



Volume 54, Issue 5

May, 2015

The Victoria Unitarian

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

SERVICES IN MAY

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

PRACTICES
TO TRANSFORM
OURSELVES AND
OUR WORLD
.....
MAY'S THEME



HONESTY:
THE PRACTICE OF
LIVING ONE'S TRUTH

May 3 A Culture of Openness
Rev. Shana Lynngood

In many circles, a high value is placed on honesty. In congregational life it can be important to be honest about our perspective and our feelings, and at the same time be mindful about how we express those honest impressions. As we begin our exploration of honesty, we will look at our efforts to be transparent in our decision-making and motivations, and how to share honestly without being unnecessarily hurtful.

May 10 Possibilities and Perils: Honesty within the Family Context
Rev. Melora Lynngood

On this Mother's Day Sunday, we will look at "Honesty: the practice of being true to oneself" within a family context. When is it hard to be honest in families and why? How honest does one need to be? Is it ok to sacrifice honesty in order to 'keep the peace'?

May 17 Compassion
Dan Klimke

Dan Klimke has recently joined our church from Marysville, WA's Evergreen Unitarian Universalist Fellowship. Dan's theme is inspired by Thich Nhat Hanh's prayer for Compassion: "Let us be aware of the source of being, common to us all and to all living things. Evoking the presence of the Great Compassion, let us fill our hearts with our own compassion towards ourselves and towards all living beings."

May 17 Jazz Vespers at 7:00pm — Theme: Royalty
The Susannah Adams Quartet and Reverend Shana Lynngood

Spend part of the Victoria Day weekend exploring the theme of royalty with music, word, and contemplative silence. We are excited to continue our series with Susannah Adams, vocals, Rich Sanches, guitar, Alec Lee, bass, and Ron Joiner, drums. To find out more about Susannah and the Trio visit www.susannahadams.com

May 24 Talking About Dying Won't Kill You
Wanda Morris

Advances in medical technology mean many of us will live through diseases and with medical conditions that in previous decades would have killed us. Usually that's a good thing. But not always. Sometimes patients die in hospital unable to survive an aggressive operation. Other times they just wish they had. Times past, parents struggled to talk to their kids about sex. Now these kids are mature adults and struggling with a different conversation: talking to their parents about death. In this service Wanda Morris will talk about the critical spiritual challenge of having a conversation about death.

[Continued on next page...](#)

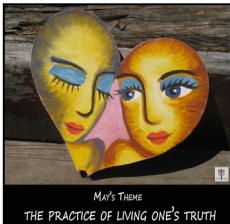
♪ denotes Chalice Choir

♪ denotes Chamber Choir

SERVICES IN MAY (CONTINUED)

May 31 Sanctuary? Rev. Shana Lynngood

One of the most powerful curricula we have to offer the young people in our church is Our Whole Lives, a sexuality education curricula. It opens up frank and informative conversations about intimacy and relationships and the sexual dimension of our lives. There is an adult section of this lifespan curricula which we have never offered. This morning we will explore the importance of boundaries and honesty around how we share our community. In what ways do we keep one another safe and how do we know when we do that by challenging unhealthy behavior?



May's theme graphic was designed by Worship Associate and Soul Matters Theme Group Participant, Penelope Hagan.

She writes: "This painting represents honesty because it is about knowing and being known. Honesty is real intimacy. Where safety is found, it's possible to experience true revelation - the revealing of the self, whether there is sense of closure or openness, growth or shrinkage. All is known and admitted. In this conversation, the heart is laid bare; agreement and conformity are no longer the priority. It's truth that is the prize."

Ministers' Whereabouts

Reverend Melora will be attending conferences from May 11- May 22: the Festival of Homiletics (a preaching conference in Denver), the annual meeting and conference of the Canadian Unitarian Council (Ottawa), and the gathering of the Unitarian Universalist Ministers of Canada (Ottawa). Our ministers' weekend off is May 23-25. Reverends Melora and Shana will return to work on Tuesday, May 26.

SELECTIONS ON HONESTY

FAYE MOGENSEN

(Editor's Note: This item, usually on this page, is on page 4.

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SHARE THE PLATE

Our Share the Plate partner for May is PEERS Victoria, an innovative, multi-service grassroots agency that was established by, with, and for sex workers in 1995. Through direct service delivery and community partnerships, PEERS provides an array of outreach and drop in harm reduction and support services alongside education and employment training for current and former sex workers.

The deadline for submissions to the June issue of the newsletter is **May 19**.

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

Honesty: the practice of living one's truth

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.

