



The Victoria Unitarian

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

SERVICES IN MAY

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

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



Tradition
the Practice of Connecting to Your Roots

May 1 Tradition: Beyond Bathwater
Rev. Melora Lynngood
Worship Associate: Dar Gareau-Levy

Chamber
Choir

Just as Unitarian Universalists tend to be suspicious of institutions, there are likely many UUs who are also suspicious of tradition. After all, many among us broke free of narrow-minded or rigid 'traditional' religions and creeds to get here. But perhaps we shouldn't throw out the baby with the bathwater. In this introduction to May's theme, we'll look at traditions we have kept, new traditions we have created, and the ways in which tradition—and the spiritual practice of connecting with our roots—might enrich our lives.

May 8 Origin Stories
Rev. Shana Lynngood
Worship Associate: Liz Graham

Chalice
Choir

This Mother's Day we'll explore the stories that shape our lives. How do parental and other family of origin narratives shape how we see the world and send us down a path with particular traditions ingrained? How do we embrace or reject those traditional patterns?

May 15 Renewed Patterns
Rev. Shana Lynngood
Worship Associate: Jane Wilson

Bell
Choir

Often we see tradition as confining or limiting, but what about starting new traditions? How can we take time-worn traditions and add new meaning to them? Are there new rituals or traditions that might better speak to the routines and experiences of our lives?

This service will include a New Member Ceremony and be followed by our congregation's Annual General Meeting.

May 15 Jazz Vespers in the Sanctuary (See details on page 11).
7:00pm Good-byes with the Kim Greenwood Ensemble and Rev. Shana

Join us for the theme of goodbyes as we explore the poignancy and beauty of endings. The ensemble includes: Kim Greenwood, vocals; Doug Farr, vibes; Gary Theal, guitar; Bill Kent, bass; and Barry Gray on drums. This unique hour-long worship experience includes a powerful live performance, a brief homily on the theme, silent reflection, and information about the songs that are performed. Join us.

May 22 Universalism: Roots and Current Practices
Michelle Brown
Worship Associate: Susan Layng

Our Universalist heritage is both the rational heart and the deep well of wisdom of our tradition. We'll look at the two aspects of the second U in UUism.

Continued on next page...

SERVICES IN MAY (CONTINUED)

May 29 **Howling at the Moon— Rituals and Traditions**

Rev. Samaya Oakley

Worship Associate: Dan Klimke

Chalice
Choir

How do our rituals and traditions help to define our identity? Come along a journey into how one family created their own traditions and rituals. We'll explore the importance of traditions and rituals in our lives and how they help us to more fully embrace life.

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The deadline for submissions to the
June issue of the newsletter is **May 17**.

CUC Confluence Lecture presented by Rev. Melora

“And They’ll Know We are U*U by Our Love”

Friday, May 20, at the CUC Annual Conference in Vancouver

I grew up Presbyterian. I disagreed with their theology, but I loved being a part of the warm loving intergenerational community that did good in the world. There is a song I still remember learning in our children’s choir, about working together toward the greater good with love; the chorus was “And they’ll know we are Christians by our love.”

Our Unitarian*Universalist communities have such potential. We also have some ‘growing edges’ that inhibit us from living into our potential. In this lecture, we examine the question: What would it take to live into our potential? What ‘bolder ways of being’ can we live into so that in every interaction, – from greeting newcomers, to struggling through hard stuff with our Boards/Leadership, to welcoming refugees – folks would “know we are U*U by our love?”

Register for conference here : <http://cuc.ca/conference-2016/>

ABOUT OUR SPEAKERS

Michelle Brown (May 22) is Cree from the Metis Nation and a regular speaker in the pulpit at Capital Unitarian Universalist Congregation, where they sponsored her for her Masters Degree thesis project on congregational conflict management. She has had training in law communications and conflict analysis and prior to retirement, Michelle worked on social conflicts arising from major resource development decisions and in Aboriginal relations, including five years as a treaty negotiator for the federal government.

In retirement, she reads widely in the fields of both sociology and religion. An island food security activist, she and her husband Stephen tend a permaculture food forest in their yard on Olive Street.

Reverend Samaya Oakley (May 29) began her duties as the developmental minister at the First Unitarian Fellowship of Nanaimo in the summer of 2013 after having completing her internship at the Unitarian Church of Calgary. Prior to that, she spent 15 years working with Unitarian youth at the North Shore Unitarian Church in the lower mainland, where she celebrated her ordination in March 2014.

As a youth consultant, Samaya has worked provincially, nationally, and continentally as a member of the Liberal Religious Educators’ Association. She received her Masters of Divinity at the Vancouver School of Theology in the spring of 2013, as the only Unitarian Universalist in her class.

Samaya’s vision of ministry is embodied in our living tradition. It is by standing on the side of love, of compassion, of generosity, and by taking the time to truly listen to the other to make sure that all points of view are taken into account, that we engage our living tradition. In her spare time you can find Samaya enjoying walking, reading, and gardening. Her favourite colour is purple, as shown by her greatly-loved purple Volkswagen Jetta!

Practices to Transform
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May's Theme



Tradition
the Practice of Connecting to Your Roots

I have adapted a column from colleague Rev. Scott Tayler about this month's theme. As Scott points out, we have ambivalent and conflicted feelings about tradition. This month we'll see if we can't come to some peace about it. Here are Scott's words:

"Tradition. It's often seen in negative terms. It is confining and limiting. Too much a relic of the past, or followed for its own sake even when it no longer fits. And that's certainly how it's felt to many of us at times. We know what it is like to be bound tight by tradition. Suffocated by rules and rituals that limit what we can think or who we can love."

