



The Victoria Unitarian

Services in December

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

Practices to Transform Ourselves and Our World -- December's Theme



Story:

The Practice of Making Meaning



December 7

Empowerment and the Art of Storytelling
Reverend Jane Bramadat



The ways in which storytelling can help or hinder our lives; how it can affect the way we feel about ourselves, others and society in general. What sorts of stories do you tell about yourself, about your church, about the community where you live and grow? What sort of stories make you excited and wanting to learn, share and grow? Do your stories change depending on the season? The stories and the questions raised are endless!

December 14

Our Mid-Winter Pageant: The Trees of the Dancing Goats
Reverend Shana Lynngood, Faye Mogensen, Amalia Schelhorn

Join the children and youth in celebrating the power of reaching out across faith groups. As part of our December "Story" theme, we present a mid-winter tale that includes the stories of Christmas and Chanukkah, and an unusual narrative from the 1930.s that features both Jews and Christians. Lively songs, dance and tableaux are interspersed with time for reflection.

December 14 7pm Jazz Vespers
with the Brent Jarvis Trio

Come, immerse yourself in the Christmas spirit with the fun and lovely music from **A Charlie Brown Christmas**. Our Children and Youth Choirs will add their voices to the memorable Hark! the Herald Angels Sing and Christmas Time is Here from Vince Guaraldi's touching score. Reverend Shana will also add a message to go along with the music.

December 21

Solstice
Reverend Shana Lynngood



As we mark the shortest day of the year, we will lift up the gifts of the dark. Often portrayed as foreboding and dangerous, there are positive attributes to the dark. What are they and how can we appreciate them?

December 24 5pm Christmas Eve Service for All Ages
Reverend Melora

Note: There is also an 8pm Christmas Eve service. See next page.

Come, celebrate the holiday season by reflecting on the story of Jesus' birth and the ways in which we can hear this ancient story anew each December. This is a service for all ages--Bring the kids! The service will include lots of carols and the traditional candle lighting during "Silent Night."

Please bring donations for people without homes. See list of suggested items on page 6.

(Continued on next page)

denotes Chalice Choir

Services in December — continued

December 24 8pm Christmas Eve Vespers
Reverend Shana Lynngood

In this late Christmas Eve service we will enjoy the music of the season, Scripture, and silence. How does this timeless story speak to us this year? Can we still find some magic in story of a baby born long ago heralding "peace on earth, goodwill to all"?

December 28 Story: Making Meaning of Life's Experiences
Oceanna Hall

Storytelling is as old as humankind. Before we could write, we told stories to try and make sense of what is happening in our lives. As we evolved, generation after generation, our stories became more complicated. Our thinking expanded; we developed more language. We began to interweave our stories into our conversations. This gift of story causes everyone to have their own "life story" imprinted into their brain. Meaning is the bridge between mind and spirit. All of our stories have deeper meaning. Meaning is everything to the brain. Meaning feeds the spirit. A key reason why we tell stories is to make sense of our lives, our worlds and to gain wisdom of a spiritual quality. Making sense of challenging life experiences, allows us to let go of the feelings associated with the memory and file the experience as wisdom. Join Oceanna Hall as she explores this gift of Story—meaning making of our life's experiences.

Special Notice

The January newsletter will be distributed one-week late due to holiday pressures.
The deadline for submissions is December 23—one week later than usual.

January 4 Dr. Paul Bramadat
Title not yet known; but Dr. Bramadat's talk will be related to our
January theme of "Yearning: The Practice of Seeking Depth"

Dr. Bramadat, Rev. Jane's son, is the Director of the Centre for Studies in Religion and Society, Department of History and Religious Studies Program, University of Victoria. More information can be found at
http://csrs.uvic.ca/home/bramadat_bio.php

Inside this issue...

From Your Minister	3	Around the Neighbourhood.....	9
SELebrating	4	Chalice Lighter	10
Our New Accompanist.....	5	Events Highlights	13
SRC Action of the Month.....	6		
Music Notes.....	6		
Library.....	7		
Green Corner.....	8		

The deadline for submissions to the
January issue of the newsletter is **December 23**.

Story: The Practice of Making Meaning

This month, as we approach the winter solstice, we once again immerse ourselves in the stories of the season – the story of the return of the sun, the story of the Maccabees and the oil that lasted 8 nights, the story of the birth of baby Jesus. Perhaps other stories loom large for you as well – the story of your childhood holidays, the story of a joyful memory, the story of a loss that is still with you.