1. This month, we look at “the practice of living one’s truth.” What is *your* truth?
2. What is the most honest thing you need to do right now?
3. Pamela Meyer, author of *Liespotting*, suggests that deception and lying are attempts to bridge the gap between who we are and who we wish we were. In what situations have you stretched (or covered) the truth in order to appear as the person you wish you were?
4. Have you ever lied for the sake of love? Think beyond the white lies about fashion and quality of cooking. For example, a colleague spoke of a friend who tells her mom with Alzheimer’s that the pills she has to take are vitamins.
5. What is the difference between maintaining a confidence and keeping a secret? Have you ever mistakenly told a truth that you later realized was not yours to tell? Have you ever spoken up about a harmful secret? What was that like for you?
6. Have you ever heard someone preface a veiled insult with, “I’m just being honest?” Have you ever experienced “honesty” as a justification for rude or mean behaviour? What did you do about it?
7. When you face the challenge of “speaking the truth in love,” which part is harder for you – speaking your truth? Or speaking with love?
8. To what extent do you practice honesty differently (or the same as) your parents did?
9. Think about the most significant people in your life in turn, and consider – if you were more honest with him/her, what would you say? Then consider, in each case, is that a truth worth telling?
10. Is your life really true to your values? Are you really walking your talk? And could someone tell by comparing you to your neighbors?
11. Is there anything you need to face with more honesty – something from your past, a current habit or desire, death? What, if anything, do you ‘try not to think about?’ Do any of those things represent an unhealthy avoidance for you?
12. Is there a situation in which you feel called to be more honest, or a relationship in which you are building up the courage to speak the truth?
13. Have you ever confronted a liar? What was the result, and what was the impact on you?
14. Who or what isn’t as bad—or as good—as you are making them out to be?
15. When do you find it hardest to tell the whole truth?

Credit for many of these questions and materials with which we explore each month’s theme goes to the Soul Matters Program designed by Rev. Scott Taylor, with help from all his contributors, notably, this month, Rev. Karen Fraser Gitlitz in Saskatoon.



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, Revs. Shana and Melora have given 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 Rev. Shana or Rev. Melora over the course of 2015.

So far, we have been able to visit: **James Bay, Oak Bay, Royal Oak East, Esquimalt, and Fairfield.** These are the visits scheduled for May:

Royal Oak West, Saturday, **May 2**, 5:30pm, at Jaques’, Rev. Melora
Nearby, Sunday, **May 24**, 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.

With our focus on "Honesty, the practice of living one's truth, Gandhi's words come to mind. "To believe in something, and not to live it, is dishonest." What a challenge - to practice what we preach!

And no wonder. First of all, we have to find out what it is that we truly believe. Then, we have to figure out how to live that truth. I find that there are many truths I espouse that are difficult to live by. *That it's important to live lightly on the earth is one I've particularly struggled with. It is never straight-forward, and always seems to come down to a balance.*

Another truth that poses challenge is that of the importance of honesty itself. We can find ourselves encountering several bumps in the road as we try to help children understand when the value of "*truth-telling*" *might not be the truth we need to live. Isn't it better to thank our friends for a gift that doesn't thrill us, than for them to feel badly? But how far do we go? When our children begin telling us things they know we want to hear (such as that they've done their homework when they haven't), we call that a lie and don't like it.*

UU writer Michelle Richards points to our principles as a source of guidance around truth and lies. "Do the words we say *uphold a person's inherent worth and dignity, or demean it? Are we working toward a world of justice, equity, and compassion when we speak? Are we engaging in a responsible search for truth and meaning when we tell (white) lies about our behavior?*" *When it comes to honesty, keeping these checks and balances in mind can help us navigate that bumpy road of trying to live our truth, and even more so if we tweak the questions to also revolve around our actions.*

Highlights in the children and youth program this month include:

- Family Choir with Nancy Dobbs (practices are at 9:30 am on Sundays)
- Time outdoors, to enjoy our gorgeous property and celebrate our 7th principle.
- Three sessions remain in OWL (May 3, 24 and 31) Participants are invited to join yU*Uth group on May 10 and 17.)
- We'll begin to install our Tree Mosaic on the playground fence.
- The Ruth Humphrey Innovation Fund has offered financial support towards re-creating our playground as a nature play space. A small team has begun meeting to create a vision for it.

I look forward to our times together, Faye

Director of Spiritual Exploration and Learning for Children and Youth

• 250-744-2695

• fayem@victoriaunitarian.ca

Buddhist Nun in Victoria June 12-14

The Victoria Insight Meditation Society is hosting a visit from Ayya Medhanandi, a Canadian Buddhist nun who has established the only monastery in Canada for the training of nuns in the Theravada tradition. Buddhist monks are rare in North America. Buddhist nuns are even more rare. We are pleased that the Unitarian church will be one of the sites where Ayya will offer teachings.

Friday June 12, 7:00-8:30pm
Public Talk
Goward House, Victoria, BC

Saturday June 13, 9:00am-4:30 pm
Day long meditation retreat on the theme "Freedom to Breathe"
First Unitarian Church of Victoria
Online Registration opens Monday, May 25
Website link: <http://victoriaims.org/?cat=11>

Sunday June 14, 7:00-9:00pm
Meditation (45 minute) and talk
Lynn Wylie/Helga Beer Yoga studio
#202 - 1600 Bay Street, Victoria, BC
(off of Shakespeare Street near Shelbourne)

For more information, please contact Brock or June at 250-472-6065 or email us at brockbrown108@gmail.com or june.fukushima@gmail.com. Visit [www.victoriaims.org](http://victoriaims.org), for more details.

