



# *The Victoria Unitarian*

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

## We Remember Bob...



Bob Dobbs, newsletter editor extraordinary, number-one number cruncher, top-notch pie maker, and so much more. Died too soon on May 23, 2016. Inside we feature some words from some of those in the congregation who know Bob well.

But first, a reflection from Bobby Umar, husband of daughter Ananda, who wrote these words on Facebook from Toronto about Bob – known to his family as Poppa Dobbs:

“I will miss the board games, the discussions, the big bone-crushing hugs, the dinner conversation, the annual movie jaunts, his logic and rationale behind most musings about people in the news, the way his eyes would twinkle watching his grandchildren sing & dance, his fun texts to me, our Scrabble games on Facebook and finally his dedication to talking to us at least once a week or more.

“He was such a loyal and giving family man, the patriarch and supporter of so many – from his kids Curran (he laughed at every pun) and Ananda, [Becky](#), Kevin and Colin, step-kids Heather, Stephen and a plethora of both blood and adopted grand-kids, siblings and extended family. He and Momma (Nancy) Dobbs would give SO much to the community, to charity, to offer money and lodging to anyone who needed it. I will miss him tremendously, especially this – whenever we would say goodbye over the past 15 years of visits, after the ribcrushing hug, he would always whisper in my ear ‘Take care of my daughter’ and in later years ‘Take care of my grand-kids too.’

“Yes sir, Poppa Dobbs. Always and forever. I will take care of everyone for you, because you took care of me and everyone. I honour you, I’m grateful for you and I love you Poppa.”

*Continued next column*



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## I Remember Bob by Rev. Melora and Rev. Shana ...

From the very beginning of our ministry, Bob stood out as one of the pillars of this community. Over the past six years, we've witnessed his consistent dedication and devotion to this congregation and to our larger faith.

Quietly, and without fanfare, Bob did so many of the tasks that keep this congregation going – from financial management to producing the newsletter to serving as a Canadian compensation consultant with the UUA to making each one of our new colour name-tags... the list goes on. As well, Bob supported our ministry from the beginning. We were touched by how appreciative he was of how we, as theist (Shana) and agnostic-sometimes-atheist (Melora), modelled an 'inter-theological' marriage similar to his and Nancy's.

We appreciate the thought and care he put into every detail of all the work he did – as in a recent newsletter, on a page featuring 'New Members', Bob tucked into the corner a photo of Stu Whitney wearing a red beanie hat and titled it 'Old Member' (and a note: 'Used with Permission'). Seeing it made me laugh with love and appreciation – for Stu's willingness to be there and for Bob's gift to us all of that little chuckle in the midst of our newsletter reading.



We will be forever be grateful for his inspiring dedication and for the countless hours and immeasurable amount of brainpower he put into supporting this congregation. What we will miss the most is his presence. His being. He sometimes had strong opinions, but he also had a gentle heart. We will miss that softness, that caring.

A good example of the thoughtfulness and care Bob brought to his work: He made special name-tags for each of our mothers – where it would say a title ('minister' or 'administrator' or 'board member') he wrote 'Rev. Melora's mother' and 'Rev. Shana's mother.'

For all of his sweet and sly humour, for the unique gift of his life – we are grateful and thankful for the six years we shared with him.

*Continued next column*



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## **I Remember Bob by Suellen Guenther ...**

When I was church president, I asked Bob if whether he would be willing to volunteer as finance committee chair or to volunteer as church treasurer. He immediately said he would rather be treasurer. The irony is that the treasurer sits on the finance committee. Bob was a valuable addition to the board because he had a perspective that caused us to take a second look or give deeper consideration of an issue. I have relied on Bob's help in more ways than I can count. He created eye-catching posters and ads for me for our auctions and book sales, entered data and kept financial records for the annual canvass, and helped in other ways including bartender for the auctions – and Ryan's wedding – and rides for me to the ferry or the airport for 5:00am flights.

Bob and Nancy always treated me like family and he made the best berry pies I've ever eaten. A very generous person, Bob's passing leaves a hole in my heart.



## **I Remember Bob by Lorna Anthony ...**

Bob worked in the backstage – reliable in all that he took on as well as encouraging each of us to be our best in our volunteer roles. I particularly remember one day when Bob was centre stage in the Sanctuary, portraying an anxious treasurer in one of our canvass skits. There he was in his bathrobe and slippers, hair dishevelled. He was such a good sport. Our church has been blessed to have had Bob with us.

## **I Remember Bob by Shirley Travis ...**

Bob's dedication to the church was without comparison. Bob did not think we said thank you enough to our members. I consider it Bob's legacy that we say thank you, and that we speak our gratitude.

## **I Remember Bob by Roberta Clair ...**

Bob was hugely helpful to me all year in my role as treasurer. Not only did he mentor me but he did a very large part of the work himself – and did it with good humour. Even when we were very busy he greeted people and their requests with a smile and even a joke. Bob was so generous, and a lot of fun. I miss him.

## **I Remember Bob by Sarah Verstegen ...**

Bob dealt with touchy financial issues without flinching and calmed down those involved. The day before his stroke and resulting car accident Bob left me several items of business to do – all involving different topics. Tax receipts, newsletter items, questions on which budget account to use, name tags. While I know the jobs will be filled, there is no replacement for Bob, and we all know it. He left a huge job vacancy that will take several people to fill.

I feel considerably richer having known Bob.

*Continued next column*



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## **I Remember Bob by Karen Udall-Ekman**

I have known Bob since I arrived in 2007. He knew a lot – and rarely could not answer my questions. If he couldn't, he usually knew the names of those who could. He had a philosophical and pragmatic approach to many issues.

I really enjoyed his delightfully dry sense of humour and his slow smile. I also enjoyed observing the close and caring marriage Bob and Nancy had together. They often joked back and forth as Nancy waited ... and waited ... in the office for Bob to finally wrap up his financial obligations for the day.

One such day was the Sunday before they were heading out for a special holiday. I remember watching Bob and Nancy walk slowly and gently, hand in hand, towards their car. There was a lot of happiness in that walk.

## **I Remember Bob by John Hopewell ...**

Years ago when Gloria was working as a nurse, Bob was in hospital for knee surgery. Gloria visited him on her lunch breaks and again after he returned home and formed a special bond with him.

