



The Victoria Unitarian

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

SERVICES IN JANUARY

Practices to
Transform Ourselves
and Our World
January's Theme



Creation
The Practice of Bringing
Something New into Being

Our graphic for January was designed by Dar Gareau-Levy

January 1

Sometimes a Little Shocking
Chris Wulff

WA Doug McGinnis

Though some think it's more than a little bit crazy, a great many people greet each new year by plunging into frigid water. A polar bear dip is a bracing way to start a new adventure, certainly. But sometimes it takes a shock to set us on new paths, to make the space that helps us let old things go and embark on a new quest. The last page of the calendar has been turned and a new unfilled grid of days heralds the space of the coming year. How will you spend yours?

January 8

Creation and Fear
Reverend Melora Lynngood

Guest Musicians*

WA Oliver Belisle

This month, we consider, "creation: the practice of bringing something new into being." What new things do you 'bring into being'- in a given day, over your lifetime? To what extent does fear inhibit your creative efforts? To what extent does it spur you on – to what extent do you 'feel the fear and do it anyway?'

January 8, 7 pm Spirited Jazz Series - Jazz Vespers

Reverend Shana Lynngood and the Jon Miller Quartet

This evening's Vespers will encourage us to continue to wade into 2017 by exploring the theme New Beginnings. A new year always offers us a chance to look at our lives with fresh eyes. Is there something new in life for you this year, or are you continuing familiar patterns with new resolve? Wherever you find yourself this new year, please join us. The Jon Miller Quartet includes: Monik Nordine, saxes, Ross MacDonald, bass, Rob Cheramy, guitar, and Jon Miller, drums.

January 15

What Music Can Do
Reverend Shana Lynngood

Chalice Choir

WA Susan Layng

This year's auction sermon for me is an invitation to explore the power and meaning of music. In all forms across the globe, music serves as an amazing conveyor of feeling and communicator about place and time and the human condition. This morning, I will try to put into words some of the remarkable properties of music.

* David and Mary Lowther, Klezmer Music

Services continued next page

*Services continued -***January 22****Dreaming the New into Being****Chamber Choir****Reverend Shana Lynngood and Faye Mogensen, Director of Spiritual****Exploration for Children and Youth****WA Anna Isaacs**

Creation involves dreaming, imagining and making connections. It also needs time, perseverance, courage and openness. In this Intergenerational Service, we'll play with all of the above.

We invite children and youth to join the adults in the sanctuary for the entire service. Childminding will be available in the Sunflower Room for our youngest and/or most restless youngsters.

January 29**Social Justice in Victoria –****Chalice Choir****As We Face a Changing Political and Economic Climate****Reverend Lawrence Scyner WA Dar Gareau-Levy**

We live in the age of the individual. Economic and political life reflects this. How do we, who are committed to ecological and social justice, address our concerns, so that they will be heard by those in positions of power? How can we hope to receive a positive response to these concerns?

GVAT (Greater Victoria Acting Together) is one strategy borne of successful experience in the Social Justice arena. By connecting with other concerned groups and forming coalitions with them, churches, unions, non-profit societies and individuals, we hope to have a positive impact on the quality of life in our community

About Reverend Scyner: Larry was born in England, but moved to Montreal and McGill over 50 years ago. He is a professional social worker and a priest of the Anglican Church, and has spent most of his working life working with people suffering from mental illness, or with significant social problems. His last job was as director of a family counselling agency in Victoria. His commitment to social justice stretches from Montreal to Victoria, having been involved in the establishment of Our Place a decade ago. After a three-year interim as priest-in-charge, he now spends his time at St John the Divine Anglican Church, Victoria, where he volunteers in the social justice arena.

Share the Plate January 2017

The seven UU principles speak to our ideals and hopes. This month the Share the Plate Recipient Canadian Women for Women in Afghanistan (CW4WAfghan) is chosen as a responsive action to our collective support for justice, equity and compassion.

Founded in 1996, CW4W in Afghanistan works to advance education and educational opportunities for girls, women and their families. They help improve the quality and access to education through purchasing school supplies and text books, training teachers and paying salaries. They provide literacy textbooks and help distribute a system of libraries in a box to impoverished villages.

CW4W volunteers believe we can "affect positive change in the world through education and the promotion of social justice and human rights." Thank you for your interest and support. As we unite, the world unites.



Bringing Things to Life

Creation

Definition: the act of producing or causing to exist; an original product of the mind, especially an imaginative artistic work; the world; the universe.

Synonyms: cosmos; nature; life; formation; genesis; handiwork; opus

Words of association: art, imagination, action, beauty, beginnings

Our theme for January is creation. A new year seems like a good time to explore creation. As you move into 2017, I invite you to explore what creation might mean to you and for you. When we think of creation we often think of art and the creative act or expression. This is one dimension of creation, but another is less tangible but no less substantial. There are times when it feels like we are creating our outlook or approach and perspective to being alive. We create a point of view or a persona. Creation can be not just making something new from scratch, but a refining and shaping of something that already is. As you reflect on creation this month, I hope you will ponder not only the objects of creation, but see your life as a work of art as well.

Here are this month's reflection questions from our colleagues in the Soul Matters network--choose one to spend time with.

- What are you building, painting, composing or planting with your life? (“All the arts we practice are apprenticeship. The big art is our life.” -M.C. Richards)
- When did you stop singing? When did you stop dancing? When did you stop telling your story? When did you stop sitting in silence? (Cross-cultural anthropologist Angeles Arrien tells us that in many traditional cultures, when an ill person goes to the healer, he or she is asked these four questions.)
- When was the last time you created (or helped create) something that will outlive you?
- When was the last time you “failed beautifully”? Is fear of failure preventing your life from becoming art?
- What if you started every day with “In the beginning...”
- Pablo Picasso believed “every act of creation begins with an act of destruction.” What needs to be deconstructed, wiped away or tilled over in your life in order for a new creation to take root?
- What’s your question? Your question may not be listed above. As always, if the above questions don't include what the theme is asking from you, spend the month listening to your days to hear it. ?

COFFEE AND CONVERSATION WITH THE MINISTERS

Sunday, January 8, 12:00-1:00 in the Sanctuary

Bring your comments and questions for another chance to connect with our ministers for an hour of informal conversation.