But we also know it's more complex than that. Tradition has its pluses too. Tradition can be a gift. Tradition can be seen as a connection to the wisdom and wonder of the past, and even, if seen from the right angle a source of freedom. Voices of the present oppress and mislead as much as voices from the past. Sometimes, allowing the voice of tradition to speak is the only way we make our way safely through the shallowness of modern day "wisdom." And then there's the way that tradition helps us imagine the new. As the poet Carlos Fuentes reminds us, "There is no creation without tradition; the 'new' is an inflection on a preceding form; novelty is always a variation on the past." Aware of these many gifts, we UUs have brought more nuance to our relationship with tradition. Sometimes the task is to throw it out; other times what's needed most is to listen.

Watching the speed and fullness of our days, it's difficult to see any place for tradition at all. Forget throwing it out. Forget choosing carefully. Most of the time, it seems we're not thinking about tradition at all. Truth be told, in modern day life, tradition is not so much oppressive as it is absent. Out of sight and out of mind.

And so, other UU perspectives on tradition are emerging. Yes, "Don't be bound." Yes, "Choose carefully." But maybe most important of all: "Hold on and make room!" This is the voice we are invited to listen to this month. Tradition has the power to guide, heal, inspire and connect us. And we have come to know that these gifts of tradition can't live on without our help. So, this month, let's explore the value of tradition. Let's invite it back in. Let's make tradition more than a memory. Let's allow it to be a gift."

Here are this month's questions for reflection and exploration:

- Do you still have a score to settle with traditional religion? What would it take to move on?
- How have your parents' traditions made you who you are? Are those traditions a legacy you are grateful for? Or are they still a source of struggle or pain? How have your own new family traditions been a reaction to those of your parents?
- Are you proudly traditional in any way?
- Are you "traditional" in ways that aren't easy to see?
- Has breaking with tradition ever saved your life?
- Has holding on to tradition ever saved your life?
- What one tradition do you want to pass on to your children?
- Do you know where you come from? When did that stop feeling like an important question to you? Does it even feel like a question you might need to ask once again?
- What traditions do you find confining?
- What new traditions might you wish to begin?

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



May 15, 12:15pm
in the Sanctuary
following the service

Agenda items include election of a **new Board of Trustees**, and a vote on **whether or not to pay down our mortgage by 10% in October.**

See you in church,
Rev. Shana

SABBATICAL PLANNING IN PROGRESS REVS. MELORA AND SHANA

As you heard in last month's newsletter, Rev. Melora and I will be on sabbatical March through June 2017, followed by our usual six-week summer study leave and holiday (i.e., returning in August 2017). We are just beginning to envision what we might do with that time that would both replenish our spirits and enliven our ministry. The goal of a sabbatical is for us to return rested, full of fresh ideas, and prepared to start a new chapter in our ministry with you. Although we have yet to flesh out the details of a plan, a broad sense of our hopes for the use of this gift of time has emerged.

We plan to each spend at least a week on an individual spiritual retreat. Ministry is rooted in the spiritual life, but in the day-to-day practice of ministry, it is spiritual practice and attention to the spiritual dimensions of living that are often the first thing to fall by the wayside. We would also hope to use some of the time nurturing our family life. We'd like to go on a trip with our children that both allows our daughter to use her French and us to simply be present with them without thinking of pending work obligations. Melora has also begun brainstorming a project related to the question, how can a busy family integrate spiritual practice into daily living? We will also take time to read and reflect on topics that we see as pressing for FUCV's next chapter. This study aspect will become clearer as the time for departure draws nearer and we'll keep you posted. Last but not least, we'd like to carve some time out during the sabbatical to tend to our marriage. Co-Ministry often leaves us passing off work or parenting tasks to each other, but little time to just be together. Most of our conversations have an agenda—work or family task that we need to confer about to accomplish. We plan to take some time during the sabbatical to be together without agenda.

While we are away, there will be a sabbatical team in place to answer questions and engage the appropriate leaders when issues emerge that would ordinarily go to a minister. To that end, we will also be putting together a Sabbatical Pastoral Care Team which will collaborate with the Care and Concern members to ensure that visits and help are offered.

We are already grateful to you in advance for this time away.

Who would YOU like to be on the Sabbatical Pastoral Care Team? When the ministers are away, who in the congregation, would you feel comfortable going to in a time of need? Please submit your suggestions to rev.shana@shaw.ca.

Blessings and thanks,
Revs. Melora and Shana

SELECTIONS ON TRADITION

FAYE MOGENSEN

In our era, we are lucky to be able to choose which traditions to maintain, drop or modify. The children's program has been ongoing at this church for almost as many years as the church has existed. It has changed and morphed, but there are some elements that have stayed almost the same for many years. One example is the Chalice Lighting song sung by most groups. Is it positive or negative that we've used the same song for at least 10 years? On the other hand, our Chalice Chapels for children and youth, have moved from being a regular feature, to non-existent, and now we're trying them on again. Are they a tradition that has been worth returning to? Is the approach we're taking working for families? If not, should we drop them again or how might we revise them some more?

