



The Victoria Unitarian

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

SERVICES IN JULY

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

July 5 **Pride service: We Are Family**
10:00am **Dar Gareau-Levy, Penelope Hagan, Scott Sollazzo, and the musical gifts of Jedora**

In a world where those who are different are still bullied, still made to feel less than the rest, where many transgender youth still feel that committing suicide is the only option they have to escape the hurt and ridicule, we of UU faith continue to stand on the side of love and confirm the inherent worth and dignity of all. As Victoria wraps up its Pride Week festivities, please join us as we take this opportunity to celebrate the diversity of gender and sexual identity in our human family and in our community.

PLEASE NOTE: This service starts a half hour earlier than usual in order to accommodate those who wish to take part in Victoria's Pride Parade and Festival.

July 12 **A Home for Humanists**
Peter Scales

Humanism is among the largest spiritual identity groups within Unitarian-Universalism. Is our congregation a home for humanists? (Biographical Note: Peter is a long-time Unitarian, a member of Victoria's three UU congregations including this church, Capital Congregation, and the UVic Unitarian Club).

Forum: Peter will lead a moderated group discussion continuing on this topic. Come and share!
12:00-12:45, Farmhouse Common Room.

July 19 **The Way of the Mystic**
Rosemary Morrison

Drawing on our first source, direct experience of that transcending mystery and wonder, affirmed in all cultures, which moves us to a renewal of the spirit and an openness to the forces which create and uphold life. Rosemary will share with us some of the writings and teachings of mystics through the ages. What do the mystics of Islam, Judaism and Christianity have to teach us in our everyday lives? (The mystics have been a special area of study for Rosemary this past semester at Vancouver School of Theology).

July 26 **Weaving Faith and Passion**
Lisa Greenly

There is much joy in having one's passion be an open-hearted action that can bring all our principles alive. Lisa will share how her relationship with micro-finance has evolved and grown – leading to exciting discoveries of finding our principles popping up in the most interesting places!

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The deadline for submissions to the
August issue of the newsletter is **July 14**.

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.

Please note that some of the Neighbourhood Groups are less active in the summer.

Cadboro Bay: This NG gathered Sunday, June 14 in Chris and Shirley's beautiful garden, enjoying good food and drink. Sixteen were able to attend, but, sadly, the ministers were unavailable. Cadboro Bay had also hoped to welcome Marguerite and Richard before they move out of the neighbourhood in July, but Marguerite was unwell and unable to attend.

Esquimalt: Pat McMahon writes, "Eighteen people gathered at Betty Sherwood's home on Friday June 5 for a potluck dinner. The next planned event is a potluck dinner at Hopewells' home August 7".

Fairfield: July treats for coffee time will be provided this summer by Fairfield.

Far Out: We are please to welcome Phyllis Aherne as the new convenor for Far Out. Phyllis will be seeking a team approach by having someone else coordinate goodies and a second person to organize Souper Sunday.

Gordon Head: The host for their next potluck is out of town supporting family members, but Mary is still hoping the stars align for Gordon Head to gather in June.

Grand Central: Marya writes, "We had a perfect summer evening on June 13 at Christine & Tyler's house, having Rev. Shana and Athena with us as special guests. We ate delicious food and had pleasant conversations on the sun deck where robins sang for us and the children blew bubbles in the garden".

James Bay: Lynn Hunter writes, "The James Bay Neighbourhood Group is enjoying one another's company. On Tuesday, June 9 we gathered at the home of Don Armstrong and Lynn Hunter for a potluck dinner and lively conversation. There were eight of us plus two out of town guests. Our next gathering is planned as a potluck lunch at the home of Daphne Dunbar. Happy summertime."

Nearby: This group will be gathering again in the fall.

Oak Bay: Karla Thomson reports their group will have a potluck in late June at John and Jan Li Tiffany's. In the third week of June they will also have their third "trial" luncheon for more intimate conversation in a smaller gathering at the "Oaks".

Royal Oak East: Hanny Pannekoek writes, "Royal Oak East had a potluck gathering on June 3 at the home of Elaine and Allan Dakin. Some of us were missing for varied reasons: travel, health concerns, family priorities, but we did have a good turn out. We decided to revive opening with a circle, singing 'For food and friends and fellowship we give our thanks to-day,' and a closure with the traditional closing song we end with at church. Those rituals do create a feeling of being together in a special way and mark the beginning and the end of the evening. We welcomed a new friend of our group, Bekki Myers who came with her nearly two-year-old daughter Brigette and her friend Michelle. They brought some new and lively energy; it was good to have some younger people among us. June was our month to provide hospitality cake for coffee and tea time after the service. Our next gathering will be on September 8.

Royal Oak West: This group is looking for a volunteer to host a summer potluck.

Western: Mac Elrod often hosts the monthly potluck in his spacious log house with its wonderful views. Many times, he invites his neighbours to join in.

VIUC Family Camp Campership

If anyone is seeking a subsidy, please contact Christine_johnston@telus.net as two are available.