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**DEADLINE FOR
SUBMISSIONS TO THE
FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER IS
JANUARY 17!**

SEL

FAYE MOGENSEN

SELections on the Creative and the New

One of the opposites of creation is consumption; and for those of us who have over-consumed in one way or another in December, it seems a perfect focus for January. Creation literally is a life-force, but there is also its messy counterpart: the chaos that precedes it. In the words of artist Mary Lou Cook, “creativity is inventing, experimenting, growing, taking risks, breaking rules, making mistakes, and having fun.” With these words, she has also summed up important aspects of our approach in the Spiritual Exploration and Learning program for children and youth. The month long focus on “Creation: the practice of bringing something new into being” encourages all of us in the Children’s Wing to do more of the same, and to a greater degree. In the process, we hope not to get messier or more chaotic, but we do hope to have a lot of fun.

Some highlights this month:

- All programming, including OWL resumes on January 8.
- On Friday January 13, after community dinner, there is an OWL youth movie night concurrent with a Parent Sexuality Our Whole Lives Conversation facilitated by Chris Wulff and Fran Pardee.
- On January 22, we are offering an Intergenerational Service where we hope children’s natural creative tendencies will inspire older generations. We also hope adults will enjoy trying this month’s “body prayer” which I’m calling “The Creativity is Everywhere Prayer”.
- In late January (the date is as yet to be determined), a time of celebration and learning for SEL-CY leaders.
- January 29, Youth are planning another Hot Chocolate Sunday during the Coffee Hour.

Wishing you all the very best as you jump into the New Year,
Faye Mogensen
Director of Spiritual Exploration and Learning for Children and Youth

Resources for Congregation During Ministers' Sabbatical

~Post this list on your fridge or by your phone~

Our ministers, Reverends Shana and Melora Lynngood, are taking a four-month Sabbatical (March 1 – June 30) before their regular six-week summer study leave/vacation. They will return to their regular full-time co-ministry (1/2 time each) on Tuesday, August 15, 2017. As part of their contract with us, our ministers accumulate one month of sabbatical for each year of service.

While our ministers are on sabbatical, the congregation will have both ongoing resources and special supplemental resources to support our continuing shared ministry. We will continue to have ministerial support through our half-time Ministerial Intern, Chris Wulff. The Committee on Ministry's expectation is that the ministers will not be called back during their sabbatical. While our ministers are away, and every day, let us take care of one another, and, as our mission says, "strive to transform ourselves and our world through compassionate action."

Below is a listing of resources available to the congregation. Copies will also be available at the back of the Sanctuary and/or from the Church office starting January 8. **Feel free to tear off this sheet** (or print it out if you are reading this on your computer) **and post it on your fridge or by your phone.**

Oversight

<p>Committee on Ministry Ongoing function Acting as Sabbatical Team</p>	<p>Works with the Ministerial Intern to support congregational health. Do you have a question or need help and you don't know who to call? Call one of us. We will help you find the resources you need to address your concerns.</p>	<p>Kent Haden, Chair 250-479-6563 kent@hadensoftware.com Suellen Guenther 250-727-0454 sguenther@shaw.ca John Hopewell 250-721-3920 hopewell@telus.net Margot Lods 250-920-3893 mlods@shaw.ca Mary-Ellen Nicol 250-590-4107 nicolme@yahoo.com Hanny Pannekoek 250-385-2299 hannyhugo@shaw.ca</p>
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Worship

<p>Worship Committee, Ongoing function</p>	<p>Coordinates lay led services and guest preacher services</p>	<p>Chair, Dan Klimke 250-665-8087</p>
<p>Guest Preachers</p>	<p>Preach the Sundays our ministers would normally preach</p>	
<p>March 5</p>	<p>Martin Settle, Co-Executive Director of the Unitarian Service Committee</p>	
<p>March 12</p>	<p>Chris Wulff, Ministerial Intern</p>	
<p>March 19</p>	<p>Rev. Meg Roberts, served congregations in Calgary, Montreal, and Edmonton</p>	
<p>March 26</p>	<p>Sabine Lehr, Inter Cultural Association of Greater Victoria</p>	
<p>April 2</p>	<p>Revs. Marcus and Emily Hartlief Co- Ministers, North Shore Unitarians</p>	
<p>April 9</p>	<p>Rev. Al Tysick, Dandelion Society</p>	
<p>April 16</p>	<p>Chris Wulff, Ministerial Intern</p>	
<p>April 23</p>	<p>Rev. Steven Epperson, Minister, Vancouver Unitarians</p>	

Worship continued next page

-Worship Continued

April 30	Margot Lods, First Unitarian Church of Victoria
May 7	Right Reverend Dr. Logan McMenemy, Bishop, Anglican Diocese of BC
May 14	Dr. Paul Bramadat, University of Victoria
May 21	Social Responsibility Committee
May 28	Chris Wulff, Ministerial Intern
June 4	Rev. Samaya Oakley, Minister, South Fraser Unitarian Congregation
June 11	Chris Wulff, Ministerial Intern
June 18	Dr. Suresh Basrur, Victoria Hindu Parishad And Cultural Center
June 25	Susan Breiddal, palliative response team counsellor, Victoria Hospice

Pastoral Care, Practical		
Care and Concern ongoing function	Organized through Neighbourhood Groups; provides practical support with a caring spirit (casseroles, cards, visits). Each Neighbourhood Group has a Care & Concern contact person and a Care & Concern Liaison	Daphne Dunbar, Chair 250-381-7648 d.dunbar@shaw.ca
<i>Neighbourhood Group</i>	Care and Concern Contact	Care & Concern Liaison
Farout	Clare Vipond 250 652 5491	Maggie Nixon 250-656-5922 maggie21@shaw.ca
Nearby	Pam Harte 250-656-4893	
Royal Oak West	Dolores Appleton 250-658-0855	
Gordon Head	Mary Cramer 250-477-1615	Vacant
Cadboro Bay	Valerie (Tibbles) Roberts 250-477-7192	
Royal Oak East	Elaine Dakin 250-744-1357	
Grand Central	Marya Nijland 250-592-6484	Mary-Ellen Nicol 250-590-4107 nicolme@yahoo.com
Oak Bay	Susanne Garmsen 250-592-5195	
Fairfield	Louise de Lugt 778-679-0456	
Western	Susan Lean 250-478-5261	Barbara Boyle 250-381-0264 barbara.boyle@shaw.ca
Esquimalt	Barbara Boyle 250-381-0264	
James Bay	Daphne Dunbar 250-381-7648	

