



# The Victoria Unitarian

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

## SERVICES IN MARCH

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

Practices to Transform Ourselves and Our World

March's Theme



### Curiosity:

THE PRACTICE OF COLLECTING A VARIETY OF TRUTHS

### March 1 Are We Unitarian Universalist? Rev. Melora Lynngood

One of our priorities as a congregation is making this a welcoming place for everyone who wishes to be here. One of the many things we have considered with that objective in mind, is our name. We began the conversation a year ago with the sermon, "What is in a Name?" (<http://victoriaunitarian.ca/who-do-you-say-we-are/>). Since then, a congregational consensus seems to have emerged thus: "First" is unnecessary; "Unitarian" is essential; "Victoria" is important; and we are ready to shift from "Church" to "Congregation." What is unclear is how we feel about adding the word "Universalist." In this month of curiosity, we look into the legacy of Universalism and the various feelings and relationships those among us have to Universalism, to Unitarianism, and to Unitarian Universalism.

Daylight Saving Time begins at 2:00am, March 8



### March 8 SPECIAL NOTE: This service starts at 11:30am Pacific Daylight Time The Physics of Meaning Rev. Shana Lynngood



In listening to a renowned physicist discuss how much the science has informed his ability to understand life, I was moved. This morning we will look at how motion, chance, and randomness impact us. How can physics help us see our existence from another angle?

### March 15 Peace and Justice in Palestine and Israel? Christine Johnston, Virginia Daniel, Dr. Ed Daniel, Dr. Adrian Fine (See "About the Presenters" on page 4).

This Social Justice team will present some of the current and long-term issues from a Unitarian point of view. There will be a 'talk-back' forum after the service at 12 noon in the Farmhouse Common Room.

### March 15 Spirited Jazz 7:00pm Jazz Vespers at the UVic Interfaith Chapel

Join trumpeter and UVic professor Patrick Boyle and the UVic Jazz Ensemble for an exploration of the spiritual dimensions of jazz. In music and word we will explore the unique spiritual essence that can be found in the jazz art form.

Services continued on next page...

 denotes Chalice Choir

## MARCH SERVICES (continued)

### March 22 Balance: Falling with Grace Penelope Hagan



Spring Equinox is the time of year when the days and nights are equal in length. We experience a balance between life and death as old leaves are cleared to prepare the soil for early plantings. At this time of year, we are both moving and still, doing and waiting, planning and dreaming. Finding balance is about measuring up to requirements while staying flexible. How do you find excitement in the mundane? How do you balance duty with pleasure? How do you allow new beginnings to inform your routines? Let's examine the concept of balance as an act of consciousness, noticing how joy and laughter can inform even the moments when we feel uncertain or bored. Life often shows us not just how to hold still, but how to fall with grace.

### March 29 When It's All True Rev. Shana Lynngood

As we conclude our month of exploring curiosity, we explore what happens when we discover that multiple truths can be simultaneously at play and equally valid. How do we appreciate the truth of the experiences of others? How do we hold our own truths with both conviction and openness? What happens when truths collide?

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE...

SElections .....	2	Around the Neighbourhood .....	10
From Your Minister.....	3	Artists for March.....	12
About the Presenters .....	4	Events Highlights .....	12
Share the Plate for March.....	4		
HOW 2015 Projects .....	5		
Green Corner.....	7		
Chalice Lighters for March.....	9		

The deadline for submissions to the April issue of the newsletter is **March 17**.

## SELECTIONS

FAYE MOGENSEN

Curiosity – a truly child-friendly theme. We aim to crack it open a little wider than usual and explore curiosity as a tool for opening our minds and overcoming our differences. On March 1, we begin by “beta” testing Children’s Chapel—an initiative that goes in hand with the monthly church theme. After a story in the sanctuary with Rev. Melora, the children will join me in actively experimenting with curiosity as the “practice of collecting a variety of truths.” From there, they will move to their usual spaces and groups for a short session.

At noon on March 1, the curiosity of about 36 people will be satisfied when the identity of their mystery buddy is revealed at the Mad Hatter party. Our visitors from Mad Science will no doubt pique a little curiosity as well. Everyone is welcome to join the fun, beginning after the service in the sanctuary (by donation for those who aren’t part of the Mystery Buddy Program).

Curiosity is also said to be the key to creativity. On March 15 and 22, we aim to unleash creative juices, with a return to our annual Lismar’s Prodigies event. Visual artist and art therapist June Waters will join SEL-CY leaders in an eclectic offering of art activities, some of which we hope will help enliven the children’s playground.

