America, and the fact that the Ainu language is very similar to Basque..

We were treated royally and were welcomed by a song composed and sung especially to honour Edo by a retired Catholic priest. We were deeply touched by such a reception! The Society members include linguists, both amateur and professional, specialists in other fields such as engineering, geography, archeology, teaching. Our principal host, Javier Goitia, spoke on the Basque component in many place names of the Iberian Peninsula. Others dealt with the latest archeological findings, architecture, the relationships between the Iberian and Basque tongues. A highlight was Edo's reunion with Gorka Aulestia, old friend and author of the Basque-English dictionary, with whom Edo had consulted before publishing his *Linguistic Archaeology*. At that time Gorka was a professor at the University of Nevada, earning a PhD for his dictionary.

Javier drove us from our hotel in Bilbao to Gernika and Donostia where Edo was to speak three times. The highway began by following the Bilbao River, one of many with a source in the Pyrenees and a mouth in the Bay of Biscay. Gently rounded hills rose on either side, dotted picturesquely with sheep and stone farmhouses roofed in red tiles, most facing east in true Basque tradition. The greenery was lush for at a latitude of some 42 degrees the climate is warmer than here and there is a metre and a half of rainfall per year; seldom do two weeks pass without a shower. Old growth forest has mostly disappeared, except on one hill which was preserved because it had long contained a store of dynamite!

We were treated to lunch by a retired chemical engineer. His home is a stone mansion and has been in the family since the 1600s. Over the door is a weathered coat of arms: two half-moons signify that Jon's ancestor fought to drive out the Moors, a set of keys shows that he was also treasurer to the king of Spain. Stone walls exceeded half a metre in thickness and the staircases went on forever, steps worn to more half-moons by generations of busy feet. Jon was busy depleting his pension by installing oil heating, which I decided privately would continue to deplete it when in operation. We rested in an arbour outdoors, beside the original cooking fireplace and a huge lime tree with ripe yellow fruit. I ate far too much of that incomparable, thin-sliced Spanish ham and locally pickled olives.

In Gernika we visited the site of the ancient oak tree, under which Basques had met for centuries to review their laws and traditions. That they would be honoured was confirmed by the current Spanish monarch; the first of whom was Queen Isabella; her portrait and those of the subsequent royalty preside over the magnificent red-upholstered legislative hall. The old oak tree has died, but many clones are thriving nearby, ladies-in-waiting to be used as replacements. Sadly, the current one looks a bit wan.

There's much more to tell but mercifully, space does not permit! Suffice it to conclude that our visit was a wonderful experience and Edo's talks, delivered by translators, engendered much interesting discussion. Luckily for us, abstracts of all the talks appeared in English. The Euskeraren Jatorria assured him he'd made a significant contribution to their own quest into the origin of their language.

Though we were treated with the utmost consideration by airlines, airports, hotels and the Basques, we were totally exhausted afterwards. We do suspect that, in the future, age will instead trump adventure....!

The Lay Chaplaincy Team is very pleased to announce that our congregation has three new Lay Chaplains In Training. They are Gita John-Iyam, Oceanna Hall and Anne Vaasjo. They will shadow the existing Lay Chaplains over the summer months and take the Lay Chaplain's Basic Training offered by the CUC in the fall. Assuming all goes well, they will be ready to assume their role as Lay Chaplains when Liz Graham and Joyce Murphy end their terms in February 2015. Their words of introduction to you are below: please welcome them and wish them well on their journey.

**Gita John-Iyam** - I have been a UU for the past 23 years and have volunteered in the children's spiritual exploration program. I have seen children (my own three included) grow and thrive in this vibrant community. I have also worked with children and youth as part of my profession. I believe that celebrations, rituals and rites of passage add meaning to our lives. They build community and create the bonds and stories that hold us together. I am being called to do more in this community I call home. I also want to do more with and for children and youth-helping them create rituals and rites they may need.

I know I risk becoming an "insider", coming close to people in their time of intimacy, joy, pain and transition. This feels scary...but good. I hope to bring happiness, ease and fun along with my organizational and negotiating skills to my role as Lay Chaplain.