To answer these questions and more, parents and all interested congregants are invited to respond to a survey that asks for input on several aspects of the program. What do you hope we'll keep; what do you hope we'll change? Knowing what you want will enable us to better meet your needs. ***Please look for the survey link in a recent E-Weekly.***

Many of the highlights in the children and youth program this month are variations of long standing traditions. They include:

- The Mad Hatter Party, where Mystery Buddies will meet one another. In the Lion Hall after church on May 1.
- Family Choir performs at our Spring Concert on May 6 in the Sanctuary.
- On Sunday May 15 at 2 pm, Junior Youth and Youth groups are invited to join Muslim youth in learning more about their faith, and ours - at the Ismaili Jamatkhana at 1250 Esquimalt Road.
- Four sessions remain in the gr. 4-6 OWL program (May 1, 8, 15 and 29.)
- CUC conference in Vancouver May 20-22. A few of our youth are going!
- Time outdoors, to enjoy our gorgeous property and celebrate our 7th principle.

May you and the traditions you love be well!

Faye

Director of Spiritual Exploration and Learning for Children and Youth

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• fayem@victoriaunitarian.ca

Where are the refugees we are sponsoring? They are still living in a tent in the desert, far from everywhere. Their three-year-old daughter has lived nearly her whole life in that tent. Our application is with the Canadian government, waiting to be assigned a case number. Now that the government has landed their promised 25,000 government-sponsored Syrian refugees, resources have been reduced. The Canadian offices in Turkey, Palestine, and Lebanon set up to process refugees have been closed and the employees have returned home.

This is what we are hearing from the government now, “We wish to support the commitment Canadians have shown to the humanitarian crisis in Syria...” Regarding privately sponsored refugee applications already submitted for Syrian refugees before March 31, 2016, we are told that “Every effort will be made to finalize the processing of these Syrian refugees by the end of 2016 or early in 2017.” Our application was sent the first week of March, and we learned on April 13 that we now have a case number. The processing time for Turkey is given as nine months so, if that is accurate, the family could arrive in mid-January. So we are bracing ourselves for a long wait.

Meanwhile, we are still working with local MP Randall Garrison to secure a GLBT person to sponsor, as we have the necessary financial resources for a second project. There is a strong possibility that such a high-risk refugee would be fast-tracked by the government and arrive before our sponsored family. Therefore, in anticipation that we will need to set up another entire household in addition to the items we have already collected, we are issuing a blanket appeal: **If you have any surplus furniture, bedding, or household goods, please contact Jim Willis: james.w.willis@hotmail.com.**

We have heard concerns that we don't have sufficient funds to support both a family and a gay refugee or couple. We have \$68,177 in the Refugee Fund at the moment, with \$6,000-\$7,000 pledged for a total of \$74,000 or so. Bob Dobbs and Christine Johnston, with the Steering Committee, are working out initial budgets for the family and the gay refugee. However, these are, of course, estimates of what will be needed over a year of sponsorship. The cost of food and rent is rising, and we don't know if extensive dental work will be needed. Therefore, we may engage in further fund raising before our year of sponsorship ends, if the need arises.

We hope you have been able to attend the sessions with Ali Hamado or the Pearson College students to learn more about Syrian refugees, their living conditions, and Ali's family in particular. Each tent is one room, divided between the food preparation area and the living/sleeping area by a blanket. There are 25,000 people in the camp, with men's and women's shower and toilet facilities for every 100 tents. Most families have at least four children, so the lineups must be significant. The sanitary facilities are in poor condition, and all the water comes from water tanks. Some of the Pearson students who volunteered in a Syrian refugee camp last summer found the sanitary facilities disgusting. There is one doctor per 5,000 people and in case of emergency, if the ambulance is unavailable, patients are carried on someone's shoulders to the clinic.

The tents are organized in long lines, with an electric cable running above, with an outlet dropped down to each tent. Winters are very cold, and the heavy snow sometimes collapses some of the tents. Until the tents can be replaced, the occupants have to squeeze in with other families or manage outside. There is a small space heater for each tent, which is totally inadequate to heat the space. Some people are so cold they build a fire inside the tent. If the tent catches fire, the tents nearby catch fire as well, leaving more people without shelter. This past winter, a teenage girl died in such a fire.

Three of the women, including the wife in “our” family, all sisters, are meeting with a tutor two hours a day, five days a week, to learn English. Our own Andy Lee has ordered several children's books in English and Arabic and they have arrived in Turkey. He is now working with a reliable contact in Turkey to arrange to have the books delivered to the camp. We have been told it is difficult for families in the camp to receive packages, so Andy is working on it.

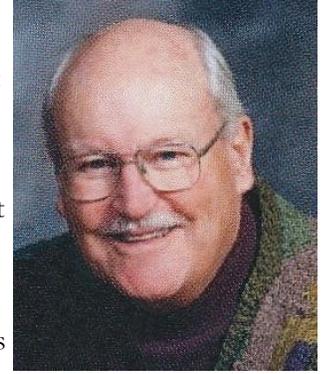
Our sponsored family has been waiting three long years, so far, to leave the camp. We are now waiting with them.



CHALICE LIGHTER OF THE MONTH

Ted Humphreys

“My wife Ruth grew up on a dairy farm near Brampton Ontario. Her family were strong members of Grace United Church where we were married. I had no church background at all, but when we married I decided that it would be fitting for me to attend church with her. After a time, I decided to join and attended a series of congregational meetings to learn what church was all about. After the third meeting, the minister, who I respected very much suggested that my questions were very good, but that they were very distressing to many other members, and that I ought to visit the South Peel Unitarian Congregation to see if that was more in keeping with my views. We took the advice and found that South Peel Unitarian Church was more in keeping with our approach. That was in 1957, and since then we both have been members in seven congregations across Canada. We found each to be a unique experience and our children enjoyed the experiences as much as we did.