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-Resources continued

Pastoral Care, Emotional		
Pastoral Care Crisis Team March 1 – June 30, 2017	An empathetic presence to accompany people through crisis; emotional support rather than practical support. Choose any of the following:	Neighbourhood
Elinor Bazar	250-508-2819 elinorbazar@gmail.com	Cadboro Bay
Suzanne Beauchamp	778-433-2829 suz46b@yahoo.com	Royal Oak East
Isabelle Grenon	250-857-0445 igrenon@hotmail.com	Royal Oak West
Pauline Kenneally	250-388-6865 paulinekenneally@shaw.ca	Fairfield
Clare Vipond	250-652-5491 donandclare@shaw.ca	Far Out

Dispute Management		
Dispute Management Resource	This resource is available to anyone and/or group experiencing an impasse in their relationships due to strong difference of opinion in working on Church matters; a block which interrupts the flow of working well together. A solution-focussed process will invite participants to co-create ideas that lead to a successful outcome. This service is really quite "behind the scenes".	Chris Wulff 647- 708-2622 Chris@victoriaunitarian.ca Lorna Anthony 250-592-4831 lrAnthony@shaw.ca

Staff Supervision		
Human Resources Chair, filling in for ministers March 1 – June 30, 2017	Supervises Office Administrator and Bookkeeper	John Worton 250-220-6258
	Supervises Music Director and Director of Spiritual Exploration and Learning for Children and Youth.	Marion Sollazzo 250-721-1741 sollazzo@shaw.ca

Rites of Passage		
Lay Chaplains, ongoing function	Rites of passage for Non-Members/ Friends (fee)	Oceanna Hall Kjerstin Mackie Anne Vaasjo laychaplains@victoriaunitarian.ca
Lay Chaplains, and Intern Minister filling in for Ministers, March 1 – August 15, 2017	Rites of passage for Members and Friends (no fee; church pays lay chaplain)	Chris Wulff Chris@victoriaunitarian.ca

BOARD BUSINESS**LORNA ANTHONY**

The following gives a snapshot of the Board meeting held on Tuesday, December 13, 2016. A full set of minutes will be posted on the bulletin board in Lion Hall.

A Board submission to Canada Revenue Agency in response to their request for feedback from charities was approved.

A job description for the Church Administrator position was approved. A posting for the position will be ready to go in the next two weeks. It will be advertised on employment websites as well as FUCV website.

Our church has signed an agreement with the municipality of Saanich for our building to be used in the event of a major emergency. An earthquake readiness workshop will be organized in the New Year. Information will be forthcoming to our congregation when details are known.

Our outside rental coordinator will be leaving the position in March so we will be looking to hire a replacement.

The Committee on Ministry will assume the role of Sabbatical committee and is currently working on a document that will appear in both January and February newsletters. The document will give details of contacts within our church community when the Ministers are away.

The treasurer reported that 99.6% of “pledged and unpledged income” has been received. This together with the success of the ABC team is very good news.

Several people from the congregation as well as Board members and members of the Social Responsibility Coalition have expressed an interest in becoming more involved with Greater Victoria Acting Together (GVAT). A Vancouver minister will be speaking to this on January 29 with a discussion to follow.

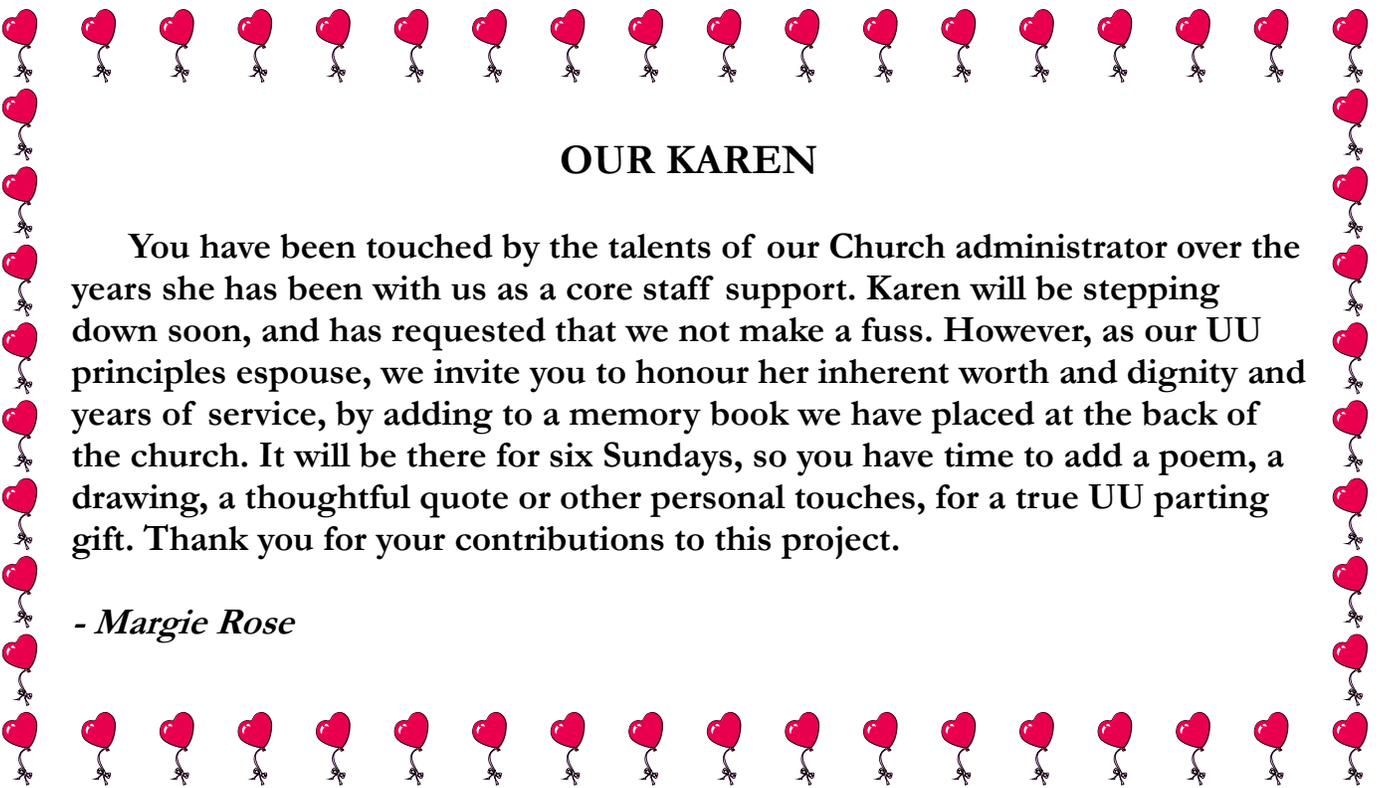
The Board moved to explore the purchase of a defibrillator for the church.