Bob had multi-dimensional talents. He showed great creativity when working on the annual generosity campaign – from the special edition of the newsletter last year to his renaming of the team to the ABC (Annual Budget Campaign) Team very recently.

What really impressed Gloria and me recently was when we hosted a Circle Dinner. Bob and Nancy were charged with supplying the main course. Usually that means showing up with a cooked meal kept warm in the oven until needed. But Bob came with some raw chicken, along with other ingredients, dishes and implements. He took over our kitchen and prepared a delicious meal in front of us. A truly gourmet experience. He will be greatly missed at all levels of congregational life.



## **I Remember Bob by Jane Wilson ...**

I mostly worked with Bob on 'money matters' and will always picture him in the treasurer's office counting the collection on Sunday mornings.

A very recent memory, though, is when we had just ended one of our financial meetings and Nancy dashed in during a choir practice break to see if Bob could print some concert posters while he was waiting. Bob packed up his papers and happily changed hats from finance advisor to printer and went off to the office to produce the posters. Bob was always happy to help whenever and wherever he was needed – and enjoyed doing it.

## **I Remember Bob by Barb Nyland ...**

I'll be eternally grateful for Bob's expertise in the use of Publisher, the program we use for the monthly newsletter, and his enormous patience in introducing me in how to use it

## **I Remember Bob by Mike Graham ...**

Words cannot express our loss.



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## Services in June

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

Practices to transform  
ourselves and our world

JUNE'S THEME



**IDENTITY**

THE PRACTICE  
OF UNDERSTANDING  
*the many facets of your being!*

This Theme Logo was designed by our member Penelope Hagan

### June 5 Our Identities and Our Transitions — an Intergenerational Service

Rev. Melora and Faye Mogensen,

Chalice Choir

Director Spiritual Education for Children and Youth

This year's annual transition service will honour a full range of life's transitions, with an eye to how those transitions shape our identities, and how being a part of this community shapes our identity as Unitarian Universalists. We will begin with a baby dedication ceremony, witness our youth bridge to adulthood, honour 25 and 50 year members, and end with the candle lighting ceremony with which we honour the various transitions we are each facing in our own lives.

This is an intergenerational service – children and youth are welcome to stay for the entire service. Childminding will be available in the Sunflower Room for our youngest and/or our most restless youngsters.

Join us after the service for an Intergenerational Picnic on the front lawn and Lion Hall deck, as we honour the leaders in our children and youth programs. Quality hot dogs and ice cream available by donation, or feel free to bring your own picnic. If you can, please bring a picnic blanket or lawn chair.

### June 12 Embarrassed to be Religious

Michelle Brown

Men's Choir

Worship Associate Lillie Lentz

There are valid reasons to avoid talking about religion. And times when the silence is uncomfortable. A look at uneasiness about admitting to religion -- even when religion is central to our identity.

### June 19 Fathers, Masculinity and Identity

Rev. Melora

Chalice Choir

Worship Associates Larry Boldt and Gerry Brimacombe

This Father's day, in the month in which we consider the theme of identity, we look at: how our identities have been shaped by our relationships with our fathers, as well as how our fathers shaped our ideas of 'masculinity', and how we choose to re-shape our own ideas of masculinity and gender identity, moving forward.

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**The deadline for the July Newsletter is June 14.**

### SERVICES CONTINUED...

**June 19 at 7:30pm      Spirited Jazz Vespers**  
**Rev. Shana Lynngood and *Karel Roessingh Quartet***

This evening will explore the intersection of classical and jazz with a tribute to the work of Claude Bolling. The jazz trio plus guest flutist will perform Bolling's suite. Please join us as we explore the theme of integration as we hear two musical forms come together with Karel Roessingh on piano, Joey Smith on bass, Damian Graham on drums, and Mary Byrne on flute.

**June 26                      A Whole Self**  
**Rev. Shana Lynngood**  
**Worship Associate Susan Layng**

A significant aspect of reflecting on identity is realizing that we are complex and full of many component parts. Our identity includes aspects of personality, family background, ethnic or racial identity, and so much more. How do we lay full claim to all of who we are? How does that impact how we relate to others?

## ABOUT OUR SPEAKER

**Michelle Brown** 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.

## We Care!

**Care and Concern Committee for hospital and home visits, or just to talk...**

**Contacts:    Daphne Dunbar at 250-381-7648    •    Val Roberts at 250-477-7192    or your  
 Neighbourhood Group Care & Concern person**

Practices to transform ourselves and our world

JUNE'S THEME



IDENTITY

THE PRACTICE OF UNDERSTANDING

*the many facets of your being!*

## Identity: The Practice of Understanding the Many Facets of Your Being

Our identities are complex and made up of many component parts. We spend much time throughout our lives integrating and re-integrating various aspects of who we are. We take what we have received, add in experiences along the way, assess and reassess what still fits our sense of self. Identity includes everything from gender expression to socio-economic class to racial/ethnic background. It also includes psychological components like personality. How do we understand who we are at any given point along our life's journey? How much awareness do we need to have of our internal self-perception and outside projections onto us? Living in a way that holds all of who we are with integrity (especially in a society that tends to reduce everyone to simplest terms) can be a real challenge. We will explore the nuances of identity this month.

Here are the questions for reflection. Please choose one to spend time to reflect upon throughout the month. These questions come from colleague Rev. Karen Fraser-Gitlitz and lay collaborators at the Unitarian Congregation of Saskatoon:

1. Who am I? How do you describe yourself to yourself and others?
2. What is it like to have your name? Does your name reflect anything of your identity?
3. How much of what is central to your identity is named on your ID (e.g. birth certificate, passport, driver's licence)?
4. Do you experience your identity as changing over time, or do you have a sense that identity is fixed and unchanging?
5. At what age did you become aware of your gender identity? To what extent is gender an important part of your identity?
6. What about ethnicity, class, and socio-economic status - when did you first become aware of these aspects of your identity, and to what extent are they a meaningful part of your identity?
7. What are the significant relationships that have shaped your identity?

