



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



RESILIENCE
The Practice of Tapping into Your Inner Strength

March 6 Resilience: Tapping into Your Inner Strength
Rev. Melora Lynngood
Worship Associate: Liz Graham

Chalice Choir

We kick off the month's theme with a first look at resilience. What gets you through hard times? What are the key elements of resilience? To what extent is your inner strength boosted by a sense of outside support – whether it is being supported by particular people or held in the web of life? What spiritual practices might we boost our own resiliency reserves?

March 6 Jazz Vespers
7:00pm Creativity: Taking Risks
Rev. Shana Lynngood with the Jon Miller Quartet.

The Jon Miller Quartet continues to mine a mostly acoustic instrumental jazz vein while incorporating a host of outside influences including blues, fusion and other forms of improvised music. Covering a wide range of moods from meditative and introspective to raucous and freewheeling, this team features the impressive talents of Jon Miller on drums, James Young on bass, plus the dynamic playing of saxophonist Monik Nordine and jazz guitarist Rob Cheramy.

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS

March 13 Dragons, Mules and Honeybees: The Eco-Menagerie
Prof. Robert Gifford
Worship Associate: Larry Boldt

We all recognize the importance of improving the state of the environment, but most of us are doing less than we could. What's the problem? What's the solution?

Note

Revs. Melora and Shana will be away on spring break March 12-21

Chamber Choir

March 20 The Art of Letting Go
Rev. Meg Roberts
Worship Associate: Dan Klimke

Whether you are parents and your children are growing up, or you have come to the end of a significant relationship, we all need to learn how to let go in our lives. Sometimes it is letting go of our expectations or our assumptions. Buddhists speak of attachment and non-attachment. How do we as Unitarians let go?

Men's Choir

March 27 Easter: Miraculous Revolutionary
Rev. Shana Lynngood
Worship Associate: Susan Layng

Chalice and Bell Choirs

Join us on Easter Sunday when we look at resurrection of Jesus from a slightly different angle. Whether or not you believe that Jesus was physically, bodily resurrected after death, there can be no denying that the power of his life and ministry and message have been born again and again and again. Why is it that his life and message continue to live on? Why is Easter a holy-day so steeped in joy and possibility?

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The deadline for submissions to the April issue of the newsletter is **March 16**.

ABOUT OUR SPEAKERS

Bob Gifford (March 13)

Bob Gifford has been a member of the church for 36 years. He is a professor of psychology and environmental studies at the University of Victoria and is the author of five editions of *Environmental Psychology: Principles and Practice*. Bob's topic was the subject of a recent Al Jazeera documentary and a New Scientist article. He is still trying to become a better environmental citizen.

Meg Roberts (March 20)

Rev. Meg Roberts is in her fourth year doing quarter-time consulting ministry with Comox Valley Unitarian Fellowship. She lives in Vancouver and is a guest speaker and workshop leader in congregations around B.C. Meg also does Spirit Arts workshops: using creativity and the arts in spiritual exploration.

SELECTIONS ON RESILIENCE

FAYE MOGENSEN

The month's focus is *resiliency* - a theme that calls to mind the image of a ball bouncing back up, after it's been down. I have just returned from a wonderful time of writing and restoration, and one of the positive effects I can feel is the strengthening and honing of my resiliency. Already it seems easier to make lemonade out of the lemons that come my way. Now the challenge is to remember to go on taking time for self-care so that I can continue to rebound swiftly. The same advice goes to all of you: take time for self-care!

Here are a few highlights of the month in the children's wing - which we also hope will feel like care and nourishment for you and your families:

March 6 – Chapel – for children and youth. Anna Isaacs is the service leader; and I'll be sharing a story and a ritual for encouraging resiliency.

Mar 13 and 20 – Action and Arts Sundays. We'll consider what we might do to support the refugee sponsorship program and/or creating banners for the Earth Day walk in April.

Mar 27 – we'll explore Easter for UUs and have fun with our annual Easter egg hunt.

This month, we'll also begin collecting names of those who'd like to participate in our 25th annual Mystery Buddy program that begins in April. Participants are assigned a mystery buddy (from another generation) to whom they write letters once a week, for four weeks by "snail mail" and/or "email". If you haven't guessed your buddy's identity by May 1, he or she will be introduced to you that day, at the festive Mad Hatter Party. It's a wonderful opportunity to enjoy a new friendship!