The great outdoors is undeniably a place of curiosity and wonder. All through the spring, our Questor (gr. 5-7) and yU\*Uth groups have been and will continue to become better acquainted with our grounds (and beyond). Activities include gardening, hiking, tending the yurt, visiting the wetlands across the road, drinking tea in the labyrinth and more. Beginning this month, the Adventurers will begin to spend more time outdoors as well, in their continuing celebration of “intangible gifts”.

Both the Holidays and Holydays and the OWL curricula involve the practice of seeking a variety of truths. International Women’s Day falls on Sunday March 8—a good time for our Seekers (gr. 2-4) to celebrate Canadian UU suffragettes like Emily Stowe and Margaret Jonsdottir Benedictsson and their American colleague, Susan B. Anthony. On March 29, the Seekers will join the outdoor trend, with a slightly belated celebration of NawRuz, the Iranian New Year, and festival of spring. The OWL group meets on March 1 and March 29 only. In between, they are welcome to join yU\*Uth or another group.

Curiosity, multiple truths, creativity and a chance to be outside. I hope you are free to take advantage of our many inspirational plans.

Faye

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

## Curiosity: the practice of collecting a variety of truths

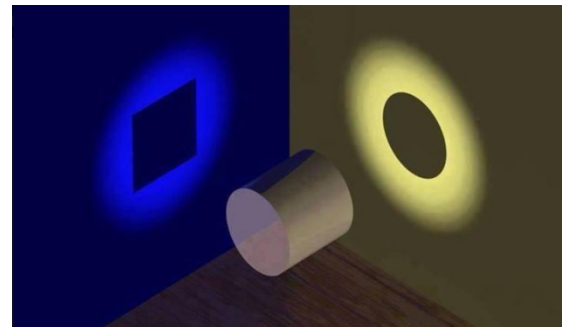
Unitarian Universalism is known as a faith that encourages questioning, searching, considering new perspectives, ideas, and experiences. As stated in our 4th principle, we affirm and promote “a free and responsible search for truth and meaning.”

As a pluralistic community, we have learned that different people have different truths – different beliefs, different opinions, different experiences. Rather than argue over who is ‘right’ and who is ‘wrong,’ we are learning to lean toward one another with open-hearted curiosity. “Ah,” we say, “tell me about your truth. What experiences led you to that truth and how does it enrich your living?”

Holding a variety of truths, even when they appear to contradict one another, can be a spiritual practice. It is the stuff that stretches and ultimately grows our souls.

Here are the theme questions to consider for this month. Read them over and choose one question (or see which question chooses you). Live with that question for a while and see where it takes you. Journal about it, draw or doodle, talk to friends about it, journal some more; actively wrestle with the question, let the process of pondering take you somewhere deeper than you were before.

- What—or whom—would you like to understand better than you currently understand?
- What baffles you?
- What intrigues you?
- How might you take a first step toward learning more about any of the above?
- If you could ask any question and get a real and true answer, what question would you ask?
- Are there any religions you’d like to learn more about? Any spiritual practices that you’d like to try? What spiritual questions do you have?
- Have you ever felt a curiosity that seemed rooted in the impulse that motivates gossip and rubbernecking? How did it differ from the times you have felt an earnest, soulful curiosity that seeks deeper understanding?
- Have you ever come to understand, value, or respect something that you once dismissed as misguided or flat-out wrong?
- When in your life have you been able to keep an open and curious mind in the presence of something or someone you didn’t entirely understand? What helped you maintain that open stance?
- Have you ever been able to see multiple, even contradictory, points of view on a given issue? How did you reconcile the contradictions?
- Consider the topic for our service on March 1, “Are we Unitarian Universalists?” Some people feel strongly about maintaining our identity as purely “Unitarian;” some feel strongly about claiming a “Unitarian Universalist” identity. To what extent are you able to maintain an attitude of openness and curiosity about these different point of view and the experiences that led to them? What would you like to know about each perspective?
- Consider the topic for our service on March 15, “Peace and Justice in Palestine and Israel.” We all want peace. Different people have different ideas about how to best go about achieving peace. To what extent can you see and understand multiple points of view on this issue? What else would you like to understand about this issue?



## ABOUT THE PRESENTERS

**Virginia Daniel** is an activist involved with many Social Justice issues and groups that strive for the rights of oppressed people of the world. She is presently active in the Coalition Against Israeli Apartheid, Victoria Friends of Cuba, Victoria Raging Grannies, the Unitarian Social Justice Coalition, and others.