SHARE THE PLATE FOR JULY

In July we will Share the Plate with The Arthritis Society, BC & Yukon Division, to help fund their recently approved clinical trial about the value of medical marijuana in treating the pain and inflammation of this very common malady. Scientific studies already suggest its value for nausea in cancer and AIDS patients, relieving chronic pain, suppressing inflammation, and stimulating appetite. The Arthritis Society research will evaluate these and also consider the issues about who can grow it, how it can be consumed, and concerns about its use by vulnerable persons.

ARTIST OF THE MONTH

Donna Ion



“My acrylic paintings, many in large format, elicit a personal response from each observer. I try not to paint ‘scenes’, but to create a mood or memory, a vignette, that enables everyone to recall the beautiful landscapes that surround them personally. Composition is important to me, as is colour and pattern. My paintings can be seen as more than landscapes and enter into the realm of the abstract, appealing to a larger audience and, I hope, increasing their impact. I strongly believe in extending the colour palette beyond the true spectrum to achieve a higher aesthetic response.”

250-592-4204

ionrd@telus.net

donnaionart.com

GREEN CORNER

ED DANIEL

The dream of the BC Liberal government to get rich by fracking and exporting natural gas may be moving. The most advanced of 19 proposals, Pacific NorthWest LNG, owned mainly by Petronas of Malaysia, said last week it will proceed with the liquefied natural gas export project in British Columbia, subject to two key conditions: first, approval of the project development agreement by the legislative assembly of B.C., and second positive environmental assessment by the Government of Canada.

Just afterwards, Canada’s environment regulator requested further information from Petronas on plans to mitigate damage to a sensitive salmon spawning habitat in Flora Bank, adjacent to the proposed terminal site on Lelu Island. Moreover, last month the Lax Kw’alaams First Nation voted unanimously to reject \$1.14 billion in benefits over 40 years offered by the LNG consortium over concerns about the impact on Flora Bank.

“In BC, the biggest driver of climate change over the coming decades will be the province's massive new liquefied natural gas (LNG) industry, which will require up to 40,000 new fracked gas wells for just five of the 10 or more proposed LNG terminals.”¹

In northwestern BC there have been 231 tremors resulting from fracking. Nikiforuk goes on to point out that “The BC Oil and Gas Commission report found that the injection of waste fluids (more than five million cubic metres of contaminated waste water a year) into 104 disposal wells in B.C. triggered small earthquakes ranging from 1.2 to 2.9 magnitude, while the highly pressurized frack operations triggered earthquakes ranging from 1.0 to 4.4 in magnitude.” Further, “Each fracking stage uses between 700 and 3,500 cubic metres of water. About half of that water ends up in a waste stream that industry then injects into the ground, triggering more tremors. In 2012, that amounted to more than seven billion litres of water drawn from hundreds of streams, rivers, lakes, dams, municipal waterworks and aquifers. The industry will need 14 million cubic meters of water a year for the hydraulic fracturing of 900 wells.”²

Clearly, BC must reconsider its natural gas “gold rush”. Thanks to our First Nations, it may be compelled to do so.

¹ <https://www.wildernesscommittee.org/fracking>

² http://theyee.ca/News/2015/01/10/Fracking_Industry_Shakes_Up_Northern_BC/

Non-violent Conflict Resolution Skills for the Children and Youth of Bethlehem, Palestine

Imagine living in a place where bullying at many levels is rampant, suspicion and tension is widespread and violence seems to a common way of solving problems. Many in Bethlehem are unemployed and depressed, especially those living in the nearby large refugee camp. Such a boy is Mazim who not only lives in such an environment in Palestine but is also blind.

Mazim grew up angry at this fate and used to hit his two younger sibs and get into fights. He was born with glaucoma and felt no hope for the future. Luckily Mazim's family moved to an area in Bethlehem where Wi'am was the special neighbourhood community centre. He comments: "This place has empowered me, and helped me mix with other kids. I have also learned that no disability should stop me from my dream. I still remember the first week I came to Wi'am, I refused to do anything. I just took to a corner. Here I learned how to transform my anger to an assertive flower; I became independent and happy as I feel safe here. I have started to write poetry, play the kanun (a string instrument) as well as sing in a choir and play ball. I learned also many skills in peer mediation so will be a leader in the Summer Camp that Wi'am has this summer."

Wi'am is funded by Kairos, an inter-faith Canadian charity in Victoria of which our congregation has long been a member, and they make sure the money is carefully spent. A Quaker friend of ours visited last December and was impressed.

Please help to bring non-violent conflict resolution skills to this corner of the world so full of anger and fear.



Vancouver Island Unitarian Summer Camp August 21 - 23

"Live in the sunshine, swim in the sea, drink in the wild air."
~ Ralph Waldo Emerson ~

Vancouver Island Unitarian Summer Camp 2015 will be held August 21 – 23 at Easter Seals Camp on Lake Shawnigan. All are welcome for fun, fellowship, spiritual growth and adventure! Check out the web site for more information and to register <http://viuc.unitariancongregation.org/summer-camp/>

The Environmental Action Team suggests...