May the blossoms of spring brighten your hearts,
Faye

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

Don't hesitate to be in touch - I'm generally in my office Tues-Thurs 9-4

Community Dinner

There will be no Community Dinner in March due to lack of staffing.

We will be back on track next month.
April 8 will be Potato Night.

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

**Practices to
Transform Ourselves
and Our World**
March's Theme



RESILIENCE
The Practice of Tapping into
Your Inner Strength

Pick a Question to Ponder

Read these 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. Actively wrestle with the question, let the process of pondering take you somewhere deeper than you were before. If you are in a Soul Matters group, come to the group ready to share about the journey you took with the question you chose.

- Think of a difficult time in your life during which you were (or had to be) resilient. What helped you get through that challenging time? What were the sources of your inner strength?
- What are the sources of your inner strength now?
- If you were to draw a picture or create a sculpture of your inner strength, what would it look like?
- We often think of inner-strength as hard, steely, a little closed off and impenetrable. But emotional and spiritual strength might require more than that. To what extent is your inner strength soft, flexible, open-hearted?
- One definition of resilience is the ability of something to return to its original shape after it has been pulled, stretched, pressed, bent, etc. Where are you in the journey of resilience? Starting to feel pulled? Already significantly bent? Stretched and worried about snapping? Slowly returning to form? Gratefully back?
- When have others supported your own resiliency? Who were they, what did they do, and what effect did it have on you?
- What do you do to support the resiliency of others (be they friends, family, or community members)?
- In what ways do you support the resiliency of our earth- our interdependent web of life? In what ways might you draw inspiration from the earth's resiliency?
- Who is your resilience hero? Who taught you the most about resilience? A person close to you or a public figure? What have you learned from them and how might/have you applied that learning to your own life?
- Is holding on getting in the way of your resilience? Many of us remember Kenny Rogers' famous line: "You got to know when to hold 'em, know when to fold 'em, know when to walk away, and when to run..." Resilience is about the ability to return. Hard to do that when you're not willing to let go of what's got you stuck.
- What does having a "resilient faith" mean to you? Does it mean finding your way back to a core belief or value? Does it mean finding a way to trust and love life again? Or does it mean being able to move on from what was? i.e. have the adaptability to grow and evolve into new forms of faith? What is life trying to teach you right now about the importance of a resilient faith?

Credit for these questions and the many of materials with which we explore each month's theme goes to the Soul Matters Program designed by Rev. Scott Taylor.

For Families of All Ages to discuss over a meal or in the car

Here are some suggested questions to help families discuss together this month's theme, "Resilience: the practice of Tapping into Your Inner Strength." You could ask one another these questions when you share a meal together. Or, if sharing a meal together is a rare occurrence, you might try using the question as something to discuss while waiting for a bus or while riding in a car (maybe with your carpool on the way to church J). Feel free to edit at will, adapting the language to suit the age level of each family member.

- There is a saying, "If at first you don't succeed, try try again." Can you think of a time when you did that?
- When you are having bad day or a hard time, what helps you get through it?
- If you were to draw a picture of your own inner-strength, what would it look like?

MINISTERS' SABBATICAL – MARCH 1 TO AUGUST 15, 2017

Revs. Melora and Shana began their ministry with us on September 1, 2010. The Letter of Agreement between the ministers and congregation states “Sabbatical Leave will accrue to each Co-Minister prorated at one (1) month per total year of service. Sabbatical Leave may be taken after four (4) but before seven (7) years of service.” By this agreement, our ministers have earned six months of sabbatical and are now in the time range in which to utilize it. It is also a condition of the sabbatical that it be planned at least a year in advance in consultation with the Board which is why we are announcing these plans so far in advance.

What is a sabbatical?

The concept of a period of rest and renewal is grounded in the concept of “sabbath”, a biblical term for the day of rest after six days of labor. Sabbaticals have long been used in academic settings and in faith-based communities to recognize that a period of renewal away from the daily responsibilities of ministerial work benefits both the minister(s) and the community. In Unitarian Universalist congregations, paid sabbaticals are frequently part of the contractual covenant between minister and congregation. These periods are intended to provide the minister(s) with time for study, rest, reflection, and renewal. For FUCV congregants, this period also provides an opportunity to experience renewal and to hear from new voices.