“When we travelled west to BC, one day we drove along West Saanich Road and discovered FUCV. We visited the office and found Bert MacBain, the administrator. On Sunday we visited the church and Bert asked Ruth if she knew a Bob Van Alstyne. Ruth said, 30 years ago they both worked in a co-op, and Bert said “he is my husband”. They invited us to dinner and we joined the FUCV community.

“In 2001, I joined the Board and became chair of FUCV from 2006 to 2008. It has been a great experience and I have been active in social action ever since; in particular, in poverty, woman's issues, Child Haven and finance. These activities have kept me busy over the years.

“Ruth and I found that the willingness to discuss religious issues was stimulating and informative. The open discussions with those of divergent viewpoints invigorated the mind and filled the spirit. Our children all found the programs to be a strong basis for their approach to life. Not always easy, but supportive of their thinking processes. That gave Ruth and me great help in building a strong family.

“My advice is simple. Open your mind to new thinking and consider the wide experiences that such thinking will provide to you. All aspects of your life are influenced by how you approach issues. Use the opportunity to provide a great life as Ruth and I did.”

Statements from friends

Bert MacBain

“More than 10 years ago, when Ted and Ruth Humphreys arrived from Ontario, I was the office administrator. They stopped in at the office at closing time one day and I showed them our then-almost-new sanctuary and chatted about our church. On my late arrival home, I told my husband about the couple who had stopped by. His surprising reaction was that he had worked with Ruth in the forming of a food co-op in Ontario many years before and had helped in Ted's political campaign. Later, Ruth produced a photo of Bob and Ted in those long ago days. We enjoyed many social occasions with them in the years that followed and I was impressed by their generosity whenever help was needed for a social justice cause. It has been my pleasure to serve as a trustee on Ted's Ethel May Trust Fund for the past 10 years, helping folks who are struggling financially in our community.”

Earle Anthony

“I worked with Ted Humphreys for several years both on the Board and Investment Committee. Ted was an excellent leader on the Board and was a great assistance to me as Treasurer. Under his term as President, the current Church bylaws were drafted and approved. It was a tricky time because of major disruptions in the Church Office, but with Ted's steady hand everything turned out well. He was a founding member of the Investment Committee which provides investment advice to the Treasurer.

“Ted's career with the Ontario Teachers Organization gave him a strong background in management and investments. He sponsored a training program with the First Nations carving community. He generously established the Ethel May Fund which provides support to struggling women in the Capital Region. He recently created the Innovation Fund to provide funding to start-up programs in the Church.

“The First Unitarian Church of Victoria has benefited significantly from the talents and generosity of Ted Humphreys.”

Lorna Anthony

“Ted was instrumental in visioning and generously supporting the Unsung Hero banquet which was successfully held at our church for 5 years. As an outreach program we were able to recognize a member from the larger community who made a difference. The proceeds from the \$50/plate dinner for 100 friends/associates of the unsung hero were donated to the charity with which he/she was involved.”

All members, friends, and newcomers to the church can be part of the Neighbourhood Group where they live.

Groups meet monthly, bi-monthly, quarterly, or occasionally. If your group is missing from this column, there was nothing to report this month. If you don't know which group you are in, please phone the church office.

Cadboro Bay: Members of Cadboro Bay, organized by Chris Cook, worked with James Bay NG to host the Souper Lunch on March 20. Their efforts took in \$509.45 to support our church.

Esquimalt: Barbara Boyle writes, "Esquimalt had a neighbourhood potluck last night with 11 folks in attendance and all food groups covered. It was a relaxed gathering with diverse conversation on a number of topics including gratitude for immigrants to Canada, attendance at CUC conferences, new learning opportunities such as ballroom dancing and Spanish language, and Tuesday evening speaker events to name a few. Unfortunately, a couple of newer folks in the neighbourhood attempted to come and were unable to locate our meeting room site at Cedar Shores so we missed the pleasure of their company. Hopefully, they will persevere and make it to our next gathering. Last week, a group of six folks met informally at the Spiral Cafe on Craigflower Road for coffee and conversation. This may evolve into a regular get-together for our neighbourhood."

Fairfield: Louise de Lugt is welcoming newcomers to Fairfield. She writes, "I've invited all the recent newcomers to Fairfield NG to a tea at my place in two weeks' time to introduce them to me, the church, and the Neighbourhood Group."

Grand Central: This NG has been really busy. They are hosting the last Souper Lunch until fall on April 17 with Oak Bay. In addition, Marya hosted an Easter egg painting event, with 7 children and 7 adults creating colourful blown-out egg shells on budding branches for the beautiful Easter Tree displayed in the sanctuary on Easter Sunday. They received many compliments, so this may be the start of a new tradition. They are welcoming Reese Willis into their NG and Kym Hines has moved to Fairfield NG. Also, Marya writes, "We have plans for a 'Travelers' Tales & Finger-Food Potluck' at someone's house/garden in either early May or June, because four of our members have traveled to Europe and Central America in April and will have lots to tell us"



Grand Central NG Easter tree-making project.
(Thanks to Cedar Thokme for the photograph).