As we engage with this month’s theme of story, here are some questions for your pondering. As with previous theme questions, we ask you to read over all of them and find the one question that chooses you. Then let that question take you on a ride – live with it, each day, each week, see where it takes you. Consider writing or drawing your answers. Share your questions and insights with one another – at coffee hour, around the dinner table.

What story or stories did you love as a child? Is there one that has shaped you over the years? One that speaks to you still? What draws you to that story? What have you learned from it? If you read/watched/heard that story again today, what insight might it offer to your current life circumstance?

In the stories of this season, which character speaks to you this year?

What stories about you did you grow up with? Were you the ‘responsible one,’ the ‘sporty one,’ the ‘funny one,’ the favourite, the optimist, the troublemaker, the peacemaker? What role were you given? To what extent and under what conditions do you still play that role?

Have you ever deliberately deviated from a storyline that was given to you by others? Over the years, what stories have you created for yourself?

What stories from your own life do you retell the most? Why? What do those stories say about you and what matters to you?

Maybe your spiritual work is about finding a new storyline? Maybe retirement, divorce, illness or the empty-nest has closed the book on one story and is inviting you to leap into a whole new adventure. Does that leave you excited about what’s to come? Scared? A bit of both?

What stories do you know about your family members? How have those stories affected your own story?

To what extent have you created a story with someone else? The story of a new family, a project at work or in the community? In those co-created stories, what have been the blessings and the challenges of creating a story with others? What are the larger gifts your co-creation gives the world?

How are you and your friends working to shape or re-shape the storyline of our community? Our country?

Sign up Now: “Soul Matters” Theme Groups Start in January

Reverend Shana and I are piloting a “Soul Matters” program. We are starting with two small groups, each facilitated by a minister, that meet once a month to explore each month’s theme in-depth. Make meaningful connections talking about things that matter! Groups will run for six sessions, January-June.

Tuesdays, 6:30-8:30 pm, January 20, February 17, March 24, April 28, May 26, June 16.

Sign up with Reverend Melora rev.melora@gmail.com (250)891-6330

Thursdays, 1-3pm, January 29, February 26, March 26, April 23, May 28, June 18.

Sign up with Rev. Shana rev.shana@shaw.com (250)891-6331

Space is limited- preference given to those who may be willing to facilitate in the fall.

Apologies to Cameron, for misspelling her surname on the front page of the November newsletter!

She is really Cameron Egyeda!

SELebrating Mid-Winter with Story

Many of the activities in the children's wing this month (and last month) have been and will be directed towards our Annual Mid-Winter pageant – the service on Sunday, December 14. We hope that you'll come! This year, we'll be retelling the story of an unusual intersection between Christians and Jews at Christmas and Hanukkah. It's a beautiful tale about reaching out across faith groups, and seems a perfect choice for a theme month that focuses on story, in that it helps us consider the similarities and difference between these traditional tales and celebrations, and what is most important about both.

Community is certainly significant, and this is what we aim to build during our preparations. The children and youth work together constructing and embellishing decorations and props, practising the dance, rehearsing songs, and honing the arts of standing very still and accepting the roles that are available to them. Many adults have stepped up to help create some of the trickier props and to manage the costumes, props and stage. Still others have wonderful plans for making the long wait of rehearsal day (on Saturday December 13, from 1-5 pm) a festive event, with games, activities and yummy food. The Spiritual Exploration and Learning for Children and Youth (SEL-CY) Team appreciates each and every one of you, as we create community and a wonderful worship service together.

On December 21, when the pageant is long over, the children and youth program will celebrate the Solstice and the fact that the sun is returning! It's another way to acknowledge the challenges of the darkest season, as together we create light, faith, hope and joy.

As I prepare for the mid-winter season, I hope that the story-month at church will resonate with all of the above, and of warm community.

Lightly and brightly, Faye

Director of Spiritual Exploration and Learning for Children and Youth • 250-744-2695 • fayem@victoriaunitarian.ca

Memorial Garden Team Needs New Members!

Urgent! We at the Memorial Garden Team need three new members to join us occasionally for brief meetings to discuss the future of the Memorial Wall and the surrounding garden. Earle Anthony and Mike Fibiger-Crossman are current members. Plans have been brought forward to continue the development of the Memorial Wall area but to do the discussions justice we feel three more members are needed.

