



The Victoria Unitarian

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

SERVICES IN APRIL

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

Practices to transform
ourselves and our world

APRIL'S THEME



THE PRACTICE
OF PLAYING

WITH POSSIBILITIES

April 3 **Imagination as a Spiritual and Theological Tool**
Rev. Melora Lynngood
Worship Associate: Jane Wilson

Chamber
Choir

We begin our exploration of this month's theme with a look at the theological and spiritual uses of imagination. From Rev. Melora's 'metaphorical theology' to guided meditations, we'll look at ways to use imagination to access that sense of connection to something larger than ourselves that holds us all, whether we call that something the web of life, human community, power of love, spirit of life, or something else entirely.

Stay after the service for a fun and interactive NAME-storming shop. 12:15--2:15pm. Everyone is welcome. See page 8 for details.

April 10 **Re-Imagining Mission**
Sister Marie Zarowny (See 'About Our Speaker' on page 2).
Worship Associate: Liz Graham

Chalice
Choir

The Sisters of St. Ann have served the people of Victoria and the Pacific North West since 1858 providing health care, education and spiritual accompaniment to thousands. Just as individuals age, so do organizations. Sister Marie Zarowny is charged with bringing to completion the work of her order in such a way that it honours and continues to promote its mission and spiritual foundation. Doing something never done before calls forth imagination, creativity and risk.

April 17 **Seeds of Life**
Rev. Shana Lynngood and EAT Team (Environmental Action Team)
Worship Associate: Larry Boldt

Women's
Choir

This Earth Day we will explore the concept of food security. Why does getting local food matter, and how can we grow more of our own? How do environmental issues and access to food impact some of the greatest challenges facing our species? We will examine these issues and try to find the sliver linings of possibility amidst grave environmental concerns.

April 24 **The Art of Imagination**
Rev. Shana Lynngood
Worship Associate: Penelope Hagan

Chalice
Choir

How does visual art open new avenues for our imagination? This morning I will utilize my love of art history to engage the ways in which art has changed my view of life and the world around me. With images on screen and music from the choir, we'll ponder how the arts can serve as inspiration to new imaginative heights.

April 24 **Jazz Vespers**
7:00pm *Spirituality in Jazz*

Rev. Shana Lynngood and the The Tom Vickery Quartet featuring Bruce Hurn on Flugelhorn will explore the theme of spirituality in jazz. Join Rev. Shana, local jazz piano legend Tom Vickery, bassist Rob Johnson, and drummer Kelly McNair along with the extra treat of the flugelhorn. We will explore the long sensed connection between jazz and spirituality. Please join us for the music, the words of reflection, and some time of silence.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE...

SElections on Imagination.....	2
About Our Speaker.....	2
From Your Minister.....	3
Shared Ministry.....	4
Chalice Lighter of the Month.....	6
Music Notes.....	7
SRC Action of the Month.....	10
Green Corner.....	10
The Refugee Report.....	12
Artist of the Month.....	13
New Members.....	13
Around the Neighbourhood.....	14
Notable UUs.....	15
Events Calendar.....	23

Auction Fever 2016

Auction poster.....	16
Schedule.....	17
Master list for live auction.....	17
Master list for silent auction.....	19
Absentee Bid form.....	21

The deadline for submissions to the
May issue of the newsletter is **April 12.**

SELECTIONS ON IMAGINATION

FAYE MOGENSEN

Imagination is often said to be the realm of children, and is one of the many reasons I love having the opportunity to work with them. Their open and inquisitive minds help me experience more of the beauty and surprise this world has to offer. *If these words inspire you - please be in touch! We can well imagine how wonderful it would be to have more folks on our roster of leaders, whether it be for occasional or regular visits.*

Here are a few highlights of the month in the children's wing, which we hope will provide good opportunities for children, youth and their leaders to soar to new heights of imagination.

- April 3 - Chalice Chapel – for children and youth. I'll be sharing a story and the "Chapel Team" have hands-on activities to celebrate imagination. The Gr. 4-6 OWL program also begins - in the Sunflower Room. *Note that Wee Care will be upstairs in the Dragonfly Room until June.*
- April 8 - Gr.4-6 OWL session and concurrent parent gathering follow Community Dinner.
- April 10 - Regular programming day for children. Soul Round for Youth.
- April 15 - Youth have volunteered to serve popcorn at our annual Services Auction. Any children who wish to be involved in drawing portraits, please be in touch with me so I can connect you with Nadia Cantera (who is kindly coordinating). I encourage all families to join the community building and fun at the auction.
- April 17 - Earth Day Service - placards that children made in March will be on display - and we'll have a special "blessing of the seeds and seedlings" ceremony before children head to the garden to plant some.
- April 22 - Youth Movie Night - here at the church.
- April 24 - Children's choir is singing in the service and special guest JB Williams from the Tsawout Nation will present the story in the sanctuary. After that, he will share some Coast Salish spirituality with Junior Youth and Youth.

Albert Einstein said, "Imagination is more important than knowledge." May we all have good opportunity to hone ours this month!

Warmly, Faye

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

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

ABOUT OUR SPEAKER (APRIL 10)

Sister Marie Zarowny is a Sister of Saint Ann currently serving as Province Leader of the Congregation's Western Canada region. She has served as a teacher and school administrator in the past and has worked in social justice for nearly 40 years. Since her earliest days of social activism, she has been committed to fostering a spirituality that will sustain and deepen, from a faith perspective, the commitment of people engaged in social change. She has worked in solidarity with First Nations on Vancouver Island and the Northwest Territories to have aboriginal rights, including right to self-government and land use recognized; to negotiate a just, compassionate, and timely resolution to the injustice of residential schools; and to support community initiatives for healing and reconciliation. As part of her duties, she is overseeing the completion of the active service of the Sisters of Saint Ann in the Western Canadian Region.

Practices to transform
ourselves and our world

APRIL'S THEME



IMAGINATION

THE PRACTICE
OF PLAYING
WITH POSSIBILITIES

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.

- **Imagine yourself as your “best” self** – not a *perfect* self, but **the self you enjoy being**. The self that emerges when you are relaxed and content, open and caring. What is that self like? What would happen if you started each day by bringing that vision of yourself to mind?
- In what ways do you use imagination to deepen your **sense of connection to a larger whole** – whether it is the web of life, human community, the spirit of life and love, god/goddess/spirit, etc.? How do you / how might you incorporate imagination into your **spiritual practices** (walking in nature, guided meditations, prayer, etc)?
- In what ways has **imagination and art** (music, painting, sculpture, dance, etc) enriched your life? In what ways has imagination and art deepened your spirituality or your sense of connection to a larger whole (human history, web of life, spirit of love, etc)? If you were to do something related to art this month that might stir your imagination, what would it be? (Why not go ahead and do it? or something like it?)
- **Does imagination need to come to your rescue?** Are you listening to all the reasons why “it” can’t be done? The famous inventor Thomas Edison used to say his deafness was his greatest blessing. A blessing because it saved him from having to listen to reasons why things couldn’t be done. Do you need to do a little less listening to the “cannots” in your life? (see Shel Silverstein poem on the ‘families of all ages’ page)
- **Is your imagination kind or cruel to others?** Where does your imagination lean when interpreting other’s behavior? Are you good at assuming good intentions? Or have you convinced yourself it is safer to imagine and prepare for the worst? Check out the quote by Beatrice Bruteau below and think about which part of it describes you.