Watch the video "Rethinking Economics in the Age of Climate Change" – 30 minutes.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GCKCVFI3934>. This is a briefing by Stuart Scott, Deputy Director General of IESCO and founder of the United Planet Faith and Science Initiative especially in relation to the freeing of methane gas. MONEY vs CLIMATE divest!



NOTABLE UUS

Mary Ann Church of Merrickville (near Ottawa) became famous in 1838 as the first Universalist woman preacher in Canada (and possibly the first of any denomination). Universalism spread into Canada from the US in the early 19th century. Women were permitted unusual freedom to preach and take part in congregational affairs. Their members sought freedom of conscience and belief, and saw themselves as part of the liberal and progressive spirit of the age. They devoted themselves to the improvement of society and many were active in politics and social reform. They were largely rural and far outnumbered Unitarians in Upper Canada. They reached their peak in the 1860s.

Pride Film Night Thursday, July 2

As part of the Victoria Pride Week festivities, our very own **Maureen Bradley** has agreed to let us screen her film **TWO4ONE** at the church. Among other awards, this film won Best Canadian Feature at the Victoria International Film Festival in February. (You can see the trailer at www.two4onefilm.com).



Screening will be in the Lion Hall on Thursday, July 2. Doors open at 7:00pm, and the movie shows at 7:30. Admission is by donation. All proceeds will go to the Diversity Team of the SRC. Popcorn, juice, tea and coffee will be available.

Everyone is invited to the showing of this very special movie.

According to Michael Reid of the Times Colonist, this film "tackles gender identity with humour and sensitivity."

Maureen will be there to introduce the film and to answer questions!

Tell us your Story

The Generosity Team wants to hear how this congregation has impacted your life. How would your life be different if our congregation never existed? Please tell us your story in no more than 100 words by August 15th, 2015. Submissions to Bob Dobbs at bobdobbs@shaw.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

Summer Property Projects

The Building Maintenance Committee has several projects that need to be done over the summer (only time we can do them), and we're looking for volunteers to help out in any way you can, and as much as you can. A little bit from many in our community makes a significant difference.

The projects:

1. A brick walkway will be put in just by the main entrance way (by Lion Hall) during the week of July 13 - 17, replacing the uneven stones that presently are in place. Allan Dakin will be leading this work; please email Allan at adakin9@gmail.com if you can help him.
2. The edges (the lips) of the stairs leading down from the deck of Lion Hall need to be painted with yellow highlights as a safety measure. Please email Tiff at johntiffany0705@gmail.com if you are interested.
3. All of the 60 parking stalls in the paved parking lot need to be re-painted so the parking spots are more clearly marked; this is a project that needs a crew of volunteers. You do not have to paint all 60 spots, a few is just perfect. Please email Tiff at johntiffany0705@gmail.com if you are interested.

Thanks,

Tiff, Property Council Chair

Save Your Books



Please save those great books you read this summer for our **Giant Book Sale -- Saturday, September 26.**

If you cannot store your books until September, please put them with the other books in the storage space under the sanctuary.

Please do not donate textbooks, encyclopaedias, Reader's Digest Condensed books, computer books, or magazines. They don't sell, so please put them in your recycling.

First Unitarian Church of Victoria

5575 West Saanich Road • Victoria BC • V9E 2G1 • Phone: 250-744-2665
 churchoffice@victoriaunitarian.ca • www.victoriaunitarian.ca
 Office hours: Monday - Thursday 9:30am - 4:30pm • Sunday 9:00am-1:00pm

Ministers

Reverend Melora Lynngood
 Office phone: 250-744-2601
 rev.melora@victoriaunitarian.ca

• Reverend Shana Lynngood
 Office phone: 250-744-2601
 rev.shana@victoriaunitarian.ca

Minister Emerita

Reverend Jane Bramadat
 250-652-1272

Lay Chaplains

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

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JULY BIRTHDAYS

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

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 Victoria, BC V8N 3M5
 JuneFukushima.com

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

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

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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).

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A wedding, child dedication or memorial?**



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Handbell Choir

Looking ahead to
autumn, we are planning
to start a handbell choir
here at FUCV. We al-
ready have a few inter-
ested people, and would
like to hear from anyone
who would like to try
ringing handbells.

Over the summer,
we'll decide on the re-
hearsal commitment,
including day, time and
frequency. If you would
like to hear more about
ringing handbells, or if you already know you'd like to join,
please contact our accompanist, Victoria Beauchesne, either
in person, or by email (preferably by mid-July) at
murals@telus.net. Not sure it is for you? Ability to read mu-
sic is helpful, but not essential. Desire to have fun and reli-
ability are required!



BOARD MEMBERS ON DUTY



July 5	Jim Jordan
July 12	Lorna Anthony
July 17	Marion Sollazzo
July 26	Jane Wilson