



The Victoria Unitarian

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

SERVICES IN FEBRUARY

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

<p>Practices to Transform Our Selves and Our World</p>	 <p>February's Theme</p>	<p>CONNECTION: The Practice of Experiencing Our Interdependence</p>
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February 1 Connections - Reverend Shana Lynngood and Faye Mogensen, Director of Spiritual Exploration for Children and Youth

As we begin a new theme—Connection: The Practice of Experiencing our Interdependence—we start with an all-ages service that looks at our ties to all living things. We will explore gardening as a metaphor for how we tend connections so that they flourish rather than wither. Come reflect on the connections of your life. (Newcomer Orientation follows this service from 12:00-1:00pm. All are welcome!)

February 8 Seeds and Seasons: Feeding the Web of Life in Nepal and East Timor Kate Green (See 'About Kate Green' on page 2)

Unitarian Service Committee (USC) staff and farmers in Nepal are passing along wisdom and experience to the communities in Timor-Leste (East Timor). This knowledge includes how to rebuild fragile local seed stocks and improve the local food supplies. Kate Green has worked with USC for 20 years and is now their Program Manager for Asia. (Kate will lead a discussion on her topic following the service at 12:15pm in the Common Room).

Co-Ministers at Institute for Excellence in Ministry

Our Ministers will be at the Unitarian Universalist Ministers Association Institute for Excellence in Ministry from February 2-6, after which Reverend Shana will preach in Davis, California on February 8. They will return to work with our congregation on February 10. In case of pastoral emergency or other urgent matter, contact the Office or Congregational President, Shirley Travis, both of whom will have the ministers' contact information.

February 15 What Is Your Ministry? Reverend Melora Lynngood

As Unitarian Universalists, we believe that every person has their own unique way of caring for this planet and those who dwell upon it. That is, everyone has their own "ministry". Church is a good place to discern your ministry—and practise your ministry. Within and beyond this congregation, what is your special way of caring? What ministries call to you?

February 15 Jazz Vespers Reverend Shana Lynngood

Maureen Washington Quartet with Reverend Shana Lynngood at 7pm UVic Interfaith Chapel. This night after Valentine's Day we will explore the timeless theme of love through jazz and word. How can we hold on to the deep sense of love as enduring and meaningful connection when contemporary popular images tend to cheapen and demean love into a more saccharine notion? Come explore with one of Victoria's most beloved jazz vocalists and stellar musicians.

(Services Continued Next Page)

SERVICES IN FEBRUARY *(continued)*

February 22 Pope Francis and Contemporary Catholicism Reverend Shana Lynngood

This sermon topic which was requested by last year’s auction bidder will look at the complex landscape of current Catholicism. In his short time as Pope, Pope Francis has made a strong impression as a reformer. What will he mean to Catholicism? How much will things change as a result of his papacy? What impact does the Roman Catholic Church hold in an increasingly multi faith and secular world?

INSIDE THIS ISSUE...

SElections	2
About Kate Green	2
From your Minister.....	3
Jazz Vespers Schedule	3
Shared Ministry Retreat.....	4
Splinters from the Board meeting.....	5
Art in the Sanctuary	6
SRC Action of the Month	7
Chalice Lighters of the Month.....	8
Notable UU.....	8
Planned Giving.....	9
Library Report	9
History of Unitarianism in Victoria	10
Around the Neighborhood.....	11
Event Highlights	14

ABOUT KATE GREEN

Kate is a Program Manager at USC Canada, an international social justice and development agency that works with farming communities to secure local organic food and seed system and support sustainable livelihoods. As Program Manager for Asia, she works with her local colleagues in Nepal, Bangladesh and East Timor. For many years she has also been active in USC’s In-Canada Public Engagement, connecting with people who desire to bring more justice to the global food system.

—Christine Johnston

Deadline for the March issue is February 17

SELECTIONS ON CONNECTIONS

FAYE MOGENSEN

A spider’s web, links on a chain, a game of dominoes are just a few of the many visual metaphors for the connections between things. If you’re like me, you have a story of travelling far from home only to run into someone you know, or of meeting someone from a distant place who knows someone you know. Most of us have said a grace that connects the food we are about to eat with the sun or the rain or the good warm earth. Throughout the month of February in the “SEL” Children and Youth programs, we’ll be doing our best to lift up the idea of connection, in one way or another.

The “Adventurers” (k-gr. 1): continue their exploration of the intangible gifts in life, this month looking at the gifts of “Mutual Caring”, “Stewardship” and “Protection”. They’ll consider how their actions impact others, and the connections between people and nature.

As the “Seekers” (gr. 2-4) celebrate the Chinese New Year and Mardi Gras, they’ll consider questions like “What is the connection between the time of year and the festival being celebrated?” “How are celebrations important for building connection between people? Or between people and place?”

There is strong evidence of a link between time spent outdoors in nature and the development of a strong environmental ethic. Not only will the “Questors” (gr. 5-7) get outside often during their meetings in the next few months, they will also help make it more appealing for younger children to do so. They are beginning two longer-term projects, with activities that range from getting to know the wetlands across the road; to exploring ideas for a “natural” playground for the Montessori School and younger children of the church. I love that we are finding ways to strengthen the children’s connection to this place.

Connecting through food is an ages old tradition that the Youth (gr. 9-12) look forward to continuing. They will be hosting the first “Chocolate Sunday” after church on February 8, and are planning dessert for the Mad Hatter Mystery Buddy Party in March. In between, they have plans to consider moral questions that they encounter in various media and how the media impacts their lives.