“Our problems with unhappiness are rooted in the imagination.... For instance, we can interpret someone's accidental sharp tone of voice as an unfriendly reaction to ourselves, begin to give that person life in our imagination as someone who doesn't like us, therefore be on the lookout for subsequent evidence of hostility, be ready to interpret everything that happens in that light, and of course ourselves show distrust and unfriendliness in turn, which naturally have their effect on the other person; and so by building this thing up in our imagination we can develop a whole atmosphere and relationship of hostility that may be completely false and unnecessary because it all began from something quite accidental. Similarly, by persistently thinking well of persons, looking for good traits in them, imagining them as pleasant and agreeable, well-disposed toward ourselves, we will enable ourselves to behave in a naturally friendly way to them and elicit friendly responses.”

--Beatrice Bruteau, from *Radical Optimism: Rooting Ourselves in Reality*

- **Is your imagination kind or cruel to you?** As you interpret your current circumstances or imagine your future, do you blame yourself for your situation and/or convince yourself that desired futures are out of reach? Or does your imagination help you see the wider context and open horizons?
- **Are you giving your imagination enough “noodling time”?** Author, Brenda Veland writes, “So you see, imagination needs noodling — long, inefficient, happy idling, dawdling, and puttering.” Might Veland be onto something?

Credit for some of 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, "Imagination: the Practice of Playing with Possibilities." 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.

- If you were to imagine a god/goddess/spirit that you would want to talk to (or hang out with) every day, what would that being/spirit be like? (Visible, invisible? Big, small? What kind of personality would it have (or would it be less like a person and more like something else)? What would you do together? How would you communicate? What would you say, what would it say? How would being with it make you feel?)
- Choose a stranger you see (or have seen) and tell a story about that person – what is their life like, what are they thinking right now, how are they feeling right now?
- When someone you care about is having a hard time, can you imagine what it might feel like to be them? Does it help you be kind to them?
- Imagine yourself 20 or 30 years from now—imagine a life you think you would enjoy. What would your life be like? Where would you be living? What would you be spending your time doing? With whom would you live, work, hang out?

Listen to the mustn'ts, child.
Listen to the don'ts.
listen to the shouldn'ts,
the impossibles,
THE WON'TS.
Listen to the never haves,
then listen close to me...
Anything can happen, child.
ANYTHING CAN BE.
-Shel Silverstein

SHARED MINISTRY

Engage and 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 ministrycaring 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 - 21, 2016, could use your help and have a time frame and job to suit you. Contribute experience/knowledge and jobs 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)

Audio-visual tasks (contact Farrell – fmboyce@shaw.ca)

Path to Membership



*Are you new to our church?
Have you just discovered our church or are you a Unitarian from elsewhere?
Would you like to know more?*

We know it can be daunting to get to know people when everyone seems to already know everyone. And we know it can be hard to get to know us in the coffee hour. So, if you **would** like to get to know us better, we hope the steps below will help.

STEP ONE: Drop by the Visitors' Table near the front of the sanctuary. Ask questions. Fill out a Visitor Welcome form on which you can indicate if you would like to receive the monthly newsletter, weekly electronic mini-newsletter, be connected to your Neighbourhood Group, or have your own name tag.

STEP TWO: Church Orientation. A gathering for all newcomers, whether you have just walked through the door or been coming for several months and want to know more about us, whether you eventually become a member, or choose to be a friend of the church. The Orientation provides basic information about our congregation and ways to make connections. We share a light lunch, and childminding will be provided on request. **The next Orientation will be on Sunday, April 17, 12noon – 1:00pm.**

STEP THREE: Considering Membership session. This will help you determine whether you would like to officially become a member of our church. Whether you join right away, not yet, or not at all, the session will be informative and enjoyable, as we will be talking about things that matter in a small group setting with warm and interesting people. Lunch will be available and childminding will be provided on request. **The next Considering Membership will be on Sunday, May 1, 12noon – 2:00pm.**

STEP FOUR: Application for Membership. Fill out the application found in the membership packet. Submit the application and a financial pledge or contribution to the church office. After the Board approves your application, you become a member. Voting privileges commence 60 days after Board approval and you will be recognized at the next New Member Ceremony.

To sign up for the **Orientation** or **Considering Membership** sessions, or if you have questions, please contact Rev. Melora at rev.melora@victoriaunitarian.ca or on her cell at (250) 891-6330. Both these sessions will be held after the church service, in the building just to the north of the Sanctuary building, in the Farmhouse Common Room.

Another event to watch for: Periodically Rev. Melora offers a two-part event called **Introduction to Unitarian Universalism** which is designed to give more in-depth information about UUism. Whether you are not yet a member, a new member or have been a member for a long time, if you wish to know more about our denomination, this is for you.

We are so glad you have found us and we are looking forward to getting to know you.

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

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

CHALICE LIGHTER OF THE MONTH

Gita John-Iyam

“I grew up in a Christian family in India – my father was a minister in the protestant church and founding member of the Church of South India. He was also a Gandhian who had been part of the freedom movement. His was a big and beautiful religion, that held all life sacred and all his time was spent in serving those in need. He was often called a ‘Karma Yogi’ – one whose work was his worship.

“I felt drawn to Hinduism as I studied Indian dance and yoga. I struggled with the caste system, the language of the scriptures and the status of women. My father, told me “angel, question everything, except for the fact that you are connected to the divine.” Those words from someone I loved and trusted set me free.

“I moved to Toronto. One day, in 1990, I read these words outside the First Unitarian Universalist Church of Toronto, “Expand your heart. Energize your mind and, Engage your hands”. I went to the church service that Sunday, though I had never heard of UUs before. Afterwards there was the community gathering to talk about the sermon—and so we sat in a big circle to discuss the topic of death. Every single member who had come, about 30, had a different idea about death and life after, and I felt completely at home!! I met Zak, my husband, about 26 years ago, another spiritual wanderer who, like me, was questioning his own ‘western’ culture

“What continues to draw me are the principles. We have action principles; not all talk. I like the fact that we can reassess our principles once in a while, that they are not written in stone. I love that we have a loose leaf binder—as Jane used to put it—with wisdom from all ages and all time; and that we all don’t have to all ‘think alike to love alike’. That we as a community try to live our principles—like my father had done. Most of all that we are free to search for truth and meaning, without fear or guilt and with the complete support of the community!

“I need community and I have held on to this one like a security blanket. When we came back to Canada for the second time, to Victoria this time with three children, Dean, Meghi and Lini, I looked up the Unitarian Universalist church even before I looked up schools. I need a space of realness—different from the mainstream culture that I find toxic. Members of this community have gone out of their way to make my family feel welcome. Pat and Mary, Roger and Pauline, Marya and Philip, Stephen Lentz, John Waters—supported us when we first got here. They drove my family to church for years till I learned to drive.

“I work with children both in my career and at church. I have tried so many other things. I trained to be a Lay Chaplin, but I could not finish, as a job got in the way. But every time I choose to work with children the universe makes things really easy for me. I find that while working with children I am my best and happiest self.”

From Don Vipond:

“As the administrator of the Lifeline List Project, I have cooperated with Gita in her role as Settlement Worker In Schools for the Inter-Cultural Association of Greater Victoria. This church has helped several families that way, thanks to Gita. The work she does is so vital it can hardly be overstated, helping young people from distant lands get comfortable in our schools, where they can find and build their place as eager Canadians. I have also been able to watch her occasionally among our own young people at church where she is a firm advocate for hearing and respecting each other. She is a beautiful person, a treasure. She inspires me.”