Sabbatical facts

- Rev. Shana and Melora will be away on sabbatical from March to June of 2017 (4 months) and then will take their usual 6 weeks of study leave and vacation (July to mid-August 2017).
- During the sabbatical, many guest ministers and area speakers will be invited to fill the pulpit.
- As the sabbatical draws closer, more information will be found on the church website and through other communications such as the E-Weekly and newsletter.
- The Committee on Ministry will serve as the Sabbatical Committee. Feel free to contact them with any questions.

How will the sabbatical affect FUCV?

This sabbatical will allow our ministers an opportunity to do some deep study, reflection, and rest and renew their energies in a way the normal work schedule does not. When Revs. Melora and Shana return we can expect:

- To benefit from their renewed energy and perspective. That they will share learnings from their sabbatical experiences in sermons, classes, and meetings.
- Experience enhanced leadership and professional skills gleaned from time away.

During the sabbatical, the congregation will have the opportunity to:

- Think about our own life rhythms and engage in our own period of reflection on where we are as a community and how we are doing in fulfilling our mission.
- Experience again, the truth of the fact that the church is not a building; the church is not the ministers; the church is the people – the community we form and the work we do together to make our mission reality. “Strengthened in spiritual growth, supported in community, energized by diversity, we strive to transform ourselves and our world through compassionate action.”
- Have even more opportunities to share our gifts. This will be a time to explore new ways to participate in the life of our congregation for those already involved, and a time for new members and friends to become more engaged—become an usher, join pastoral care, and give through other shared ministry.
- Hear more diverse ideas and encounter a variety of styles from the pulpit.

Live Stream Is Back

Thanks to an anonymous donor and the dedicated work of Cecil Bannister our Sunday services are again available to those at home. Open to members and friends, live stream requires a password to access. For the link and password please email livestream@victoriaunitarian.ca or phone the office 250-744-2665.

Child Haven Banquet

The annual CHILD HAVEN INTERNATIONAL Banquet will be held at 6:00pm on April 3 at the Ukrainian Hall on Douglas Street at a cost of \$37 per person.

Indian chicken dinner and entertainment.

Tickets available in March.

from Christine_johnston@telus.net

WINTER/SPRING JAZZ VESPERS SERIES

SPIRITED JAZZ: Enjoy jazz with a splash of spiritual inspiration by Reverend Shana.

Spirited Jazz once again brings, exceptional variety and musicians, to the rural beauty of the Unitarian Church on Saanich Road. Chase away winter with some silky jazz at the March Vespers.

Jon Miller Quartet, Theme; Taking Risks
March 6, 7:00pm
First Unitarian Church Victoria, park/
enter by main door please
By donation and greatly appreciated



The Jon Miller Quartet has been making waves on the BC jazz scene in both for its engaging live performances and for the depth and variety of its original compositions. The group's new CD "3 Days in Winter" (May, 2015) was in the top 10 for 19 weeks on the Earshot Jazz charts for programming across Canada. And it has been played on CBC Vancouver's Jazz program "Hot Air." The Quartet's CD mines a predominantly acoustic vein of instrumental jazz while incorporating influences including blues, fusion and other forms of improvised music. Covering a wide range of moods from meditative and introspective to raucous and freewheeling, the group plays primarily original material along with classic jazz repertoire by such composers as Ornette Coleman and Roland Kirk.

Listener's comments:

"A little bluesy, a little funky, just how we like it." "Great mood. Great sound quality. Well done!"

The band is led by McGill University graduate Jon Miller, on drums. Currently in Victoria, Jon lived in the U.S. and Europe in the 1990s, where he performed with many renowned artists. His quartet includes much-respected musicians in the Victoria Jazz community: guitarist Rob Cheramy, bassist James Young and saxophonist Monik Nordine.

Spirited Jazz is a collaboration between jazz musician Gary Theal and Rev. Shana Lynngood (who has been known to add her vocals to Jazz Vespers.) Spirited Jazz weaves inspirational words from the music performed.