And, some good news! Over the past month, the OWL (gr. 8-9) group has grown from 8 to 12 participants – we now have 8 girls and 4 boys (instead of 7 and 1). If OWL unfolds as usual, many strong friendships will no doubt be built.

Blessings for connections! Faye

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

The Power of Connection

This month's theme is Connection: The Practice of Experiencing our Interdependence. We are exploring connection in part because disconnection and isolation and loneliness are more commonplace than we often think. We live in a culture and society (and even our Unitarian forebears emphasized) that places a high value on individualism. Most of the time, that has a positive effect - we appreciate the uniqueness of who we are and our life circumstances. The shadow side of this individualism, however, is that we can struggle to see where our lives intersect, overlap, and are inextricably linked to not only the other human beings around us but all living things. How different is our perception of life when we see and sense our well being as tied to that of others? Of the planet? What does that type of connection mean to us and for us?



As is our new custom, you are invited to consider the questions below and then allow one to take up residence in your mind and being throughout the month. Mine the question that you chose for whatever richness it has to offer. You might choose to journal on it or post it somewhere in your home where you will encounter it regularly. You may choose to talk with someone at coffee hour about the question that grabbed you and your reflections on it. May we find meaning in our exploration of connection this month.

- To what degree does our individual identity, dignity and sense of self arise out of relatedness? Mab Segrest says: “The South African word ubuntu (‘I am because we are.’) expresses the African idea that our human dignity and fulfillment is dependent upon our links to each other in community.” Similarly, UU Minister Myke Johnson says: “We start out in relationship, and our individuality grows out of that circle of relatedness. Not the other way around”.
- Who really knows you? Who do you really know? Is being known the same as connection? UU Minister Kathleen McTigue tells a story of the inscription on the tombstone of one Franklin F. Bailey, who lived from 1901 to 1988 in New England: “Here lies a man that nobody really knew.” Could this happen here? Could this happen to you?
- Are there important connections you have to “things” or “experiences” rather than just people? Do you cry or laugh at a movie? Do you feel especially connected to something in nature? What are some of your favorite connections with a piece of art or song or story or play? Why is this connection so strong for you? Why is the connection so strong for humans?
- Does being in community, does being connected help us live into truer versions of ourselves? Lynn Ungar says the main reason people come to church, any church, is for community. But church community is/should be different: “Church community is based not just in who we are, but also in who we want to become. The purpose of church community is to get a hold of people like us and change us. Not into some false version of ourselves, but into a truer version of ourselves.”
- Can you recall a time when you first realized that you were Earth, part of the Earth community?
- In what ways do you connect your worldview and personal cosmology to practices of environmental sustainability?

See you in church, Reverend Shana

Spirited Jazz—A Unitarian Jazz Vespers Series Continues

Our new tradition of evening services of live music by popular local jazz musicians, and brief homily and words about the music, returns this month. Here is the full lineup of Jazz Vespers services for 2015, please mark your calendars:

February 15, 7:00pm at the University of Victoria Interfaith Chapel

The Maureen Washington Quartet on the theme of love. Her quartet will include: Karl Roessingh, Piano; Joey Smith, Bass; and Damian Graham, Drums

March 8, 7:00pm at the University of Victoria Interfaith Chapel

Jazz Ensemble under the direction of Patrick Boyle. Theme based on the “spiritual elements of Jazz”.

April 19, 7:00pm at the University of Victoria Interfaith Chapel

The Codi Jazz Quintet with a theme to be announced

May 17, 7:00pm at the church Sanctuary.

Susannah Adams Quartet on a theme of “Royalty” for Victoria Day weekend

June 21, 7:30pm at the church Sanctuary.

Strings of Note featuring guest Vibraphonist Doug Farr and a theme of “Good Vibrations”

Shared Ministry Retreat

Feeling Burnt-Out or Overextended? Disconnected or Isolated?

Come to our **Shared Ministry Retreat** on **Saturday, February 21, 1:00-4:30pm** in the Lion Hall. This retreat is designed for all congregational leaders and participants—anyone who leads or participates in congregational projects, tasks, teams, or committees.

You'll be invited to assess your own ministry—Is what you are doing within our congregation fulfilling to you? Is it fun, engaging? Does it help you grow in ways you want to grow?

Are you feeling burnout? Do you love it all, but feel you are doing too much? How can you gracefully and responsibly exit a role you'd like to leave?

On the other hand, if you feel you are in a rut, or are feeling disconnected, how might you step into a new ministry that calls to you?

What insights can you share with us about how we might improve our Shared Ministry (a.k.a., leadership development) system so that every congregant is engaged in a way that is fulfilling—and so that everything gets done that needs to get done to enable our congregation to live out our mission?

Our Mission

- We are a welcoming community, energized by the diversity of beliefs, identity, and experience that each person brings.
- We encourage our children's curiosity and nurture their open and loving nature.
- We gather to explore sacred mysteries, to sing of our longings and our blessings, to be still and listen.
- Strengthened in spiritual growth, supported in diverse community, we strive to transform ourselves and heal our world through compassionate action.

RSVP to Reverend Melora rev.melora@gmail.com 250-891-6330. Please let us know if you will need child-minding.