Work in Progress

Canada Revenue Agency has revised its rules in dealing with registered non-profits, which has had a direct effect on the way we report our activities in order to retain our non-profit status. The CRA's rule changes came about because of a revision in the tax laws in 2012. The result is that the Board has been studying how we conduct our social justice activities and other programs to ensure we meet those long overdue guidelines as a religious community. I wish to thank contributions from Social Responsibility Coalition members who have been working with the Board to ensure there is balance in our advocacy publications so we maintain our charitable status.

One of the keys to our non-profit charitable status, which allows us to issue tax-deductible receipts to all members and friends who donate to our social action causes, is to ensure that our registered "purpose" matches our actions.

Our purpose, which was registered in BC in 1961 with our constitution, and on file with the tax agency, currently states: *a) to foster liberal religious attitudes and living through group study, worship, service work and recreation, and b) to further individual freedom of belief, the advancement of truth, the democratic progress in human relations, humanity undivided by nation, race, sexual orientation, or creed and allegiance to the cause of the united world community.*

Our lead on reviewing these words is John Worton. His research started months ago. Don Vipond has kindly offered to assist in presenting an amended version to the congregation in a special meeting this fall.

Compounding the issue is that Canada Revenue Agency is now carrying out an audit of the Canadian Unitarian Council. The CUC has hired very good legal specialists in this area of compliance, plus with staff and volunteers are working hard. As some may know, our Kristina Stevens is CUC Treasurer and she says she "has every reason to be confident of a positive outcome."

In the meantime, the question of partisan activity, political activity and how we decide the differentiation around our charitable status as a religious community is actively being discussed by the board on many levels within our congregation. Mike Graham, who attended a Victoria Foundation workshop with me on charitable status, has set up a media review panel and is working closely with church publications, advertisements and the website.

More details will be discussed in this newsletter. We are expecting the congregation will be asked to vote in the fall on a new "purpose" to ensure that we are meeting the CRA guidelines. Please be assured that we are actively progressing to build consistency into the process of reporting to the CRA to maintain our registered status while continuing to practise our Unitarian Universalist values, all within our Covenant of Good Relations and Seven Principles.

As we welcome spring, I see progress.

Sincerely, with warm regards
Shirley

HOW #2

LESLIE GILLETTE

Beekeeping in Rwanda

We are helping farmers in Rwanda to rise above subsistence level by beekeeping. Thirty farmers, already trained in basic beekeeping techniques, have recently (February 2015) had more detailed teaching (by a master beekeeper from Victoria) in advanced techniques to allow ability to adapt to abnormal/adverse weather conditions and to enhance productivity. (They lost about 50% of their hives due to abnormal amounts of rain in 2014). Funding this project will enhance viability of their co-operative, increase the quantity and quality of their honey for better marketability. Supplies that will be purchased from these funds include hives, centrifuge for honey extraction and stainless steel storage tanks. A payback scheme will ensure sustainability. The project will be closely supervised by John Jordan of Victoria who spends 2 months/year in Rwanda. There is no overhead. This is an accredited Canadian charity.

Thank you for your support!



HOW #1 — BIPOLE DISORDER SOCIETY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Editor's Note: This article provides more information about our #1 HOW project, and about the pivotal role played by our own "Bipolar Babe", Jamie van Gessel.

As Executive Director for the Bipolar Disorder Society of British Columbia, Andrea Paquette created and facilitates the Teens2Twenties Support Group, born out of the concept of gathering youth together who have bipolar disorder, which began in her own basement suite. She began facilitating the group in 2009, and it has been delivered over the past five years at a comforting and warm local community centre. Many youth with bipolar disorder, or any mental illness for that matter, often suffer in isolation, and it became Andrea's life's mission to ensure that others did not have to experience bipolar disorder as she did. She met and cared about many youth throughout the years, but someone special came into her life and helped heal her own heart and that someone is Jamie van Gessel.

Jamie had been a long-time participant of the Teens2Twenties Group and joined in on sessions when she was only 16 years old. Andrea met her at Ledger House, the psychiatric hospital for youth, while visiting and mentoring another young teen. They instantly became friends and constantly chatted about their personal stories, had meaningful conversations over lunch, and participated in the Bipolar Babe Support Group together. Jamie felt extremely accepted and supported by the others, and after one year of attending, she became the Teens2Twenties Support Group Co-Facilitator alongside Andrea as lead Facilitator. Andrea felt that a strong and exceptional youth voice needed to be at the forefront of the Program and Jamie filled this role successfully for over one year.