From Barb Nyland:

“Some years ago I was privileged to assist Gita with her Religious Education class of older children. She immediately captivated them all with her warmth and because of her enthusiasm and energy she was able to hold their undivided attention from beginning to end. Later on she brought these same qualities to her job of orchestrating the Christmas Day Potluck which she has managed for several years—and I hope she continues on for many more in this vital service to our Church!

From Marya Nijland:

I have known Gita for many years and I treasure her friendship, her wisdom, her insight-fullness and zest for life. I always love to see her with her children in tow. At a recent multi-faith event she and her family managed the table with such warmth, creativity and knowledge about our UU Faith. She never fails to impress me whatever she does



Upcoming concerts

There are two concerts coming up this spring hosted by the FUCV Music Committee and the Chalice Choir. We hope to see you here.

**Art Songs for Spring
Friday, April 1, 7:00pm**

I am very excited to be working again with the wonderful Montreal-based soprano Kerry-Anne Kutz. Recognized for her vocal abilities, excellent intonation, professional attitude and her dynamic stage presence, Kerry-Anne has sung in concert halls in every province and territory of Canada and throughout the United States. On the international scene Kerry-Anne has charmed audiences at Expo '88 in Brisbane, Australia and at events in England, India, Singapore, Italy and Mexico.

She delights listeners with her love of diverse styles of music and sings with ease in French, German, Italian, Spanish, Yiddish and Hebrew. Through the genuine warmth and generosity of spirit, Kerry-Anne Kutz reaches out to every person who has the privilege to share in her concerts. Please mark April 1 in your calendar and plan to be with us!



**Spring Concert
Friday, May 6, 7:00pm**

May 6 is the date of the annual Spring Concert featuring First Unitarian choirs and ensembles in a performance of joyful and uplifting music. Admission by donation. Further details will be published closer to the event.

Both concerts will be held in the First Unitarian Church sanctuary. Admission to both will be by donation and the revenues from both will go towards supporting the FUCV music program.

Put Lotta on a Bank Note

The Bank of Canada, in an initiative announced by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau on International Women's Day 2016, will put an iconic woman on a Canadian bank note. They are asking for nominations from Canadians.

The Canadian Unitarian Council, together with USC Canada, think that Dr. Lotta Hitschmanova's influence has been instrumental on how Canadians have become a caring community, and that she deserves her place on a Canadian bank note. Lotta came to Canada as a refugee during World War II and founded the Unitarian Service Committee (USC) Canada in 1945. She worked in Africa, Asia, Europe and other conflict-ridden regions to bring help, relief and hope to those who needed it most.



To nominate Lotta, head over to the Bank of Canada website (<http://www.bankofcanada.ca/banknoteable/>) and fill out the nomination form. David Rain, recently of USC Canada, has put together this highlight for you to use or adapt:

"Lotta Hitschmanova, a refugee, was one of our most influential and recognizable women for four decades. She made Canada a more caring society, received many awards on four continents, and the Canadian Museum of History included her as one of our 'founders'".

or

"She was Canada's Mother Teresa, our 20th century 'saint', and with her unique uniform, she would proudly grace one of Canada's banknotes and be recognized instantly for helping build Canada into a caring and compassionate society".

Please share widely! Thank you.

**Note:
Nominations
need to be in
by April 15**

Vyda Ng
Executive Director
Canadian Unitarian Council

NEW NAME FOR CHURCH?

At this year's Annual General Meeting on May 15 a new name for the congregation will be presented for a vote. Changing the name of our church requires a 75% vote in favour. We will only put this change to the vote if the congregation reaches a clear consensus during the April workshop and focus groups.

Your input is needed during this process whether you want to keep our current name, tweak it gently, or consider a more radical change. Please attend one or more of the events listed below:

Name-Storming Workshop

Sunday, April 3

12:15 - 2:15pm

Lion Hall

April is the month of Imagination and Playing with Possibilities. We invite the whole congregation to this fun interactive gathering in which we brainstorm and play with images and words that might convey our congregation's identity to others. Whether they are serious, practical, creative or innovative, we want all of your ideas. Sandwiches and snacks will be provided.

Focus Groups will provide the opportunity to discuss potential names generated by the Name-Storming Workshop:

Tuesday, April 12

7:00 - 8:30pm

117-2345 Cedar Hill Cross Road (Cadboro Bay area)

RSVP to Lorna Anthony at 250-592-4831 or lrnathony@shaw.ca

Sunday, April 17 (NB. This is a Souper Sunday).

12:30 - 2:00pm

Fireside Room

Thursday, April 21

1:00 - 2:30pm

4327 Ridgewood Crescent (Royal Oak West)

RSVP to Isabelle Grenon at 250-857-0445 or igrenon@hotmail.com

Sunday, April 24

12noon - 1:30pm

Farm House Common Room

NB Sandwiches and snacks will be provided.

For more information on the implications of our church name and the history of Unitarianism in Canada, please refer to Reverend Melora's sermons:

<http://victoriaunitarian.ca/who-do-you-say-we-are/>

<http://victoriaunitarian.ca/are-we-unitarian-universalist/>

ID Team:

Isabelle Grenon, Susan Bowers, Lorna Anthony (Vice President), Reverend Melora

Annual Banquet **CHILD HAVEN INTERNATIONAL**

Saturday April 2, 6:00pm
Ukrainian Hall on Douglas Street

\$35 per person for a genuine Indian dinner
including butter chicken and vegetarian dishes

Entertainment and good company.

For tickets, contact Christine_johnston@telus.net; Marya Niland, Katherine Jones, Hanny Suttmoller or Fran Pardee.

Volunteers to help set up and clean up are eagerly welcomed.

Wondering about Co-housing? **Save the date!**

The Victoria Co-housing Group envisions intentional community that is diverse, walkable and bikeable, close to services in the Dockside Green area.

Sunday April 10, 2:00 to 4:00pm
Ca Va Bistro, 1296 Gladstone Avenue
directly across from The Belfry Theatre

Come hear about opportunities, bring your questions and interest. For further information, and RSVP: Pat Kinrade
pkinrade@shaw.ca; 250 361-4336

Child Haven International Fundraiser Dinner

Let us get together to enjoy a multicourse vegetarian Indian gourmet meal.

Date: Saturday, April 2nd, 2016

Where: Ukrainian Centre
3277 Douglas Street - Victoria
(between Mayfair Mall & Uptown)

Time: 6:00pm Doors open
6:30pm Supper

Tickets: \$35/ticket (Cash or cheque only)

To purchase ticket(s), please contact Christine Johnston at 250-385-5444, or Mandy at 250-881-1982, ext. 2100, or visit www.childhaven.bpt.me

The net proceeds will be donated to
Child Haven International.
www.childhaven.ca



Joining the Food Revolution

Today the majority of the world's food comes from just 20 crops, in just eight plant families. Forty percent of all greenhouse gas emissions responsible for climate change come from the use of fossil fuels in the industrial globalized system of agriculture. To transition towards a sustainable future agriculture needs to be based on small-scale regional food production, as in the past. We need to support agricultural progress that leads to genetically-diverse agricultural ecosystems, healthier soils and ultimately healthier people and communities.

*Carolyn Herriot is author of **The Zero Mile Diet, A Year Round Guide to Growing Organic Food** (Harbour Publishing).*

On this island we need to build a 'genetic pool' of food seeds on which plant breeders can draw to build resistance to the effects of climate change. The best way of maintaining a vibrant seed bank is to ensure that farmers and gardeners are planting heritage varieties of plants that are now so endangered. That's why IncrEdibles! are so valuable, because they are open-pollinated food plants you can save seeds from for future harvests, just as our ancestors have done for the past 10,000 years.

www.incredibles.vision

On Vancouver Island we are blessed with a mild temperate climate, fertile valleys up and down the island that lie fallow, and a potential work force of young farmers and growers who want to rebuild the local agricultural sector in rural and urban environments and who need our help.