Baked goods provided by **Master Baker, Jennifer Young!!**

Ministers Visit Neighbourhood Groups

As you may have seen in the January newsletter, in response to requests from Neighbourhood Groups for visits from the ministers, Reverends Shana and Melora are giving up birthday calls in 2015 and are instead visiting Neighbourhood Groups. The plan is that each of the twelve Neighbourhood groups will be attended by either Reverend Shana or Reverend Melora over the course of 2015. These are the visits that have so far been scheduled:

- | | | |
|------------------|--|-----------------|
| • James Bay | Thursday, February 12, 6:00pm, at Hunter/Armstrong's | Reverend Shana |
| • Oak Bay | Saturday, February 21, 6:00pm, at the Youngs' | Reverend Melora |
| • Royal Oak East | Saturday, March 7, 4:00-7:30pm | Reverend Shana |
| • Nearby | Sunday, May 24, evening, Jane's & Sylvia's | Reverend Shana |
| • Esquimalt | Friday, April 3 (date is tentative) 6:00pm, Cedar Shores common room | Reverend Melora |
| • Fairfield | Sunday, April 26, 3:00-5:00pm, at Girards', | Reverend Shana |

Reverends Shana and Melora hope you will be able to attend! If your neighbourhood group is not yet on this list, talk with your convener about getting us on your schedule. We look forward to this alternate way of getting to know you and this vital aspect of our congregational life.

COHOUSING MEETING

LAURA DOYLE

There will be a meeting on Sunday, February 15, at 12:15pm in the Farmhouse Common Room, for anyone interested in a co-housing development. (Please see the article in the January newsletter for sources of general information re cohousing).

There will be a slideshow by Marion Pape, followed by a discussion that should answer any general questions you may have about cohousing, and help you decide if you want to go further with the idea. This meeting is open to anyone who is willing to share in our seven UU principles. Bring a friend who's not a church member!

January 21 Board Meeting

- The Board voted to ask the Finance Committee to review our current investment strategy. Among other matters, concerns about high brokerage fees and our approach to ethical investing will be investigated. The Finance Committee is to make recommendations to the Board for action. Investments include four trust funds, with a total value of \$102,000, and two designated funds (the Endowment Fund and the Mortgage Retirement Fund) with a total value of \$155,000.
- The Board is also discussing how, when and why monies are raised through major fundraisers (such as the Services Auction, Book Sale and Pledge/Canvass) and smaller fundraisers (such as Souper Sundays, Re-gifting Sales, Hospitality Cakes, Concerts and Community Dinner). Board members are exploring the questions: How do we ask? How often do we ask? What ways do we ask? The discussion will continue at the next Board meeting on February 25.
- Treasurer Bob Dobbs reported that we have finished the year with a modest deficit of \$5,600, about twice the projected deficit of \$2,860. Total income fell short of the budget projection by \$12,200, mainly because of a \$13,000 shortfall in Pledged and Unpledged Income. Church Rental Income was below the projected total, while Special Events Fundraising Income was nearly on target. But expenditures came in below the 2014 budget by about \$9,500.
- A bequest of \$1,764.03 has been received from the estate of Senga Stirling. (Under current policy bequests are placed in the General Fund until a six-month reserve is accumulated.)
- The Board noted the deaths of members Sandra Jordan and Belsonia "Bel" Paul. The Board also recorded the resignations of Tatha Cornish, Elinor Tennyson and Ray Page as members.

**Community Dinner is Fiesta Night!**

Friday, February 13 at 6:00pm

- ◆ 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.

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**We Care!****Care and Concern Committee**
for hospital and home visits, or just to talk...

Daphne Dunbar at 250-381-7648

Val Roberts at 250-477-7192

or your Neighbourhood Group Care & Concern person

ART IN THE SANCTUARY FOR FEBRUARY

DOLORES APPLETON

I began painting after we retired and moved from Calgary to Invermere in the east Kootenays, after having taken a three-day course in watercolour during a winter in Florida. I showed my work in the local Arts and Crafts store and sold almost everything, mostly to Calgarians who travelled there to their cottages.

Then we sold and moved to Victoria where I joined The Esquimalt Arts and Crafts Club. Later I joined The Victoria Sketch Club and then Saan Pen Arts & Crafts. I have also had other shows, including at this church.

Today I paint mostly in acrylics but have been robbed of time by my interest in *Ancestry.com* where I have 1200 relatives (relatives) and 600 photos.

SHARE THE PLATE DONATIONS 2014

CHRISTINE JOHNSTON

January	Medical Aid to Palestine.....	\$1,158.93
February	Island Montessori.....	888.19
March.....	LeadNow	501.38
Special collection.....	CUC Share the Faith.....	719.35
April.....	Friends of Todd Creek	765.92
May.....	Ecojustice.....	605.12
Special collection.....	Child Haven	1,131.10
June	Amnesty International	930.70
July	Cridge Centre.....	596.13
Special collection.....	UU-UNO.....	526.85
August.....	Surrounded by Cedar (backpacks).....	887.07
September	AIDS Vancouver Island	839.54
October	RAVEN	990.67
November.....	Dying with Dignity.....	1,183.95
December.....	Dandelion Society	1,189.00
	Out of the Rain.....	1,189.00
		\$14,102.90

THE \$10 QUESTION

BOB DOBBS

You have made a financial pledge to the church and you drop a \$20 cheque marked “share” in the Sunday collection plate. Half of your donation clearly goes to our “share the plate” partner. But what about the other \$10? It goes to the church, yes...but is it a partial payment of your pledge, or is it “extra”?

In the absence of additional information, we usually assume it is extra and enter it in our bookkeeping system as “open plate income” rather than “pledged income”. In other words, our ‘default’ is that it is extra.