## ENGAGE & CONNECT

## SHARED MINISTRY/ TEAM

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

If you would like to become more engaged with our Church community, there is something for everyone. An information table will be set up on the 2nd Sunday of each month (excluding July & August) where you can check on the many opportunities for members and friends to make connections. Joining the info table on June 12 will be Earle Anthony of the Gardens & Grounds team. If being outdoors to do a little watering, weeding or cutting the lawn on a ride-on mower appeals to you, come and have a chat. There is also a roster of opportunities posted on the Bulletin Board in Lion Hall.

An exciting new venture for our congregation is the Buddy System to be initiated in September. The Buddy System will offer a new member the opportunity of being paired during his/her first year with a longer standing member. We are pleased by the number of buddies who have volunteered. Not all volunteer buddies will be needed right away but will be on a roster as new members join.

*From Shared Ministry Team: Marion Pape, Tiff Tiffany, Isabelle Grenon, Rev. Melora Lynngood*



## CHALICE LIGHTER OF THE MONTH

On June 19, near the summer solstice, our chalice will be lit by two of our treasured Elders. When they were asked what I could say about them they so modestly sent: 'Earle and Lorna, together with their two young daughters, joined the church in 1978. Other than living in Vancouver from 1990 to 1995, they have been involved in many facets of congregational life.' If we were to list all their contributions to the life of this church it would fill a whole page. You will remember him recently as 'Farmer Earle' and Lorna as our new President of the Board of Trustees. We are so grateful for all they do.

*From Betty Sherwood co-chair of the Recognition and Awards Committee*

## SEL

## FAYE MOGENSEN

### SElections on Identity and Change

Gauguin's famous triptych entitled *Where Do We Come From? What Are We? Where Are We Going?* is also a song in our teal hymnal, and could be the theme song of a month focused on *Identity*. To prepare myself for June, I've been singing it in my mind, sometimes replacing the 'We' with 'I' and other times sticking with 'We,' as I focus on the children and youth programs at the church.

'We' seem to be on the cusp of change - families are busier than ever. In many cases, both parents work away from home, and children attend a multitude of extracurricular programs. More than ever, our church needs to be a place to find restoration. With that in mind, we are exploring new ways of serving families better, while staying rooted in our purpose. You'll be hearing more over the months to come and, if you want to share any of your thoughts, I'd be happy to hear from you by email, phone or in person. One big change is Anna Isaacs is leaving her position. She's very much enjoyed working here but has another full time job and finds that she needs more time to herself.

On June 5 at our intergenerational service and picnic, we'll celebrate the year and our many transitions. The following two Sundays, June 12 and 19, are the last two Sundays of programming for the children. We'll explore identity through the arts. June Waters and I have another (simpler) art project to enhance our playground. Your children will have a great opportunity to unleash their creativity. Youth are invited to carry on until June 26, when Rev. Melora is able to pay a visit.

From June 26 through to the Labour Day Weekend, we'll be offering childminding for those children up to age 11 that come to church (older children can help out.) We'll also have the sanctuary cupboard stocked with quiet activity supplies should there be children who prefer to stay in church with their parents.

Over the next month, I look forward to conversations with as many of you as possible!

*Warmly,*

*Faye Mogensen*

*Director of Spiritual Exploration and Learning for Children and Youth*

250-744-2695 [FayeM@victoriaunitarian.ca](mailto:FayeM@victoriaunitarian.ca)

## First Nations “Paddle for Peace”

July 11

**Calling all critical thinkers, wilderness lovers  
peaceful warriors, spiritual seekers, justice makers  
and cultural creatures 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 for 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 of 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 [alb57169@telus.net](mailto:alb57169@telus.net)

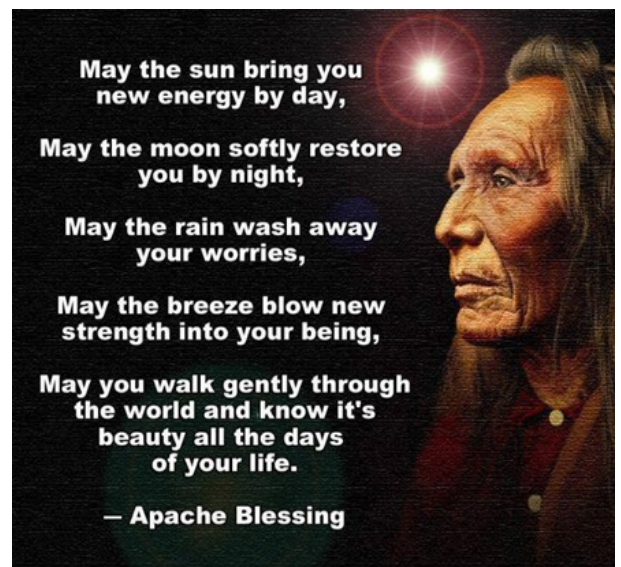


## Indigenizing

*-Kathryn Harwood*

I first heard the word ‘indigenize’ when I was at the opening of the First Nations Building at Royal Roads University a few years ago. What a great word! Our services at our church are now recognizing our presence on Coast Salish territory at the beginning of our service and in the Order of Service. This is a good start to indigenizing our church: meaning that we respect the land that we occupy, the people who have been living here for thousands of years and our distinct cultures and histories.

This is another small step towards healing and reconciliation. We are all paddling the same canoe and when all is said and done, it just feels right. We are also looking for more stories and legends that are the teachings and wisdom of First Nations People, because we really enjoyed the story told by JB Williams.



## 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](mailto:sharonfulton@shaw.ca) by **June 15, 2016**.

# Unitarian Universalist Island Network Summer Camp

August 19 - 21, 2016

*"I am on a voyage of discovery. I search for those of you who will go on a great adventure...if you are one of those audacious few willing to dare that then to share...then come with me". ~ William H. Danforth ~*



## **EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION CLOSES 20 JUNE 2016**

Unitarian Universalist Island Network Camp has something to offer everyone. Whether you are part of a family, single, senior or young adult, you are welcome here, and are sure to have a wonderful and enriching experience – Come be part of a diverse, intergenerational, intentional community!