Following a break for dinner, the Board moved on to the Strategic Plan which has been pushed to the back burner for a few months. Marion Sollazzo led an enthusiastic and productive session. Early in the New Year it will be ready for congregational participation, input and action.

Please feel free to chat with me regarding your questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Lorna Anthony, President



OUR KAREN

You have been touched by the talents of our Church administrator over the years she has been with us as a core staff support. Karen will be stepping down soon, and has requested that we not make a fuss. However, as our UU principles espouse, we invite you to honour her inherent worth and dignity and years of service, by adding to a memory book we have placed at the back of the church. It will be there for six Sundays, so you have time to add a poem, a drawing, a thoughtful quote or other personal touches, for a true UU parting gift. Thank you for your contributions to this project.

- Margie Rose

Dead People Say the Most Interesting Things

When you next stroll near the Memorial Wall, to the north of the farmhouse, pause to read some names on the plaques mounted there. Who were these people and what did they think? What was going on in the life of the congregation, in our community, in the world, when they were alive and active? What were the issues, the opinions, the triumphs and tragedies for them in their day?

We'll never know – and isn't that a shame? Because we can be absolutely sure they were interesting people, with insightful things to say about their experiences, in their time.

The Memorial Garden Committee has a plan - to gather the thoughts of church members and friends (such as you) now, and make them available to those curious people who will be making up this community, 10, 20, 50 years from now. We want to add an electronic library to the church's website with this kind of material, our contemporary thoughts, for reading by people who are not yet in sight.

- How did you make your way to this community? Who or what attracted you?
- What kept you here? What treasures did you find? What barriers challenged you? What are the issues you were passionate about in your day?
- What do you have to say about your experience here to those people years from now who would like to know your thoughts?

Your answers, if you choose to take part, will collectively build a many-voiced communal record which will make fascinating reading to those Unitarians and friends, who follow us. Dead people can, indeed, say the most interesting things - provided they are willing to write them down now, while they are still alive.

What we hope such a Memorial Library would gather is *not* a history of someone's life - *but rather the essence of their thinking, their experiences, their insights, influenced by this community.*

Then, down the road, when someone not yet born looks to the history of this place, meaning the long-gone people who gathered here, who thought and did things, they can go to the Memorial Library and hope to find a third dimension to the photos and names there, encounter the spirits of bodies long gone, who had words to offer future readers, about our lives, our issues and our times.

We are a gathering of thoughtful, caring, exploring people, engaged with each other in a communal march through time. There is a treasure house of experience, opinions, insights, within our ranks. It should not be allowed to vanish at our deaths, like smoke on the wind.

If this challenge interests you, please let Don Vipond know. (donandclare@shaw.ca) 250-652-5491

NOVEMBER CIRCLE DINNERS – DIGESTION

There were five dinners involving 38 people including 13 newcomers.

The very small groups (8 -10) assembled in a private residence to get to know one another better worked its magic once again. For in addition to the advertised theme of getting to know your board member, discussions ranged far and wide including comments about how to possibly change the Circle Dinner format for the better.

Choosing a host /venue on 'sign-up sheets in the Lion Hall three Sundays prior to the month-end Friday dinner was well liked by many guests. Also the notion of having a lunch time option was suggested again. This option is especially attractive to seniors who prefer not to drive in the winter darkness. Previous trials with dinner at lunch time has revealed that people with day jobs are excluded, guests tend not to linger, and there are minor menu challenges. Nevertheless this is a viable option for some. Novel suggestions were made for involving more new and recent church members eg for attendees to invite and escort new people to a dinner.

In early January I will sound the dinner gong for both regular and a lunch gatherings, using advance sign-up sheets with committed hosts. See also the Shared Ministry Column of this Newsletter

This will be my final organizing effort for Circle Dinners. I initially took it on for 2015 – 16 and continuing on indefinitely was never my intent. I would be glad to assist anyone volunteering to continue the Circle Dinner Program. Please contact me for information and discussion.

Sincerely, Stu Whitney

SHARE YOUR STORY: A HOMILY WRITING WORKSHOP

Saturday, March 18, 2017, 9:30am - 3:30pm

Is there something you would like to share in your congregation's Sunday service but have never written a homily before? Or perhaps you have experience and want to develop your skills and comfort? Reverend Meg Roberts will show you a process to support your creative expression, share various resources, as well as provide tips on effective public speaking that touches the head and the heart.

To help integrate your learning, 2 one-hour online group coaching sessions will follow (Sat. April 8 at 10am and Wed. May 10 at 7pm). These will encourage you to work on your homily, offer support for any roadblocks you hit, and provide feedback to polish your creation.



Cost: Early Bird special to Jan.31 is \$40 (This includes lunch & 2 one-hour online group coaching sessions.)
As of February 1: \$50. Deadline for registration: February 15.

Capital Unitarian Universalist Congregation (CUUC) is sponsoring a limited number of registration fees. If you are selected for sponsorship, CUUC will pay your registration fee *and ask that in exchange you share your homily at CUUC sometime in 2017*. Deadline to apply for sponsorship is January 5. Contact the registrar for details on how to apply.

Maximum 24 participants so register early: viuc.unitariancongregation.org/homily-workshop

For more information contact: Anna Isaacs (isaacs.anna@gmail.com, 250-472-0117).

GREEN CORNER

EDWIN E. DANIEL

Who Needs the Kinder Morgan Pipeline?

The people of British Columbia do not. The people of Canada do not. The world does not. Global warming has already reached nearly 1.5 degrees Celsius. The Arctic is currently 20 degrees Celsius warmer than normal and the ice cover is at a new low. Arctic ice may disappear during next summer with consequent irreversible damage to Arctic species like polar bears, seals, penguins, terns and others.

Most indigenous peoples in Canada do not need or want the Kinder Morgan (K-M) pipeline. Some have been bribed to write to K-M that they do accept it, but most speak for the earth and reject it. Most people of Vancouver Island and around the Salish Sea do not need or want to take the risks of spills from more than daily oil tankers spilling dil-bit in our waters and along our coast. We are joined by our neighbours in Washington State who would also be affected by a spill and have also voiced their objections.

Dil-bit is a mixture of bitumen and a diluting fossil fuel to allow it to flow. In the event of a spill, the diluent would evaporate from the water's surface and the bitumen would sink. No one has demonstrated that bitumen on the ocean floor or along the coastline can be removed. No one has faced trying to save marine animals and birds covered in bitumen.