Does this matter? Not as regards your tax receipt. For tax purposes, you will be credited for the \$20 donation. But it could affect the accuracy of our records. If you intended the church portion as a payment towards your pledge and we booked it as an extra donation, then at the end of the year our records might indicate that your pledge was not completely fulfilled.

What to do? Always indicate your intentions on your cheque or cash envelop. Here’s how we read the memo lines:

Pledge: The entire donation applies to your pledge.

Share: Half goes to our share partner and half goes to the church as additional to your pledge.

Share/Pledge: Half goes to our share partner and half applies to your pledge.

(Name of share partner, e.g. Cridge Centre): The entire donation goes to the share partner.

Granny Power

A film documentary ("Granny Power") about the Raging Grannies and their activism will be playing at the Victoria Film Festival on Sunday, February 15 at 6:30pm at the Odeon Theatre #2. Raging Granny members in our own congregation are: Virginia Daniel, Sylvia Krogh, Sonya Ignatieff, Diane McLaren, Ruth Miller and Marion Pape. *-from Ruth Miller (no email)*

Three Projects

1. **Tour** of Robin Tunnicliffe's organic farm in Metchosin (40 minutes from church). Robin offers a talk and asks for help in seeding trays in the greenhouse. Two tours if enough are interested. Sign up at SRC table or speak to Faye Mogensen.

2. **Seedy Saturdays** start this weekend. These events feature local seed suppliers and usually gardening presentations or workshops during the day.

February 14 Salt Spring Island: SSI Farmer's Institute
February 21 Victoria: Victoria Conference Centre
February 28 Sooke: Sooke Community Hall

Do It Yourself: Interesting Vegetables to grow:

'Purple Peacock' broccoli: This is an unusual cross between broccoli and kale.

Watercress: A superfood that grows in streams, but also in normal garden soil; very hardy.

'Sweetheart' cabbages: Small, very pointy-headed cabbages that grow rapidly; great flavour in salads. West Coast seeds has them: <http://www.westcoastseeds.com/>

'Crispus' Brussels sprouts: West Coast Seeds is carrying the clubroot resistant variety.

Sweet Potatoes: Now is the time to start with a small tuber, lots of water at first (even in a jar) and then plant where there is lots of sun. Six to ten useful plants from one sweet potato.

3. **Gifts That Grow.** Thanks to support from Canadians like you, USC Canada's Gifts that Grow campaign has been able to build, transport and install hundreds of improved cook stoves in the high mountain regions of Nepal over the past five years.

These stoves:

- Require 30-40% less firewood, and thus reduce the long hours that women must spend collecting firewood, and they
- Vent to the outside, thereby dramatically reducing the quantity of smoke in the homes, significantly reducing the incidence of respiratory, eye, and digestive health problems for the whole family.

Why are these stoves so important? As more and more trees are cut down for firewood, the risk of mudslides and flooding increases, and the distances which women and children must walk on their daily search for firewood. Long winters, a short growing season, and an expanding population have led to rapid deforestation on the hillsides of Humla, a region high in the Himalayas. To supplement their meager supplies of firewood, the industrious people of the region often use manure as fuel for their traditional stoves. Needing less fuel to burn, these new stoves allow the families to use the manure where its nutrients are much needed—in the soil where they plant their crops! This year, give a Gift that Grows. Sponsor an improved cook stove for a family in Nepal.



How do the stoves get to the families? All the stoves are constructed in the lowlands of Nepal, then small transport planes bring them up to Humla. People then carry the stoves to isolated villages, where they are installed in local homes. It can take two days for someone to carry the 40 kg stove to their family. But for an appliance that will last more than ten years and improve the health of an entire family, they say it is worth it.

SHARE THE PLATE FEBRUARY

CHRISTINE JOHNSTON

Share the Plate is buying stoves for the mountainous people of Humla in the high Himalayas of Nepal where the USC has long worked and in an area Christine and Mel Johnston have visited. Bruce Cockburn visited too and Christine has the video for those who wish to view it. The stoves will prevent disease, reduce pollution and preserve the landscape. How? Reduced the amount of firewood used by up to 38-40 per cent; reduced the long hours women spend collecting firewood; and improved the health of everyone in the home. Since the new stoves vent outside, they dramatically reduce the quantity of smoke in the homes, and significantly reduce the incidence of respiratory, eye, and digestive health problems for the whole family. This area is 13,000 feet asl and the inhabitants often run out of food in the long winter, so these people need all the help they can get. (Some photos on the web)

CHALICE LIGHTERS OF THE MONTH: EDO AND BARBARA NYLAND

Edo and I joined the Church in 2004, and immediately headed off in opposite directions, not dreaming that seven years later we would get married!

Edo headed off to the choir where he sang bass for three years; he has become an enthusiastic supporter of the Handbell Choir. He also headed outdoors, lending his strong back and truck to the business of moving rocks from the pond to the end of the lower parking lot.

As Chief Forester of the Yukon, Edo had managed vast sums of money for fire fighting and so was persuaded into joining the Church Finance Committee, but he soon learned that managing church funds required quite different strategies! Moving on to the Board as Congregational Life Council, he coerced me into becoming Special Fundraising Projects Coordinator. Retiring Chair Lorna Anthony and her Committee had left very large shoes to fill and, unwilling to ask of others what I had not done myself, I undertook to preside over Christmas lunches, baking and poinsettia sales, raffles and Soupers. Not without a great deal of help, however, and through it all Edo was at my side, generating his famous pea soup, selling tickets, peeling apples for my pies, presiding over the Christmas Raffle Basket.