With her own determination and the aid of supports and accommodations offered to help her succeed, Jamie also graduated high school during this time. Upon graduation, Jamie asked Andrea for help with her cover letter and resume, and she began searching for employment opportunities. Jamie instantly obtained a position at a clothing store upon her first interview, and in a matter of months, she became a 'key holder,' which placed her just below the Assistant Supervisor position in the store. Jamie still struggled with her mental illness during this time, but she continued to apply self-management strategies that she learned at the Teens2Twenties Support Group, received guidance and support from Andrea, worked extremely hard to succeed and remained extremely successful at her job. She left the group in January 2015, as she had obtained an international working VISA, bought a plane ticket to Australia, and she is now living her dream while thriving and living across the world in her new home. Jamie plans to return to the Teens2Twenties group in nine months and she is well known for achieving her dreams.



We are thrilled to be the first chosen project for the 2015 Healing Our World initiative. The \$5000 puts the Teens2Twenties mental health group well on their way to supporting their members. HOW supplies 40% of their operating costs for a year of service and the participants are able to come at no cost to them. Healing Our World, one youth at a time.



Jamie has become a true advocate for mental health and has been in the media a number of times, being featured in the Times Colonist, offering her strong youth voice during speeches at events such as Stigma Stomp Day, Clara's Big Ride and speaking alongside Andrea on a number of radio interviews. Jamie is an inspiration and this young woman is an extraordinary individual who not only has impacted Andrea's life significantly, but has made this world a more empathetic, understanding and accepting place for youth with mental illness. She is a pure reflection of the outstanding impact of the Teens2Twenties Support Group and she attests that the group has helped immensely in her success. Jamie embodies the Bipolar Babe motto that 'No matter what our challenges, we can all live extraordinary lives.'

Guidelines for Making the Newsletter Editor Happier

Is your item suitable for the newsletter?...or would it be more suited to the E-Weekly? Well, the newsletter is published monthly and the E-Weekly is published weekly. That's your first clue. The newsletter is mainly for regular features (e.g. *From Your Minister*, *Around the Neighbourhood*), informational items of some length (e.g. *Green Corner*), ...of the Month items (e.g. *Chalice Lighter...*, *SRC Action...*, *Share the Plate*), on-going notices such as *Path to Membership*, and event notices for which participants need information well in advance.

Send submissions to newsletter@victoriaunitarian.ca, but know that this site is only monitored for two or three days before and after the posted deadline for the next newsletter. If you wish to contact the editor outside of this period, send an email to bob-dobbs@shaw.ca or phone 250-652-5438.

The **deadline** for submissions to next month is posted in each newsletter. It is always the Tuesday that occurs twelve days prior to the last Sunday of the month.

When submissions are taken from the site for newsletter layout, **acknowledgment of receipt** will be sent to the submitter. If you do not receive acknowledgment of receipt within a day or two following the deadline, it would be prudent to contact the editor.

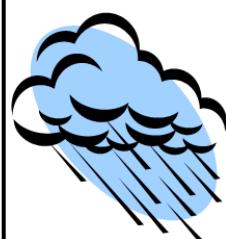
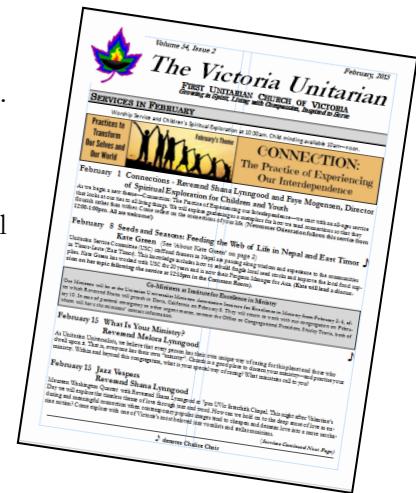
Submissions sent as **email attachments** are preferred, but those included in the body of an email will be accepted. Most text will be printed in a Garamond 11 font. Any original font can be converted, but it will ease the editor's job if conversion is unnecessary.

Photos. A limited number of photos can be accepted. Generally, however, they will be printed in a fairly small size (around 2 x 3 inches) so don't attempt to show too much detail.

Posters. Pre-formatted material is discouraged. If posters are submitted, they should be designed to be legible when they are sized to a quarter-page.

Here are some conventions we try to follow:

- Avoid contractions and abbreviations.
- No periods in acronyms – HOW, not H.O.W.
- Times are formatted as 9:30am – no spaces, no periods; ‘am’ and ‘pm’ should not be upper case.
- Dates are in the format April 9, 2015, although the year can often be left off in event notices. Do not use ordinals in dates – April 9, not April 9th.
- Avoid ampersands – and, not &; except in acronyms – G&G Committee is OK.
- Capital letters are overused, way overused. For example, the words “church”, “sanctuary”, “board”, and “committee” (except when referring to a specific committee) should not be capitalized.
- Double-spacing between sentences is no longer correct.



Out of the Rain Youth Shelter

Even with the recent nippy Spring weather another winter shelter season has come and gone. We would like to thank our church community for the amazing support it gave the Out of the Rain Youth shelter this season. You have offered your skills, your compassion, your resources and your love to this program.