**Oceanna Hall** - Providing meaningful ceremonies, rituals and rites of passage to the Victoria and surrounding communities has always been one of the strengths of our First Unitarian Church of Victoria community. As I begin my lay chaplain training, I am excited to be part of this long tradition. Designing and facilitating inclusive, experiential rituals has been a life long passion of mine. I also believe that as a Unitarian lay chaplain, by visibly practising the inclusive seven core principles of our Unitarian covenant, I may often serve as an ambassador for our individual congregation as well as Unitarian Universalism, to individuals who are unfamiliar with our tradition. It is with sincere gratitude for this opportunity that I move forward into my training.

**Anne Vaasjo**- I am a multimedia artist who has always had an interest in the ideas surrounding ceremony. Although I have newly returned to this church the notion of becoming a Lay Chaplain has intrigued me for many years. To be part of these profound life events will be such a privilege. Also, I have always loved collaborative activities and have some experience with mediation and consensus process. I hope to fulfill my duties with creativity, sensitivity, and respect.



**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)

**The Divestment Movement**

This month we examine the growing movement to divest investments in fossil fuels. Institutions such as universities, religious organizations and local governments are leading the way. Much of the pressure to divest has been from university students, who are trying to tackle the biggest problem facing their generation: how to protect the planet from runaway climate change (e.g. Canadian Youth Climate Coalition). They are frustrated at the lack of progress by national governments, particularly in North America, who have been unwilling or unable to act to limit greenhouse gases.

Concerns about climate change have been elevated in the past year or two, with warnings from concerned atmospheric scientists, the UN IPCC (Inter-Governmental Panel on Climate Change) and climate activists. The most focused warning has come from Bill McKibben of ‘350.org’ in an article entitled “Global Warming’s Terrifying New Math”<sup>1</sup>. He concludes that we must leave 80% of all fossil fuels in the ground to avoid runaway global climate change. Last summer, the Carbon Tracker Initiative, a team of London financial specialists, published a list of the top 200 publically-traded companies (CT200)<sup>2</sup> by proven carbon reserves held, which ethical investors should avoid.

A ‘350.org’ related Website, <http://gofossilfree.org/>, lists organizations working toward divestment as well as ones that have already committed. Examples of committed organizations include 11 Universities and Colleges, such as SFSU; about 25 cities, including Seattle, San Francisco and Portland; and about 30 religious organizations: Presbyterian (First Palo Alto), Anglican (six in New Zealand), United (Massachusetts, Minnesota, Trinity St. Paul’s United of Toronto), and Unitarian (eight including the First Unitarian Church of Ottawa). Other religious organizations reviewing their investment policies include the Church of England, the Presbyterian Church, the United Methodist Church (US and Britain) and the United Church. The Unitarian Universalist Assembly (UUA) is considering a divestment resolution at its 2014 General Assembly in June in Providence, Rhode Island, which “calls upon the UUA to cease purchasing securities of CT200 companies as Common Endowment Fund investments”, unless shareholder activism is contemplated. The Canadian Unitarian Council is also moving in this direction.

Individual investors, who hold socially responsible values, may wish to consider divesting from the CT200 companies in their portfolios. If using a financial advisor, it is advisable to choose one who belongs to the Responsible Investment Association (the Canadian association of investment advisors who promote SRI, socially responsible investing). To conclude, the Carbon Tracker Initiative notes that the top reserves of carbon, that they have identified, may become “un-burnable carbon assets” and make poor investments in the long run.

<http://www.rollingstone.com/politics/news/global-warmings-terrifying-new-math-20120719>  
<http://carbontracker.org/site/linkfileshare/Unburnable-Carbon-Full-rev2.pdf>

**Covenant of Good Relations**  
**Answer to Question on page 5**

In the spirit of the Covenant of Good Relations, it would be your responsibility first to address the concern directly by compassionately exploring with the member in question how they were feeling about their situation and offering any support and assistance to ameliorate it. Failing some form of resolution, you might want to consult with the appropriate Minister about how best to handle the next step.

**Board Members on Duty**



- JULY 6** LINDA NICHOLSON-BROWN
- JULY 13** JOHN TIFFANY
- JULY 20** MIKE GRAHAM for Shirley Travis
- JULY 27** JENNIFER YOUNG

*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:** This group is looking forward to a garden party at the home of the Petch's on a Sunday in late August.