He was also at my side in the last years of my stint at caring for Mertie's Bed, which borders the parking lots and was home to many perennials and shrubs. I had taken on the job as a member of the Garden Committee when I first arrived and spent many happy hours in company with toads, European wall lizards, Mourning Cloak and Milbert's Tortoiseshell butterflies. But Edo's worn out knees and my failing balance eventually decreed that it was time to retire.

When I first joined I headed off to teach the kids and had a wonderful time impersonating Professor Sprout for the Harry Potter theme underway. We planted seeds and bulbs and made cuttings and divisions and vinegars and monstrous muddy messes out on the deck. I also served on the RE (now SEL) Committee for a few years. Near the end Edo and I took the kids outdoors to plant fruit trees and do nature walks up behind the Church. Edo's description of setting backfires to control forest fires was a great hit and of course the children were eager to try it out in the surrounding woods. Instead they had to make do with identification of poisonous plants; one child obligingly helped out by rubbing daphne juice on his bare arm which then broke out in a rash. Later on Edo helped Betty Sherwood's group which was bent on eradicating it!

I was coerced into another job, that of Nominating Committee Chair, mainly because nobody else was foolish enough to take it on. It's amazing just how many people graciously declined the position of Board Member and unlike our Prime Minister, I often took "no" for an answer. However I remember this period with great satisfaction because I managed my whole Chairwomanship without once calling a meeting. I have also served briefly on the Services Auction Committee and as Convenor of the Far Out Neighborhood Group. Recently I have stepped down from membership in the Recognition and Awards Committee.

My stint with the Sandy Merriman Casserole Cookers was a happy time and again Edo was there, carving up great hams and reaching up for the big pots. However, old age again took its toll and a fine team of the young and strong have taken over.

Now we have sedentary jobs, Edo minds the church office some Fridays and delivers this newsletter to the post office. I try to help Bob Dobbs in laying out the monthly newsletter.

We both have enjoyed so much being a part of this Unitarian community and meeting such kindred spirits...it has really become our second family.

NOTABLE UU

CHRISTINE JOHNSTON

George Eliot (1819–1880), the pen name for Mary Ann Evans, was an English novelist, journalist, translator and one of the leading writers of the Victorian era. She is the author of seven novels, including *Adam Bede*, *The Mill on the Floss*, *Silas Marner*, *Middlemarch* and *Daniel Deronda*, all of them set in provincial England and known for their realism and psychological insight. *Middlemarch* is the most acclaimed, even by such notables as Virginia Woolf.

She used a male pen name to ensure her works would be taken seriously. She also wished to have her fiction judged separately from her already widely known work as an editor and critic and to protect her private life. She was brought up within a low church Anglican family, but at that time the Midlands was an area with a growing number of religious dissenters (such as Unitarians) led by Robert Owen, Herbert Spencer, Harriet Martineau and Ralph Waldo Emerson, all of whom influenced her religious thinking.

An additional factor in her use of a pen name may have been a desire to shield her private life from public scrutiny and to prevent scandals attending her relationship with the married George Henry Lewes, with whom she lived for over 20 years.



Madelaine and Brad Clarke

First Unitarian Church of Victoria—and all it stands for locally, nationally and globally—is important. As our world accelerates, keeping the U*U flame alight and helping ensure accessibility to this community’s wholehearted programming is a worthy legacy investment.”



Calling all Innovators

Do you have an idea for doing things differently in our community—a new program or service, or a new way of doing an existing program?

We have a deal for you. The Ruth Humphreys Innovations Fund trustees are calling for proposals.

The Innovations Fund will provide funding for opportunities and new ideas that add value to our congregational life.

Applications will be received for time-limited grants to projects, of up to \$10,000 per year that:

- Apply new and different methods to existing programs,
- Scale up successful and innovative programs and services,
- ‘Beta-test’ or experiment with new ideas,
- Offer collaborative approaches to address an issue or opportunity,
- Improve the delivery of current programs and services.

Al Hoffman, John Hopewell, Lynn Hunter, Linda Nicholson-Brown and Gerry Brimacombe are the trustees and Reverend Shana also serves as trustee *ex officio*. You can contact any of the trustees with your questions. Please send your application to innovationsfund@victoriaunitarian.ca

Further information and funding application forms will be available from the Church website and the Church office by late January. Watch for further details in the eweekly.

It’s time to get those creative juices flowing and get those applications in. We are anxious to give you money. How often do you hear that?



Women’s Spirituality Group run March and April

Call to All Women of Our Church Who Are Interested in a Women’s Spirituality Group

Two women spirituality groups loosely connected with our church are considering organizing an event to share their experience, rituals and activities and offer support to women who would like to form a group.. This is in response to requests of some women to join the existing groups. However, both groups have set limited numbers of members; not to be exclusive but to maintain the intimate and personal nature of the group. The size of the group is also chosen to make it possible to meet in each other’s homes.

To offset this limitation we would like to hold an event open to all women of our church. Before we do so, however, we would like to hear from women who would like to be in a women’s group and would be interested in coming to that event. Depending on the response we will get we are thinking of having the event some time in May.