Action Needed:

Do your bit to combat climate change by either growing more food in your backyard or supporting farmers markets and outlets that sell or serve local food. In this part of the world the weather is warming up making food production easier so that we can aspire to returning to the days, not so long ago, when we produced 85% of the food we consumed on this island, rather than the importation of 81% of our fruits and vegetables and nuts today. Bringing our food back home safeguards future food security and shields us from food inflation costs at the same time.

I invite you to join me at the event **Get Ready Get Local** on **Sunday April 17, 11:00-3:00pm** at the Victoria Conference Centre. <http://www.getreadygetlocal.com>. My workshop runs from **1:45-2:30pm**. IncrEdibles! will be available for sale.

'Growing a Kitchen Garden - from balcony pots to backyards'. This workshop engages home gardeners, townhouse patio and condo dwellers who want to grow more food by vertical gardening, lasagna gardening or adding ornamental planters filled with food.

GREEN CORNER

LOUISE COLE

Celebrate Earth Month

April is Earth Month and this year the Environmental Action Team (EAT) is encouraging people to grow gardens and save seeds as a way to honour Gaia. Growing edible plants and following non-toxic gardening practices contributes to our food security, both individually, locally and beyond. Food prices are soaring thanks to weather changes and freak storms and growing our own food not only saves money but food tastes better and contributes to the earth's sustainability.

EAT has started the ball rolling with a small pilot project called Buddy Gardens. The idea is to match gardens with would-be gardeners. We now have five Buddy Gardens between our congregation and Capitol with one open garden awaiting a gardener in Esquimalt..

We will work with gardeners in garden design and advise on soil development as well as other aspects such as what to plant and when. EAT also encourages collecting and saving seeds which most gardeners do naturally. Our overall goal is to build capacity to grow our own food with minimum impact on the environment.

Our focus beginning this month is the development of local gardens and growing food. Our Share the Plate recipient, USC-Canada, works in the international community to do the same thing. Their Seeds of Survival Program promotes family farms, strong rural communities and healthy ecosystems around the world. Activities build food and livelihood security for small-scale farmers and seeks to preserve the agriculture biodiversity to feed a growing and changing planet.

USC-Canada builds on local knowledge and collaborates with farmers, scientists, government and local NGOs. They employ locals to implement their programs and have projects in 11 global countries. In 2013, they partnered with Seeds of Diversity Canada to bring Seeds of Survival to Canada through the Bauta Family Initiative. First Unitarian has been a friend and supporter of USC-Canada for many years as its origin was in the Unitarian Church. USC-Canada is about Sustaining Life, Securing Livelihoods and Saving Seeds.



Art Songs for Spring



Kerry-Anne Kutz
acclaimed Montreal soprano
in concert

with Nicholas Fairbank, piano
and the First Unitarian Chamber Choir



*Choral and vocal works by Gerald Finzi,
Canadian composers Denis Bédard, David McIntyre,
Nicholas Fairbank, Kerry-Anne Kutz and others*

Friday, April 1, 2016, 7:00pm
First Unitarian Church of Victoria
5575 West Saanich Road
ample parking • accessible for the disabled

**Admission by donation
to support music programmes at the First Unitarian Church**

Work continues behind the scenes while we wait to hear more about the progress of our application to sponsor the Syrian family of six. Our application was completed very carefully by several on the Refugee Committee, with Syrian translation help for the family's information by Ali Hamado, and then minutely scrutinized by Kristina Stevens. April Hope in the CUC office pronounced it perfect and sent it directly on to the Canadian Government office in Winnipeg. Now we are waiting to hear that it has gone on to Turkey, but we are advised Turkey is being very slow to process applications.



Twenty-five people attended a cultural sensitivity training session specific to GLBT refugees and we are waiting for a response from the Canadian government with a list of names of these at-risk refugees. We have learned gay refugees are often kept in jails in the refugee camps for their own protection.

By the time you read this, many of us will have heard Ali Amado talk to us on March 20 about the family we are sponsoring, cultural sensitivity to Syrian customs, and have heard a question and answer session with Ali.

We would like to send a heart-felt **THANK YOU** to everyone who has donated money or household items for the refugees. Hanny and Betty are doing a careful inventory of the items on hand and suggest we have enough items for the family now. However, we will put out want-lists for the GLBT refugees, when we know what is needed. We have also had a plea from Ali, who is working with 160 government-sponsored refugees already in Victoria. He tells us most of these refugees are mentally disturbed, have many concerns, and are in panic mode. **He is appealing for furniture, kitchen items, and clothing.** If you still have items or know of someone who has items to donate, please contact Ali directly at alihamado@yahoo.com. These refugees are expected to live on BC welfare rates, so you know they will be very poor.

Legacy Circle

Those members who have named the church in their will automatically join the Legacy Circle and their names ("or anonymous") will ultimately be placed on the plaque in the hallway between the sanctuary and the Lion Hall. Legacy Circle members are cordially invited to attend a Legacy Celebration on Wednesday, April 13, from 2:00pm to 4:00pm at the home of Frances and Peter Hancock.

Transportation can be arranged if needed. If you have not received an invitation and have made a bequest, you are welcome to attend. Please RSVP to Frances at 250-477-1310.

Thank you."

From Donna Greenberg

"I have taken care of my pets, why wouldn't I take care of my church?"



The REFUGEE AND MIDDLE EAST TEAM of the Social Responsibility Coalition encourages you to attend the following presentation and support Independent Jewish Voices.

UNCOVERING 'CANADA PARK': A Dispossessed Palestinian Speaks Out

Heider Abu Ghosh lives in Ramallah, Palestine, has a Master's degree in Public Health and works for The Palestinian Medical Relief Society. He is on a lecture tour because he has a tragic story to tell Canadians. In 1967 he was expelled from his hometown of Imwas by the Israelis. It was subsequently demolished along with two other villages and covered over by 'Canada Park'. Heider wants to uncover this crime and to suggest a path towards peace and justice.

His tour is sponsored by Independent Jewish Voices and Canadian Union of Postal Workers.

When: April 7 at 7:00pm

**Where: University of Victoria, Room A-120,
David Turpin Building.**

There is no admission fee, but donations would be welcomed.

NEW MEMBERS

Sarah Kendall

“I found myself, through a series of synchronistic circumstances, at the Unitarian Church about three years ago, the very place that my father had joined himself fifty years ago in Vancouver! It has felt like 'coming home'. I did not think I would ever join a church again, but it all feels so familiar to me, so welcoming, and so friendly. I find the sermons very informative and oftentimes very moving, and I feel, with so much gratitude, a place that I can be spiritually aware, offer my services to others on a volunteer basis (true to my own calling) and be with other like-minded people too. I live here with my beloved husband, and all the rest of our families are scattered throughout the world. I was a loving massage therapist and independent businesswoman, but now am disabled and cannot do those things, and I am struggling to find what new things I can do, and remain as independent as I can! Thank you for your welcome of me.”