**Esquimalt:** Betty Sherwood writes, "What a lovely evening we had on June 6. There was a very delicious choice of food, including a birthday cake for Elizabeth McGugan. We changed the focus from food and business to food and deepening relationships. At dessert time we moved to comfortable seating in a circle, which allowed us to hear each other. After some conversation, three people volunteered to tell a brief version of their life's story. It was both fascinating and touching. We will reserve this time for ourselves and no longer have guest presentations."

**Fairfield:** Herb Girard writes, "The Fairfield Neighbourhood Group is presently without a convenor. We will, however, continue to support our members. Pauline Kenneally will continue her wonderful work with Care and Concern and will continue to be the contact point for new members. Herb Girard will continue to maintain the group's membership list and will communicate to the group as needed. We hope to be able to meet four or five times a year as we can arrange informally."

**Gordon Head:** Mary Cramer writes, "We are having a potluck at Sarah Harris' new house on Saturday, June 21, which is the summer solstice. It will be inter-generational...only three small steps to get into the house for all of us, and movies and games for the kids."

**Grand Central:** A few members of this group, including one child, gathered on May 24 at Playfair Park for a picnic. Those who attended say they had a wonderful time.

**James Bay:** Pat Kinrade reports that a small group gathered over tea on Saturday, June 14 "in the lofty home of Adeleine Morris."

**Nearby:** This NG provided the after-service treats for the five Sundays in June. Instead of only sweets, they experimented with a choice of sweet or savoury. They will now kick back for the summer.

**Royal Oak East:** Hanny Pannekoek writes, "The Royal Oak East NG gathered in our home on June 10. We had a smaller group than usual due to some flu and some being away. We had several appetizers, so our socializing before dinner was leisurely enjoyed. To me the fact that our members make an effort to bring delicious food is a sign that we care for our group and wish to make it a special evening. This time we lit a candle and formed a circle, holding hands and singing 'For food and friends' before dinner, something I had neglected for a while. It is a good Unitarian-community-style ritual to do though. After dinner we discussed the idea of sharing a church service at the home of a member who is house bound. The fact that one has to have a computer and wifi seems to be a serious limitation for that to happen. It may be an option for one of our members, so we will follow up with her. We continued the sharing our life story and this time Hugo volunteered to do it. It is a great way of getting to know each other better. Our evening always seems to be too short. Yet some people's bedtime comes earlier than others, so our striving is not to make it later than 21.00." This NG will be baking for July and they will gather again on September 9.

**Western:** This group gathered at John's and Susan's for their regular Saturday potluck on June 21. They will meet again on July 19.

Recently Reverend Melora led a service where members of our congregations shared their reflections in pursuit of articulating Unitarian Universalist faith, as it related to each participant in a workshop series that was facilitated by Reverend Melora. As each person spoke I felt their joy and celebration that seem to result from empowerment and voice that came from their time in the workshop series.

**Fran Pardee:** Here is my answer to the question **Tell me about Unitarianism.** The three minute elevator speech. Unitarian Universalism is a liberal religious faith. Its roots are Christian and date back to the time of the Protestant Reformation - 1500s. Its theology has evolved over time and now UUs hold a wide range of theological beliefs, for example there are church members who believe that there is one god, others who believe that there are many gods, and yet others who believe that there is no god. It is our values rather than our theological beliefs that unite us. We hold to seven principles as a reflection of and foundation for our faith, and we draw from many sources for our inspiration - for example the Bible, the Koran, poetry, or great literature. UUs endeavour to create an inclusive community that supports its members in their individual search for truth and meaning. A favourite Unitarian quotation is, "We need not think alike to love alike".

**Reverend Melora:** Fran, How would you name your current theology?

**Fran:** Spiritual atheist

**Reverend Melora:** How would you sum up your core values?

**Fran:** Do what you can whenever you can to show kindness to others and make the world a better place.

**Reverend Melora:** What is that something larger than yourself to which you connect, that opens your heart?

**Fran:** I feel that sense of connection when I am in nature, particularly when I am on a high hill looking out over a vista of land and water and sky. And when I see babies.