Please contact Susan Bowers at bowers.susan@gmail.com or Hanny Pannekoek at hannyhugo@shaw.ca

As the church librarian, I am excited to share with you the database of all the material currently catalogued in our church library. Charles Gee input all the information that he had collected before he left. There are well over one thousand items. This information is in a spreadsheet format. With the following link you can view and search the entire catalogue.

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/18_Yoik9ns65QMrkJaNPhtPJTjqUiPmHjNzt2F4NdNHg/edit?usp=sharing

The Vancouver and Victoria Unitarian churches came into being at approximately the same time. The instigator in both cases was Albert J. Pineo, M.A. From the available records it appears that Vancouver's first Unitarian service was conducted early in the year 1909 by Dr. Wilbur, Principal of the Unitarian Pacific School for the Ministry at Berkeley, California. After Dr. Wilbur's service a small enthusiastic group under the leadership of Mr. Pineo decided to organize a church in Vancouver. The first regular service was held on December 19, 1909. Mr. Pineo travelled from Victoria to Vancouver where he conducted services there every Sunday morning for two years.

Mr. Pineo, who was born in 1855 in Medford NS came to Victoria in 1893 to teach science at Victoria High School, a post he still held in 1909. How and when Mr. Pineo became a Unitarian is not known, but there is no doubt that he played an active part in organizing the Victoria unit as well as the one in Vancouver. Some preliminary Unitarian meetings must have been held in Victoria earlier but the first meeting to receive notice in the church page of the Victoria Times was on January 16, 1910. It took place in Sir William Wallace Hall on Broad Street, and was conducted by Reverend H.E. Kellington, M.A. who spoke on Unitarianism as a Positive Faith. The next week the service was taken by Pineo, whose topic was The Coming Day.

For the next five months Kellington took all of the services and was referred to as the pastor or the minister. Kellington was described as a young man and little is known of him.

On October 8, 1910, the following notice appeared on the church page of The Victoria Times: "Visitor expected. Reverend Frank W. Pratt, the Canadian representative of the American Unitarian Association of Boston, is expected here. He will spend some time in Vancouver and Victoria in the work of further organizing and strengthening the young churches".

Mr. Pratt, whose home was in Calgary, spent four weeks at the Coast, preaching in Vancouver each Sunday morning and in Victoria the same evening.

The Reverend Sidney E. Lindridge, B.D. became Victoria's Unitarian minister in 1911 and preached his first sermon on July 2. His subject was, The Path of Life.

Two weeks after Lindridge's arrival, the Victoria Unitarian group purchased a large lot at the corner of Fernwood and Balmoral for \$2000. The title was held by George Hutchinson of Boston, who was probably acting for the Boston church. In 1912, some discord developed between Mr. Lindridge and several members of the Victoria church and by 1912 the church was without a minister. The church carried on without a minister until 1913 at which time a church was erected on the Fernwood/Balmoral lot. The cost of construction was \$1200.

In the summer of 1914, the Victoria church invited Reverend Harold E.B. Speight, an Englishman, to be their minister. His salary was \$1200 per year, of which Boston paid \$550, London \$300, and the congregation \$400 (perhaps the extra \$50 was for contingencies). By 1927 Speight had been succeeded by several other ministers. When the final service was conducted, on June 26, the congregation had dwindled to between six and ten members. The church building stood vacant until 1929 when it was lifted from its foundations and turned at right angles.

In 1950, a Victoria Unitarian fellowship was founded by a small group of people including Dr. Douglas Alcorn, Mr. Clare Yarwood, and a few survivors of the 1927 church. It was mostly lay-led. For the next eight years monthly meetings were held in the waiting room of Dr. Alcorn's office.

At the Victoria fellowship's annual meeting on April 17, 1959, Mrs. Marney Stevenson was elected president. The official membership was reported to be 38. On Sept 29, 1959, the fellowship reopened in a new setting—The School for Retarded Children, at 1075 Joan Crescent. Reverend Philip Hewett, of the Vancouver church, gave the services three or four times a year and on those occasions it was necessary to rent the much larger War Amps Hall.

After surveys conducted by Ruth Ralston and others, the Victoria fellowship decided to form a church and call a minister. The Reverend Peter Raible, of the UU Church of Seattle, agreed to help find a suitable minister and eventually proposed Reverend Marvin Evans, a 38-year-old Virginian. The Victoria fellowship board thereupon invited Mr. Evans to visit on June 8 to 17 to "candidate". Evans, a graduate of the Meadville Lombard School of Theology, preached on the two Sundays to audiences of about 100 each, and met a great majority of the members of the congregation. After Evans's departure the board met and voted unanimously to call Evans.

On September 15, 1963, under Reverend Evans's ministry, services resumed in the War Amps Hall. Evans stayed with the Victoria church until 1966. After intermittent periods of lay ministry Evans was succeeded by Reverend Richard Norsworthy, Reverend Stanley Sears, Reverend Felix Lion, and Reverend Vann Knight. The present co-ministers (as of December 2014) are Reverends Melora and Shana Lynngood.

In 1977, the Victoria Church purchased 106 Superior Street. In 1993, the church purchased 5575 West Saanich Road and the Superior Street property was sold. A sanctuary was added to the existing Saanich building.

In 1996, a group from the First Church founded the Capital UU Congregation. The inauguration ceremony took place on September 22, in the James Bay New Horizon's Seniors' Centre. Services at Capital are for the most part lay-led.

Written by Stan Evans, with copious borrowings from 1909-1964, Unitarians in Victoria, by Dr. Geoffrey Gilbert.