Our planet does not need and cannot tolerate the continuation of mining and export of bitumen. It is the most energy intensive fossil fuel, even more costly in terms of energy to mine, transport and refine than other heavy oils. The energy costs of bitumen as a fossil fuel are nearly equal to its contributions as an energy supply. There are those who want to mine and export bitumen. They are fossil fuel companies and some politicians in Alberta. There are also some politicians in Ottawa like Prime Minister Trudeau, who recently approved the K-M expansion. To claim, as he does that his decision is based on science, then he should produce the science. To claim, as he does that if he thought there was a risk of a spill, he would not approve it, then he should also produce the science that supports no risk. It is time we correct this terrible mistake and stop an expanded Kinder Morgan pipeline.

CREATIVITY MICRO RETREATS CONTINUE!

Fourth Thursdays 5:00-9:00 pm January 26, February 23, March 23, April 27, May 25, June 22
Library and Chaplains Rooms

Creativity is a spiritual practice. Take a micro retreat and nurture your spirit. All welcome! Bring a brown bag dinner, contributions to a snack potluck welcome (both optional). Library & Chaplains rooms available (enter side red door). Space open 5:00-9:00 pm but you can come and leave as you wish.

Bring any self-directed activity that can be done quietly at a shared table in the company of others (lego, doodling, writing, sketching, knitting, hand quilting, etc).

Questions? Anna cell 250-472-0117 or email isaacs.anna@gmail.com



Sponsored by the Worship Associate team of the First Unitarian Church of Victoria.

ARTIST OF THE MONTH

About Allan de Haan

From my earliest beginnings I can remember my desires to express myself through artistic mediums and consider myself artistic from birth. Mostly self taught I gained my inspirations from the styles and colours of the sixties. With vibrant colours strongly influencing me, my love for the outdoors became my inspiration.

The biggest thing for me is that I have always felt a need to express myself through one art form or another. Although I have been through many different mediums, painting became the form for me because through it I could bring the colours out from my subconsciousness that yearned to be expressed.

Born in Vancouver I have lived all of my life in British Columbia and most of it on Vancouver Island growing up in Campbell River. Later in life I found myself living in Victoria B.C. as if by some divine purpose and have been living there and studying my art ever since.

Through the span of a life time and through all of the soul searching that I have done I found my way. I have found my path in the form of a limitless expression of art all unto myself.

We Care!

Care and Concern Committee

for hospital and home visits, or just to talk...

Daphne Dunbar at 250-381-7648

Val Roberts at 250-477-7192

or your Neighbourhood Group Care & Concern person

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

A wedding, child dedication or memorial?

Tell them about FUCV's

Lay Chaplains

It's what we do!

Email: laychaplains@victoriaunitarian.ca



HOW: a New Year, New Chances to Bind Wounds

Our church's Healing Our World (HOW) projects have built an impressive record over the past 10 years, thanks to all of you. Check out the wall posters in the hallway of the farmhouse for details. In brief, this congregation has supported 26 projects that have educated, protected, fed, employed and nurtured needy children and adults.

And now it's 2017 and we can continue this satisfying tradition. We hope to fund two more projects this year, with a target goal of no more than \$5,000 each.

A HOW project always begins the same way - with an idea from you. Please think of a way we can join together to make a difference in some needy corner of the world, maybe just around the corner. Find someone or several of like mind to work with.

Here are the HOW Committee's criteria when it assesses proposed projects:

- The project will apply U-U principles in responding to local, national or international problems.
 - The project will involve an initiative that is new, has not before been considered by the congregation and will have one clearly defined goal.
 - The project must be administered by a registered Canadian charity or affiliated with an organization which has Canadian registered charitable status.
 - The proposal must be put forward by a member or friend of our congregation. To encourage wide participation, three years must elapse between proposals from an applicant/household.
 - An application form must be submitted by February 15. Speak to any of the committee members below. They are keen to help you
 - A report on the project must be submitted within a year of being funded.
- This is not hard work; it is soul-satisfying work. We look forward to hearing from you.

-Leslie Gillett, Clare Vipond, Don Vipond for the HOW committee, a sub-committee of our church's Social Responsibility Coalition

Report on SRC November Action

A big thank you to those of you who supported our efforts to reduce greenhouse gases and protect our coast by rejecting the Kinder Morgan pipeline expansion. Over 70 of you signed letters to Prime Minister Trudeau, we had 48 new signatures on the Let BC Vote petition, over a dozen came out to the vigil and four of us went to the big rally in Vancouver.

As you know, the Prime Minister chose not to take our advice and approved the pipeline. However there are many groups who are pursuing various avenues to ensure that it does not get built, including calling a citizen's initiative referendum in BC. The Share the Plate contribution of \$587.85 to the Salal Foundation will be very helpful in this regard

HOUSING NEEDED

The Inter-Cultural Association (ICA) is looking for housing for 127 refugees expected in Victoria by the end of 2016. These are Government Assisted Refugees (GAR), so they are financially supported by the Canadian Government for 12 months.

With the low vacancy rates and high rental costs in Victoria, the ICA is appealing for help from the community. They are looking for multiple rental units to house single persons to families of 8 who are receiving housing allowance. We welcome any resources including shared accommodations, 1, 2, 3 bedroom apartments or houses to rent so we can assist these newcomers start their life in Canada.

For further information, please contact Adam Yaghi, ICA, ayaghi@icavictoria.org or 250-388-4728 ext 150.

-from Suellen Guenther

HONoured VOLUNTEER: PHILIP SYMONS**BETTY SHERWOOD**

My wife Marya was a member of this church before I was, and the Social Responsibility Committee used to meet around our dining room table. I gradually learned about and took an interest in what the Committee was doing. But the twin branches of social justice and Unitarianism had their origins in me many years earlier.

In pondering where my interest in social justice originated, I've concluded it arose from my mother who had a soft-spot for the handicapped and poor. When I was six or seven years old, she used to take my sister and me at Christmas time to a very poor grown-up family of two physically handicapped sisters, one in a wheelchair, and a third who worked and held the family together. They lived just down the street from us and we took them a box of cookies and stayed to chat for a few minutes. Their poverty and appreciation of our visit left an indelible impression on my young mind.

I learned about Unitarians some dozen years later, in 1963 or '4, when I was a PhD student at the University of Leiden, The Netherlands. A Canadian couple, friends of mine who were working there, decided to found a Unitarian Fellowship, and asked if I was interested. At the time I was wrestling with the question whether I was an agnostic or an atheist, having finally concluded that the after-life I had learned about as a schoolboy attending St Mary's Anglican Church here in Oak Bay was untrue.