The two existing members are all inclined to run tight and to the point meetings so your valuable time will not be wasted. Also we all like to stay on point during discussions and do not want to have any more meetings than necessary. This next year could be an exciting time on this committee so if you have a vested interest in the future plans for the wall area or are just interested in what direction it takes, please contact me (Tiff), so I can pass on your name to Mike and Earle.



Scraps From the Composter

Your Environmental Action Team (EAT) would like to thank Earle Anthony for emptying the compost barrel. Collected material from the composter is being worked into our garden areas. Also thanks to the kitchen volunteers for using the composter for the many gatherings serving food at the church. What goes around comes around as we work together to make a greener church.

OUR NEW ACCOMPANIST—VICTORIA BEAUCHESNE

Victoria's early years were spent endlessly drawing, playing the piano, singing and inventing her own dances. She completed grade nine piano at age 13, and won first place in her category the only year she entered the Ottawa Music Festival.

As an adult, Victoria has embraced a number of careers enthusiastically while moving about the world with her husband, tubist Paul Beauchesne. They met in 1987 while Victoria was studying Music Composition here at UVic. At that time, she abandoned both.

She went on to study film in Montreal and subsequently to work in film and television as a scriptwriter, researcher, interviewer and production assistant on several projects, including TSN's mountain bike show "The Ride Guide," which, while based in Calgary, had her travelling all over North America (and not practicing the piano!)

In 1997, having reunited with Paul, Victoria moved to New Mexico to do a Masters in Theatre and Dance. She considered Visual Arts and Music departments; but chose the Theatre department because it gave her a graduate assistantship and offered an inter-disciplinary scope. Victoria wrote a musical, designed a couple of sets, and directed the original production of Susan Erickson's sell-out new comedy, "Raised by Humans," while obtaining her MA.



The next move was to South Africa for Paul to take up the principal tuba position with the Durban-based orchestra. Here, Victoria had the opportunity to conduct a boys' choir and handbell choir, as well as usher in the millennial New Year's eve with a bang, playing extra percussion with the symphony.

Victoria and Paul moved back to Calgary in 2001, married in Banff; and their son Louis was born in 2003. In 2005, leaving behind both a growing mural-painting business and piano studio, Victoria moved here, once again for Paul to take up a symphony position. Although Victoria threw herself into reviving regular Contra Dancing, and volunteering as a handbell choir director, teaching piano now took centre stage. She became Music Director of Fairfield United Church in 2007, where she learned organ and directed the SATB choir for several years. While she had done some accompanying throughout her life, now she began to work regularly with singers, instrumentalists and choirs. She also directed both the Wee Folks at the Conservatory and Zephyr children's choirs, taught Music Together, and pursued professional development, for instance, taking a continuous course with Olivier Fortin.

A refugee from the Christian church, Victoria's musical formation owes a lot to her Anglican upbringing, having sung in the children's choir and studied with church organist, Ewen McCuaig. The glory of music and the surprising lack of co-relation between people's driving behavior and car accidents both supported Victoria's belief in the existence of a generous God, until recently...

Victoria considers herself blessed and grateful to be part of the Unitarian community and to be working under the leadership of Nicholas Fairbank!



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

SRC ACTION OF THE MONTH

Out of the Rain Youth Shelter and The Dandelion Society



For the month of December we will be raising awareness, funds and supplies for the Out of the Rain Youth Shelter and the Dandelion Society. Both of these organizations work with people living on our streets.

OOTR Youth Shelter is a 30 bed shelter providing a warm evening meal, a warm safe place to sleep and support for Victoria's 250 homeless youth ages 15-25.

The Dandelion Society is the outreach program run by Reverend Al Tysick. It fights physical poverty by coming alongside one person at a time—do their work on the street, in hospitals, in jails and in all places that shelter those who are forgotten.

Items can be dropped off Christmas Eve during the service or at the SRC shelf in the foyer or contact Lisa Greenly. Thank you for your support.

Items needed

New or gently used coats, sweaters and shoes, adult bus tickets, \$5 Tim Horton's or McDonald's or Value Village gift cards, movie passes, knapsacks, travel size toothpaste/toothbrushes, soaps, deodorants and shampoo, feminine hygiene items, condoms, new or gently used sleeping bags.