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, "Cadboro Bay met for a Christmas afternoon tea at Linda and Howard Petch's and there was a good turn out, enhanced by the high rough tide which was amazing to watch just outside the window. Marguerite Hobbs and Richard Parfett will be moving at the end of January to Somerset House in James Bay; we will be sorry to see them leave our group. We will organize the after service goodies for February."

Esquimalt: Betty Sherwood writes, "On December 19 we met at my house for our Christmas potluck. There were twenty-one of us with an especially fine array of appetizers and desserts, below lighted stars and a Christmas tree. We welcomed our new member Maureen Sherlock and 'alumni' Pat McMahon and John Lancaster. Then signed a card to wish Wilma well, Fran thanked us for our support, and Barb thanked us for our support for Erin's family. Margot urged us to send letters to support 'Dying with Dignity'. Marion told us her hopes to revive carpooling to church. Maureen offered to work on a new plan for this. I announced that 2014 would be the last year that I would be convener and suggested that the convener's job could be divided into three. Potluck gatherings, Souper Sundays and Coffee Hour goodies. Pat offered to be the new convener, Marion offer to co-ordinate Souper Sundays and Jan and Marion offered to coordinate the yearly goodies at coffee hour". A huge thank you to Betty for many years as Esquimalt Convener!

Fairfield: This NG will gather next on April 26 at Herb and Phyllis Gerard's.

Far Out: Oceanna Hall reports they are planning a get together in February and are working out the time and place. They will also be working with Nearby to provide the Souper lunch on February 22.

Gordon Head: This group worked with Esquimalt to host the Souper Lunch on January 18. Mary Cramer writes, "We sold tickets to ninety-six folks, bringing in \$504.50 and fed over one hundred yesterday morning, in spite of the power outage beginning just as the church service ended! The soup was hot and ready to go, so it was possible to eat well without power. The clean up was another matter. Without power and water we couldn't do any dishes and there were a lot! We stacked everything on the kitchen island in like-sized piles and then created a list of folks willing to return for a split shift later in the day to complete the clean up. The power was restored around 3:00pm, so clean up resumed shortly after that and was completed and folks were back home before 6:00pm. (The power went out again, during the second shift of cleaning, but not for long, thankfully!) Almost everyone in our group was involved in one way or another!" Gordon Head and Esquimalt now have the distinction of being the first two groups to cope with a power outage during a Souper!

Grand Central: Patty Disbrow reports they will gather at the home of Sylvia Krogh and Alan Boyle on Valentine's Day for a chili lunch with potluck salads and desserts. They are all looking forward to welcoming Philip and Marya in February.

James Bay: Pat Kinrade writes, "James Bay looks forward to welcoming Lynn Hunter as our new Neighbourhood Coordinator. We will hold a dinner Pot Luck at Lynn and Don's home on Thursday, February 19 at 6:00pm. We hope to see all the folks who work (for pay) who have had to miss our lunch gatherings over the past year". A giant thank you to Pat for her many, many years as James Bay Convener!

Nearby: Nancy Dobbs writes, "February 22, Nearby will be cohosting with Far Out for Souper Sunday. This spring Jane Bramadat and Sylvia McDonald will host a potluck for Nearby families. An invitation will go to our ministers to join us."

Oak Bay: Karla Thomson writes, "Oak Bay NG is meeting at the Young's on February 21 for a pot luck and everyone is to bring a photo of themselves that has a story attached. We will each share the special focus of our photo. The next big event for the Oak Bay neighbourhood group will be hosting the "Souper Sunday" in March."

Royal Oak East: Hanny Pannekoek notes that their group will be gathering Saturday, March 7 for socializing, appetizers, and desserts, ending in a large circle for discussion and sharing. They are still deciding on the location.

Royal Oak West: Fran Hancock writes, "Isabelle Grenon and Francois Duruisseau have kindly offered to host a pot-luck dinner on Saturday, February 15. Isabelle says that their home is small so we're looking forward to a cozy gathering."

HOW CAN I KEEP FROM SINGING?

A Choral Celebration



Friday, March 20, 7:00pm in the Sanctuary

The First Unitarian Chalice Choir
Via Choralis Chamber Choir
Sing Your Joy Young Adult Chorus

Tickets

\$15 (regular)

\$10 (students)

Free (12 and under)

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<http://www.viachoralis.ca/>

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS



- 1 Jean Mihell, Koba ter Neuzen
- 2 Brenda Pengelly
- 4 Nanw Cariad, Kieran Domney, Anne Swannell
- 6 Clara Buttemer
- 7 Laura Anderson
- 8 Jerrelyn Dause, Marcy Calberry, Katrin van der Leeden
- 9 John Stewart, Maggie Nixon
- 10 Yvonne Bondarchuk
- 11 John Lancaster
- 12 Phyllis Gardiner, Anna Isaacs, Dan Klimke
- 15 Tiffany Moser
- 16 Kellina Dyer, Robin Sacker-van Gessel, Jon Taylor
- 17 Larry Boldt
- 20 Ted Humphreys, Penelope Hagan
- 21 Leslie Gillett, Mary-Ellen Nicol, Ryan Adam
- 22 Sheila Drew, Marie Horncastle, Ruth Ralston
- 26 Sandra Haywood
- 27 Thane Waldie
- 28 Jean Wallace

Got the winter blues?

Take heart!

**AUCTION
FEVER
is coming**

April 17, 2015

Fun Friends Food Funds

Mark your calendar...Don't Miss It!