SHARED MINISTRY

Engage & Connect

Shared ministry in our congregation is the way in which we work together to care for our congregation as well as the larger community. As Unitarians, we believe that ministry – caring for our community and our world – is not just for clergy.

Ever wonder how the magic of an event is created? Have some skills you would like to use so they do not get rusty? Want to be in service of others and your church and do it in a beautiful natural lake and mountain setting? Summer UU Camp, August 19 to 21, 2016, could use your help with a time frame and job to suit you. Contribute experience/knowledge and jobs that you know, learn a new skill, lead a project or plan an area of camp. For more information please contact June Waters june_wtrs@yahoo.ca or Mariko Matsumoto marikom2@hotmail.com



If you would like to become more engaged with our Church community, there is something for everyone. Some other connections are:

- Sunday Morning Coffee Team (contact Hugo or Hanny – hannyhugo@shaw.ca)
- Worship Associate (apply to Rev. Melora Lynngood – rev.melora@victoriaunitarian.ca)
- Building maintenance (contact Tiff – johntiffany0705@gmail.com)
- Gardening (contact Earle – earleanthony@shaw.ca)
- Spiritual Exploration and Learning for Children and Youth (SEL-CY) (contact Lesley – lesley.duthie@telus.net)
- Becoming a sponsor with Lifeline (contact Don or Clare – donaandclare@shaw.ca)

Stop for a chat at our information table on Sunday, March 13, or please contact Lorna Anthony at lranthony@shaw.ca or [250 592-4831](tel:250-592-4831).

Over the past 10 years, through 25 Healing Our World projects our congregation has helped feed kids, build schools, provide solar power, empowered widows, given local teens a safe place to gather, helped African beekeepers...the list goes on. HOW is a special outreach program since all the projects are sponsored by individual church members and supported solely through generous donations from fellow congregants and friends.

Since we have a large international refugee settlement project underway, HOW is doing things a bit differently this year. We have limited the number of proposals to two and requested that each fulfill local or regional needs. There will not be a vote on order of funding this year. Both projects will be funded equally as donations come in, except for any cheques designated for a particular project. The HOW campaign runs until June 30.

One of our two 2016 HOW projects helps a long-running half-way house in Victoria do some much needed upgrading. The other supports a winter homeless shelter run by the First Unitarian Fellowship of Nanaimo.

For more information on HOW, contact the individual proposal supporters, or the HOW team of Don and Clare Vipond, Ruth Polzer-Telford or Leslie Gillett.

Nanaimo Winter Weather Shelter

Our HOW proposal will help a fellow congregation on Vancouver Island with its outreach to those in need of shelter on cold nights in the winter months. All funds raised will go directly to keeping the existing shelter open on nights that are not classified as "extreme" by BC Housing (5 degrees with wind and rain, 3 degrees clear).

The recipient is the First Unitarian Fellowship of Nanaimo (FUFON) with 67 members and a half-time minister, Rev. Samaya Oakley, who is also the executive director of the shelter. The shelter is located on the walk-out level of the Fellowship's building.

The purpose of the Winter Weather Shelter is to provide:

- a low-barrier, harm-reduction shelter for at-risk, homeless individuals on the coldest nights of the year in Nanaimo; and

- supportive housing assistance for our guests, if needed and wanted. This assistance includes helping clients find and maintain their own housing

The shelter, now in its fifth year, has a capacity of 24 people and operates from November 1 to March 31 each year. To provide gender sensitivity, the shelter has two overnight workers on duty during the hours the shelter is open, 7:00pm through to 7:00am the following morning.

The shelter provides support services. The priority is directed at serving clients that are homeless or at imminent risk of homelessness. By offering shelter and caring in times of need the hope is to provide supportive services to allow the guests to live a life of their choosing and become contributing members of society.

For most nights between November and March, the shelter opens at 7:00pm with 24 beds, along with a hot meal at night, breakfast in the morning, washers and dryers, companionship, and great staff on hand. In addition pets can be accommodated at the site. There is also nightly storage space for our guests' belongings.

Our Victoria Unitarian congregation provides support locally in many ways; with our outreach to Nanaimo we can express our participation in the world community of UU's and the interrelationships among congregations. For more information, please contact Shirley Travis, Margot Lods and Martha McDougall.