Share The Plate for December

On Sundays in December our collection basket revenue will be shared with the Out of the Rain Youth Shelter and the Dandelion Society. Both of these organizations work with the over 1500 homeless people here in Victoria. For more information see the SRC display shelf or go to: www.outoftherainvictoria.ca and www.hopeliveshere.ca

Music Notes

December is a busy month, with the Winter Concert on December 5, Chalice Choir singing December 7 and 21, and with special music and musicians for the two services on Christmas Eve.

The Music Committee and I are exploring the idea of starting up an auditioned **Chamber Choir** for FUCV, beginning in January. I am looking to form an initial group of twelve singers who would be selected by audition, with choral experience and reading skills being the important criteria. Rehearsals will likely be on alternate Thursday evenings from 6:00 to 7:20 pm, just prior to the main Chalice Choir rehearsal. Once the choir has been rehearsing regularly for a couple of months we anticipate singing one Sunday per month. I would like to ask anyone interested in joining this group to please contact me at 250-514-2669 or

music.director@victoriaunitarian.ca

Many thanks, Nick

Generosity Campaign Update



Our 2015 Generosity Campaign is now drawing to a close and we are delighted to report we have received 217 pledges totaling \$301,116. This represents an increase of about 1.7% over pledges received in our campaign last year. Finance Committee is now working on a budget to be presented to the congregational meeting in January.

Thanks to everyone who contributed in any way including our visiting stewards and everyone who returned their pledge form. For those interested in the details, here is the breakdown:

	Current	Last Year
Amount pledged	301,116	296,042
Mean (Average) pledge	1,388	1,390
Median (Middle) pledge	930	980
Av. % increase from those pledging	3.4%	3.8%
Number of pledges	217	213
Number of 'zero' pledges	15	7
Number of replies	232	220
Number of increased pledges	91	110
Number of "same" pledges	78	55
Number of decreased pledges	26	25
Number of "new" pledges	21	18
Number \$5,000 to \$8,000 or more	4	4
Number \$4,000 to \$4,999	8	7
Number \$3,000 to \$3,999	14	14
Number \$2,000 to \$2,999	28	31
Number \$1,000 to \$1,999	52	54
Number \$500 to \$999	56	53
Number less than \$500	55	50

OUR LIBRARY

EMMA J. Q LENTZ

I want to thank all the people who are connected to our library today.

Charles Gee has taken great care in his support for our church library. He came with experience which he both applied to, and expanded in his work in the library. He's devoted uncountable hours (actually about six hours per day for six months) creating the database of over 1000 items currently on our library shelves. He managed the loaning and cataloging and he created extensive documentation of how the system works, possibilities for improvements, deficiencies and references to continue to expand and improve the library.

I also add my voice in appreciation of the support that Penny Boyce provides to the library! Among other work, you can expect Penny to be in our library keeping things aesthetically pleasing, shelf reading, and sometimes looking after you when you decide to borrow a book.

Ruth Chudley continues to give the invaluable services of getting overdue items back on the shelves. Without her efforts our catalog would be kaput.

Finally, I make honorable mention of Lillie Lentz (aka Mom) who has begun to provide technical support (now I know the difference between a database and a spreadsheet) to the church library.

Sincerely, Emma J. Q Lentz, Church Librarian

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**

Note: This column is an edited version of a letter sent to the BC Government.

Site C and Alternative Renewable Energy

Should Unitarians support building the Site C power dam on the Peace River with a projected cost of \$7.9 Billion? Although this energy would be renewable, dam construction will cause the loss of some of the most fertile agricultural land in BC. Furthermore, First Nation will be affected and have not been consulted. (Court challenges have already been initiated).

Another green option is the use of alternative renewable energy in the form of solar panels, wind, etc. These technologies are becoming cost competitive and could be brought on stream in an incremental fashion, without the major capital outlay of \$7.9 Billion to the BC government, using enhanced Feed-In Tariffs, which would ultimately be paid by end consumers.