The question of whether I was an atheist or agnostic was decided for me one evening as I was walking to a meeting of the Leiden Fellowship and met fellow member. I told him I was leaning towards atheism, and he exclaimed, "You mean you can't accept Paul Tillich's definition of God as a ground of being?" I was too flummoxed and confused by "a ground of being" to answer, but eventually concluded that if one had to re-define God in such enigmatic terms just to avoid being an atheist, with its associated stigma, which it still has today among some people—though not among those at this church—then I was an atheist!

So the opportunity to combine my twin interests in social justice and Unitarianism were brought together by Marya and her Social Responsibility Committee nearly 30 years ago. I joined the Committee and some time later the Church, though I seldom came to services. But the bonds with this church grew stronger after Marya and I were married by the Reverent Dr Felix Lion, though then and even now I feel a slight twinge of guilt that perhaps I joined in order to obtain a captive audience for social justice work. I probably needn't fear—this congregation has always been very appreciative of and receptive to the work of the Social Responsibility Coalition, and I am grateful. Thank you!

Pauline Kenneally says:

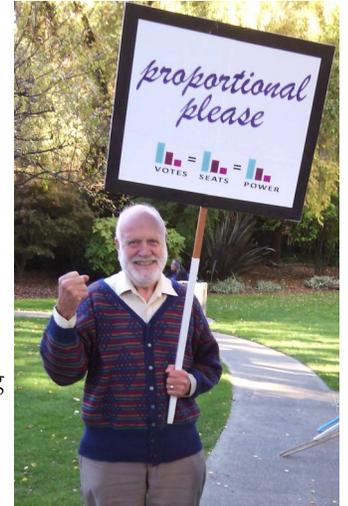
Philip is a most steadfast man, a quiet volunteer with no need ever to brag about what he does. Somehow he always manages to be cheerful and supportive. He chaired the Social Responsibility Committee and took his responsibilities very seriously. He has the amazing ability to exhort all of us to think more widely about Mother Earth and the repercussions of our actions without sounding like he's in any way better than we are, and he is passionate about democracy and its importance in North America and all around the world.

In the choir he's a valued bass singer and comes up with creative ideas to keep us on our toes. Once when we had learned the piece called Blue Boat Home Philip suggested we all re-read the words again, like he had done, and in the process discovered that the song had nothing to do with the sea but life in general. It's no surprise that Philip is not only a highly respected member of the choir but of the congregation as a whole. He well deserves to be honoured!

Sonya Ignatieff says:

During the 15 years I have worked with Philip on Democracy as part of the Social Responsibility Coalition, I have enjoyed Philip's sense of humour, sense of commitment, and sense of fair play in all that he does. His tolerant and good-natured approach makes working with him pleasurable whether it is fulfilling a church need, promoting a particular cause, or solving a tricky problem.

It is a joy to behold the energy Philip bestows on every endeavour, especially when it involves singing. He and Marya walk the walk with our UU Principles, demonstrating the inclusion and acceptance we all aspire to uphold.



THE REFUGEE REPORT**SUELLEN GUENTHER**

Some of you may have been able to meet Sunny when she came to church with Kristina on November 27 and stayed for the Souper after. She sat a table with Chris Cook and confided that she is quite shy, so it is especially remarkable that she was able to travel by herself from Iran to Turkey to Canada. She is looking forward to her three classes at Camosun next term and has finished reading Brave New World. She is now reading Orwell's 1984, her choice, not a class assignment.



Christine Johnston sends us this update on Sunny, "Galina Coffey-Lewis, Chris Cook, and some others too, worked really hard recently to help Sunny find a good job. They helped her write a resume, deliver copies, phone businesses, and took her to visit many restaurants. Both the Spaghetti Factory Restaurant and Tim Horton's offered her a job and she chose the former as jazzier and with the likelihood of tips. Exams finish this week and she starts on December 15.

Andy Lee also offered to help Sunny keep her place warm and Roberta Clair is exploring a better phone which takes more messages. All in all the team has been busy these past two weeks."

Christine also sends us this update on the Sari family: "On December 2 a phone call to the Sari family was made by Kristina and Christine, aided by Christine's ex-neighbour, Roula Doudin, as interpreter. We wanted them to know that we were still thinking of them and looking forward to their arrival, which we hope will be soon.

The family is doing OK in the small town where they are living next door to her sister's family (the one sponsored by Continuing Ed at UVIC). Her sister's baby arrived 10 days previously, another boy, and is doing well. That family are in the process of getting documentation so that he can travel. They are anxious as we are at the delays, especially as a neighbour who was processed when they were, has been told they will fly December 20. We wondered if the holdup is security checks by fewer Canadian staff on the ground or if they were being linked with her sister's family who could not fly when the mother was pregnant or with a newborn? Letter back from Elizabeth May and from the website where their new address was recorded, suggested "security checks" are holding up the process but we feel confident that it is more lack of staff than any security problem with the family. The Government has promised all accepted by end of March would be here before the end of the year. A broken promise?

The three older children are attending school and receiving some classes in English, including grammar. The parents are also learning English through phone apps. The father does casual local jobs to get money. The mother talked of her childhood. She came from a very small village, such as one with only one big store. So many changes in her life."

Kristina has contacted the Canadian government to update the Sari's address and we consider our church theme for December as we wait with "Expectation and The Practice of Watchful Awareness."

UU UNO office in New York City

Our congregation donated \$1408.65 this past November to our UU UNO office. It was a mixture of cash and 10 individual memberships. So we will proudly maintain our Blue Ribbon status. Thank you everyone for this generous donation.

-Jim Hemstock and Christine Johnston

CUC Annual Meeting

CUC delegates for the May Annual Meeting in Toronto? This year it will be slightly different as there is no conference, only a business meeting in Toronto on May 13, 9:00am -5:00 pm. We will organize something at the church for delegates who do not want to go to Toronto but want to participate on line in CUC decisions. We know of one who wishes to attend in Toronto so this is also possible. Let Christinejohnston@telus.net know if you are interested.

World Interfaith Harmony Day February 5

Victoria Multifaith Society (of which FUCV is a member) is joining with the UVIC Multifaith Service (where Reverend Shana is a key figure), ICA and a School District, to present a World Interfaith Harmony Day at the David Lam Auditorium, Maclaughlan Building, UVIC on Sunday afternoon of February 5. Food and lots of interesting activities for all ages. Do plan to attend after Sunday service that day.

Path to Membership



Are you new to our church?

Have you just discovered our church or are you a Unitarian from elsewhere?

Would you like to know more?