This year we provided much needed meals, supplies and a bit of fun. Our ever busy and talented cooking bee folks ensured the shelter had protein rich, veggie filled hot meals twice a month. The Christmas Eve collection and the Share the Plate generosity enabled us to provide much needed clothing, toiletries, bus tickets and coffee gift cards - all of these making living on the street a bit more manageable. For a bit of fun we provided hand made Valentine and Spring cards stuffed with chocolate and condoms. The kids loved them!

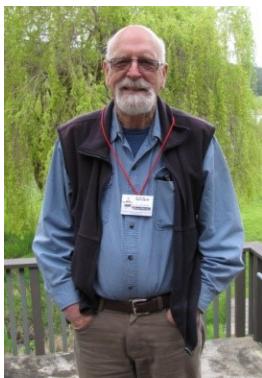
Mike and I would like to say a special thank you to Martha McDougall for overseeing the card project and holding the fort while we were away.

It is time for Mike and I to step away from coordinating this project. If you are interested in keeping this program running please contact us at greenlygrove2@gmail.com.

—Lisa and Mike Greenly

CHALICE LIGHTER OF THE MONTH

Mike Graham



About 25 years ago I joined the Vancouver Unitarian congregation after being attracted by its adult religious education program. There were a few courses every Thursday evening in the winter months. Everyone brought a bag meal and we sat around chatting before the courses began. In one of those early years I invited Liz to a Sunday service (it was one of our first dates and she was at first momentarily shocked to learn I was a church-goer. She had visions of me saving her soul, I guess). We subsequently married in the same church.

We moved to Victoria 14 years ago and found our second home here. I've been on the Worship Committee, a particularly enjoyable experience, and on the board as a trustee for a few years, vice-president for a couple more and then president for a few after that. Now I like being past president since I don't have to vote and thus can sleep through the meetings. I also babysit the church's website and our new Facebook page. I'm a retired ink-stained wretch (newspaper reporter/editor) so enjoy the writing/design required.

We have a warm, supportive community here at First Victoria. It has been an honour to help tend the light.

Earle Anthony says: "I first became aware of Mike when he joined the board the first time around 2007 to 2009. I was impressed by his ability to move quickly to the core of a problem. He would listen to others, and then put forward solutions many would consider "outside the box". Indeed, one of his most endearing characteristics was to always go for the best solution rather than the easiest. When he returned a few years later as President, he brought that problem solving skill with him. Finally, Mike works hard and he really cares about the church and its future."

"Tiff" Tiffany says: "Mike should be noted for his dry wit. Many a church meeting has gone down easy with Mike in attendance. He also is deeply devoted to our community, ranging from being Board President to putting dirty dishes in the kitchen dishwasher (Mike has a master's touch with this task). He has been a welcoming mentor to new members learning the ins and outs of our various councils, communities, teams, funds and the like."

GREEN CORNER

JIM JORDAN AND ED DANIEL

GM Crops: A Fact-Based Update

2015 marks the 20th anniversary of the introduction of crops using GM technology in Canada (where GM = genetically-modified, also known as GE = genetically-engineered). In Canada, four GM crops are currently cultivated: canola, corn, soy and sugar beets. These crops are mainly (~85%) based on the original GM technology introduced in 1995: herbicide tolerance (Ht) using the chemical glyphosate for weed control, which has since been found to have many problems.

In March, 2015, the World Health Organization International Agency for Cancer Research reclassified glyphosate to Group 2A: "agent is probably carcinogenic to humans", which lends credibility to recent long-term animal-feeding studies: Carman (2013) and Seralini (2014). Health Canada does not perform safety studies but relies on short-term (three-month) studies performed by the biotech industry (who do not make these data available publicly). Glyphosate resistance has developed in the weeds it is supposed to control, and has necessitated adding tolerance to other dangerous herbicides in GM crops (e.g. 2,4-D or Dicamba). Glyphosate was originally patented as an industrial cleaner or "chelator", based on its property of binding to metals, which may lead to reduced nutrient availability in plants. Glyphosate has also been patented as an antibiotic, and may play a role in antibiotic resistance. Another harmful farm practice is spraying crops with glyphosate spray as a desiccant before harvest to provide uniform ripening.

So far the public is not informed about what foods we buy are from GM crops (GMO labelling). On Vancouver Island, some municipalities have agreed to be GM-crop-free.

On March 20, 2015, a GM "non-browning" apple received Canadian approval, with the property that it does not turn "brown" when sliced, for 15 days or more. This approval was granted despite a 2012 Leger poll showing that 69% of Canadian consumers did not want it, as well as the opposition of the BC Fruit Growers Association and the Federation of Quebec Apple Producers.

1. CBAN is carrying out a year-long "GMO Inquiry 2015" – see <http://cban.ca> and follow links.
2. Health Canada is re-evaluating glyphosate and is accepting public comments for 60 days. See http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/cps-spc/pest/part/consultations/_prvd2015-01/prvd2015-01-eng.php#a1

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: Members of Cadboro Bay worked closely with the Western NG to host the delicious Souper Lunch after church on April 12. The lunch received donations of \$524.60 for the church.