**Dr. Ed Daniel**, retired Professor of Pharmacology, Fellow of Royal Society of Canada, is an activist against global warming and in support of Human Rights and the observance of International Law.

**Dr Adrian Fine** MD, FRCP, is a retired kidney specialist and Professor of Medicine, University of Manitoba. He was born in Dublin and went to medical school there. He took further medical training in Britain. He has published many research articles, including some in the area of medical ethics and has been a member of Independent Jewish Voices for five years.

**Christine Johnston** is a retired social worker and recipient of the 2014 CUC Knight award for her work in outreach on behalf of Canadian Unitarians. She is still involved in several UU and social justice organizations within and without our congregation. She was the CUC delegate last summer to the International Association for Religious Freedom in Birmingham, UK.

## SHARE THE PLATE FOR MARCH

The Share the Plate recipient for March is our homegrown outreach Healing Our World (HOW) 2015. For the past nine years, the congregation has shown their support for compassionate action by funding one to four charitable projects per year. We have supplied microloans, fixed roofs, fed children, built toilets and rehoused the homeless through 21 different projects. This year our three projects will help support Victoria youth with mental health issues, offer compassionate communication skills to people in Bethlehem and support beekeepers in Rwanda. All projects are supported through personal donations from generous congregants. Please cast your vote March 8 and 15 for the order in which our projects will be funded. This month's share the plate will help get us going.

### A Day for Compassion

Saturday, March 7

Compassion is abstract. How do we work with it? Is it possible to develop it like a skill or is it a quality that we either have or don't have? If we do act compassionately but it doesn't come from a place of sincerity, is there any benefit? Can we have compassion for someone we don't like? If compassion can be nurtured, how do we do it?

During this day there will be instructions and practices in the Tibetan Buddhist tradition led by Lama Tara. The practices will include Shinay—calm abiding, some contemplations, Chenrezig—practices for exploring the experience of compassion, and some silence. There will be time for questions and discussion.

There is a pot luck lunch and tea breaks.

#### Schedule

9:00am	First Meditation Session			1:00pm	Q & A
10:15am	Break	Noon	Lunch break	2:00pm	Break
10:45pm	Second Meditation Session			2:30pm	Concluding Session to 3:30pm.

Chairs will be provided and Chenrezig texts will be available for anyone who does not have one.

What to bring:

- a Chenrezig text if you have one.
- cushions if you will be sitting on the floor
- You are welcome to bring something for the potluck and snacks for the tea breaks if you wish.

Location

We will meet in Lion Hall at the First Unitarian Church, 5575 West Saanich Road (across from the Red Barn).

If you have any questions, please call Earle Anthony at 250 592 4831.

## HOW 2015 PROJECTS

The Healing Our World (HOW) Committee is pleased to present the three projects being put in front of the congregation for 2015. Our congregation has supported 21 projects over the last nine years to the tune of about \$126,000. All HOW projects are sponsored by congregants who are happy to answer any questions. The voting on March 8 and 15 is for the order in which the projects are to be funded. As our generous community donates to HOW between March and August, funds are set aside for each project as indicated by the wishes of the congregation. Thank you in advance for your support for these worthwhile programs to help heal our world.

### Victoria Mental Health Youth Project

The **Teens2Twenties Support Group** (ages 15-25) provides tools and support for those with a mental illness to assist them in managing their illness and to provide them with encouragement which instills self-confidence and often inspires them to be healthy. A project of the Bipolar Disorder Society of BC, this is the only youth-centered group in Victoria for youth dealing with mental health challenges.

Youth are often stigmatized, suffer isolation and fail to realize their full personal potential upon diagnosis. This Support Group, which meets weekly, significantly improves the self-confidence, social skill-set and resilience of individual members through mentorship that encourages development of a personal plan to manage family life, social re-integration and enhance career and educational prospects in the workplace.

HOW 2015 funding of \$5,000 will help to keep the program running between September 2015 and August 2016. This project is sponsored by Robin Sacker-van Gessel.

### Conflict Resolution Training for Kids and Youth in Bethlehem

WPAM is a family counseling centre in Bethlehem, in the occupied West Bank, Palestine. It was founded in 1995 and is funded by Kairos and other charities such as Oxfam.

Its mission includes religious and gender equality, specializing in treating wife abuse, in family and community reconciliation in a society where there is little real civil society or law or real justice. There is a large Israeli settlement overlooking the town but the settlers are forbidden by the military to enter Bethlehem so the centre serves only Arab Christians and Moslems. Depression, fear and anger are prevalent, especially in the large nearby refugee camp. The centre staff use traditional Arab/Western conflict management skills.