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

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

STEP TWO: Church Orientation – January 22, 12noon–1pm

This is a gathering for all newcomers, whether you have just walked through the door or been coming for several months and want to know more about us, whether you eventually become a member, or choose to be a friend of the church. The Orientation provides basic information about our congregation and ways to make connections

STEP THREE: Considering Membership, February 19, 12noon-2pm.

This session will help you determine whether you would like to officially become a member of our church. Whether you join right away, not yet, or not at all, the session will be informative and enjoyable, as we will be talking about things that matter in a small group setting with warm and interesting people.

Both events will be held on Sundays, after the church service, in the Farmhouse Common Room, in the building just north of the main sanctuary building. A light lunch will be available and child minding is provided on request.

To sign up for either of these sessions, or if you have questions, please contact Rev. Melora at rev.melora@victoriaunitarian.ca or Cell (250) 891-6330.

STEP FOUR: Application for Membership. Fill out the application found in the membership packet. Submit the application and a financial pledge or contribution to the office. Your name will be read into the membership records at the next board meeting. Voting privileges commence 60 days after and you will be recognized at the next New Member Ceremony.

Another event to watch for:

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

The next New Member Ceremony will be on January 15, 2017.

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

Around The Neighbourhood

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: Valerie Roberts sends this note, “We had a very happy group at the Petch's home. When once you are a Ten Mile Point member you are always welcome, so we had Shirley and Chris come, also Tim Rutley with his partner, Elaine, who came down from Cobble Hill. Chris Wulff joined in and we were hosted at the most beautiful home with the ocean just outside. Marguerite and Richard were not here this time, but will be in the future. Mary Hummel did not feel well enough to come.

It has been our turn to provide cookies for the church in December and our very small number of cooks provided enough goodies. Katherine Jones, a member of our group, makes sure we are producing enough!”

Esquimalt: Pat McMahon and John Lancaster hosted their NG for a holiday party with finger food on December 2. Nineteen people enjoyed the views from their lovely condo overlooking the water. Pat writes, “Our ongoing monthly meet-up at Cafe Fantastico for Tuesday afternoon coffee continues December 13 at 2:30.”

Fairfield: Diana and Forrest Smith hosted a winter gathering in Cook Street Village on Sunday afternoon, December 1, for a finger food potluck and used book gift exchange. Twelve guests, including three newcomers, enjoyed savouries and sweets and went home with a “new”book to read.

Far Out: The next gathering of Far Out will be in February.

Gordon Head: Mary Cramer happily reports, “Gordon Head had a potluck on November 19 at the home of Diane Berry and Remi Odense. Sixteen folks attended and we had an evening filled with good food and good conversation. We made plans to have our next potluck in February. The following week, we hosted the Souper Sunday with Nearby NG. With the help of many contributors, we fed about 95 folks and made over \$440. The power stayed on this year, unlike our Souper two years ago, and the very new dishwasher is speedy...and it doesn't leak! Many blessings!”

Grand Central: Overwhelmed by the amount of events already organized by our church community during the Solstice/Christmas season, NG Convenor, Marya, notes that this group is hoping to gather again in January.

James Bay: This group is getting creative with their meeting place. Roberta Clair sends this news, “We (Roberta and Katherine) had a tea at our place mid-afternoon Saturday December 3 and it was very enjoyable. Ten people came; one was new. We talked about languages, French and accents, and Arabic and spellings of names. We talked about politics and truth, apartment buildings and apartments around James Bay, and other topics.

We discussed the proposition of having some of our get-togethers at coffee shops in James Bay, to take the pressure off the few people who regularly host. Many people in James Bay have small apartments or condos and are not at ease trying to host at home.

Nearby: Elaine Klimke survived hosting her first Souper as NG Convenor, partnering with Gordon Head, and she echoes Mary's comments, “The November Souper was a success! There was a huge selection of delicious and nutritious homemade soup varieties cooked by Gordon Head and Nearby groups. We fed 100 people and raised \$433 for the church.”

Oak Bay: Tiff sends this update on Oak Bay, “OBNG had a very successful and fun afternoon tea (potluck) at Mike and Liz Graham's home Sunday afternoon, December 4. Twenty-five attendees plotted and schemed to take home the perfect regifting gift, with many a gift trading multiple hands. Thanks for being such nice hosts, Mike and Liz!

Jany held a short 'business' meeting after the gifts finally got all settled out. Mary Burcher agreed to coordinate our next Souper Sunday on January 15; Carolyn Olive volunteered to assist Susanne Garmsen on OBNG Care and Concern Committee, Louise de Lugt offered to help out as needed for ride sharing setups, and Doug and Mice graciously accepted to be the next host for our upcoming potluck in mid-February.

Don't forget OBNG will be having our get-together luncheon on the third Wednesday of the month on December 21 at 11:45 a.m. in the Fern Cafe at Monterey Senior Centre”.

Royal Oak East: Hanny Pannekoek reports, “We had our last gathering of this year on November 26 at the warm and wel-

coming home of Naida and Helga. We enjoyed appetizers and desserts, and, of course, each other's company. Intern Chris and his spouse Ariel and baby Rowan joined us, which was much appreciated. Here we were with 18 adults, three small children and two dogs; a lively yet relaxed scene! We agreed to a slight change in our usual format and from now on will have our circle meeting after socializing and before dinner to make sure that all of us will be still present and awake.....We will continue to have four gatherings in the year and have confirmed the dates.”

Royal Oak West: Fran Hancock writes, “Jen and Lance Young and their son Braden graciously welcomed 22 people to their home on December 4 for a NG potluck dinner and a spirited musical sing-along of Christmas carols. A long- time member of our neighbourhood group, Donna Greenberg, had died early that morning, so her son Gary and his wife Laura from Florida were invited to attend the gathering. It was an evening of sharing memories as well as consolation for one another.”

Royal Oak West hosted the memorial reception for Donna’s service, and Fran sent out this message a few days later, “I am overwhelmed by the support of people who helped in preparing for the memorial service of Donna Greenburg who died a week ago today. Her son Gary and daughter-in-law Laura from Florida were to be here for a limited time and the support of so many people on such short notice was deeply appreciated. Donna had left explicit instructions of what music was to be performed, so the Chalice Choir and the Jammers, directed by Nick Fairbank and accompanied by Braden Young, as well as the Pick-Up-Sticks all stepped up. These groups were preparing for the Winter Concert in support of the Food Bank the following day with ominous weather reports looming in the back ground. Reverend Melora captured the essence of Donna in her heart warming eulogy, as well as Suellen, who shared her experiences over a period of years as Donna’s driver to church. I am deeply touched by your sense of community and quick response during this very sad time. Thank you.”