David Smith

“I was born and raised on the east side of Vancouver. In 1972, I took a bunch of cash I had made on a construction project and travelled to Europe where, after hitchhiking around for a year, I met a sweet young thing who had travelled from Australia through India, Afghanistan, Iran, Iraq, Turkey and Greece. We continued along on our wayward ways, but came back to Vancouver, where Carol and I were married in the Vancouver Unitarian Church. That was 38 years ago. Since that time we have returned to school and, as a mechanical engineer, I have worked on construction and startup projects in Israel, Egypt, Quebec, Ontario, Saskatchewan, British Columbia and New Caledonia in the South Pacific.

In 2005 we retired and sailed *Nuage*, our 40-foot sailboat, extensively within British Columbia, the US west coast, Mexico, Central America and South America. In South America we travelled for two years by local buses around the continent and into the Antarctic by boat. In 2013, after eight years of boat travel, we returned to Vancouver. We moved to Victoria in 2014 and took up residence in beautiful James Bay. I joined the Saanich UU a year ago after 'church shopping' at various liberal churches around Victoria. Upon attending the Saanich UU, I knew I had found my home when I listened to the Reverends Melora and Shana reinforce my beliefs in mankind's basic goodness and caring.

As I have come to know more and more individuals within the church, I know that I made the right to decision to join and get involved. I look forward to getting to know more and more other like-minded people within our community. We are very lucky people to have such a wonderful church!



Rebecca, Russell and Natnael Mellett

Having arrived in Victoria relatively recently from Ottawa via Peru and Vancouver, the Melletts are happy to reconnect with the Unitarian roots they had first set down in Ottawa. The values, the music and the sense of community help to enrich this family's busy lives. For Rebecca, UU services often remind her of the person she strives to be, and support her in finding her best self. Russ appreciates UU as an opportunity to reflect and to be together as a family. As for four-and-a-half-year-old Natty, he enjoys “the toys and cookies—oh, and the winter quiet spiral!” as we enjoy his growing independence.



ARTIST OF THE MONTH



Srima Mukerji. Srima worked for Agriculture Canada as a bio-ecologist and with her continued interest in nature and the outdoors, was able to pursue her passion and desire to express her inner feelings through painting.

She has taken the following workshops and classes with: David Goatley in Spain, Michael Derocher in France and Dave Madagen in Italy. Locally, Srima has taken classes with Deborah Tilby, Ken Campbell, Donna Baspally and Victor Arcega to mention a few.

“Art inspires me to be in the moment.”

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 is working hard with James Bay to sponsor the Souper Lunch on March 20, so we'll have details about how it went in the May newsletter.

Esquimalt: Pat McMahon sends this announcement, "Esquimalt is starting a coffee shop meet-up the first Tuesday of the month, 2:00pm at the Spiral Café on Craigflower Road. We have a potluck planned for Friday April 8 at Cedar Shores." Esquimalt members were also the generous people who supplied us with coffee-time goodies in March.

Far Out: Far Out members worked beside Royal Oak West members to host the very successful Souper lunch held on February 21.

Grand Central: This lucky NG has a new baby boy born into their group in February. Marya Nyland writes, "We had a lovely "Tea/cake and Games Party" on Sunday February 28 with 12 adults and four children enjoying themselves. We are planning an Easter Egg Painting session for children and 'children at heart', just before Easter and we are celebrating the arrival of a brand-new baby boy, **Cyrus Belisle**, born to Candice Moore and Olivier Belisle, brother to Kiana and Evangeline. We are feeling blessed."

James Bay: Lynn Hunter reports, "A small contingent of the James Bay Neighbourhood Group gathered for a potluck lunch at the home of Myra Rippon on Tuesday, March 15. Included in the gathering was a new member, Lynn Lunde, who recently arrived from St. John's Newfoundland. A wide ranging conversation was had. The next gathering will be for an evening potluck dinner starting at 6:00pm at the home of Don Armstrong and Lynn Hunter on Monday, May 9. Please RSVP to Lynn at lynnhunter2828@gmail.com or 250-220-2240".

Nearby: Nearby has lost a former member of their group. Nancy Dobbs offers this tribute, "A Lifetime member is someone who was once active in our congregation but is unable to be with us, usually due to health issues related to aging. In March, Nearby NG Lifetime member Joe Fleming passed away at 98 years of age. Before hearing loss made it too challenging to be with us, Joe would regale our NG with his story-telling of fractured fairy tales. Long after he was absent from us, he enjoyed keeping track of the church through the newsletter and each year expressed appreciation for Unitarian values and made a donation. Pam Harte was a regular Care and Concern visitor to Joe. The family requested no service. RIP Joe.

Nearby Neighborhood will be providing after church goodies for your enjoyment for the month of April. On May 7, Jane Bramadat and Sylvia McDonald will be hosting a neighborhood potluck in Brentwood Bay. We're planning on enjoying lovely spring weather."

Oak Bay: Karla Thomson writes, "The Oak Bay group are gearing up for a busy time in April when we will be serving soup and goodies on the 17th. Before that date we have our March luncheon at the Oaks this coming Wednesday and a potluck at John Worton's in early April. This will make for a few weeks of everyone being involved."

Royal Oak East: Hanny Pannekoek describes their recent gathering, "The Royal Oak East Neighbourhood Group met for a potluck on March 1 at the home of Nille and Mike. They made their home most welcoming and the tables were set in style! Several of us were away or were recovering from colds or injury so we had a smaller group than usual. The food was gourmet and everyone seemed relaxed and enjoying themselves. Afterwards, in our sharing circle, we took note that it was our turn to provide hospitality cakes for the month of May. We spent quite a bit of time discussing the idea of offering an auction item as a group. We agreed to enter a Creole-inspired dinner for 20 people as a pre-Jazz Vespers' event in November. We also talked about having an after-birth celebration at our June meeting in honour of our first 'group baby'! We all feel quite excited...."

Our next neighbourhood gathering will be on June 7. Because their homes are not large enough, our members Suzanne, Mari-ko and Glenys, with spouses, are planning to host it in the Lion Hall; a creative solution.

Royal Oak West: Fran Hancock writes, "Thank you to the volunteers who have kindly offered to drive Eleanor and Don Lloyd to and from church as both have given up their licences. Lesley Duthie and Kent Haden have graciously offered their home for a 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 Trish Irish, Tom Burton, Erin Lumley and her son Joe 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. Thank you." Regarding the Souper Lunch on February 21, Fran reports that they served 130 people and received \$689 in donations.

continued on next page...

AROUND THE NEIGHBOURHOOD (CONTINUED)

Western: Matthew Elrod, Mac Elrod's youngest son, writes, "You might have heard that Mac was hospitalized on March 4 with a heart condition. Doctors have diagnosed the condition and have a relatively minor, and usually successful, procedure in mind to correct the problem. Hopefully Mac will be home from the hospital in time for the potluck dinner on Saturday, March 19, but if not, my mother and church elder, Norma Elrod, would welcome your attendance." At the suggestion that perhaps they should cancel the event due to Mac's ill-health, Norma writes, "For Mac, postponing or cancelling a social engagement is one of the Seven Deadly Sins."

Editor's Note: The potluck was cancelled after all (see note to the right).

Dear Unitarian western community potluck attendees,

On second thought, I am afraid we need to cancel the potluck dinner scheduled for this Saturday at my parent's home.

Mac is now home, but quite ill, and he needs to rest, and Norma has her hands full caring for him.

Apologetically,
Matthew Elrod

NOTABLE UUs

CHRISTINE JOHNSTON

Nancy Knight (1904-1994) was a well known lay church leader in Toronto in the explosive* 1950s and 1960s. She started her working career as a Youth Worker for the American Unitarian Association in Boston. When she was sent to visit Toronto, she was told to meet Victor Knight, the youthful and handsome Chairman of the Board, in Union Station, under the train sign to Port Hope. Fortuitous. Thus began a romance which brought her to live in Canada.