Peers Training Peers is a new project, intensive conflict resolution training for 50 children and 30 youth, especially chosen for their potential leadership skills. After three months of weekend workshops, they plan regular follow-up by experienced staff in four schools and three rec centers. This HOW 2015 project, with a cost of \$5,000, is sponsored by Christine Johnston.

### Beekeeping Project in Rwanda

The beekeeping project in Rwanda is one of many such world-wide actions set up through the Victoria-based charity Innovative Communities. Beekeeping can provide an opportunity for an escape from subsistence farming. In 2012, 30 Rwandan families were trained in basic beekeeping and provided with one hive each. They formed a collective producing 300 kg honey. In 2014, half the colonies were lost through excessive rain; the beekeepers' limited training prevented them adapting.

The founder of the project and a master-beekeeper are now in Rwanda to assess existing conditions, devise/ implement methods to overcome challenges, and increase production. They wish to train some Rwandan villagers in advanced beekeeping, deliver computers for continuing support through the internet and provide new hives/other supplies to enhance the sustainability of the collective.

The HOW 2015 project budget is \$4,750 for new hives/ protective gear, a centrifugal honey extractor, and stainless storage tanks to enhance the quality of final product for increased marketability and price. This project is sponsored by Adrian Fine.

### Timeline

March 1	HOW 2015 Introduction/Share the Plate announcement.
March 8	Description of projects and first voting after the service.
March 15	Final voting after the service.
March 19/22	Results will be announced.





CANADIAN UNITARIANS FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE CUSJ



CANADIAN UNITARIANS FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE C.U.S.J.

# Canadian Unitarians for Social Justice

A national liberal religious organization founded in support of Unitarian values

Registration for CUSJ (Canadian Unitarians For Social Justice) AGM is now open. When you book your tickets for CUC, Please arrange to stay for Monday morning, the 18th from 8:30am to 12:15 and join us for Bruce Campbell from the Canadian Centre of Policy Alternatives on The Silencing of Dissent. <http://cusj.org/annual-general-meeting/>. (Bruce is scheduled to speak at 11am.) Please check this page often as we will be updating it as more information becomes available.

If you are thinking of attending online, why not initiate a group to attend together over coffee and breakfast?

## NOTABLE UNITARIANS

## CHRISTINE JOHNSTON

**Charles Dickens** (1812 - 1870) was an English novelist and reformist writer recognized for many well-known books including: *A Tale of Two Cities*; *Great Expectations*; *A Christmas Carol*. He had a difficult childhood and at aged 12, his father went to debtor's prison and he had to go to work to pay off his father's debt. This became a theme in several of his books. At 17 he got a job as a court reporter at the House of Commons. At 25 his first book was published in segments and soon he became famous around the western world. He campaigned vigorously for children's rights, education, and other social reforms. He expressed a Unitarian view of Christianity in middle age so the Unitarians claim him but we have no record that he officially joined a congregation and he also was loyal to a very liberal Anglicanism to please his family. This is similar to Charles Darwin who came from a Unitarian family but was hesitant to broadcast his heretical religious views in the England of his day.



### First Unitarian Church of Victoria Foundation

### Call for Grant proposals

The First Unitarian Church of Victoria Foundation was established to promote the principles and values of our church. Currently the Foundation has contributions invested with the Victoria Foundation totaling approximately \$70,000. Income from approximately \$38,000 of these funds is dedicated to supporting First Nations post-secondary education through the Church. Income from the approximately \$32,000, is directed by request of the donor to support the music programme and/or social responsibility programmes of the church.

In 2014 the Foundation funded two \$500 bursaries for First Nations students attending Camosun College and granted \$1000 to bring to the church "Musicians for Sunday Services" when the choir is not performing. This year we anticipate around \$1200 will be available to fund two ongoing First Nations bursaries at Camosun College from the First Nations Fund.

The Foundation is currently seeking proposals from church groups who need a grant of up to \$1,000 to fund church music or social action programmes. Applications must be for enhanced activities not normally supported by the church budget and must cover costs not yet incurred. An application form is available at the church office or from the church website under FUCV Foundation.

The deadline for submission is April 30, 2015 and funding will be approved in June at the Foundation's annual meeting.

## The Effects of Warfare on the Environment

The effects of warfare on the environment are devastating both in the short run and long run.

“The US Army calculated that it would burn 40 million gallons of fuel in three weeks of combat in Iraq, an amount equivalent to the gasoline consumed by all Allied armies combined during the four years of World War I.”