Western: Susan Lean writes, “We had our November potluck here at our home. Only six people attended but we had a nice quiet evening with great conversation. I am looking forward to when the other families of our community are able to come and join us. We look forward to that because there are so many new young people with families that we would love to get to know. December we will not be meeting but we will in January. We are doing Souper Sunday January 15 with Oak Bay and I know we will try to make it a successful one as it always is.”

Emily Whitney adds, “We have just learned that the Elrod home in Metchosin has been sold. This home was a gathering place for our neighbourhood group for some time. Although Mac was going blind he enjoyed hosting dinners and set the table beautifully. Mac always invited some from other neighbourhood groups to join us, also neighbours and friends. We all appreciated his generosity in sharing his home. As is known, Norma now lives in West Vancouver. Words cannot express our kindred memories of having had the Elrods in our midst.”

Board Members on Duty In January

January 1	Jim Jordan
January 8	John Tiffany
January 15	Marion Pape
January 22	John Worton



Community Dinner

Friday 13 is Fiesta Night! 6:00 pm.

We will be serving tacos with all the fixings, chili and much more! Vegetarian options available. Fiesta Night is a multi generational event and an opportunity to meet new people or catch up with friends over a casual, fun, delicious meal.

Everyone is welcome!! Please join us!! Dinner is by donation. Please bring a dessert to share.

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

Board members attended five Circle Dinners (CD) in November as a “Get to know your board member” theme. They asked a number of questions about how CD’s might attract new people, what participants liked about CD’s and how they might be improved.

This event attracted many new people perhaps because of the Sunday announcements and the easy-access clipboards sign-up process in Lion Hall following Sunday service. Some attendees were discovering CD’s for the first time. When asked about the purpose of CD’s, participants indicated that emphasis be placed on lively conversation and getting to know one another better in a small group home environment.

Suggestions for tweaking CD’s included: Church Buddies invite and accompany their new member buddy to a dinner; set up a singles dinner; try Circle lunches as well as dinners; encourage people to sign up for a variety of locations; and make personal contact by phone, perhaps annually, to reach new people. When they discussed why CD’s were not as popular as they once were, participants pointed to the many activities now available to better get to know fellow church members.

Thanks to the efforts of board members, hosts and participants for their thoughtful responses and support of Circle Dinners.

Community Building

1. The next SM table on January 8 in Lion Hall following Sunday Service will feature sign ups for volunteers for Community Dinners with Susan Lean in attendance. Drop over to say hello.

2. Looking for hosts for January circle dinners, brunch, lunch or dinner: you provide the venue, coffee, tea, water and your guests provide everything else AND good conversation. Contact Stu Whitney stuwhitney@shaw.ca

3. Did you ever wonder what goes on in the kitchen during Community Dinners? WELL we are having a special event DROP IN THE KITCHEN after the next Community Dinner and you will find out where the party has really been happening all these years. You can also sign-up at the Shared Ministry Table on January 8, 2017. Contact Susan Lean threetaps@shaw.ca

4. Like to know what’s going on in activism in the Greater Victoria Area? SRC is looking for someone to compile relevant info to put into a calendar format for the e-weekly. Contact Leslie Gillett leslieucv@gmail.com

5. Want to do something for the community but you don’t know what to do? Why not consider making a donation to Lifeline. Contact Don and Clare Vipond donandclare@shaw.ca

NOTABLE UU

Malvina Reynolds (1900-1978) was an American folk/blues singer-songwriter and a political activist, best known for her songwriting, particularly the songs "Little Boxes", "Magic Penny" "Turn Around" and "Morningtown Ride". She was born in San Francisco to Jewish and socialist immigrants. She married William ("Bud") Reynolds, a carpenter and labor organizer, in 1934. She later earned a doctorate in English and a degree in Music. She became a social worker and a columnist for the People's World and, when World War II started, an assembly-line worker at a bomb factory.

She was influenced by Pete Seeger and other Unitarian activists and became a Unitarian Universalist. In her later years Malvina Reynolds contributed songs and material to many activist and socialist events as well as to PBS' Sesame Street, on which she made occasional appearances as a character named Kate.

Wabi-sabi? Several people wondered if it was a wabi-sabi re. the misspelling of Fulghum in the December newsletter. Apologies as it was the wrong spelling of an unusual name.



-Christine Johnston

BIRTHDAYS IN JANUARY

- | | |
|----|---|
| 1 | Sonya Ignatieff, Jackie Bennett, Jan Li, |
| 2 | Patricia Disbrow |
| 3 | Betty Sherwood |
| 4 | Elaine Hanson, Phyllis Aherne |
| 5 | Cecil Bannister, Emil Mogensen |
| 7 | Alastair Mont, Dennis Jaques |
| 8 | Christine Johnston |
| 9 | Philip Symons |
| 11 | Pat McMahan |
| 12 | Margot Garmsen |
| 13 | Heather Sutherland, Sebastian Sterling |
| 16 | Jane Wilson, Gaia Bazar |
| 17 | Ellen Carey |
| 18 | Fran Pardee |
| 19 | Tim Hall |
| 20 | Lynn Beak, Lynn Hunter |
| 21 | Nellie Van Leeuwen, Bob Thompson, Amy Anderson, Bruce Nicol |
| 23 | Ruth Miller, Shelagh McCormick |
| 24 | Gerry Brimacombe, Lillie Lentz, Elliot Ziegler |
| 25 | Cavina Thokme |
| 26 | Remi Odense, David Person |
| 28 | Becky Denlinger |
| 29 | Mike Graham |

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Barbara Nyland's is now barbaranyland2@gmail.com
Please do not use this one for newsletter submissions! See back page!

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EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

Date	Time	Event	Location
1/1	10:30-11:30am	NEW YEAR'S DAY SUNDAY SERVICE	Sanctuary
1/8	10:30-11:30am 7-9pm	SUNDAY SERVICE Jazz Vespers	Sanctuary
1/13	6-9pm	Community Dinner	Sanctuary
1/15	10:30- 11:30am 11:30am- 1pm	SUNDAY SERVICE Souper Sunday	Sanctuary
1/22	10:30-11:30am	SUNDAY SERVICE	
1/29	10:30-11:30am	SUNDAY SERVICE	

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Copy should be sent to
newsletter@victoriaunitarian.ca.



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

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

Feedback is welcomed.

Staff

Barbara Nyland and Jen Young (editors); Doreen Burgess
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