Easter Seals Camp Shawnigan offers a lovely outdoor setting to have fun, relax, deepen friendships, explore spirituality and feel part of the larger Unitarian community. Take part in campfire, a Friday BBQ, variety show and family dance. As well, Saturday morning offers great programming for all ages, and the fabulous waterfront will be open in the afternoon. Hike up Mt. Baldy for a 360 degree view of Shawnigan Lake, explore the Kinsol Trestle, board games and crafts are other offerings for you to explore. This year there are three streams of adult programming to choose from:

\*Singing the Spirit with **Denis Donnelly** who will introduce songs, chants and rounds from a variety of spiritual and religious traditions.

\*Enjoy Somatic Experiencing and embodied Buddhist mindfulness meditation with **June Fukushima** to connect with the wisdom of your mind-body-spirit.

\*Compassionate Communication with **Selinde Krayenoff**. Learn to listen for and speak from life-serving needs instead of alienating thoughts.

A youth “play” shop program, children’s program, as well as wee care on Saturday morning.

\*\*Please note that you can come for the day if that fits better for your schedule. It is only about a 45 minute drive from Victoria. What a wonderful way to spend a summer day!!

To find out more details about the programs, registration forms and brochures please check out the website at: <http://viuc.unitariancongregation.org>

## **ARTIST OF THE MONTH:**

**LOIS BURTON**

### **Lois Burton - Photographer**

I have been passionate about photography since 2009 when I purchased my first digital SLR camera.

My other two passions in life are travel and art, and photography is the thread that weaves them all together.

Many areas of photography interest me including natural history, especially birds and wildlife, landscapes, and portraiture. Although I enjoy traditional photography, I am an artist at heart and I use photography as a form of artistic expression by combining traditional photography with digital technology to create artistic images.

I have a deep respect for nature and am drawn to the splendour and beauty that nature illustrates in its many different and changing ways; and am constantly searching for unique expressions of nature.

Extensive travel has allowed me to visit some of the world's greatest cities and regions. Through my travel and photography I seek to document and define my own personal experiences of the places I visit and the cultures connected with them and to share their vitality grandeur and timelessness.

It is my goal as a photographer to inspire others to reach out to that sense of wonder, and to encourage you to journey to and explore the uniqueness of the world's most extraordinary places.

Awards:

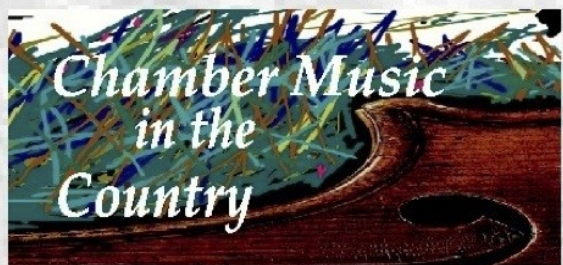
Advanced High Aggregate Award, Victoria Camera Club, 2013-2014

Advanced High Aggregate Award, Victoria Camera Club, 2014-2015

Distinguished Photographer Award, Victoria Camera Club, 2015-2016

Frank Turner Award, Victoria Camera Club, 2016

# EINE KLEINE SUMMMER MUSIC



29th Season

June 4 - July 3, 2016

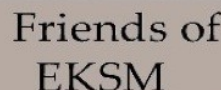
Artistic Directors - Laura Backstrom & Lorraine Min

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*"one of the premiere cellists in the world today"*

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## HOW

DON VIPOND

### HOW: we're headed for the rocks.

Here's the hard truth of the matter.

We have a great wad of cash donated to enable us to support a Syrian refugee family. Beyond, that, we have enough money donated to support one or maybe two gay Syrian refugees, a high risk group . . . but our two Healing Our World (HOW) projects are dying on the vine.

With a target of \$10,000 (\$5,000 for each) we have, at present, donations totalling just over 25 per cent of that – with only one month to go in this fund-raising campaign.

These are good HOW projects too, suggested by church members and very much in aid of local people who have acute needs.

One of our projects involves a venerable half-way house in Victoria, a shelter and way point for men coming out of prison and a place where they are learning to become productive citizens. But the building is crumbling and badly needs upgrading. Imagine living in this communal home after years of confinement, wondering how you are going to rejoin the human race. This house provides shelter and support.

Our other HOW project will support a winter homeless shelter run by the First Unitarian Fellowship of Nanaimo. Imagine yourself roaming Nanaimo next November, in a cold rain, in the dark. How welcome would that shelter be?

Over the past 10 years, through 25 HOW projects, our congregation has helped to feed kids, build schools, provide solar power, empower widows, give local teens a safe place to gather, help African beekeepers ... the list goes on. This is not a tradition we want to abandon now.

Your HOW committee is acutely aware that you have already given generously towards a major international refugee settlement effort. But acute needs go on, all around us.

This month, half of the open plate offering will go towards funding our HOW projects. For more information on HOW, contact the individual proposal sponsors, Susan Layng and Shirley Travis, or the HOW team of Don and Clare Vipond, Ruth Pozer-Telford and Leslie Gillett.

As to how you go about giving, please make your cheque payable to the church (you will get a receipt for income tax purposes) and on the memo line of the cheque write "HOW." Drop it in the Sunday collection basket or put it in an envelope in the church office, marked to the attention of the treasurer. *Thank you.*

## This Lifeline thing – what’s it all about?

*New person:* What is this thing I hear about called Lifeline?

*Old person:* The name actually is the Lifeline List Project and it’s been operating in this church for almost 12 years.

*New person:* What’s it do and why?

*Old person:* Let me begin with a little history. Twelve years ago, we were getting sporadic but a steady stream of phone calls to the church office from people asking for help. Most calls came from local women and many of them had run out of food for their children and were looking for help. Or they were going to be evicted or have their phone or their electricity cut off. Our response was uneven, to say the least. Some people we helped, some got lost in the shuffle. What we badly needed was a consistent rational, practical, compassionate approach to assisting where we could - and some way to finance that help.

*New person:* And that was the Lifeline List Project?

*Old Person:* Right.

*New person:* How does it work?

*Old person:* The project comes in three parts. First, the sponsors. We said to church members and friends: if you will become a sponsor for the Lifeline List, here is what we promise: We will only ask you for money once a year and never for more than \$200, sometimes less. We will only call on you when we have a local person with an urgent need and we will tell you what we can about them without betraying confidences. And if you become a sponsor, you can get off the list any time you want, with just a phone call, no questions asked.