This increases greenhouse gases and depletes resources. War uses other materials including iron, steel, copper, plastics, explosives and depleted uranium. Battles destroy houses, apartments, manufacturing plants, schools, hospitals and public buildings. For example, Israel's attack on Gaza last summer destroyed 10,000 homes made 5,000 more uninhabitable and damaged 100,000. It also damaged infrastructure, the power plant, the water purification plant and the sewage disposal plant. As a result, the aquifer is overused, depleted and contaminated and sea water has invaded it. Eventually all these things have to be repaired or replaced and some are beyond repair. In the meantime there are terrible effects on public health.

After modern war, the environment is contaminated by depleted uranium in powder form, causing cancer and death when inhaled. Further, many nations deploy mines or drop cluster bombs. The presence of these makes access to land for agriculture unsafe and limits food availability.

The damaged infrastructure requires the depletion of resources to replace it. In many historical cases of war, the victor imposed serious financial costs on the loser, resulting in economic and human turmoil. After war, many of the materials of war are discarded and left to rust and decay.

The ultimate environmental destruction of war would result from nuclear war. It is clear that the planet would become uninhabitable after even a limited exchange of nuclear weapons. The residual radioactivity from uranium and polonium decay products would last thousands of years. The damage to cities and nations would likely be beyond the ability of surviving populations to provide humanitarian assistance and carry out repairs. For more information see: [www.ceasefire.ca](http://www.ceasefire.ca)

### 'Our Spiritual Journeys'

#### Vancouver Island Unitarian Spiritual Retreat

Friday evening to Sunday afternoon, April 24-26

at the beautiful

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



Take time away from the busyness to reflect on your spiritual journey: where you've come from, where you are now, and explore what your next steps might be. We offer opportunities for small group sharing, contemplative practices, worship services, time for your own rest and renewal, as well as time to play and get to know one another better.

**Early bird registration deadline for \$285/person available until Friday, March 6.**

A few subsidies are available. Late bird registration fee from March 7 – April 10 is \$300.

**Final registration deadline is April 10.**

To register, go to

<http://viuc.unitariancongregation.org/spring-retreat/>

Further registration and subsidy information: Rosemary Morrison ([rsmrymorrison@gmail.com](mailto:rsmrymorrison@gmail.com))

For more program details: Meg Roberts ([mroberts@uuma.org](mailto:mroberts@uuma.org))

Sponsored by the Vancouver Island Unitarian Committee

## 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

# Auction Fever 2015

Services Auction

**Friday, April 17  
at the Church**

**Silent Auction — 6pm  
Live Auction — 7pm**



**Auction purchases — Cash or Cheque only. Child minding available if requested by April 5.**



**“Will you, won’t you,  
Will you, won’t you,  
Will you join the  
dance?”**

## Auction Fever

**Friday, April 17, 6:00pm — 9:00pm**

We need you help to offer the services for our fun,  
Intergenerational Auction.  
Would you be willing to offer...

A special skill?

An event?

Something handmade?

A meal?

Something homemade?

Practical help?

Something active?

A party?

Entertainment?

An adventure?

Something no one else would think of ?

Something only you can do ?

A get-away?

The Silent Auction will have only services and handmade or homemade items.  
Please save other items for the re-gifting sale.

Please contact Suellen Guenther ([sguenther@shaw.ca](mailto:sguenther@shaw.ca)) or Jen Young ([uujenyong@gmail.com](mailto:uujenyong@gmail.com))

## CHALICE LIGHTERS OF THE MONTH

### Allen Milne and Ruth Ralston

Allen is a founder of the church, one of the discussion group who met in members' homes and in Dr. Alcorn's waiting room and other places rented in the 1950s, talking about world religions and social action issues. He remained active in the group which continued to grow and some years after the property on Superior Street became our home, served a term as President of the congregation.

Allen also remembers starting a book discussion group which met regularly, but remembers also that many would attend the "discussion" without having read the book!

After we moved to the our present location, he co-chaired a Capital Campaign in the late 1990s, to raise funds to build this sanctuary which we now enjoy. Most recently he donated the new name-tag board, needed as we continue to grow.

Ruth moved to Victoria in the spring of 1964, attended the service the Sunday after arriving, and knew immediately that the search for her church was over. Within a few months she was assisting in the church school, at first as the "Music Lady" during the 9:30 and 11AM services and later including the Thursday evening services, playing an autoharp as the children sang.