Renovations and Restoration of Bill Mudge House by Susan Layng

As one of this year's HOW projects, I am respectfully requesting the congregation's assistance in helping to fund the renovations and restoration of Bill Mudge House, a unique half-way house in the James Bay area. The Laren Society: Journey from Inside Out is a non-profit, charitable organization working with the criminal justice system to help people make a successful transition from prison to a responsible life in the community. All money raised through this project would be directed toward building a new porch on the front of the existing heritage house. Years of wear and tear have caused the foundation to crumble. Floor boards also need to be replaced and structurally upgraded. This requires immediate attention and your contribution toward this project would be gratefully accepted.



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To promote our vision, we offer: a communal home-setting for men on conditional release; a broad spectrum of support that promotes and encourages personal growth and renewal; and, public education on the benefits of supervised community re-integration. Through these services and harm reduction strategies, we increase the well-being of people in our care and enhance public safety. We adopted the philosophy of the L'Arche movement, developing a program that is distinctive to halfway houses in BC.

Initially started in the 1970s by Father Bill Mudge, who founded the Laren House Society (now the Laren Society), we have owned the property at 138 Dallas Road since 1988 and have been successfully running a halfway house since that time.

The heritage house was built in 1907 and is in need of major updates to meet today's living standards. The men still come, however, because they know the program is so worth it for them. They have chosen Bill Mudge Residence knowing they will be living in substandard and inadequate conditions. They have had to share bedroom space with one or more strangers for up to two or more years, at a time when privacy is so important to reintegration, usually after a lengthy period of incarceration. Just so they live at the Bill Mudge Residence some men have chosen a bedroom without a window, or a porch or a pantry, rather than sharing a room. And we continually have wait lists.

We desperately need to expand on the property to properly accommodate the 11 men in residence. We are committed to providing a healthy and safe environment and to provide each man a room of their own with accessibility – which we currently cannot do – by upgrading and repairing our current home. Thank you for your interest

For further information, please contact Susan Layng at 250-370-2247 or email salwplg@telus.net



GREEN CORNER

MARION PAPE

Public Consultations on the BC Climate Leadership Plan

The UN Conference on Climate Change in Paris (“COP 21”) confirmed a growing global consensus that all the world needs to act urgently to minimize harmful climate change. In spring 2015, the B.C. government announced a new Climate Leadership Team and released a series of recommendations for government review and consideration. I suggest as a priority that you read this report: https://engage.gov.bc.ca/climateleadership/files/2015/11/CLT-recommendations-to-government_Final.pdf.

The BC Sustainable Energy Association (BCSEA) has endorsed the above recommendations. <http://www.bcsea.org/your-turn-to-speak-up-on-climate-change-third-time-lucky>.

We know that B.C. needs to put some muscle into the next iteration of a Climate Action Plan and we encourage Unitarians to weigh in with your ideas. Talk to your family and friends about why this is an important opportunity to give the government guidance about your concerns and ideas about the kind of province we want to build.

A good initial response would be to call on the government to accept the Climate Leadership Team’s Recommendations to Government of Oct. 31, 2015. Consider also these priority areas from The Pembina Institute:

1. BC’s carbon tax is a major success and should be increased by \$10 per tonne per year starting in 2018 (and using the incremental revenue to lower the PST from 7% to 6%, protect low-income households and implement measures to maintain the competitiveness of emissions-intensive, trade-exposed industry);
2. Cutting methane emissions from the natural-gas sector by 40% within five years;
3. Committing to 100% renewable energy on the electricity grid by 2025 (except where fossil fuels are required for backup);
4. Requiring new buildings to be so energy-efficient that they would be capable of meeting most of their annual energy needs with onsite renewable energy within the next 10 years (and starting in 2016 for new public buildings);
5. Requiring an increasing percentage (rising to 30% by 2030) of light-duty vehicles sold in the province to be zero-emission vehicles;
6. Reviewing the Climate Leadership Plan every five years.

To learn more, tune in to BCSEA’s and Clean Energy Canada’s upcoming Webinar on March 15 on the BC Climate Leadership Plan. <http://www.bcsea.org/climate-energy-solutions-webinars>

Similarly, Pembina Institute is offering a webinar series <http://www.pembina.org/blog/webinar-series-whats-needed-for-a-strong-bc-climate-leadership-plan>.