James Bay: Lynn Hunter writes, "The James Bay Neighbourhood Group will be gathering again at the home of Don Armstrong and Lynn Hunter for a potluck dinner on May 9 at 6:30. We seem to be having a small influx of new people moving into James Bay so hopefully they will come to this informal gathering to meet some of their neighbours. If this is you, please let me know at lynnhunter2828@gmail.com so that I can set a place for you." Lynn was also busy helping organize James Bay for the Souper Sunday they hosted with Cadboro Bay in March.

Nearby: Nancy Dobbs reports, "Nearby Neighborhood Group provided after church goodies in April. On Saturday, May 7, Nearby will have a potluck, hosted by Jane Bramadat and Sylvia McDonald...hopefully outside on a lovely spring day."

Oak Bay: Karla Thomson tells us eleven people enjoyed a wonderful evening on April 9 at the home of John Worton. By the time you read this, Oak Bay NG will have survived hosting the Souper Sunday on April 17 with Grand Central. In addition, a few members of this NG continue to meet for lunch monthly at The Oaks on a Wednesday.

Royal Oak East: Members of Royal Oak East will be strapping on their aprons to provide goodies for the after-church coffee time in May. They have also designed a very appealing menu for their auction offer: a pre-jazz vesper dinner in November. All that jazz; good food, hot music."

Royal Oak West: Fran Hancock writes, "Lesley Duthie and Kent Haden graciously hosted the Royal Oak West NG potluck on Saturday, April 2 where they welcomed 16 guests. I look forward to hearing from a volunteer who is willing to host a summer NG potluck. A newcomer to our Neighbourhood Group, Ann Widdowson, was recently discharged from the hospital and with assistance was able to attend church on April 10. It was such a relief to see that she is doing better. Eleanor and Don Lloyd no longer drive, so if you are interested in giving them a ride to or from church, please let me know. They live on Hartland Road, so they are easy to pick up for anyone coming to the church from the south.

Western: For those who know long-time member, Mac Elrod, Susan Lean writes, "John and I had an enjoyable visit with Mac and Norma on April 6. He is doing as well as can be expected. You would never know there was anything amiss other than his weight loss. His spirits are high and he is happy when his family is around. We hope to see Norma at church on some Sundays when Mac has someone at home to keep him company. We will be resuming having our pot lucks in April and John and I will host at that time.

NEW MEMBERS

Edith Jasechko-Burton

Hi! I'm Edith Jasechko-Burton, and I have been a Unitarian since joining the Church of the Messiah in Montreal 52 years ago. There, I served in the office, on the Religious Education Committee, and as Board Secretary. In the late 1980s through the mid-90s, I was Administrator at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Clearwater, in Florida, which allowed and taught me the hard work that goes on unseen within a church, week in and week out. Recently, I served on the Ministerial Search Committee and the Intern Minister's Mentoring Committee at the First Unitarian Congregation of Toronto, where for thirteen years I was Archivist. I was privileged also to represent Canada for two sessions on the International Council of Unitarian Universalists, and I set up the beginnings of an archive for that organization.

Two months ago I moved to Victoria, and I look forward to this new chapter in my life. Having just printed my memoirs in October, I guess this is a whole new book and not just a chapter! My beloved daughter-in-law Jennifer and my son Gordon live twenty minutes away from Carlton House, and grandsons Glenn (Burnaby) and Scott (Calgary) come home when they can.



Victoria Gray

Victoria Gray arrived in our fair city in 2005. Her first introduction to FUCV was through a meditation retreat hosted onsite by church member June Fukushima. She fell in love with the location—its gardens, the view and the peaceful sanctuary with its streaming light. Having learned about UU from her “American mother” Jan Dobbs, with whom Victoria had lived during the 1980s while working in Kansas, as well as from having attended the Unitarian Church of Vancouver, Victoria was open to trying it out.

Growing up Catholic in Colombia, Victoria had experienced far too much personal and spiritual restriction within her natal church, and so had no intention of joining FUCV when she first attended. A chemistry researcher by profession (her last position was at UVic's School of Ocean Sciences, researching the climatically predictive qualities of heavy metal deposition in ocean sediments), she is an independent, eclectic soul who keeps for herself only the parts of things that feel right for her. But for her, First Unitarian felt right all over. Both Reverends Melora and Shana struck a chord with Victoria, with their wisdom and honesty, their energy, and their ability to engage a roomful of people with their entertaining and moving services. She loves the freethinking approach of UU, and believes there is space for her spirit to dance comfortably within our congregation.



Rowland Mak

I attended the First Unitarian Church of Hamilton, ON, with my parents and older sisters, Adrian, Hilda and Yolanda Mak, from my birth in 1966 until I was 16 in 1983. This small, warm, loving community was a very important part of my formative years. I also attended Unicamp (a Unitarian camp in Ontario) from the age of six until age 15. After that, I worked on the Unicamp staff as a kitchen worker, camp counsellor and assistant maintenance person until age 27. Unicamp's 50 acres are, for me, one of the most sacred places on earth, and one of the things I miss most about Ontario. I left Ontario for British Columbia in 2005.