This approach has been used successfully in other jurisdictions such as Ontario, Germany and Denmark. Some concrete examples are worth mentioning: 1) In Duncan, BC the Cowichan Solar Group has just purchased solar panels in bulk and are projecting an installed cost of \$3.00-\$3.15/watt, which compares favourably to \$7.18/watt for Site C, 2) In Ottawa, the Ottawa Renewable Energy Co-operative (OREC) is selling power to the Ontario grid under a 20 year Feed-In Tariff (FIT) contract of 32.9 – 39.6 cents/kWh, with capital provided by members, often through RRSP contributions, paying a 5% return, and 3) In Leicestershire UK, the Wymeswold Solar Farm is producing 35 MW of power at a capital cost of 35 Million pounds or \$1.77/watt Cdn). A quick calculation indicates that solar farms with the equivalent output of Site C (1100 MW/5100 GWh/year) could be built for \$7.28 Billion (vs. \$7.9 Billion for Site C).

The key to this alternative is to set Feed-In Tariffs encouraging these technologies, without impoverishing future users. The Ontario rate structure seems appropriate: 7.7 – 14 cents/kWh (time of use) with a FIT tariff of 32.9 – 39.6 cents/kWh (vs. 9.9 cents/kWh in BC).

Wreath Making for the Sanctuary

Come and join us on Wednesday December 3 for what has become an annual event. We will meet in the Sanctuary at 9 am and by noon we will have many glorious wreaths to decorate the Sanctuary walls. Wreath frames, greenery and decorations will be provided. Coffee, tea and warm homemade muffins will also be there.

Donations of holly, fir boughs etc would be wildly appreciated. *Betty and Hanny*



Regifting: The Ultimate in Recycling

Come one, come all to the Christmas Regifting Sales in the Lion Hall before and after Service on December 14 and 21. Thanks to the generous donations of the Congregation, we have something for everyone—women, men, and children. Pick up some lovely gifts at bargain prices! All proceeds to the church. Last year we made over \$1600—let's beat that record this year!

Any questions? Call Nellie at 778-426-0300.



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.

Esquimalt: Betty Sherwood writes, "We will be meeting on Friday evening December 19 at my house for appetizers and desserts."

Fairfield: This group hosted the Memorial Reception for Laurie Cottrell on October 17. On October 19 they helped host the Souper Lunch and now they are planning to gather December 7 for their traditional book "regifting".

Far Out: The five Sundays in November were provided with coffee time treats by this NG.

Gordon Head: Mary Cramer writes, "Nineteen of our NG met at the home of Oona Hayes and Todd Webber on October 18 for another delicious potluck. After dinner we all answered two questions. 1. Where were you born? and 2. How many cities have you lived in? The answers were extremely varied and very interesting.

Grand Central: New contact person, Patty Disbrow, reports, "Grand Central NG gathered at the Souper Sunday to enjoy one another's company and plan for a pumpkin carving gathering. Friends and members and people who are in the process of joining the church were all represented. It was great to meet some of the group face to face!"

Four children and several adults did share food and fun on October 29, carving pumpkins at Samantha's. Now the group are working with Royal Oak East to host the Souper Lunch on November 23. They are looking forward to February, when Philip and Marya will move into their neighbourhood.

James Bay: Pat Kinrade writes, "James Bay is gearing up to bake for December Sunday Services and we would be most grateful if others would join us. Cast off or extra holiday baking most welcome. Please contact pkinrade@shaw.ca if you can help. We will enjoy a Potluck lunch at the home of Daphne Dunbar on Monday, December 15. The Neighbourhood Group has been wonderful at supplying dinners for Pat Kinrade and her daughter Erin Kinrade and Ben and Teo. Erin had a bad bicycle accident, spent a week in the spinal cord injury unit and is in a neck brace for two months.

Oak Bay: Just back from Toronto, Karla Thomson writes, "OBNG had a wonderful party at the home of Tiff and Jan Li. Our numbers were nineteen and besides the usual great food for dinner we all shared a piece of our life story. This was revealing and helped us to get to know each other a little better. We are now looking forward to the last time we will meet at Marya and Phillip's home. This will be on December 14. It will be sad to have them move out of our Oak Bay neighbourhood area but a happy Xmas party it shall be."

Royal Oak East: Here is the news from Hanny Pannekoek: "On November 23 the Royal Oak East Neighbourhood Group, together with Grand Central, will take care of Souper Sunday lunch.

Royal Oak East will have its next gathering on November 29. This time it will be different from our usual get together in three ways: We will meet on a Saturday instead of on a Tuesday; we will share finger food appetizers and dessert rather than having a potluck, and we will start an hour earlier. Naida and Helga have offered to have it in their lovely home and will be our, no doubt, gracious hostesses. We have a new member, Laurel Westinghouse, and we are looking forward to having her with us."