She became the very first woman to ever Chair the Board of the First Unitarian Congregation of Toronto, a role she later repeated twice as most women members in her day were hesitant to take on leadership roles. Her wisdom and knowledge were much admired. She became a children's librarian and wrote Jingle Books (cheap booklets for kids during the depression).

The Knight children, grandchildren and great grandchildren have continued the UU tradition set by Victor and Nancy. And now their memory is also kept alive by the CUC Knight Award given annually at the CUC Annual General Meeting.



* "explosive" since the Unitarian churches were exploding with new members. Toronto First had 850 members and, even if you lived next door, you were not allowed to join but were asked to sign up with a Fellowship in the suburbs. A child's absence at Sunday school required a doctor's note or you were in danger of losing your place. Such was the popularity of Unitarian religious training!

Race, Racism, and the Continued Demonization of Difference

Join Rev. Shana for a soulful exploration of why issues of race continue to tear at the fabric of human community. What is the history of so many of these persistent and pervasive stereotypes? What role do they play in current problems around the globe? What does multicultural competence look like in the 21st century? We will do some reading, sharing of personal stories, and thinking about what we could do that might make a difference.

Wednesday evenings from 7:00 to 8:30pm on April 13, 20, and 27.

Contact Rev. Shana to let her know you plan to attend or with questions.

CUC Delegates Wanted

May 19-22, UBC, Vancouver

Last chance for two years to attend a CUC Conference and enjoy the extra involvement of being a delegate. This only requires attendance one day early and has financial benefits. Only four have signed up and we have space for six. The conference theme is "Bolder Ways of Being".

Our very own Rev. Melora is giving the key Confluence Lecture. Other events include Combined Choirs, a Youth Con., First Nations Drumming Workshop, UU Women's Tea with a First Nations speaker, Truth and Reconciliation session, workshops, lively national conversations. lovely setting at UBC. and so much more, and ending with one of my favourite gatherings, that of the CUSJ (Canadian Unitarian for Social Justice).

To be a delegate contact Christine_johnston@telus.net as soon as possible. Early bird registration is March 31.

We are all fired up!

Auction Fever

At the Church

Friday April 15

Silent Auction — 6pm

Live Auction — 7pm

Fun Food

Friends Funds

Auction purchases — Cash or Cheque only. Childminding available if requested by April 5.

Auction Fever 2016

Schedule

6:00	Catch the Early Bird Specials Silent Auction and Bar Open
6:45	Win a cake in the Cake Walk
7:00	LIVE AUCTION BEGINS
8:00	Silent Auction Closes Raffle Basket Draw
8:20	Bar Closes
9:00 or earlier	Auction Over

Home with your Treasures

PARTIAL MASTER LIST FOR LIVE AUCTION A Little Idea of What to Expect

Picnic at French Beach. Carpool to French Beach for a picnic of deviled eggs, chicken, potato salad, watermelon, and more for ten people on a weekday in July or August. French Beach has picnic tables beside the ocean and a paved entry path with a slight rise. The beach is rocky, with sandy pockets, and there are trails along the beach and in the woods. Offered by Suellen Guenther.

Handyman Services. Three hours of minor repairs around the house or yard cleanup. Offered by Andy Lee. Three people will get the service at the winning price. Minimum bid \$75.

Bites and Pieces. A multi-course dinner for 16 with music to match, performed by Braden and Hillary Young. Delicious and unusual food, artistically presented, prepared by Jen and her team. Various styles of music, including jazz and classical. Beer and wine will be served. Saturday, September 10, 6:00pm at the church. Offered by the Young family.

BBQ with Homemade Ice Cream. Barbeque for eight featuring homemade turkey and/or beef burgers or veggie burgers. Dessert will include homemade ice cream. Hosted by Mary Cramer and Pat Conroy on Sunday, July 5.

Provençal Dinner. Provençal Dinner for eight with Bouillabaisse as the main course. Offered by Mike and Liz Graham. Date to be announced.

Sooke Fine Art Show. Two of our church artists will provide transportation to the Sooke Fine Art Show, admission, and a gourmet picnic lunch for six people on Thursday, July 30. Offered by Pat McMahon and Pat Kinrade.

Three-Course Progressive Dinner. After the Annual James Bay Art Walk mid September (date to be confirmed). Begin the Saturday afternoon with a self guided stroll to various Artists' Studios (map provided) Arrive at Pat Kinrade's for appetizers at 5:00pm and move on to Lynn Hunter and Don Armstrong's ocean side home for a Salmon BBQ. The evening will end with dessert and coffee at the home of David and Carol Smith. (stairs involved). Open to 10 people.

Sermon. Rev. Shana will offer a sermon on a topic of your choice. Offer includes a meeting with the minister to discuss the topic chosen.

French Dinner. Converse in French while enjoying a delicious French menu: Wine, and fabulous French food (menu to follow). A little taste of France, with French music to set the mood. Four guests. (Not vegetarian.) Saturday, July 25. Offered by Isabelle Grenon.

After the Fair BBQ. On your way home Saturday Sept 5 from the Saanich Fair (long weekend in Sept.) join Bob and Nancy Dobbs for a chicken BBQ, with fresh corn and pie for dessert. Available for eight guests. Perhaps there will be a sing-a-long? Bob and Nancy offer this at their home in Brentwood Bay – very near the Fairgrounds.

continued on next page...

continued from previous page...

Dinner and Jazz Vespers. Pre Jazz Vespers Dinner on Sunday in October TBA at 4:00. Dinner will be finished in time to attend the Jazz Vespers at First Unitarian church. Six people. Offered by Lorna and Earle Anthony.

Paint a Room. Have brushes, will travel. Barry, Pat and Mike are again this year offering to paint a room. You supply the paint and room. We supply the equipment. No height over nine feet please. Offered by Pat Conroy and Mike Graham.

Explore Hornby Island. Stay on our treed acre, near the ocean, for a week in the summer of 2016, as you enjoy Hornby's many attractions. There is a one-room cabin (queen hide-a-bed but no indoor plumbing), 23-ft travel trailer (sleeps two adults and two kids) and a grassy area to set up tents. Call us for details (250 744-1357). Offered by Allan and Elaine Dakin.

Salmon Barbeque for Six. Offered by Elaine Hepburn and Dan Klimke. Details to follow.

Wine Tour for 12. "Attention, Locavores and Wine Lovers! Enjoy a wine tour of southern Vancouver Island, complete with a gourmet picnic lunch, on Saturday, June 18. We will visit several wineries in the Cowichan Valley, with a behind-the-scenes tour of Averill Creek Winery featured: learn about viticulture, see how different wines are aged, and taste a wide range of wines from sparkling "champagne" to fruity whites to robust reds. Take the opportunity to stock up on tasty locally made wines for your summer entertaining." Submitted by Kristina Stevens, Karen Furnes and Barry Wiebe. Minimum Bid: \$30

Sermon. Rev. Melora will offer a sermon on a topic of your choice. Offer includes a meeting with the minister to discuss the topic chosen.

Mexican Dinner. John Tibbles and Val Roberts will offer a Mexican Dinner for four on Thursday Sept 15, 2016. Think Hispanic music. Perhaps a Tequila sunrise while nibbling the appetizers. Followed by an Aztec soup and then an imaginative main course followed by a delicate Mexican flan. Maybe Mexican wine but probably not. And conversation to match!