In 1989 I had what I “believe” to be a mystical or spiritual awakening. I have been on a very gradual and intermittent path of inner discovery ever since. Yoga, psychotherapy, peer counselling, bodywork and spiritual study have all played a role in this journey. A positive psychological shift in December 2013 led to me seeking spiritual community. When I arrived at the First Unitarian Church of Victoria in June of that year, I felt like I was returning to my spiritual home. I find Reverends Shana and Melora to be wonderful, and I have made a few new friends with other special people here as well. Although within the context of our community, I am on the more theistic side of the scale, I believe that the greatest value of any spiritual book, teacher or teaching is the inner truth which it might point toward. And that this process of self-discovery takes place most fruitfully growing from a place of “I do not know” rather than “I do know”.

I am single and I live in a shared house in Gordon Head. My former partner and co-parent Elissa Joy Shames lives with our two daughters, Willow Mak (17) and Raine Mak (12), only a kilometre away from me, also in Gordon Head. Although my daughter Raine came with me to church last year, this year she has decided to nurture roots in the Chabad Vancouver Island Jewish community.



First Unitarian Church of Victoria
5575 West Saanich Road

Spring Concert 2016

Songburst

Nicholas Fairbank, Music Director

Friday, May 6, 2016
7:00pm

Chalice Choir
Men's Choir
Women's Choir

Bell Choir
Children's Choir
JAMMers

Refreshments

• Admission by Donation



A Magical Services Auction

A Huge Thank You to everyone who helped create a little magic during Auction Fever! Those of you who offered such an amazing array of services and those who came to enthusiastically bid are part of the magic. And then there are all the willing workers: the cashiers, auction recorders, ticket sellers, silent auction workers, gatekeepers, refreshment hosts, and take down crew. There's the youth making popcorn and the children in the art studio, supported by their leaders. There's Karen in the office providing clerical help, Dar formatting ads in the E-Weekly, and our own bar tender, Bob, who also publishes the auction in the newsletter. There's the crew at the bar, the cake-walk bakers, those signing out paddles, the sound and projection crew, the photographer, and the Neighbourhood Groups who offered services. There would be no auction without our

amazing Auctioneers, Rev. Shana and Farrell, assisted by silent auction promoter, Shirley.

There is a special place in heaven reserved for the auction team, who worked tirelessly from February until after the auction to make it all happen. Pat Kinrade solicited the services, Lorna Anthony recruited all the workers, Astrid Firley-Eaton created the gift baskets, Thea Revoy helped with the silent auction displays, and Jen Young was the lynch-pin, working from Kelowna to create the posters, lists, bid sheets, and ads for the newsletter and E-Weekly, as well as recording the bids as they happened during the auction. Meanwhile, I sat at the centre, waving my wand. So far, the auction has raised \$16,323 and counting to help support our church.

My heartfelt thank you to everyone who contributed in any way!

Suellen Guenther

SHARE THE PLATE FOR MAY

Special Olympics BC–Victoria is a volunteer, non-profit organization providing sports, recreation, training and competition to athletes with intellectual disabilities in the Capital Region. There are opportunities for athletes aged two to adult as well as fun social events and an athlete public speaking program.

S.O. Victoria is part of a world-wide organization that was begun in 1968 by several members of the J.F. Kennedy family of the U.S. in recognition of their sister and others with an intellectual disability. Locally, Victoria offers 19 sports to over 200 athletes. Each sport runs for a minimum of 12 weeks with at least one hour of practice each week. On a four-year cycle these culminate with regional, provincial, national and international competitions. Currently, winter sports are bowling, rhythmic gymnastics, swimming, basketball, floor hockey, skiing, figure skating, speed skating, club fit, curling and snowshoeing. Spring sports are soccer, track and field, bocce, golf and softball.

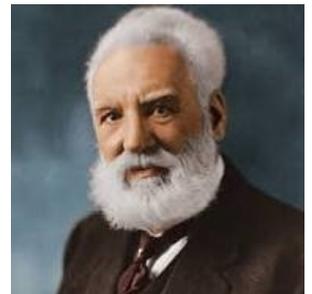
Special Olympics would not exist without the dedicated corps of volunteers, an incredible group of people who give their time to support the athletes. Training is provided to the volunteers through recognized national coaching programs.

If you ask the athletes why they like Special Olympics, you will hear them talk about training and competition, fitness and health, winning awards, travelling, friendship, feeling good, being good sports and wearing a uniform. And the dinners and dances—they love the dinners and dances. Their motto “Let me win, But if I cannot win, Let me be brave in the attempt.”

You can learn more about Special Olympics BC–Victoria on their website, victoriaspecialolympics.com.

NOTABLE UU

Alexander Graham Bell (1847–1922) was a Scottish-born scientist, inventor, engineer and innovator who is credited with patenting the first practical telephone. He later emigrated to the USA (Massachusetts) as well as buying property at Beinn Bhreagh, Cape Breton, Nova Scotia.



Bell's father, grandfather, and brother had all been associated with work on elocution and speech, and both his mother and wife were deaf, profoundly influencing Bell's life's work. His research on hearing and speech further led him to experiment with hearing devices which eventually culminated in Bell being awarded the first US patent for the telephone in 1876. Bell considered his most famous invention an intrusion on his real work as a scientist and refused to have a telephone in his study. Many other inventions marked Bell's later life, including ground-breaking work in optical telecommunications, hydrofoils and aeronautics. Though Bell was not one of the 33 founders of the National Geographic Society, he had a strong influence on the magazine while serving as the second president.

He was raised as a Scottish Presbyterian but later declared: “I have always considered myself as an agnostic, but I have now discovered that I am a Unitarian Agnostic.”