Thanks for engaging in this vital issue.

We Need Your Help

We Need Your Help

WHO WILL OFFER SOMETHING FOR THE AUCTION?

"I WILL," SAID THE LITTLE RED HEN.

AND SHE DID.



**We need YOUR help to offer the services
for our fun, intergenerational Auction.**

What Would You Say I WILL to?

A Special Skill?

An Adventure?

A Get-Away?



A Party?

A Tour?

A Meal?

Something Active?

Entertainment?



An Event?



Practical Help?



Something Homemade?



Something Handmade?



Something No One Would Think Of?



Something Only You Can Do?

AUCTION FEVER

FRIDAY APRIL 15

SILENT AUCTION - 6PM

LIVE AUCTION - 7PM

We Need Your Help

We Need Your Help

We Need Your Help

We Need Your Help

Please contact Pat Kinrade pkinrade@shaw.ca or Jen Young uujenyoung@gmail.com

Will you help fill a raffle basket?

We are preparing a raffle basket for the auction on April 15 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 raffle basket?

Please bring your items to the church office and put them in the container marked 'Raffle Basket'. Help us fill an amazing basket with small treasures!



NOTABLE UNITARIANS



Béla Bartók (1881–1945) was a Hungarian composer and pianist, born in what is now Romania. Considered one of the most important composers of the 20th century, he and Franz Liszt are regarded as Hungary's greatest composers.

His mother, an ethnic German, was musical and recognized his notable musical talent very early in life. By the age of four he could play 40 pieces on the piano. Later, as a composer, he was influenced by Liszt, Zoltán Kodály (who became a lifelong friend), and Richard Strauss. Bartók was also famous because of his collection and analytical study of folk music.

Though raised as a Roman Catholic, he joined the Unitarian faith in 1916. His son later became president of the Hungarian Unitarian Church.

In reaction to the Nazi takeover of Hungary, Bartók reluctantly emigrated to New York City with his wife in the 1930s. While his finances were always precarious, he had enough friends and supporters to ensure that he had sufficient money and work. He died in 1945, but had requested that his remains be exhumed and transferred back to Budapest for burial when possible. Hungary arranged a state funeral for him in 1988.

CHALICE LIGHTERS

Chalice lighters for March 20 – the Spring Equinox – will be our Elders, Helen and John Hvozdzanski,

Helen says: "We have been members of this congregation for 48 years and both of us have served on the board several times. I have been the president as well as serving on the Canadian Unitarian Council. We are now a third generation in the church. Our daughter Marion Sollazzo as well as our grandchildren, Anna and Scott Sollazzo, are active in the congregation."

Calling all Innovators

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

We have a deal for you: The Ruth Humphreys Innovations Fund and trustees are calling for proposals. The Innovations Fund will provide funding for opportunities and new ideas that add value to our congregational life.

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

- apply new and different methods to existing programs,
- scale up successful and innovative programs and services,
- 'beta-test' or experiment with new ideas,
- offer collaborative approaches to address an issue or opportunity,
- improve the delivery of current programs and services.

Al Hoffman, John Tiffany, Lynn Hunter, Lorna Anthony and Gerry Brimacombe are the trustees. Rev. Shana serves as trustee *ex officio*. You can contact any of the trustees with your questions.

Further information and funding application forms are available from <http://victoriaunitarian.ca/members/information-for-members/innovations-fund/> or the Church office. **Deadline is Thursday, March 31.**

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



We are focussing on two refugee projects: a family of six, with connections to a relative in Victoria, and a GLBT refugee, as agreed upon by the congregation. We have received all the government paperwork from the family, who have been living in a tent in a refugee camp in Turkey for three years. They do not speak or read English, so their relative in Victoria has helped enormously with translating the forms into Arabic for them and their replies into English. The forms have now been submitted to the CUC, who will send them on to the Canadian government. If all goes well, we expect the family to arrive here in three to six months. In addition, we are working with Randall Garrison, a local MP, to identify a GLBT refugee to sponsor. These persons are at great risk in the camps and are being fast-tracked by the government, so we anticipate this refugee could arrive before the family.