New Contact Information

(Postal code correction)

Mohammad & Soraya Banaee
206-1335 Bear Mountain Parkway
Langford, BC V9B 6T9

Linda Nicholson-Brown
7684 East Saanich Road
Saanichton, BC V8M 1L9
lnbrown7777@gmail.com

Marie Horncastle
Rest Haven Lodge
2281 Mills Road
Sidney BC
Personal phone: 250-656-0286

(Effective February 11, 2015)

Marya Nijland & Philip Symons
1394 Vista Heights
Victoria, BC V8T 2J3
(Phone number unchanged)



BOARD MEMBERS ON DUTY



February 1 Bob Dobbs
February 8 Jen Young
February 15 Suzanne Beauchamp
February 22 John Worton

“Listening With Heart” Basic Building Block for Community in Diversity!”

: April 18, 9:30-3:30

First Unitarian Fellowship of Nanaimo, 595 Townsite Road, Nanaimo, BC

Presenters: Reverend Samaya Oakley, Developmental Minister, First Unitarian Fellowship of Nanaimo
Joan Carolyn, CUC Congregational Development staff for Western and B.C. regions. (Check out her bio at: <http://cuc.ca/people/joan-carolyn>)

We welcome you to join the Unitarian Fellowship of Nanaimo for a day of exploring what it means to “Listen With Heart” as a base for community interaction. Ours is a fellowship of diverse interests, broad range of skills and eclectic mix of backgrounds. If our differences are not to build walls but bridges for our shared journey, then we need to practice deep listening to find the connections.

- Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part. (UU Seventh Principle)
- “We experience ourselves... as something separate from the rest... this delusion is a kind of prison for us... our task must be to free ourselves... by widening our circle of compassion to embrace all living creatures and the whole of nature...”- Einstein
- The art of creative understanding is like weaving a fabric from the many threads of silence, timing, inflection, intent and other non-verbal cues. It requires a delicate balance between assertiveness and receptivity. Listening is at the core.”- Hwoshinsky

For more information please feel free to contact Reverend Samaya Oakley, 250-591-0410, minister@ufon.ca

Vancouver Island Unitarian Spiritual Retreat



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

April 24-26

at the beautiful

Cowichan Lake Outdoor Education & Conference Centre
(1h30 from Victoria, 1h from Nanaimo)

Save-the-date

and watch for more details

For more info:

Reverend Meg Roberts (mroberts@uuma.org) and 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 Rev. Melora.

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: 250-891-6330
 rev.melora@victoriaunitarian.ca

• Reverend Shana Lynngood
 Office phone: 250-891-6331
 rev.shana@victoriaunitarian.ca

Minister Emerita

Reverend Jane Bramadat
 250-652-1272

Lay Chaplains

Oceanna Hall 250-886-1077

laychaplains@victoriaunitarian.ca
 Kjerstin Mackie 250-598-5975

Anne Vaasjo 250-385-1603

Director of Spiritual Exploration and Learning for Children and Youth

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

Children's Program Assistant

Anna Isaacs

Director of Music

Nick Fairbank
 music@victoriaunitarian.ca

Church Administrator

Karen Uldall-Ekman
 churchoffice@victoriaunitarian.ca

Assistant Church Administrator

Sarah Verstege

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EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

FEBRUARY

Date	Time	Event	Location
2/1	10:30am to 11:30am	SUNDAY SERVICE	Sanctuary
	12:00pm to 1:00pm	Orientation	Farmhouse Common Room
2/8	10:30am to 11:30am	SUNDAY SERVICE	Sanctuary
	11:30am to 12:30pm	Hot Chocolate Sunday	Lion Hall
2/9		'FAMILY DAY' HOLIDAY MONDAY	
2/13	6:00pm to 10:00pm	Community Dinner	Sanctuary
2/15	10:30am to 11:30am	SUNDAY SERVICE	Sanctuary
	7:00pm to 9:00pm	UVic JazzVespers	UVic Interfaith Chapel
2/17	6:30pm to 8:30pm	'Soul Matters'	Farmhouse Common Room
2/22	10:30am to 11:30am	SUNDAY SERVICE	Sanctuary
	12:15am to 1:00pm	Souper Sunday	Sanctuary
	12:00pm to 2:00pm	Considering Membership	Farmhouse Common Room
2/26	1:00pm to 3:00pm	'Soul Matters'	Farmhouse Common Room

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Phone: 250-744-2665
E-mail: churchoffice@victoriaunitarian.ca
www.victoriaunitarian.ca

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THE VICTORIA UNITARIAN

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

The **deadline** for submissions to
the **March** issue is **February 17**.
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 Events Highlights 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).



Good News from Rev. Vann and Linda Lee Knight!

"On Monday, January 5 our daughter, Shannon Knight, was sworn in as a Superior Court Judge in Los Angeles. She had been a Los Angeles prosecutor for fourteen years and for the past eight years was assigned to a special division prosecuting violent gang crime. In her role as prosecutor she appeared several times in the court of Judge Lance Ito, one of the most respected judges in the US (he was appointed to preside over the O. J. Simpson trial, which was the most publicized, complex, and controversial trial in Los Angeles history). Last spring, when he decided he would retire at the end of the year, he called Shannon and encouraged her to run for his seat. She did and won the election in June. During the ceremony on Monday, Judge Ito spoke highly of Shannon, administered the oath of office, and then surprised everyone by giving Shannon the robe he had worn for twenty-seven years and his gavel. It was quite a moment. We were all very proud of her."