A Nature Playground for the children is happening! If you enjoy the outdoors and have a few hours to spare, your help will be greatly appreciated by the children as well as those helping alongside you. For more information, please contact Lesley Duthie at lcduthie2016@gmail.com.

If being indoors and hosting newcomers sounds like your cup of tea, the Membership Committee would love to connect with you as they help introduce new members and friends to our beloved community—support the visitor's table, co-host orientation and considering membership events, provide sweets and savories for membership events. For more information please contact Martha McDougall at marthaj.mcdougall@gmail.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 at hannyhugo@shaw.ca
- Worship Associate ~~ apply to Rev. Melora Lynngood at rev.melora@victoriaunitarian.ca
- Building Maintenance ~~ contact Tiff at johntiffany0705@gmail.com
- Audio-visual tasks ~~ contact Farrell at fmboyce@shaw.ca
- Summer UU Camp, August 19-21, Shawnigan Lake ~~ contact June at june_wtrs@yahoo.ca or Mariko at marikom2@hotmail.com
- Spiritual Exploration and Learning for Children and Youth (SEL-CY) ~~ contact Lesley at lcduthie2016@gmail.com
- Becoming a financial sponsor with Lifeline ~~ contact Don or Clare at donandclare@shaw.ca
- Providing rides to church ~~ contact Gloria at gloriainvictoria@shaw.ca

SPIRITED JAZZ

Winter/Spring Jazz Vespers Series

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

The Kim Greenwood Ensemble, Theme; Good-byes

Doug Farr vibes, Gary Theal guitar, Bill Kent bass, Barry Gray drums

7:00pm, May 15

First Unitarian Church Victoria, 5575 West Saanich Road

Donation Gratefully Accepted

Kim is a crossover vocalist, equally comfortable performing jazz, pop, classical and musical theatre and dedicated to mastering the adaption of physical technique required to do so. She has sung with various duos and trios, and occasionally shows up at Hermann's to sit in with Tom Vickery at a Thursday night jam session. She was lead singer for The SeaNotes Big Band in Oak Harbor, WA for two years. Currently Kim is the lead singer for Commodores Big Band, which has been performing since 1988 and you may have heard her at one of their regular gigs at Butchart Gardens, the Swiftsure, Oak Bay Tea Gardens or the Saanich Strawberry Festival.



Her own ensemble contains our Unitarian and Spirited Jazz director Gary Theal on guitar. This vespers is also an opportunity to hear vibe player Doug Farr (vibraphone players are a breed especially on Vancouver Island). The Kim Greenwood Ensemble plays at Hermann's Jazz Club and many other jazz venues on Vancouver Island.

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.

Spirited Jazz is the collaboration between jazz musician Gary Theal and Rev. Shana Lynngood (who has been known to add her vocals to services). Spirited Jazz weaves inspirational words from the music performed. For an interview or more information, contact Reverend Shana Lynngood (rev.shana@victoriaunitarian.ca) <http://victoriaunitarian.ca/>

Workshop on Peace in Palestine and Israel

at the United Church of Cadboro' Bay
(<https://www.facebook.com/events/1145344745498109/>)

May 3

No charge and no need to register unless you're coming for lunch. Please RSVP Cadboro Bay United Church so we know how much food to prepare: office@cadbayuc.org or 250-477-2715.

The **morning** session is for those new to this issue and trying to make sense of the continuing tensions in Israel and Palestine. **Afternoon** is for those following this conflict for a few years now or long-term activists who want to learn more about the United Church's approach and why Palestinians are calling for the use of Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) as a non-violent tool to end the occupation.

Evening: 7:00pm, free documentary film, "Five Broken Cameras", followed by a deeper conversation that will open hearts and minds and spur us to taking meaningful action. N.B. This movie has been shown in several UU churches this past year, such as First Toronto.

From the Refugee and Middle East Committee of the SRC and KAIROS Victoria (of which we are a member)

Community Dinner



May 13 is Spaghetti Night!

Everyone is welcome at this multi-generational event. An opportunity to meet new people or catch up with friends over a casual, fun, delicious meal.

At 6:00pm we gather in the sanctuary for a joyful time together. Spaghetti will be served with a choice of two very yummy tomato sauces, meat or vegetarian – plus garlic bread. Please join us!! Dinner is by donation.

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.

Child Haven Day

Dinner on April 2 raised \$9,900 with \$3,000 in tickets and \$4,900 in donations. Attendees seemed to enjoy all the food and entertainment; and many new faces said they plan to return next year.

Mother's Day Sunday has been chosen as Child Haven Day with all the donations that Sunday going to Child Haven International, a well-run Canadian charity founded by two Unitarians, the Rev. Fred Cappuccino and his wife Bonnie. Bonnie is affectionately known as "Bonnie-Ma" by the 1,200 South Asian children and adults that CHI have supported over a span of 31 years. Our congregation has helped support this charity annually since around 1999.

Save your books and save the date:

Giant Book Sale September 24

If you cannot store your books until September, please box them and put them with the other books in the storage space under the church sanctuary. Please do not leave them in the Farmhouse hallway.

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



Unitarian Universalist Island Network (UUIN)

Summer Camp

19 - 21 August 2016

The UUIN will be holding the 54th Summer Camp on the weekend of 19 - 21 August at the beautiful Easter Seals Shawnigan Lake campsite. This weekend provides time for spiritual development, strengthening old and forming new friendships and supporting diverse, intergenerational, intentional community.