Church activities soon became a major part of life for Ruth's whole family. She taught Church School for 25 years, served on or chaired the Buildings and Grounds Committee for over 30, and sang in the choir from its formation until recently.

In 1973, the Victoria Church hosted a training session for facilitators for the newly created Human Sexuality course, "About Your Sexuality" (AYS), with leaders from the UUA. Those attending included Unitarians from up-island Fellowships, about ten from the Victoria Church and two from Port Angeles. Allen and Ruth were among those from Victoria. At the close of the training, they were approached individually and asked if they would be willing to lead the first course in Victoria. After answering "yes" they were told who their co-facilitator would be. This first course would include an introductory evening or weekend for parents, followed by an 8-week teen course.

Allen was able to co-lead two courses before his work in the Arctic interfered with his being a co-leader. Ruth continued co-leading with different male facilitators until 1993.

During those years, the church received requests for courses in the outside community from the Birth Control Clinic, social workers, foster parents, single parents etc., as well as a non-Unitarian church for their parents and teens.

Allen and Ruth have both found fulfillment in different ways through their membership in this church and working with other Unitarians.

### Physician-Assisted Dying EXPLORING THE SUPREME COURT DECISION A Public Forum

What does the Supreme Court ruling actually say? What does it mean for the medical profession? What can we expect from the Canadian Parliament and BC Legislature? What remains for us to do to ensure that legislation will reflect the spirit as well as the letter of the Supreme Court Ruling?

Speakers are:

- Chris Considine QC, Attorney for Sue Rodriguez, 1993 (by Video)
- Tim Dixon, CUC Intervener at the 2014 Supreme Court hearing of the Carter Case
- Dr. Derryck Smith, Professor Emeritus, Department of Psychiatry, UBC and Board Member of Dying with Dignity
- Elizabeth May, M.P. and Leader of the Green Party
- Maurine Karagianis, MLA, Official Opposition Spokesperson for Seniors  
(Representatives from other parties have been invited, but are not confirmed.)

There will be opportunity for questions and discussion. A special celebration at the end.

**Where:** Monterey Centre, 1442 Monterey Avenue, Oak Bay

**When:** Saturday, March 21, 1-4pm.

For more information, phone Margot Lods at 250-920-3893

JOIN US TO LEARN, RESOLVE, AND CELEBRATE

*arranged by Choices in Dying Victoria*

*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 you don't know which group you are in, please phone the church office.*

**Please note that several of our hard-working NG Convenors are away on well-earned winter holidays, so there may be no gatherings to report this month.**

**Cadboro Bay:** This group kept us in treats during coffee time for the month of February.

**Esquimalt:** Seventeen adults, three teens, and two kids held a potluck supper at Cedar Shores on Friday, February 6. We celebrated January and February birthdays with two cakes plus cupcakes! After dinner, we enjoyed some members' brief life histories, including how they became UUs. We are looking forward to a visit from Rev. Melora at our next potluck on April 3.

**Fairfield:** This NG is looking forward to gathering at the Girard's on April 26.

**Far Out:** Oceanna Hall reports they will be very busy co-hosting the Souper Lunch on Feb. 22 with Nearby NG, and then they are organizing the reception for Sandra Jordan's memorial service on Feb. 28.

**Gordon Head:** Mary Cramer writes, "We are hoping to set a date in March for a potluck meeting that our ministers will be able to attend. Also, we will be providing the goodies for after service for the 5 Sundays during the month of March."

**Grand Central:** Patty Disbrow reports, "We met on Valentines Day for a potluck at the home of Alan and Sylvia. There were about a dozen of us welcomed into a festively decorated luncheon with lovely conversation. Thanks to all who made it happen! On another note, Philip and Marya have moved into the neighbourhood and will have an open house in the next month or two."

**James Bay:** Lynn Hunter writes, "The James Bay group had a lively potluck dinner at the home of Lynn Hunter and Don Armstrong on February 12th. There were a dozen people in attendance, including Rev. Shana. We shared how we came to be at the Unitarian Church -- interesting stories. We are now organizing for the shared responsibility with the Oak Bay Neighbourhood Group of the Souper Sunday on March 8th and then another potluck at the home of Myra Rippon towards the end of March."

**Nearby:** Nancy Dobbs sends this information: "As the March newsletter goes to press, the Far Out and Nearby neighborhood groups are preparing to host the February Souper on February 22nd. Working together is a great way to get to know our neighbors and others from another NG. Our next planned potluck will be hosted by Rev. Jane Bramadat and Sylvia McDonald on May 24th with a visit from Rev. Shana."