**Reverend Melora:** What do you call that something bigger than yourself to which you feel a connection?

**Fran:** Source of Life

## A Visit To Cobble Hill

On Monday June 9 Stu and Emily Whitney picked up Ron and Wilma Neilson and drove to Cobble Hill for a delightful lunch with David Person and Elaine Hanson. It was a beautiful sunny drive up the Malahat, along the south shore of Shawnigan Lake. We thoroughly enjoyed two or three of Elaine's super concoctions and then motored back to town. What a wonderful way to start the week.



## Coffee Time on Sundays

Did you know the food for coffee time is provided by one of our neighbourhood groups, with each group taking a turn for a month? At their June meeting, the NG Convenors suggested the volunteers who provide the food could offer either sweets or savouries, instead of only sweets, when they take their turn.



However, please remember that these treats are not meant to be lunch. To make sure there is enough for everyone, please take a sweet **or** a savoury. Our services are often well attended, and we hope there will be enough for everyone. After everyone has been served, it might be possible to have seconds. Thank you for your consideration!



# Organized Sound

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**A FUND RAISER FOR BRADEN'S EDUCATION**  
**ADMISSION BY DONATION — RECEPTION TO FOLLOW**

## FIRE WOOD FOR SALE

The Garden and Grounds Committee has a limited supply of split and seasoned firewood suitable for a fireplace. The wood is primarily fir, with some pine. The wood has been drying for a year under the Lion Hall deck.

This firewood will be delivered to your home in late August or early September. It is being offered at \$100 per pickup truck load (just under 1/2 cord) on a "first come first served" basis.

If you are interested, please call Earle Anthony, 250 -592- 4831. All proceeds are going to offset the costs of maintaining our gardens and grounds.



## Pancakes and Sausages Breakfast!

\*

**Sunday, July 27 – 8:30 am to 10 am,**

**Lion Hall, by donation.**

This is a fund-raiser for our last HOW project this year, helping school children who live in the slums of Pune, India.

**Yum! Good pancakes, good sausages, good cause!**

**\*and no calories because it's Sunday!**



## Giant Book Sale

Want a few books on your shelves that don't have a due date?

Want to read something without worrying about the battery dying?

Libraries are wonderful places and electronic readers contain whole libraries, but sometimes you just want a book you can spill food on, crunch in a beach bag, or read outside when the forecast is for scattered showers.

**Those are the kind of books you will find at our Giant Book Sale.**

Saturday, September 20

Do you have books you need to clear out 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.***



## 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

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Spiritual Development	John Hopewell	250-721-3920

## Events Calendar

Date	Time	Event	Location
<b>July 2014</b>			
7/1		CANADA DAY HOLIDAY	
7/2	Noon- 2pm	Care and Concern	Farmhouse Common Room
7/5	12:45-2:30pm	Meditation	Sunflower Room
7/6	10:30-11:30am	SUNDAY SERVICE	Sanctuary
	12:15-2:00pm	AHA: Atheists, Humanists, Agnostics	Farmhouse Common Room
7/7	7:30-9:30pm	Pub Night	Offsite location
7/8	10am-4pm	Sandy Merriman cooking	Kitchen Sanctuary
	1:30-3:30pm	Social Responsibility Committee	Farmhouse Common Room
7/12	12:45-2:30pm	Meditation	Sunflower Room
7/13	10:30-11:30am	SUNDAY SERVICE	Sanctuary
	Noon-1:30pm	Environment meeting	Library
7/19	12:45-2:30pm	Meditation	Sunflower Room
7/20	10:30-11:30am	SUNDAY SERVICE	Sanctuary
7/26	12:45-2:30pm	Meditation	Sunflower Room
7/27	8:30-10am	Pancake breakfast	Lion Hall
	10:30-11:30am	SUNDAY SERVICE	Sanctuary

## Birthdays in July

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



## New Address and Phone

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

Linda Nicholson-Brown and Alan Heartfield  
7684 East Saanich Rd.  
Saanichton, BC V8M 1L9  
(250) 857-1860  
Linda email: lnbrown7777@hotmail.com

## New Members

Grenon, Isabelle,  
4327 Ridgewood Crescent,  
Victoria, BC, V8Z 4Z6  
(250) 857-0445  
igrenon@hotmail.com

Duruisseau, François,  
4327 Ridgewood Crescent,  
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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  
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Uldall-Ekman (production,  
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