*New Person:* When these people call for help, how do you know if it’s genuine?

*Old person:* That’s part 2. The project has a handful of experienced women from our church who serve as assessors. Only women do this work because most of the people we help are women. An assessor visits the person who has asked for help, meets them face to face, listens carefully, looks around, gets the details.

*New person:* Then what?

*Old person:* The assessor writes a report on what she has found and makes a recommendation. Or she may want to talk to the administration team about what she found. Together, they settle on a response. If it’s to help, the administration team usually delivers the help. We don’t give cash. We pay bills, deal directly with landlords, maybe buy food vouchers. Frequently we invite the trustees of the Ethel May Trust, another church fund, to help cover the costs.

*New person:* Sounds organized. How’s it working?

*Old person:* Really well. The assessors protect us from being scammed and the sponsors (there are 65 of them at the moment) make it happen. The project has been tweaked over the years and now runs like a well-oiled machine – one which helps us to live our principles. Since October of 2004, we’ve helped over 300 local families get past barricades which had them desperate.

*New person:* Why are you telling me all this?

*Old person:* First, you asked, because you want to know what’s going on around the church, don’t you? Second, you might like to become a sponsor. If you (or anyone reading this) would like to join in this highly successful compassionate enterprise, please contact Don Vipond at 250-652-5491 or [donandclare@shaw.ca](mailto:donandclare@shaw.ca)

### The Annual General Meeting of the First Unitarian Church of Victoria Foundation

will be in the Common Room on Sunday, June 12, 2016 at 12:00 PM. Members of the congregation are invited to attend for the awarding of two grants to First Nations students at Camosun College.

*From Fran Hancock*

### Legacy Circle Celebration

To honour the members of the congregation who have left a bequest to the church in their wills, 23 people attended the Legacy Circle Celebration at the home of Frances and Peter Hancock on April 13th. Reverend Shana graciously acknowledged the importance of leaving a legacy and being able to thank people in person.

*From Fran Hancock*

The long wait for the Syrian family we are sponsoring to arrive may be drawing to a close. On May 4, the family travelled 15 hours by bus to Ankara for their interview with government officials and their medical examinations and they have been approved to come to Canada. They were told to wait for word on a flight in a few weeks, so we are hoping they arrive in June. Canadian authorities have told the families they will have to pay for their flights to Canada, but this can be paid back over time. When Ahmad & Khadijah hear the date for their flight, they will have to pack up and travel to the nearest international airport, so they will face another gruelling journey.



Based on this news and concerned about the tight rental market in Victoria, we have rented a three bedroom suite for them, the upper floor of a house, located in Gordon Head and just around the corner from their relative, Ali. The suite is within our budget and within walking distance to two grocery stores and other services. We have recently received more beautiful furniture, and we are very thankful to the donors and also for the volunteers who helped move it into the church storage area. If you are willing to help move furniture and household items into the suite in June, please contact Jim Willis: [james.w.willis@hotmail.com](mailto:james.w.willis@hotmail.com) and he will add your name to his list. We hope to create a welcoming space for the family when they arrive at last at the end of their long journey.

At the recent AGM, the congregation affirmed our willingness to sponsor a GLBTQ refugee or committed couple, in addition to the Syrian family. Such a person may arrive with very little warning, so we are still accepting donations of furniture or household items to equip a place for this person or couple. Jim Willis is the person to contact. If you would like to make a contribution to the refugee fund, the contact is now Kristina Stevens: [kristinastevens@shaw.ca](mailto:kristinastevens@shaw.ca).

We send a heart-felt thankyou to the volunteers who have completed all the paperwork necessary to have personal contact with members of the Syrian family or a GLBTQ refugee. If you are partway through the process, we encourage you to finish as soon as possible.

We hope many of you are taking advantage of the opportunities we are offering to increase our cultural sensitivity. We, on the Refugee Steering Committee, remind all of us that the Syrian family is not **our** family; they are the family we are sponsoring. They will have their own likes and dislikes, and Christine advises us that good social work practise stresses that people need to feel ownership of decisions made on their behalf and that means choice. Andy found a good article in the Times Colonist that makes some excellent points: <http://www.timescolonist.com/life/global-voices-allowing-people-to-choose-is-as-good-as-giving-itself-1.2243766>.

Thank you to everyone who is contributing to our efforts to provide a welcoming space and to be a welcoming community for this Syrian family.

A



**Do you have a friend in need ... of a ceremony?**

**wedding, child dedication or memorial?**

Tell them about FUCV's

**Lay Chaplains**

It's what we do!

Email: [laychaplains@victoriaunitarian.ca](mailto:laychaplains@victoriaunitarian.ca)

*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.*

**Esquimalt:** Pat McMahon writes, "Seven members gathered at the Spiral Café for afternoon coffee on the second Tuesday of May. We agreed to continue once a month. We will meet at Cafe Fantastico/Fol Epi at 2:30 on the second Tuesday of June. Before that, we will also gather for a potluck supper at Cedar Shores on the first Friday of June."

**Fairfield:** Louise de Lugt hosted a "wee tea" for people new to the Fairfield NG on April 24. Three people were able to attend and she hopes to host two other newcomers at a later date. Louise and Convenor Lynn Beak were able to talk about things to do in and around Victoria, and they all enjoyed themselves so much they stayed until nearly 5:00! Fairfield is the NG who will be providing coffee time treats in June.

**Grand Central:** Plans are in the works to host a NG gathering at a later date featuring the travels of two of their families; one went to Europe and the other to Guatemala.

**James Bay:** Lynn Hunter writes, "On the evening of May 9, 12 members of the James Bay neighbourhood group gathered at the home of Lynn Hunter and Don Armstrong for a delicious and well balanced potluck dinner. Included in our gathering were new member Lynn Lunde and her sister Laine, both of whom indicated they would come again. The conversation was wide ranging and included news of the refugee situation and the accommodation that has been found for 'our family'. Our next gathering will be a coffee morning at the home of Adeleine Morris at 10AM in June.