**Oak Bay:** As often happens, groups gather just after the newsletter deadline, and this is the case with Oak Bay. Karla Thompson writes, "We are meeting for a potluck this Saturday, the 21st and we will all be delighted to welcome Rev. Melora to our gathering. We are all bringing a photo of ourselves that is supposed to tell the others something about each of us. We hope Melora enjoys our photo game as well as our potluck feast. Next month we will be in charge of the Souper Sunday so we do manage to keep busy."

**Royal Oak East:** This group will be gathering Saturday, March 7 for socializing, appetizers, and desserts, ending in a large circle for discussion and sharing. Group members will be advised of the location, when it is decided.

**Royal Oak West:** Fran Hancock writes, "Royal Oak West is looking forward to a potluck dinner at the home of Isabelle Grenon and Francois Duruisseau at 4327 Ridgewood Crescent on February 21st at 5:30pm. Denis and Sandy Jaques have also offered to host a potluck dinner at 4360 Vanguard Place later in the spring. Details will be announced shortly."

## Ministers Visit Neighbourhood Groups

One meeting of each of the twelve Neighbourhood Groups will be attended by either Rev. Shana or Rev. Melora in 2015. James Bay and Oak Bay received visits in February. These are the other visits that have so far been scheduled:

<b>Royal Oak East,</b>	Saturday, <b>March 7</b>	4:00 -7:30pm		Rev. Shana
<b>Esquimalt</b>	Friday, <b>April 3</b>	6:00pm	Cedar Shores common room	Rev. Melora
<b>Fairfield</b>	Sunday, <b>April 26</b>	3:00 -5:00pm	Girards'	Rev. Shana
<b>Royal Oak West</b>	Saturday, <b>May 2</b>	5:30pm	Jaques'	Rev. Melora
<b>Nearby</b>	Sunday, <b>May 24</b>	evening	Jane's & Sylvia's	Rev. Shana

Rev. 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.

### New Worship Associates Wanted!

- Would you like to grow your spirit?
- Are you willing to share something of your own story?
- Do you like writing in your own authentic voice?
- Are you organized and responsible?
- Would you like to learn how to help create worship services?
- Would you like to work with our ministers and deepen your relationship with our congregation?

We are now accepting Applications for three new Worship Associate positions beginning September 2015. Contact [rev.melora@gmail.com](mailto:rev.melora@gmail.com) (250)891-6330 for an application form and/or to learn more. Training and mentoring is provided. Terms are generally three years. We strive to create as diverse a Worship Associate Team as possible. Consider adding your voice to our team!

### "THE RELIGIONS OF ABRAHAM" Judaism, Christianity, Islam

Discussion/Study Group  
10:00am Tuesdays,  
March 10, 17, 24  
in the church library

Based on a DVD series of lectures given by Prof Berkson from Hamline U.

For more information call Phyllis Ahern at 250-655-7149

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)

### Community Dinner March 13 is Baked Potato Night!

Our Community Dinners are wonderful opportunities to meet new people or catch up with friends over a casual, fun, delicious meal. Dinner is by donation. **Everyone is welcome !!**



Hot fluffy potatoes with a wide range of toppings to choose from—beans, chili, veggies, cheese and much more!  
**Please bring a dessert, salad or beverage to share.**

*To help with clean-up please bring your own dishes. A rinsing station will be provided.*

### Organic Farm Tour

As outlined in the February newsletter, Robin Tunnickliffe is offering a tour of her organic farm in Metchosin. This was delayed until Sunday, March 1 after the church service. Road directions are available; carpooling if need be. Sign up with [Christine\\_Johnston@telus.net](mailto:Christine_Johnston@telus.net) asap.

### Will You Help Fill a Gift Basket?

We are preparing gift baskets for the Services Auction and we need your help. Could you contribute small decorative items, toiletries, wine or spirits, jams or preserves, chocolate, treats?



What would **you** like to find in a gift basket? Last year, the gift baskets that contained chocolate or alcohol generated the highest bids.

Please bring items to the church office and put them in the container marked 'Gift Basket'.

**Help us fill a few baskets with small treasures.**

## 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 Versteegen

### Board of Trustees

#### Officers

President	Shirley Travis	778-433-2063
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Outreach	Susan Layng	250-370-2247
Property Management	John Tiffany	778-432-0881
Spiritual Development	John Hopewell	250-721-3920

## ARTISTS FOR MARCH

**LIZ GRAHAM**

"In true UU fashion, these quilters are celebrating their diversity. Karla Thomson, Pat Kinrade and Liz Graham are members of a quilt group that meets for three hours every week. They all work on their own projects in their own styles and support each other in their quilting development.