To prepare ourselves, we are receiving training in cultural sensitivity. We have learned we should not call the family, “our family”, (we are not their family; they have their own family), nor refer to them as refugees. We can call them “the family we are sponsoring.” We will be able to share very little personal information about an LGBT refugee, as their lives are in extreme risk. Their location must remain unknown, for their protection.

Training Opportunity: There will be a training session for people interested in the issues involved in sponsoring GLBT refugees on Sunday, March 13, after church in the Farmhouse Common Room. To register, contact Christine Johnston by March 6.

Would you be willing to offer some practical support? Each week we are publishing in the E-Weekly a list of basic items needed to outfit a home. Here are some of the things needed:

KITCHEN

Dishes: Eight large plates, small plates, and bowls (matching, please), eight cups, eight mugs; teapot

Cutlery: Eight dinner knives, forks, and spoons

Cooking pots: One large, two medium, one small; three frying pans; roasting pan; steamer

Rice cooker; toaster; coffee maker

Dishpan, draining board, tea towels, scouring pad, dish detergent, brush

Cutting Board, soup ladle, spatula, whisk, colander, sieve, cork screw, can opener, measuring spoons

Tupperware or other storage containers; canister set; salad bowl, two large mixing bowls

BATHROOM

Shower caddy (for soap or shampoo); liquid hand soap and dispenser. Hand brush.

Tooth brush holder and toothpaste. Shampoo. Toilet paper and toilet brush.

Six bath towels, six hand towels, six facecloths, (nearly) new.

Please contact Hanny Pannekoek, Betty Sherwood, or Terry Czyz to let them know what you would like to donate. They will keep track of things and discuss delivery with you.

Note: We can't guarantee reimbursement of expenses. All expenses must be pre-approved. Contact Bob Dobbs.

Please do not contact members of the Board about the Refugee Project. Contact John Worton, who is the communication link between the Refugee Steering Committee and the Board. The **Refugee Steering Committee Members** are Christine Johnston, Susan Laying, John Worton, Bob Dobbs, Kristina Stevens, Suellen Guenther, Andy Lee, Colin Nelson (for Capital UU Congregation).

Accommodation Wanted

Jim Jordan just sold his house in Sidney and is looking for accommodation starting in May for the summer months and possibly longer (May 3rd closing) until he finds a space of his own.

Jim's ideal unit may be an apartment or flat in a house or townhouse with 1- to 2 bedrooms unfurnished/furnished, a bright outlook and possibly access to a garden, either in Victoria or on the Peninsula. Jim would also consider house-sitting opportunities for longer terms or any other leads. Parking for one car required. He has no pets. Please contact Jim Jordan at [250-654-0672](tel:250-654-0672) or email: Jim.Jordan@ieec.org

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: This NG will be working with James Bay to host the Souper lunch on March 20.

Esquimalt: Pat McMahon writes, "Esquimalt had a potluck supper Friday, February 5 at Barbara Boyle's condo hospitality room, and 16 people attended." This NG will be providing treats for coffee time in March.

Far Out: Phyllis Aherne organized this NG to work with Royal Oak West on the Souper Lunch on February 21.

Gordon Head: The coffee time goodies were prepared by the Gordon Head NG in February. In addition, Mary Cramer sends this good news about another Mary in their NG, "After being in the hospital a couple times in the fall, once for a couple weeks, Mary Canty is back at her post as a frequent greeter for us on Sunday mornings. In mid-February, feeling well enough to throw a party, she and her grandson had an un-birthday party, to celebrate their birthdays that they had been unable to celebrate in October.

Grand Central: Marya Nijland writes, "The invitation is out to the group for the 'Fun, Games and Tea' on Sunday February 28 at our home on Vista Heights. We are hoping for a good crowd to welcome the new members in our big UU Neighbourhood Group. One of our very new families is expecting a new baby boy at the end of this month (how exciting is that?)"

James Bay: This NG has been busy. Lynn Hunter reports, "A very lively evening and potluck dinner was held on February 2nd at the home of Don Armstrong and Lynn Hunter for the James Bay Neighbourhood Group. There were twelve of us there. A number of new arrivals attended which added to the fun: Carol F., David Vanstoke, Vivien Davies and Victoria Gray as well as Carol and David Smith. There was a lot of conversation about the refugees and the arrangements to welcome them. We also agreed to plan a progressive dinner to offer at the auction. It was an evening of good food and fellowship. We are looking forward to the next gathering (yet to be determined) as well as contributing to Souper Sunday in March."