**Nearby:** Potluck host, Sylvia McDonald, reports, "On Saturday May 6, ten members of the Nearby Neighbourhood Group met for an evening potluck at the home of Rev. Jane Bramadat and Sylvia McDonald. The evening was warm and sunny and after holding hands and singing grace around a food-laden table, we carried our glasses and plates out to the deck where we sat and chatted and also sang some more. Of course there was much joking and laughter and rueful comments about current American politics. Admiration was expressed for the beautiful fence and yard that Michael Ramsey is building around Jane's house. It was truly a golden evening and as people were picking up their dishes and laughing and leaving, Jane remarked to Sylvia, "Didn't Bob and Nancy look happy!? How we hope for the recovery of both these wonderful people!"

**Oak Bay:** Karla Thomson writes, "The OBNG is now looking forward to a June potluck at Tiff and Jan Li's with stories about animals to amuse each other. The monthly lunches at the Oak's are continuing with a gathering on May 18."

**Royal Oak East:** Hanny Pannekoek writes, "The next gathering of the Royal Oak East Neighbourhood Group will be on June 7. Three women of our group will host this one, held in the Lion Hall. Their homes are not large enough, so they decided to get together and do it that way; a lovely initiative. We have a new member, Rich Scales and his two children. He is one of the younger generation which we welcome. This month we have some diverse happenings: Grace Scarabelli will have her 93rd birthday, Nille had a knee replacement, we are expecting our first 'group baby' and we are involved in the memorial service for Christine, daughter of Helen and Thane Waldie; all along the wide spectrum of life." This NG has also provided goodies for coffee time in May.

**Royal Oak West:** Fran Hancock sends this note, "A lot of positive comments were received from the potluck dinner hosted last month by Lesley Duthie and Kent Haden, so many thanks to the hosts. Please contact me if you would be willing to host a NG gathering as well. Thank you." The Cidery Tour and Salmon Dinner at the Hancocks, sponsored by Royal Oak West in the auction, was a great success. Cider tasting at Sea Cider is a fun event for a group!

# CELEBRATING OUR 25 AND 50 YEAR MEMBERS

## 25-Year Members

### Dolores Appleton



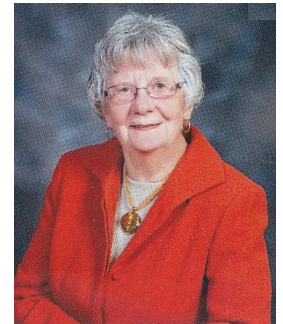
Paul and I visited the Unitarian church downtown before we moved here, thinking that we probably would eventually come and we were curious about the local church. We had previously attended when we lived in Kingston. I think it was Wilma walking along to church that we talked to. Her friendly smile and greeting encouraged us to want to come. We did come to Victoria the same month as Phyllis Gardiner and I admired this woman, who had just pulled up stakes and moved across the country.

A dinner with a fish provided by the Neilsons (Ron and Wilma) was set up in a nearby hall, so I asked the folks at the entrance to direct Phyllis to our table. Hard to believe that was 25 years ago. Many of the people we met are no longer here, but still alive in our memories.

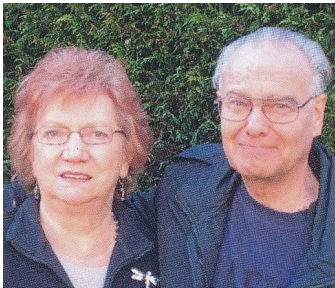
### Phyllis Gardiner

My introduction to the Unitarian church came through the kitchen. There was no dishwasher in the old church so volunteers did the job by hand. As I washed and dried I met and got to know many members of the church.

From there it was a short time before I began to serve on committees. I thought I had most to offer in the Care and Concern Committee. That year Ruth Miller's 'sister' led an excellent workshop in which everyone learned through active participation about caring, compassion and communication. I became emotionally involved not only with those I served but also with members of the committee. I very soon felt I belonged and have felt that way ever since.



### Elaine Hansen and David Person



"We respect the worth and dignity of all people"

That's what got my attention – I had never heard of a church that did that. It was 1987, I was living in Toronto and one Saturday night I went to a social for singles at the Unitarian Church on St. Clair Avenue. I picked up a few of the pamphlets from the small wooden boxes attached to the walls.

I read them when I got home that night; I just couldn't believe that I was reading about a church, so the next morning I went to investigate.

The first thing I saw when I walked in the door was this: two men in deep conversation, one was wearing a three piece suit with a blue tie and matching handkerchief in his breast pocket, the other one was wearing shorts and cowboy boots. None of the women were wearing hats and ... no one seemed to notice or even care.

Then I saw that there were no pews, just ordinary chairs, and to top that off, the Minister was a woman!

Visitors were invited to stay for coffee following the service, (having coffee in church was something I had never heard of) and we were asked to take a green cup – "no way" I said to myself, I don't want anyone coming around to check me out, it was the other way around, I came to check them out!!

By the time the service was over, I was hooked! I don't remember what the service was about, only that we were not asked to kneel on the floor, the words 'pray' and 'sin' were not even mentioned. The people were friendly, made me feel so welcome that I decided right then and there that I would go back, and I did, every Sunday until my job in Toronto was finished a few months later. When I returned to Edmonton the first thing I did was grab the phone book to find out if there was a Unitarian church in Edmonton, the city where I had spent most of my adult life. I had been searching for a

*Continued on next page...*

long time for a place where I felt that I belonged, a place to congregate with like-minded people, but then, I had not been looking for a church.

So ... Sunday morning I was off to church, I didn't think to check what time the service started, but then, I thought – don't all church services start at 11 ? When I walked in the door at 10:40 there wasn't a soul in sight! (no pun intended) I couldn't believe it – where were all the people? I had had to park my car two blocks away. Then I spotted another door so I marched right over and yanked it open only to find, to my surprise, a sunken sanctuary filled with people. The service had started at 10:30, I was mortified, it was not like me to be late and so noisy to boot!

I was about to turn and run when a woman looked up at me, smiled and patted the chair beside her, inviting me to come in and sit with her. Her name was Mary Pardee and she invited me to stay for the coffee hour, she introduced me to the Minister (John Marsh) and once again, I was made welcome.

A short time later I was a member of several committees, president of Solos and a board trustee.