Esquimalt: Pat McMahon writes, "Esquimalt had a potluck dinner on Good Friday, April 3, with 30 people in attendance. We welcomed a visit from Rev. Melora, and from two members of Capital Congregation who live in our neighbourhood. The group has also been baking goodies in April for coffee hour at the church."

Fairfield: Rev. Shana will be joining a gathering of Fairfield NG at Herb and Phyllis Girard's on April 26 at 3:00pm.

Gordon Head: Mary Cramer reports that they are still hoping to fix a date with their host for a spring gathering of their large NG.

Grand Central: Members of this NG were assisted by the Memorial Team to host a reception for the big crowd that attended the Memorial Service for long-time Unitarian, Shurley Mazarolle, on March 28. Grand Central is now looking forward to a Mother's Day gathering on Saturday, May 9 at Philip and Marya's.

James Bay: Lynn Hunter writes, "The James Bay Neighbourhood Group had a lively potluck lunch at the home of Myra Rippon on April 13. Ten people attended, including new member, David Van Stolk. Topics of conversation ranged from politics, the use of swear words, to personal information, including an announcement of a new romance. We look forward to updating all of these topics at the next gathering which will occur on the evening of June 9 for a potluck dinner at the home of Don Armstrong and Lynn Hunter."

Nearby: Nancy Dobbs sends this news, "After church goodies in May are yours to enjoy, courtesy of the Nearby Neighborhood Group. On Sunday evening, May 24, Nearby families will have a potluck hosted by Jane Bramadat and Sylvia McDonald. Rev. Shana will be the special guest."

Oak Bay: Karla Thomson reports that "twelve members of the Oak Bay group spent a splendid three hours at Mary Burcher's, eating finger foods and allowing our inner creative child to play. Mary was all prepared with many different forms of colour crayons, colour sticks, pencils, markers etc. Others brought fabric and there were magazines, scissors and glue sticks to play with. Mary taped a wide piece of brown paper the whole length of her dining room table and explained how to approach this fun activity. She really got us all to relax, and together we created quite a large mural. Perhaps in June, "fun month," we will bring it to church, so be prepared to see our budding 'Van Gogh's' attempt at art. The next gathering will be in June at the Tiffany's."

Royal Oak East: Hanny Pannekoek writes, "The next gathering of Royal Oak East will be on June 9. It will be a potluck. That month will also be our hospitality cakes turn. And we have offered a food, games and beach event for the auction for June 27. I don't think we quite realized we had all those activities in that one month...."

Royal Oak West: Fran Hancock sends these words, "Sandy and Dennis Jaques are hosting a neighbourhood pot luck on Saturday, May 2, at 6:00pm. Rev. Melora is joining us as a special guest. We look forward to the success of the auction and the Spring Concert."

Western: Kitchen Queen, Susan Lean, rallied members of her NG to put on the Souper Lunch with Cadboro Bay on April 12. They served many bowls of delicious soup.

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



A big thank you to all who supported, one way or another, our public forum on March 21. It was a smashing success—good speeches, lively questions, a roomful of 180 people, and enough contributions to cover our expenses. Its theme was "Exploring the Supreme Court Decision: Physician Assisted Dying, What does this mean for you?"

We were made aware how important this coming year will be, as our legislatures (federal and provincial) should be formulating legislation in accordance with the Supreme Court ruling. It said "Section 241 (b) of the Criminal Code unjustifiably infringes on section 7 of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms and is of no force or effect to the extent that it prohibits physician-assisted death for a competent adult person who (1) clearly consents to the termination of life and (2) has a grievous and irremediable medical condition (including an illness, disease or disability) that causes enduring suffering that is intolerable to the individual in the circumstances of his or her condition." The legislatures were given one year to change the law.

What remains for us to do to ensure that the legislation will reflect the spirit as well as the letter of the Supreme Court Ruling? Dying With Dignity and the BC Civil Liberties Association are working together to develop a political strategy to turn the Supreme Court's decision into a workable, legal reality for Canadians. CIDV has been invited to provide input into this process. We will await its outcome before deciding on our future activities, but we fully expect to continue to support the efforts of DWD and BCCLA.

Watch future eweeklies and monthly newsletters as we formulate our plans. One thing is for sure: we will need your help.

The present members of CIDV Steering Committee are: Anne Percival, Galina Coffey-Lewis, Jackie Bennett, and Margot Lods.



Spring Concert
A presentation by the choirs of our church community

with guest instrumentalists Tuli Porcher (cello)
and the Andersen Brothers (piano)

FRIDAY, MAY 1 at 7:00pm
First Unitarian Church of Victoria

As long as we live, there is never enough singing. ~Martin Luther

ADMISSION BY DONATION — RECEPTION TO FOLLOW

Choral Scholar Positions Available

Thanks to funding from the Ruth Humphreys Innovation Fund, we are able to offer up to two Choral Scholar positions for the remainder of this year (April to June) and again from September 2015 to June 2016. Each worth approximately \$800 per year, scholarships will be offered to a tenor and a bass to rehearse with the Chamber Choir twice a month on selected Thursday evenings from 6:00 - 7:30 pm and on the one Sunday morning per month when the Choir is scheduled to perform.