Continued next page

AROUND THE NEIGHBOURHOOD (cont'd.)

Royal Oak West: Fran Hancock writes, "FOOD, WONDERFUL FOOD" as the song goes.... Over seventy people were served on Sunday, October 19 which brought in more than \$474.00 for the church, which is amazing considering that the choir was not present nor either of our ministers. We are grateful to the bakers, cooks, servers, ticket sellers, set-up crew, dishwashers, laundresses, as it was a smoothly run operation due to the generous response of so many volunteers from both our NG and Fairfield. We prepared extra food, but only a few desserts were left and little soup. Later Sunday evening Peter said to me that he liked going to church because it made him feel so good afterwards. That's how I felt when I remembered the myriad of faces that made this event so successful, so many thanks to all!"

Western: Susan reports that 6 or 8 members met for a potluck at Oz's in October and Susan is hoping to have a potluck at her place on November 29, if enough people can come. Their group does not gather in December.

CHALICE LIGHTER FOR WINTER SOLSTICE BETTY SHERWOOD

Keith Jobson, as one of our recognized Elders, will light the chalice on December 21st. He has been part of this church for about 40 years. Keith's career was in teaching, in the school system and later as a law professor at university. What he values about the church is that it is part of the larger community including the First Nations community and it reflects the values of the changing society through, for example, SRC or Shana's involvement with Multi-faith at UVic.

Choices in Dying Victoria Unitarians Support End-of-Life Choice

The Unitarian Church is one of only two faith communities in Canada that officially support the right-to-die movement. Although many Unitarians may have supported it individually, the official support of the church began in the early 1990s during the time that Sue Rodriguez was struggling to be able to legally receive medically-assisted dying.

In 1993, the Annual Meeting of CUC passed a resolution to adopt a policy that "advocates the legalization of the rights of mentally-competent, terminally or irreversibly ill persons to determine the manner of their dying." A year earlier, to prepare for this resolution, the South Fraser Unitarian Congregation had produced *Death and Dying: a Study Guide for Unitarians*. Now, strengthened by the resolution, the CUC presented in 1994 a *Brief to the Special Senate Committee on Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide* because "an overwhelming majority of Unitarian participants in a nation-wide study held the view people should have choice in the manner of their dying." A new monitoring group of CUC's Social Responsibility was formed called Choices in Dying.

Fast-forward to 2011 when Lee Carter, to be joined later by Gloria Taylor, launched an appeal to have medically-assisted dying removed from the criminal code. The CUC appealed for and received intervener status and was represented pro bono by lawyer Tim Dickson. On October 15 of this year, the case was heard by the Supreme Court of Canada and we await its decision. In 2014, the UUMOC (Unitarian Universalist Ministers of Canada) "affirmed as a matter of religious principle, the right of individuals who are terminally ill to make choices for themselves in the matter and timing of their death."

For more information, go to www.cuc.ca. Click on What we do/Social Responsibility/Choices in Dying.
—Margot Lods

This spring, nourish and rejuvenate your spirit with other Unitarian Universalists!



Vancouver Island Unitarian Spiritual Retreat April 24-26, 2015

At the beautiful Cowichan Lake Outdoor Education & Conference Centre
(1h 30 from Victoria, 1h from Nanaimo)

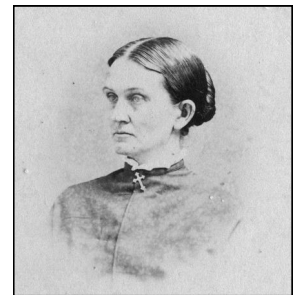
Save-the-date and watch for more details this winter
For more info: Rev. Meg Roberts (mroberts@uuma.org)
& Rosemary Morrison (rsmrymorrison@gmail.com)

Sponsored by the Vancouver Island Unitarian Committee, which includes
Unitarian Universalists from congregations in: Comox, Nanaimo, Salt Spring Island,
Capital Unitarian Universalist Congregation in downtown Victoria,
and our congregation, First Unitarian Church of Victoria.

Representatives from our congregation are:
Martha McDougall, Pat Kinrade, Christine Johnston, and Reverend Melora.