I met David in 1989, he joined the church shortly after we met and became involved with several committees as well. We were married in the church in May of 1990, came to the island on our honeymoon and decided we would like to live here, but only if there was a Unitarian Church in Victoria. There was – on Superior Street in James Bay. We went to the service on Sunday and again were welcomed by so many friendly people. Wilma and Ron Neilson and Ruth and Gordon Ralston gave us a tour of the whole building, including the furnace room as I remember. We definitely wanted to come back and we did.

We came to make our home in Victoria the following year, in March of 1991, and became members of the church in May. The position of Membership Chair was open and Rev. Phillip Hewett asked me to fill it so I got involved in the life of the church right away.

I have worked on many committees over the years, I was the volunteer coordinator for the office volunteers and worked in the church office every Friday morning for many years, but I think I was best known as the “food lady” – that's what the kids called me!

I started Spaghetti Night in 2000, there were only 10 people the first night but by the time I left four years later and turned things over to Susan and John there were up to 50 regulars.

Twelve years ago we made another move - to the Cowichan Valley where we now live.

It's hard to believe that 25 years have gone by, although I no longer come to church on Sunday mornings, I am there in spirit every Sunday at 10:15; I sit in front of my computer with my coffee and my smile and watch as the church fills up in 10 minutes. I not only watch, I participate in the entire service. I say thank you from the bottom of my heart to those who have made live-streaming possible - it's the next best thing to being there.

My membership in this church has enriched my life in so many ways, I found a place where I belonged, where I was liked, accepted and respected just the way I was. It was also okay to make mistakes, to learn and to be of service without becoming a *servant*.

## Margaret McKelvie



A best memory was being a member of the past Search Committee. It was a privilege to join the other six members to find a new minister, or ministers in this instance. I have never worked as hard on a committee as I did on it. And the outcome was the best! We still nudge each other on some Sundays and say, “we got it right”.

*Continued on next page...*

## Adeleine Morris

Soon after joining the church I signed up for the personnel committee, now known as human resources. Within a few weeks I was called to attend the first meeting. I missed the second meeting. When I arrived for the third meeting I had been elected in absentia to chair the committee. It was a responsibility that lasted for six or seven years (with valued support from Don Mills).



Working closely with Vann Knight during his first year as our minister introduced me to church administration from a broad prospective, rather than a specific committee. When it was suggested that neighbourhood groups could handle coffee sessions after the service, I was charged with the responsibility of acquiring feedback. I have a vivid recollection of negative comments from several people. It was another way of getting to know church members! Working with several others on the founding committee for the FUCV Foundation was most satisfying. Norm Dolan was the chairperson. All of the committee members had a sound understanding of foundations, excellent organizational skills and a sense of humour.

## Kristina Stevens

In the late 1980's, I worked at BC Buildings Corporation in the real estate area. Pat Kinrade worked in client services designing office and other space for government ministries. She first suggested that I come to the Unitarian Church to help provide music for a service she was presenting, I felt so much at home that I kept coming. A bit later I was invited by Marya Nijland to room with her at the Elliott Institute summer camp in Washington State. It was standing of foundations, excellent organizational skills and a sense of humour. an incredible week, and, like so many others, I can say that I went to Elliott and it changed my life! And then there was music; under the direction of Sally Braswell Murphy the choir grew and I met and sang with many interesting folks, including Ted Furnes (we were both in the tenor section), Hy and Jean Evans, the Neilsons, and more. I took the "Building Your Own Theology" course with Mac and Norma Elrod and developed my personal credo. There have been many sermons and discussion which have advanced my spiritual journey. That journey is ongoing, and I continue to benefit from services and friendships at the church. I am so glad that, thanks to Pat, I found it!



## 50-Year Member

### Shirley d'Estrube

*The following article was first published in the June 2004 newsletter, when Shirley was honoured as a Church elder.*

Shirley has an outstanding record of service to the church. Shirley joined the church in our early fellowship days, and her children attended our Sunday school. Later, when our church was located on Superior Street, she was editor of the bulletin for a number of years and served several terms on the Board of Governors. She served on two Ministerial Search committees. She served on the Buildings and Grounds and Aesthetics committee and the search committee for a new church building. She was our Pacific Northwest District representative for one term. Shirley was our Facilitator/Coordinator between 1976 and 1981, years when we did not have a minister. During this period we were served by Reverend Bob Karnan, Minister-on-Loan and Reverend Horace Westwood, Junior, interim minister. Shirley's task was to coordinate and foster the various aspects of the church in the absence of a minister. She worked in concert with the President of the day, but was responsible for administrative details and the fostering (sometimes initiating) of programs for the congregation such as neighbourhood groups. She worked closely with both Reverend Bob Karnan and Reverend Horace Westwood as course toward a decision to hire a minister was charted.



At the end of Phillip Hewett's interim ministry, Shirley chaired a newly formed Long Range Planning committee whose work continued for many months holding workshops and meetings with all committees and neighbourhood groups, to ascertain their wishes for the future.

She chaired a Sexual Misconduct team and together with Bill Jones instituted a Conflict Management program. Her latest activity was serving on the Archives committee which led to her writing our history, an effort which took countless hours. The History was a resounding success.

**Marg Rose** is a returning member. After having left us to move to Alberta for a year, she quickly came to her senses and is now determined to remain in paradise found.

Marg has been a member of the FUCV choir and has taken part in several other church programs. She is a firm Unitarian Universalist, through and through. Identifying as an agnostic, Marg grew up with an Anglican lay minister mother who was always unhappy with an angry God, so Marg embraces the seven principles of Unitarianism as her core. She is enjoying the Soul Matters group. She is very active in social responsibility through her position as the Director of Philanthropy with the United Way of Greater Victoria. Marg has worked as a French teacher, an ESL program director and a granting director, all jobs she held while living on the prairies, where she spent a decade as an active member of the First UU congregation.

Marg has an ailing father in Manitoba and two grown adult children who live in Montreal and Ottawa, and so travels often. She wants you all to know, however, that this is her spiritual home.