Candidates should be studying music (not necessarily voice), either privately or at an institution such as the Conservatory or the University, or in a High School music programme, and are expected to have strong vocal and choral skills, including sight-reading, and to be able to provide musical leadership to their section.

Interested candidates should contact the Music Director, Nick Fairbank, as soon as possible at 250-514-2669 or music@victoriaunitarian.ca

—Nicholas Fairbank, *Director of Music*

BOARD MEMBERS ON DUTY



May 3	Jennifer Young
May 10	Shirley Travis
May 17	Bob Dobbs
May 24	John Tiffany
May 31	Shirley Travis

Vancouver Island Unitarian Summer Camp August 21 - 23, 2015

"Live in the sunshine, swim in the sea, drink in the wild air"

~ Ralph Waldo Emerson ~

Friends new and old are waiting to meet you at camp on the shores of beautiful Shawnigan Lake. Easter Seals Camp Shawnigan offers a lovely outdoor setting to have fun, relax, deepen friendships, explore spirituality and feel part of the larger Unitarian community. Take part in campfire, a Friday BBQ, variety show and family dance. As well, Saturday morning offers great programming for all ages, and the fabulous waterfront will be open in the afternoon. Hike up Mt. Baldy for a 360 degree view of Shawnigan Lake, explore the Kinsol Trestle, board games and crafts are other offerings for you to explore.

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

This year there are three streams of adult programming to choose from:

- ~ Compassionate Communication with Selinde Krayenhoff
- ~ Music for Joy with Barb Slater and *Kevin Wilkie*
- ~ Spiritual Workshop with Penelope Hagan

A youth "play" shop program, children's program, as well as wee care on Saturday morning.

PLEASE note the new location and date this year. To find out more details about the programs, registration forms and brochures (coming soon!) please check out the website at: <http://viuc.unitariancongregation.org>



It takes a whole church community to create a big event like our recent Auction Fever. And so:

Thank you to the people who donated the services and to those who came to buy them.

Thank you to all those who worked on auction night, even though it was a challenge to also participate in bidding for things they wanted. And a special thank you to the workers who were willing to clean it all up and put everything away after the auction, a most necessary and thank-less job.

Thank you to the children and youth for the portraits and the popcorn. We love to see you with us.

Thank you to the bakers who provided the cakes for the cakewalk and food for the refreshment table.

Thank you to the church office staff, the E-Weekly editor, and the Treasurer, who worked behind the scenes to help publicize the event and take care of the money.

Thank you to our entertaining auctioneers, Farrell Boyce and Rev. Shana! You kept things moving right along in an interesting way.

A particular thank you to the Auction Team, who worked tirelessly to plan the auction, create the publicity and the auction signs and lists, recruit the workers, solicit the hand-made items and services, and set it all up: Jen Young, Astrid Firley-Eaton, and Lorna Anthony.

Through the efforts of all of us, we raised just over \$15,000 for the church!

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 four new Worship Associate positions beginning September 2015. Contact 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!

Mothers' Day Plant Sale

All plant lovers—please note we will have a plant sale Mothers' Day Weekend, May 10.

If you have too many little plants in your garden there will always be people willing to give them a new home. Please consider potting up a few for our annual sale. Seeds need to go in now if you want to provide a few transplants for our members. This will be held in conjunction with Nellie's Spring Sale.

—Val Roberts

Letter from Jennifer and Lance Young

This is a tough letter to write. Lance and I will be resigning our membership in the First Unitarian Church of Victoria effective May 21 when we move to Kelowna.

We will miss this community so much! We hope very much that the Unitarian Fellowship in Kelowna will offer us the same sense of belonging that this church has given us.

We will never forget all the support the members of this community have given Braden and Hillary. We all feel we have an extended family here and we hope to visit often.

We always felt it was a lucky day for our family when the church offered a 15 year old pianist a job. Life sends you magnificent gifts in the most surprising packages!

It feels very strange to put the good bye into words.

With love and some tears,
Lance and Jennifer Young



NOTABLE UUS

Ted Harrison (1926-2015) is one of Canada's most popular artists. His love of the land and people of the Yukon has brought him national and international acclaim. His distinctive style of painting is both colourful and sophisticated yet retains an innocent charm, and appeals to young and old alike. He has several honorary doctorates and in 1987 he was awarded the Order of Canada. In England and in the Yukon he associated with the Anglicans but in Victoria he joined the Capital Unitarian Universalist Congregation where he could often be seen for many years with this small dog under his arm.



—Christine Johnston

Community Dinner Baked Potato Night! Friday, May 8 at 6:00pm

We will be serving fluffy, hot potatoes with lots of toppings...chili, baked beans, cheese, sour cream to name just a few!