Notable UU

Fidelia Gillette, b.1827, the first known ordained woman of any denomination in Canada to serve as a minister of a church. In 1877 she became minister of the Universalist Church in Bloomfield, Ontario. She worked tirelessly for women's rights and women's suffrage. She was a noted writer, lecturer, minister and poet. She started off life in the US surviving a childhood with a mentally unstable mother but with an adored father. She moved from Birmingham to Rochester with her husband in the 1860s and became the women's rights editor of the Rochester Era newspaper, also promoting temperance and literacy as well as fighting injustice. Then in 1877 she moved to Canada where she was inspired to spread the "doctrine of love" that was at the core of the Universalist movement.



Community Dinner December 12 is Fiesta Night!



We will be serving tacos with all the fixings, chili and much more! Vegetarian options available. Fiesta Night is a multi generational event and an opportunity to meet new people or catch up with friends over a casual, fun, delicious meal. Everyone is welcome!! Please join us!! Dinner is by donation. Please bring a dessert to share.

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

Winter Concert
*An evening of seasonal music
 with our choirs*



FRIDAY DECEMBER 5 at 7pm
FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA
ADMISSION BY DONATION (\$\$\$ OR FOOD BANK)
RECEPTION TO FOLLOW

All proceeds donated to the food bank.

**Board Members
 on Duty**



December 7 John Tiffany
 December 14 Bob Dobbs
 December 21 Jennifer Young
 December 28 John Hopewell

**Attention
 Bakers**

The small James Bay Neighbourhood Group would love to have you share your seasonal baking at coffee hour. Please let Pat Kinrade know if you can bring goodies at: pkinrade@shaw.ca or 250-361-4336

Christmas Day Dinner

Join us on December 25 at 1:00pm in the Lion Hall for our Annual Christmas Day Potluck! There is no charge. Turkey will be provided. You bring the rest, plus a small gift (\$5.00 or less) to go under the tree.

Beginning December 8 and continuing through December 15 and 22, sign up for this popular event in the Lion Hall during coffee. You will be asked what you'd like to bring, or if you'd like to help with set up or clean up.

For more details contact Gita at gitanjali.johniyam@gmail.com.

December Birthdays

- 1 Mike Greenly
- 2 Dean Henderson
- 3 Irene Guilbault
- 4 Daphne Horne, Victoria Barr
- 5 Dawn Fizzard
- 6 Michael Eckford, Edie Taylor
- 7 John Dalgety, Slaine Sutherland, Liz Graham, Susan Bowers
- 8 Diana Smith, Cheryl Hall
- 9 Ron Neilson, Laura Doyle, Forrest Brown Kilgour, Johanna Billung-Meyer
- 10 Nancy Dobbs, Kathryn Harwood, Finlay (Finn) Taylor
- 11 Lesley Duthie
- 12 Dorothy Jones, Ellen Gabelmann
- 13 Nadia Cantera
- 14 Mohammad Banaee, Mary-Stephanie Walrafen
- 15 Rowena Locklin
- 17 Penny Boyce
- 18 Jim Jordan
- 20 Rosemary Harrison
- 21 Gloria Hopewell
- 21 Lisa Hitch, Paula Steele
- 22 Archie McGugan, Edo Nyland, Hugo Suttmoller
- 23 Ruth Wellburn
- 25 Katherine Dillistone
- 27 Christina Harris
- 28 Aaron Brimacombe, Stan Evans
- 30 Deanna Hutchings

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 Versteegen

Board of Trustees

Officers

President	Shirley Travis	778-433-2063
Past President	Mike Graham	250-384-4351
Vice-President	Linda Nicholson-Brown	250-474-7182
Treasurer	Bob Dobbs	250-652-5438
Secretary	Jennifer Young	250-370-5106

Council Representatives

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Congregational Life	Suzanne Beauchamp	778-433-2829
Outreach	Susan Layng	250-370-2247
Property Management	John Tiffany	778-432-0881
Spiritual Development	John Hopewell	250-721-3920