Karla has been quilting for over thirty years. She primarily works in traditional style but has also made her own patterns. She has been juried into national shows and won prizes. She enjoys teaching other quilters.

Pat began quilting when she retired 13 years ago. She enjoys exploring new techniques in lessons by the experts but prefers to work in an innovative and experimental way. Rules are made to be broken!

Inspired by quilting friends, Liz also began quilting on her retirement in 2001. She started with lessons and enjoys integrating new techniques into her repertoire. Currently she has been doing pictorial work as well as playing with creative new ideas."

## EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

3/1	10:30am to 11:30am	SUNDAY SERVICE	Sanctuary
3/8	DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME shift <b>11:30am to 12:30pm</b>	SUNDAY SERVICE	Sanctuary
	1:00pm to 2pm	Souper Lunch	Sanctuary
3/13	6:00pm to 10:00pm	Community Dinner	Sanctuary
3/15	10:30am to 11:30am	SUNDAY SERVICE	Sanctuary
	7:00pm to 9:00pm	Jazz Vespers	UVic Interfaith Chapel
3/20	7:00pm to 9:30pm	Multi-choir concert	Sanctuary
3/22	10:30am to 11:30am	SUNDAY SERVICE	Sanctuary
3/29	10:30am to 11:30am	SUNDAY SERVICE	Sanctuary

Ads appearing in this section are not necessarily endorsed by the Church .

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## DOWNTOWN CONDO FOR RENT

August 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016

The Smiths are planning to travel this year, and are offering their condo for rent for eleven months. The condo is 1400 sq ft, 2 bedrooms and a den with a 900 sq ft roof top patio. It's a new building in Cook Street Village, fully furnished, cleaning provided, easy access to transit, shops, ocean, downtown and Beacon Hill Park. Well suited to a couple or two singles who wish to share. Perhaps there are people in your networks who want to transition to Victoria, to condo living, or who are here for a year who might be interested. Please contact us [dianasmith55@gmail.com](mailto:dianasmith55@gmail.com) or [rfor-restsmith@gmail.com](mailto:rfor-restsmith@gmail.com) to talk more seriously about the opportunity.



The First Unitarian Church of Victoria  
5575 West Saanich Road  
Victoria, BC V9E 2G1

Phone: 250-744-2665  
E-mail: [churchoffice@victoriaunitarian.ca](mailto:churchoffice@victoriaunitarian.ca)  
[www.victoriaunitarian.ca](http://www.victoriaunitarian.ca)

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## THE VICTORIA UNITARIAN

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The **deadline** for submissions to  
the **April** issue is **March 17**.

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



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

Information for Events Highlights should be sent to  
[calendar@victoriaunitarian.ca](mailto:calendar@victoriaunitarian.ca) or left at the church office.

Feedback is welcomed.

### Staff

Bob Dobbs (editor); Doreen Burgess and Myra Rippon  
(proof-readers); and Karen Uldall-Ekman (production, dis-  
tribution and paid advertisements).

## BOARD MEMBERS ON DUTY



March 1	John Hopewell
March 8	Susan Layng
March 15	Linda Nicholson-Brown
March 22	John Tiffany
March 29	Shirley Travis

## NEW MEMBERS

David Smith  
1-277 Michigan Street  
Victoria, BC V8V 1R4  
250-891-8751  
[nuagesail@gmail.com](mailto:nuagesail@gmail.com)  
James Bay NG



Kym Hines and Zahira North (child)  
855 Queens Avenue  
Victoria, BC V8T 4V8  
778-433-1167  
[thavvictoria@gmail.com](mailto:thavvictoria@gmail.com)  
James Bay NG

## MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- 1 John Tiffany
- 3 Wally du Temple, Eleanor Lloyd, Todd Webber
- 4 Kathy Gallegos
- 5 John Hopewell
- 6 Caroline Startin
- 9 Danielle Walker
- 12 Emerald Pringle
- 14 Isabel Jones
- 15 Sandra Jacobsen



- 18 Kjerstin Mackie
- 19 Roger Sandford, Julia Webber
- 20 Phyllis Girard, Margot Lods
- 21 Michael Ramsey
- 22 Alastair Dillistone, Bill Gaylord
- 23 Mac Elrod
- 26 Shirley Travis, Donald (Don) Lloyd
- 27 John Hall, Athena Lynngood
- 29 Curran Dobbs