**Caroline-Tashish Rentz** I am so grateful to have found this church, and to now be a part of it! My childhood background is Christian but through the years I have explored a variety of spiritual paths and formulated a personal spiritual philosophy that is reflected in the beliefs and values of Unitarian Universalism. First and foremost, I so appreciate the vibrancy of the First Unitarian church community. I have attended almost every Sunday since I moved here, and each time have left feeling uplifted, encouraged and re-energized - the music, the messages, the leadership, the deep commitment to compassionate action in the world, the acceptance of diversity, and the warm welcomes of individual members.

I am a retired psychotherapist and college professor. I moved to Sidney from Powell River in July of last year (2015). I lived in Powell River for seven years after returning to Canada from an eight-year stay in Japan, during which time I taught English as a Second Language in Kobe and Nishinomiya. During my sojourn in Asia, I volunteered for two summers at the Ankor Hospital for Children in Siem Reap, Cambodia. Previous to these wonderful adventures, I had been living in Alberta. I have a son who lives in Victoria and a daughter who lives in Calgary.

**Sandra McMullen (& baby Fiona)** I decided to become a member of First Unitarian because I have fallen in love with the church and the people here. This has been the most welcoming church I have ever stepped foot in! I love that the church does such good in the community and for the world. I love the kids' programs and am looking forward to Fiona being a part of them when she is older. Reverend Shana and Reverend Melora are amazing and give such heartfelt sermons. I have been coming since August of 2015, and always leave each Sunday service feeling spiritually nourished.



I have lived in Victoria since 2001, although I left for a few years to live in Vancouver and Prince George. I have an aunt and a cousin who live in Victoria, and my fiancé lives here, too. The rest of my family is in Prince George and Vancouver. I am currently on maternity leave from my job as a mental health care worker, but have decided not to go back to work; instead, I am offering daycare in my home so that I can stay home with Fiona, beginning February 1.

**Doug McGinnis** Over the years, I came to recognize that I related very much in my philosophy to the UU people I had developed friendships with in various communities. When I arrived as a newcomer to Victoria, I decided the UU church would help me connect with the same community of people who had been so uplifting for me in the past. An encouraging factor in my decision was my wife's shared appreciation of the UU church and its principles. I like the freedom to participate in all aspects of the church according to my personal interests and needs, as these change and evolve with me. I especially like the fact that service topics are approached from both a spiritual and a scientific (evidence-based) perspective, and almost always relate in a real way to the lives of members who are willing to share their insights and real-life experiences.

I had been a frequent visitor to Victoria beginning in late 2007, during trips to see my then-future-wife. I moved here in 2011, and currently share my life in Victoria with my wife and her two daughters (ages 17 and 21). Other extended family members live elsewhere in BC and Alberta. I am a retired scientist, but with my engineering and science background I hope to become engaged in work that might move us a little closer to living in a sustainable world. Since retirement, however, I have mainly been using my energy to restore my older home in Oak Bay.



## First Unitarian Church of Victoria

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• Reverend Shana Lynngood  
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**Minister Emerita**  
 Reverend Jane Bramadat  
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 Kjerstin Mackie 250-598-5975

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 Anna Isaacs

**Director of Music**  
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 churchoffice@victoriaunitarian.ca

**Assistant Church Administrator**  
 Sarah Versteegen

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Jim Jordan	John Worton

## EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>
5th	10:30 AM 2:30 PM 6:30 - 8:00 PM	<b><u>SUNDAY SERVICE</u></b> <u>Eine Kleine</u> Summer Music, Brahms Mozart Strauss <u>New Member &amp; Friend Reunion</u>	Sanctuary Sanctuary Lion Hall
10th	6:00- 9:00 PM	<u>Community Dinner</u>	Sanctuary
12th	10:30 AM-11:30 AM 2:30 PM	<b><u>SUNDAY SERVICE</u></b> <u>Eine Kleine</u> Summer Music, Haydn Shostakovich Dvorak	Sanctuary Sanctuary
17th	6:00- 9:00 PM	<u>Auction "Living History" event</u>	Lion Hall
19th	10:30-11:30 AM  2:30 PM 7:30 - 9:30 PM	<b><u>SUNDAY SERVICE</u></b> <u>Last Sunday for children's programs</u> <u>Eine Kleine</u> Summer Music, Rachmaninoff Ravel Dohnanyi Jazz Vespers	Sanctuary  Sanctuary Sanctuary
26th	10:30 AM-11:30	<b><u>SUNDAY SERVICE</u></b>	Sanctuary

## CHANGES IN MEMBERS CONTACT INFORMATION

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 James Bay NG

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 Far Out NG

Reese Willis  
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 778-967-1496  
 Grand Central NG

Elaine Hepburn Klimke's new e-mail:  
[elainehepburn0504@gmail.com](mailto:elainehepburn0504@gmail.com)

### New Members and Friends since April 15:

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 Far Out NG

## BOARD MEMBERS ON DUTY IN JUNE



June 05	Marion Sollazzo
June 12	Jim Jordan
June 19	John Tiffany
June 26	Shirley Travis

**MEN'S CHOIR REHEARSAL FOR  
 JUNE 12 SERVICE IS ON THURSDAY  
 JUNE 9**

## JUNE BIRTHDAYS

1	Dar Gareau-Levy; Jonah Barr-Hoadley
2	Jean Simpson
4	Bridget Barr-Hoadley, Matea Branch, Jean Foxall, David Haywood-Escher,
6	Bruce Bennett
7	Jane Bramadat
8	Marion Irish
9	Allan Dakin, June Waters
10	Kathryn Saunders, Mike Thorne
12	Rene Taylor-Lowen
13	Sevanna Grunwald
14	Gita John-Iyam
15	Andrew Beak-Taylor
17	Jan Van Gessel, Anne Percival, Mae Adam
19	Brad Clarke, Emilia Quibell
20	Elizabeth McGugan
21	Russ Mellett
24	Joe Girard
25	Eunice Fast
27	Keiran Marrett-Hitch
28	Adrian Fine
29	Kieran Hall Locklin, Jonas Van Tol
30	Marian Foucault

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

Information for the Events Calendar should be  
sent to

[calendar@victoriaunitarian.ca](mailto:calendar@victoriaunitarian.ca)  
or left at the church office.

Feedback is welcomed.

### Staff

Co-editors Barbara Nyland and Jen Young ,  
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distribution and paid advertisements).

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