Indonesian Dinner. An intimate Indonesian Dinner for four, cooked by "Chef" Philip Symons and assisted by his wife Marya. Offered twice. Date for both dinners to be determined. Dinners will likely be in September. Offered by Philip Symons and Marya Nijland.

History Tour of Victoria. Presented by Peter Scales, MA. Two hours. Up to three people. Cash value \$50.

Cabin on Salt Spring Island. Cabin has a nice balcony with morning and daytime sun, at the top of a big hill near Walker Hook, about 5 km north of Ganges. It has a bedroom with a double bed and a hide-a-bed couch. Lots of mattresses for the floor as well. Fully equipped kitchen and bathroom with shower, electric heat, and TV with DVD and VCR. Better cell phone reception than many parts of the island, but no WiFi or landline. Available for a week in any season. Offered by Robin Sacker-van Gessel and Jan van Gessel.

Bocce with Burgers and Beer. Susie and Simon Williams will host an afternoon of Bocci with burgers and beer for twelve. 3997 Granville Street. Date TBA. NG help to be lined up by Pat.

Tricks and Treats. Experience the sleight of hand of a card sharpie and enjoy tea. May 7th 2-5pm. At the home of Phyllis Gardiner on Cordova Bay Road; for eight. Mystery Magician.

Lunch Among the Orchids. Enjoy delicious food and lively conversation in a charming country setting. You can stroll the garden, pet the donkeys, or just relax and chat. (Date, May 14, max. eight guests). Offered by Astrid.

Celebrate Canada Day. In the evening of July 1 on Marion Pape's roof garden. Enjoy nibbles and bubbles supplied by the Esquimalt Neighbourhood Group; Fireworks included!! Places for eight people.

Indonesian Dinner. At least nine dishes (meat, chicken, egg, string bean, fried rice (nasi goreng), plain rice, and sides such as fried onions, dried coconuts, sambals (spicy pepper dishes) and more. Plus wine, beer, and water. Non-vegetarian September 24. Eight spaces. Offered by Jan and Robin van Gessel.

And much more! What are you willing to offer?

**Watch for the complete list in your inbox on April 12.
Printed lists will be available at the Auction.**

Auction Fever 2016

MASTER LIST FOR SILENT AUCTION Lots of Room for Your Offer!

EARLY BIRD

Oak Bay Tea Party. Gather at Suzanne Dearman's heritage house at 10:30am on Saturday, June 4 for a front row place to watch the Oak Bay Tea Party Parade. After the parade, Suzanne will serve a delicious lunch of homemade soup and sandwiches. Six people at \$15 each.

Salmagundi Supper. Enjoy a European tradition on Friday, September 16 at 5:30 or 6:00 pm. Homemade soup, followed by a cold plate for each guest containing at least 15 items, tastefully arranged to form a picture. Eat the things you like and leave the things you don't (or offer them to someone else at the table!) English dessert. Each guest leaves with a jar of jam. Eight spaces. \$17.50 per person. Offered by Suzanne Dearman.

Bridge and Lunch. Four spaces at the table on an afternoon in June. \$25 per person. Offered by Myra Rippon.

SPA

Massage Therapy. Gift certificate for a one hour therapeutic massage by Cheryl Varney, an experienced, Registered Massage Therapist. See Barbara Boyle or Suellen Guenther for a reference. \$100 value

Salon Modello. A gift certificate for \$40 for hair services at Salon Modello in Oak Bay. References by Chris Cook or Suellen Guenther. Donated by Salon Modello.

TREAT SHOP

Basket of Preserves. Treat yourself to a supply of Suzanne's delicious homemade jam. Offered by Suzanne Dearman.

Sugared Nuts. A tin of my delicious sugared nuts (filberts, almonds & walnuts) from an old family recipe. Minimum bid: \$20. One tin each to the three highest bidders. Offered by Suellen Guenther.

Christmas Pudding. Traditional English Christmas Pudding in a 6" bowl (x2) with hard rum sauce delivered in December. The purchaser will need to steam it for about 3 hours the day it's eaten. Offered by John and Gloria Hopewell.

Homemade Granola – Jar 1. A glass jar full of Andy's delicious granola, Offered by Andy Lee.

LIMITED EDITIONS (Set Price Items. Many Bids Welcome).

Jazz Vespers Dinner. The Royal Oak East NG will offer their pre-Jazz Vespers Creole Dinner in November of 2016. Places for 20 at \$35 each. Date TBA by Rev. Shana

PRO SHOP

Mosaic Art Class for four by Anne Swannell. Participants will be provided with a base, mastic and mosaic pieces to create a wall plaque or garden stepping stone. You may bring your own broken crockery or china to make a unique keepsake. Anne will help you make a special design. Great Grandparent/Grandchild art experience.

Hand Knit Hats. I will custom knit 3 hats in the pattern of your choice, using six ply Canadian Wool. Warm and Water Resistant. One each to the three highest bids. Offered by Thea Revoy.

One pair of sox knitted by Katherine Maas. Consult with her about the colours to wear with your jazziest boots.

Pet Sitting. Two house/pet sitting days, (over a weekend or separate days). Offered by Marcy Calberry. All pets welcome).

continued on next page...

continued from previous page...

Dog Walking. Five (5) dog walks, which include pickup, drop off and report card. Offered by Marcy Calberry. (Small Dogs only)

GIFT SHOP

Laptop cover. This item was hand woven, felted and assembled with 100% wool. Great for protecting your iPad or IMac when carrying your electronic devices. Offered by Thea Revoy

Special Teas Gift Box. A tea ball and three unique, locally blended teas, in a beautiful gift box. \$28 value. Donated by Special Teas, Inc.

Restaurant Gift Cards. Three \$20 gift cards for The Village restaurant near Royal Oak Shopping Centre. One each to the three highest bids. Donated by The Village Restaurant.

Heirloom Linens. A \$25 gift certificate for Heirloom Linens in the Broadmead Village Shopping Centre. Donated by Heirloom Linens.

Russell Books. Two \$25 gift certificates for Russell Books on Fort Street. One each to the two highest bids. Donated by Russell Books.

Summer Camp. One Adult Registration for the UUI Summer Camp on Shawnigan Lake, August 19-21. \$200 value. Minimum bid \$90. Offered by the UU Island Network Camp Committee.

Hand-Knitted Shawl. Donated by Astrid Firley-Eaton

Set of Four Placemats (black/grey/white), perfect for white dishes and napkins. Made by Pat Kinrade. Value \$50

Handmade Broom. Beautifully decorated handmade broom. About 25-years-old, in perfect condition. \$50 value. Minimum bid \$25. Donated by Jim and Karla Thomson.

Handmade Bracelet. Beautiful handmade bracelet created and offered by Ruth Pozer-Telford.

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 and 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!



For child care during the Auction, please contact Faye by April 5 (FayeM@victoriaunitarian.ca).

What? You can't make it to the Auction?

No need to despair. You can use the absentee bid form on the following page. For an up-to-date auction list, please contact Jennifer Young at uujenyong@gmail.com and she will email you a copy. The final list will be available April 9 and will be sent to everyone on April 12.

BLANK PAGE

Editor's Note: I searched in vain for suitable material to fill this page.