Events Calendar (Highlights) — December 2014

Date	Time	Event	Location
12/5	7-9:30pm	Winter Concert	Sanctuary
12/7	10:30-11:30am	Sunday service	Sanctuary
	noon-2pm	Property Town Hall Meeting	Farmhouse Common Room
	12:30-5pm	Pageant set-up	Sanctuary
12/12	6-10pm	Community Dinner	Sanctuary
12/14	10:30-11:30am	Mid-Winter Pageant	Sanctuary
	7-9pm	Jazz Vespers Service	Sanctuary
12/21	10:30-11:30am	Sunday service (includes Solstice)	Sanctuary
12/24	5-6pm	Christmas Eve Family Service	Sanctuary
	8-9pm	Christmas Eve 2nd service	Sanctuary
12/25	1pm	CHRISTMAS DAY	Lion Hall
12/26		BOXING DAY	
12/28	10:30-11:30am	Sunday service	Sanctuary

Rabbie Burns Night

Our Rabbie Burns dinner is planned for Friday, January 23. If anyone is keen to sing, dance, play, and/or recite please contact Christine Johnston soon (Christine_Johnston@telus.net).

Witness in Palestine

We, SRC's Refugee Committee, are willing to lend the popular DVD created by Jewish American Anna Baltzer on the topic of her Witness in Palestine. Several individuals and even a Chalice Group have already asked. It is a clear and powerful statement by an articulate and attractive American who chose to see for herself what is going on.

Contact Christine_johnston@telus.net

Care and Concern

The following members seldom get to church but would welcome visits. It is usually better to phone first.

Dorothy Jones [250-598-9892](tel:250-598-9892)
Parkwood, 236--3051 Shelbourne Street

Doreen Wood [250-598-9914](tel:250-598-9914)
Kiwanis Pavilion, 3034 Cedar Hill Road

Mertie Chilton
Selkirk Place, 3858 Waterfront Crescent

Winnie Bocking
Island View Place, 7013 East Saanich Road

—*Daphne Dunbar, Care & Concern Team*

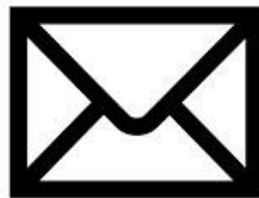
New Address

Ray Page & Elinor Tennyson

326-2245 James White Blvd.
Sidney, BC V8L 1Z5
778-351-1003
Far Out NG

Marya Nijland & Philip Symons

(as of February 11, 2015)
1394 Vista Heights
Victoria, BC, V8T 2J3
259-592-6484
Grand Central NG



Kellina Dyer

103 B - 10230 Bowerbank Road
Sidney, BC V8L 0C1
250-885-8586
Far Out NG

Charles Gee & Sherry Ewings

310 Sylvia Crescent
Trail, BC V1R 1A5.
250 544 0100
email for Sherry will be sherry@fiction.org
email for Charles will be gee512@telus.net

Need Help?

Call Jan

- ◆ Clean the clutter in your kitchen, bedroom or basement?
- ◆ A room to be cleaned, walls to be washed, closets to be organized?
- ◆ Errands to be run or shopping to be done for you, or with you?
- ◆ Other driving services—Evening outings? Medical appointments?
- ◆ A scenic drive with someone with whom to enjoy the ride?

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THE VICTORIA UNITARIAN

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

The **deadline** for submissions to the **January** issue is **December 16**.

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

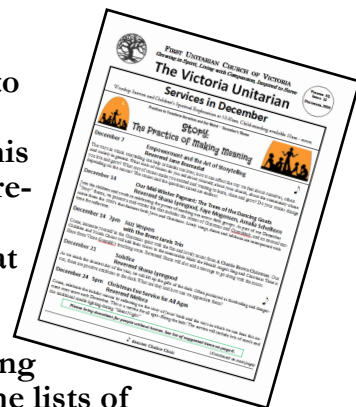
Bob Dobbs and Barbara Nyland (editors); Doreen Burgess and Myra Rippon (proof-readers); and Karen Uldall-Ekman (production, distribution and paid advertisements).

Notice to Newsletter Readers

We are going to revise the newsletter in a number of ways to make it shorter and to reduce overlap with the E-Weekly. In this issue, for example, we have abbreviated the Events Calendar to highlights only—those items that are of interest to large numbers of people.

We are thinking of eliminating the birthday list and, possibly, the lists of contact changes. We will use clipart and photos more sparingly, and we will generally not devote a full or half-page to posters.

If you have concerns or suggestions, please email these to Bob Dobbs (bobdobbs@shaw.ca) or Barb Nyland (barbcher@islandnet.com).



 Seasons Greetings