The Camp Committee is looking for adults who may be interested in attending camp and supporting the youth or children's programming. Applicants are to be 25 years or older, be associated with a UU fellowship or congregation and have a desire to spend time with the youth or children outdoors supporting UU principles. The registration fee will be paid for those who work with the youth or children.

The commitment would be for three hours on the Saturday morning (9:30 – 12:30). Depending on numbers of registrants there would be a minimum of two folks supporting each group of youth or children. If you are interested please contact Martha at marthaj.mcdougall@gmail.com for more information and an application.

For further information or to register for the camp check out the website at <http://viuc.unitariancongregation.org/summer-camp/>

UUIN Spiritual Retreat 2017

Call for Program Proposals

We are inviting submissions of program proposals for our next spiritual retreat. We are planning to hold it on a February weekend in 2017, hopefully at the Bethlehem Retreat Centre in Nanaimo.

In your proposal, please include:

Name and contact information (email and phone).

Description of your spiritual retreat program (maximum 200 words).

Two references who can speak to your ability as a program provider.

Accommodation and meals will be covered, and an honorarium will be offered. Please email your proposal to sharonfulton@shaw.ca by **June 15, 2016**.

First Nations "Paddle for Peace"

July 7-11

Calling all critical thinkers, wilderness lovers, peaceful warriors, spiritual seekers, justice-makers and cultural creatives of every kind!



Kairos is organizing a First Nations "Paddle for Peace" trip under the banner of Truth and Reconciliation. The trip is being organized by Janet Gray whom many of us met at the Blanket Exercise at our church in February.

The purpose of the trip is to show support and solidarity with the people of the Peace River area, and to protest the building of the Site C dam.

A bus will leave from Vancouver for the Peace River area on July 7, returning on July 11. Upon departing Vancouver the bus will go to Tsawwassen terminal to pick up Vancouver Island participants. The cost for the excursion is \$300.

For details about the Paddle for Peace event, see <https://paddleforthepeace.ca/>. For details about the bus excursion, contact Christine Johnston at a1b57169@telus.net or Janet Gray at thegrays@shaw.ca

MAY BIRTHDAYS

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



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ARTIST OF THE MONTH

Jutta Woodland

After working in the theatre as a designer, director and actor for over thirty years, Jutta set her sights on a new art form. She studied at the Victoria College of Art, after which she knew that painting was her choice. She is a busy 'Plein Air' painter with the 'Al Frescoes', and can be seen painting at many picturesque locations in and around Victoria. Jutta is an active member of the Federation of Canadian Artists and the Oak Bay Arts Club.

Artist's Statement: "My husband and I are avid travelers and, although exotic themes are often my chosen subject, I'm always inspired by the beauty of Vancouver Island and I express this in much of my work."



Help Us Feed the Hungry

Do you have a few hours a week to help out at the Saint Vincent de Paul Social Concern Office down town? We are looking for volunteers who can lift grocery bags and operate a simple computer program. Training provided. Our food program needs you!

Contact Margaret MacIntyre: 250-727-0007
mmacintyre@svdpvictoria.com

Thank you so much!

First Unitarian Church of Victoria

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 churchoffice@victoriaunitarian.ca • www.victoriaunitarian.ca

Office hours: Monday - Wednesday 9:30am - 4:00pm • Thursday 8:30am - 1:00pm • Sunday 9:00am-1:00pm

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 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

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Faye Mogensen 250-744-2695
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 Anna Isaacs

Director of Music
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Church Administrator
 Karen Uldall-Ekman
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Assistant Church Administrator
 Sarah Versteegen

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EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

Date	Time	Event	Location
5/1	10:30-11:30am	SUNDAY SERVICE	Sanctuary
	10:00am-12 noon	Chalice Chapel for Children and Youth	Lion Hall
	12:30-1:30pm	Pre-AGM Finance Discussion (open meeting)	Sanctuary
5/6	7:00-9:00pm	Spring Concert	Sanctuary
5/8	10:30-11:30am	SUNDAY SERVICE (Mother's Day)	Sanctuary
5/13	6:00-9:00pm	Community Dinner	Sanctuary
5/15	10:30-11:30am	SUNDAY SERVICE	Sanctuary
	12 noon-2:00pm	AGM	Sanctuary
	7:00-9:00pm	Jazz Vespers	Sanctuary
Canadian Unitarian Council (CUC)		Annual Meeting in Vancouver(May 21-23)	
5/22	10:30-11:30am	SUNDAY SERVICE	Sanctuary
5/23	Victoria Day Holiday		
5/29	10:30-11:30am	SUNDAY SERVICE	Sanctuary

NEW FRIEND

Henry Amick
Local address not yet determined.
Permanent address is in Portland, OR.
E-mail: amick@uvic.ca
Ph: 503-466-5225 (N.B. This is a Portland-based cell phone).
Neighbourhood Group: Not yet assigned.

RESIGNATION

Sharon Wright

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

BOARD MEMBERS ON DUTY



May 1	Shirley Travis
May 8	Suzanne Beauchamp
May 15	John Worton
May 22	Lorna Anthony
May 29	Jane Wilson

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the **June** issue is **May 17**.

Copy should be sent to
newsletter@victoriaunitarian.ca.



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

Information for Events Highlights should be sent to
calendar@victoriaunitarian.ca or left at the church office.

Feedback is welcomed.

Staff

Bob Dobbs (editor); Doreen Burgess and Myra Rippon
(reviewers) and Karen Uldall-Ekman (production, distribu-
tion and paid advertisements).