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 - Wednesday 9:30am - 4:00pm • Thursday 8:30am - 1:00pm • 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

Board of Trustees

Officers

President	Shirley Travis	778-433-2063
Vice-President	Lorna Anthony	250-592-4831
Treasurer	Robertta Clair	250-532-1973
Secretary	Jane Wilson	250-598-4348

Council Representatives

Administration	John Worton	250-220-6258
Congregational Life	Suzanne Beauchamp	778-433-2829
Outreach	Jim Jordan	250-654-0672
Property Management	John Tiffany	778-432-0881
Spiritual Development	Marion Sollazzo	250-721-1741

APRIL EVENTS CALENDAR

Date	Time	Event	Location
1	7:00 - 9:00pm	Music Concert	Sanctuary
2	6:00 - 9:00pm	Child Haven banquet	Ukrainian Hall (offsite)
3	10:30am - 12:00pm	Chalice Chapel for Children & Youth	Lion Hall
	10:30 - 11:30am	SUNDAY SERVICE	Sanctuary
	12:15 - 2:15pm	Church Name-Storming	Lion Hall
8	6:00 - 7:30pm	Community Dinner	Sanctuary
10	10:30 - 11:30am	SUNDAY SERVICE	Sanctuary
13	7:00 - 8:30pm	Race, Racism and the Ongoing Power of Difference	Farmhouse Common Room
15	6:00 - 9:00pm	Services Auction	Sanctuary
17	10:30 - 11:30am	SUNDAY SERVICE	Sanctuary
	12:00 - 1:00pm	Souper Sunday	Sanctuary
	12:00 - 1:00pm	Orientation	Farmhouse Common Room
	12:30 - 2:30pm	Earth Day Workshop	Lion Hall
19	6:00 - 8:00pm	Tuesday Potluck Dinners	Offsite location
22	6:00 - 10:00pm	Youth Group Movie Night	Sanctuary
24	10:30 - 11:30am	SUNDAY SERVICE	Sanctuary
	7:00 - 9:00pm	Jazz Vespers	Sanctuary

WELCOME!

New members

Shelley Motz
Elijah and Jasper Motz Fox (children)
1448 Bay Street
Victoria, BC V8R 2A8
250-388-0654
shelley.motz@shaw.ca
Grand Central NG

New Friend

Barbara (Bobby) Kovar
917 B Forshaw Road
Esquimalt, BC V9A 6M1
250-598-5568
bobbykovar@shaw.ca
Esquimalt NG

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Sarah Kendall
- 5 Earle Anthony
- 6 Barbara (Bobby) Kovar
- 9 Martha McDougall
- 13 Maureen Sherlock, Desmond de Schepper
- 14 Jan Thomson
- 15 Nokuthula (Tuli) Porcher
- 16 Michael Fibiger-Crossman, Isabelle Grenon
- 17 Suzanne Beauchamp
- 18 Joyce Berry
- 19 Nille Fibiger-Crossman, Sue Thorne
- 21 Barbara Nyland, Luke Walrafen
- 24 Barbara Boyle, Catherine Cardinal
- 25 Leslie O'Hagan, Chris Cook
- 28 LeAnn Andersen
- 30 Erin Kinrade

DEATHS

Joe Fleming on March 5, 2016. (See obituary below)
Marie Horncastle on March 13, 2016 (No obituary found)

OBITUARY

Joseph Fleming (November 9, 1917 - March 5, 2016)

Beloved father, Grandfather and Great Grandfather, died peacefully, surrounded by family, on 5th March, 2016. Born in N. Ireland on 9th November, 1917, Joseph will be missed by his family from New Zealand, South Africa, Ireland, as well as his family in Canada. At 98 years of age Joseph lived a long and happy life. He will be fondly remembered for his generosity of spirit, positivity, and his attitude of gratitude. Our warm and grateful thanks go to the exceptional staff at Kiwanis Pavilion, for their kindness to Joseph during his short stay there. According to Joseph's wishes, a celebration of his life is being arranged.



From the Times-Colonist, March 11, 2016

Travel Scholarships for UU Young Adults

UUs for Justice in the Middle East (UUJME), a UUA group, is again offering travel scholarships to UU young adults, aged 18-35, for trips to the Middle East to enable them to take part in activities to help further the cause of justice, peace, and human rights in Israel-Palestine. They are currently accepting scholarship applications for trips that will take place during the 2016 calendar year, with some flexibility in trip start and end dates. Scholarship applicants may request up to \$3,000 (US) in funding assistance to help cover trip costs. All scholarship awards are subject to available funding. The deadline to submit applications for summer travel is May 1. If you would like more details about the UUJME Young Adult Scholarship Program, or if you would like to make a donation to the UUJME Young Adult Travel Scholarship program to help send more young adult UUs to Israel-Palestine, please click the following link:

<http://uuyme.org/home/Our-Work/Young-Adult-Travel-Scholarships/YATS-Program-Donations>

BOARD MEMBERS ON DUTY



April 3	Jane Wilson
April 10	Marion Sollazzo
April 17	Jim Jordan
April 24	John Tiffany



Astrid Firley-Eaton
Design

interior design
colour consultation

250-394-3405
afedesign@shaw.ca

John A Tiffany, M.S.
Indoor Environmental Quality Consulting

Senior Industrial Hygienist
John A Tiffany
johntiffany0705@gmail.com

Specializing in
Mould / Moisture Issues

Greater Victoria Capital Region

(250) 884-6812 [Cell]
(778) 432-0881 [Tel]



island montessori

Accepting Enrollment
Book now for a tour!

- preschool to grade 2
- before and after school care
- small class sizes
- supportive and caring staff
- excellent academic foundation
- Kodaly music program
- lovely rural location connecting children to nature

5575 West Saanich Rd (across from Red Barn Market)
250 592 4411 imhs@telus.net
www.islandmontessori.com

LESS STUFF. MORE PEACE OF MIND.

Downsize with Ms. Daisy

SANDRA JACOBSEN, MA
250-370-1204
Note corrected phone number

SAMVIC@SHAW.CA



In-home technology service, advice and training



iTutor

- Setup your new device/AV system.
- Update or upgrade your computer.
- Get advice on new purchases.
- Borrow or buy books and media.
- Repair hardware and software.
- Troubleshoot Wi-fi, printers, etc.

Ryan Kinrade rkinrade@gmail.com 250.217.4507

THANK UU FOR YOUR BUSINESS



AN ADDITION for you

ConstructoGroup *Renovating for You*
Stephen | 250-884-4340 | www.constructogroup.ca



PATRICK T. CONROY CD

ACCOUNTANT
AUTHORIZED Efiler
PERSONAL BUSINESS & ESTATE RETURNS

4455 Fairmont Place, Victoria BC V8N4R2
C: 250-888-9715 H: 250-477-1615
patricktconroy74@gmail.com

June Fukushima, M.Sc.
Somatic Experiencing Practitioner



Balance • Heal • Awaken
Embodied Mindfulness Meditation
Somatic Experiencing

info@junefukushima.com
250 208 2954
4013 Magdelin St.
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

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 **May** issue is **April 12.**
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

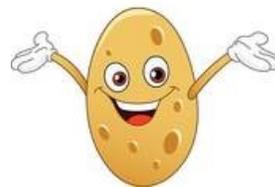
Bob Dobbs (editor) and Karen Uldall-Ekman (production,
distribution and paid advertisements).

Community Dinner

April 8 is Baked Potato Night!

6:00pm in the Sanctuary

Hot fluffy potatoes with a wide
range of toppings to choose from –
beans, chili, veggies, cheese and
much more!



Community Dinners are multi-
generational events 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 salad or dessert to share.

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

Room to Rent Wanted

Quiet, respectful 63-year-old woman seeks permanent
room to rent starting May 1. Please contact Brenda at 250-
589-7654 or email atallabundant888@hotmail.com