Community dinner is a multi-generational event and an opportunity to meet new people or catch up with friends over a casual, fun, delicious meal.

Everyone is welcome!! Please join us!! Dinner is by donation. Please bring a dessert to share.



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

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

Oceanna Hall 250-886-1077

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

Anne Vaasio 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 Verstegen

Board of Trustees

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Vice-President	Linda Nicholson-Brown	250-857-1860
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Outreach	vacant	
Property Management	John Tiffany	778-432-0881
Spiritual Development	John Hopewell	250-721-3920

MAY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Daphne Dunbar, Susan Layng
2 Sean van Gessel, Abby McCallum
3 Donna Greenberg
4 Susie Williams, Elaine Hepburn
5 Sherry Ewings
6 Pamela Harte
10 Elijah Marrett-Hitch
11 Roberta Clair
12 Tracy Ann Taylor, Charles Gee
13 Karen Potts
14 Grace Scarabelli
16 Louise de Lugt, Oona Hayes
17 Amalia Schelhorn, Marguerite Hobbs
18 Mertie Chilton, Samanatha Magnus
19 Emma Wilson-Pease
21 Pat Kinrade
23 Alex Andersen, Stephanie Ippen, Helen Waldie
24 Lara Bannister, Dee Heston
25 Jennifer Young, David Andersen, Terry Czyz
30 Jim Thomson
31 Elaine Dakin
- 

CHANGES

New Friends

Margot Garmen	Susanne Garmen
806-1035 Belmont Ave	25 - 2150 Haultain Street
Victoria, BC V8S 3T5	Victoria, BC V8R 2L9
778-433-4510	250-592-5195
Fairfield NG	Oak Bay NG.

(Both would like to car pool to church.)

Michael Eckford is changing from Member to Friend

Resignations

Irene Guilbault	Dorothy Cox
Brenda Pengally	Alex Van Borek

Members becoming Lifetime Members

Mertie Chilton	Howard Sturrock
Gladys Porcher	Margaret Shortliffe

Contact Changes

Amalia Schelhorn	Linda Nicholson-Brown
Phone 250-508-8855.	lnbrown7777@shaw.ca

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS - MAY 2015

Date	Time	Event	Location
5/1	7:00 - 9:00pm	Spring Concert	Sanctuary
5/3	10:30 - 11:30am	SUNDAY SERVICE	Sanctuary
	Noon - 2:00pm	Considering Membership	Common Room
5/6	12:30 - 2:30pm	Board Meeting	Common Room
5/8	6:00 - 9:00pm	Community Dinner	Sanctuary
5/10	10:30 - 11:30am	SUNDAY SERVICE	Sanctuary
	9:00am - 12:30pm	Mother's Day Re-Gifting Sale	Lion Hall
5/17	10:30 - 11:30am	SUNDAY SERVICE	Sanctuary
	7:00 - 8:30pm	Jazz Vespers	Sanctuary
5/22	7:30 - 9:30pm	Nick Fairbank Piano Recital	Sanctuary
5/24	10:30 - 11:30am	SUNDAY SERVICE	Sanctuary
5/31	10:30 - 11:30am	SUNDAY SERVICE	Sanctuary
	Noon - 2:30pm	Church Annual General Meeting	Sanctuary

PLAYING FOR PERU: Nicholas Fairbank In Recital



FRIDAY, MAY 22, 7:30 PM

First Unitarian Church of Victoria
5575 West Saanich Rd.

ADMISSION BY DONATION. Proceeds from this concert will assist in funding a residency at the Centro Selva in eastern Peru in July and August 2015. During this cultural retreat I will be focusing on music composition, the results of which will be presented during the 2015-2016 season. For details visit www.fairbankmusic.ca.

MUSIC FOR PIANO BY BACH, MOZART,
CHOPIN, GERSHWIN, JOPLIN & FAIRBANK

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

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Astrid Firley-Eaton
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colour consultation

250-394-3405
afedesign@shaw.ca



iTutor
Ryan Kinrade
250-217-4507
rkinrade@gmail.com

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- Get advice on new purchases.
- Learn to use software and popular websites.



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Postage paid at Victoria, BC
5575 West Saanich Road
Canadian Publications Mail
Sales Product Agreement No. 40010260

THE VICTORIA UNITARIAN

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

The **deadline** for submissions to
the **June** issue is **May 19**.

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

Hear Ye, Hear Ye Annual General Meeting

12:15pm, Sunday, May 31



- Election of new Board members
- Review of 2015 budget plus two additional years of budgetary planning.

The agenda will be distribut-
ed in mid-May.

ARTIST FOR MAY

Shirley Sarens has been painting and creating art for fifteen years. She works primarily in acrylic and mixed media, and also enjoys watercolour and drawing media. Her inspirations come from colourful subjects viewed from interesting and imaginative perspectives. Originally from Alberta, Shirley has lived and worked and played in beautiful Victoria BC for 25 years.