Nearby: Nancy Dobbs writes, "Nearby will be providing after church goodies in April. We hope to get together in May when the weather allows for an outdoor potluck."

Oak Bay: Karla Thomson shares this news, "The Oak Bay group had a very happy and successful pot luck on the 6th. The dinner theme was 'pulses' which was interesting, challenging and tasty. Our theme of 'gratitude after difficult times' made for an interesting discussion time after dinner. We invited the Oak Bay members from Capital UU Congregation to join us. There are just a few who live in our neighbourhood and unfortunately none were able to join us. We hope some may be able to join our February lunch. Our monthly lunch at The Oaks is coming up on the 17th at 1:00pm."

Royal Oak East: Hanny Pannekoek reports that their next gathering will be on Tuesday, March 1.

Royal Oak West: Fran Hancock has been organizing this group to host the Souper on February 21. Thinking ahead, she writes, "I would like to thank all the generous members of ROW and FAR OUT who contributed to the hosting of the Souper Sunday on February 21. It's always a pleasure to work with others in support of a church fundraiser. Lesley Duthie and Kent Haden have kindly offered to host the ROW potluck on Saturday April 2 at 5:00pm. They have a child friendly home, so people of all ages are welcome. This will be an opportunity for newcomers such as Erin Lumley, Trish Irish and Tom Burton to meet us for the first time at a NG potluck. Please let me know if you know of anyone else in our neighbourhood who is new to the church whom we may invite."

Western: Mac Elrod describes their potluck on February 13, "A few of us had a cozy time at Stu and Emily's, with their eclectic mixture of comfortable antique chairs, lovely sunken garden, and beautifully set table. We enjoyed good food, and were entertained by Terry's playful dog, Dan, and the most attractive sounding chiming clock I have ever heard." Western will meet at Mac's on March 19.

**Do you have a friend in need ... of a ceremony?
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March 6	Jim Jordan
March 13	Suzanne Beauchamp
March 20	John Worton
March 27	Lorna Anthony

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 James Bay NG

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 29 - 1132 Johnson Street
 Victoria, BC V8V 3N8
 778-265-0178
 Grand Central NG

Paula Steele
 206 - 831 Dunsmuir Road
 Victoria, BC V9A 5B9
 Grand Central NG

Cedar Thokme with Kunje and Cavina
 3224 Harriet Road
 Victoria, BC V8Z 3S2
 778-977-7103
 Resides in Esquimalt NG, but knows Grand Central better.

New Email

Leslie Duthie
 lcduthie2016@gmail.com

New Friend

Shelagh McCormick
 770 Ardmore Drive
 North Saanich, BC V8L 5G2
 250-655-8828
csjames@telus.net
 Far Out NG



Event Highlights

Date	Time	Event	Location
3/6	10:30-11:30am	SUNDAYSERVICE	Sanctuary
	7:00-9:00pm	Jazz Vespers	Sanctuary
3/13	DAYLIGHT SAVINGS begins today		
	10:30-11:30am	SUNDAY SERVICE	Sanctuary
3/14	Spring Break for schools starting (2 weeks)		
3/15	6:00-8:00pm	TuesdayPotluck Dinners	Offsite
3/20	10:30-11:30am	SUNDAY SERVICE	Sanctuary
	Noon-1:00pm	SouperSundaySanctuary	
3/27	10:30-11:30am	SUNDAY SERVICE	Sanctuary
3/28	EASTER MONDAY (office closed)		
	Last day of Spring Break for schools		



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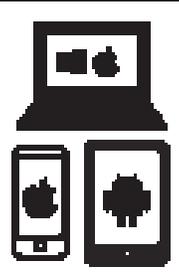
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newsletter@victoriaunitarian.ca.

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) and Karen Uldall-Ekman (production,
distribution and paid advertisements).



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- 1 John Tiffany
- 3 Wally du Temple, Eleanor Lloyd, Todd Webber
- 5 John Hopewell
- 6 Caroline Startin
- 9 Fiona O'Dell
- 12 Emerald Pringle
- 14 Isabel Jones
- 15 Sandra Jacobsen
- 16 Victoria Gray
- 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

