



The Victoria Unitarian

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

SERVICES IN MAY

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

May 7

The Sacred Journey
The Very Reverend Dr. Logan McMenamie
Worship Associate : Jane Wilson

Farmhouse Ringers

As Bishop, one of Logan's areas of focus is healing, reconciliation, and relationships with the First Peoples of this land. In 2016, Bishop Logan began a physical and spiritual journey of reconciliation walking 480 kilometres from Alert Bay to Victoria seeking permission from First Nations representatives to enter and stay on their traditional lands. Acknowledging that the first entering of these lands was as colonists, asserting the right to ownership of the land and domination over its Indigenous peoples, he feels that we, in our generation, need to re-enter this land in a new way. What will that look like for us? How do we learn from the people who have lived here for centuries? How do we re-enter this land? Today, Logan will share some of his journey with us.

May 14

The Rise of Cascadian Spirituality
Paul Bramadat
Worship Associate: Anna Isaacs

Chalice Choir

While some look at nature in and around BC as simply beautiful, others routinely describe this place in deeply spiritual terms. It turns out that there are some distinctive features associated with the "bio-region" we inhabit. Join us today for a partly poetic and partly sociological reflection on space, place, and the sacred.

May 21

Rockin' the Boat - the Serious Joy of Social Justice
Worship Associate: Doug McGinnis
Social Responsibility Committee

Chamber Choir

There is more to social justice work than protests and petitions. Members of the Social Responsibility Coalition will bring forward some of the joys and tribulations of compassionate action. Through stories, songs and maybe a poem or two, the SRC will lift up the passionate heart and often zany chaos of change-makers. Chairs will not be in rows.

May 28

UU White Supremacy Teach-In
Chris Wulff
Worship Associate Dan Klimke

Chalice Choir

Following the lead of the hundreds of UU congregations in the US and Canada that are committing a Sunday morning to a conversation on white supremacy, we'll have a hard and frank conversation about racism in our communities and country. It's an uncomfortable conversation for most of us, but a necessary one if we are to continue to be in right relationship with people of colour and indigenous peoples. Being here, learning together, we can all bear witness to one another and our commitment to our principles, however difficult the path.

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**THE DEADLINE FOR
SUBMISSIONS TO THE
JUNE ISSUE OF THE
NEWSLETTER IS
MAY 16.**

SEL

FAYE MOGENSEN

SEL-ections on Roots and Rootedness

In the children’s program this month, we’ll take time to consider roots of all sorts; from the roots of plants, to our family roots, to Canada’s roots to what helps us feel rooted.

The younger children, from ages four-Grade Four have joined together into one group, and they’ll spend time both indoors and out. Indoor this month includes the opportunity to sing with Nancy Dobbs (May 7 and 28), who is lending her expertise to help leaders and children prepare a tune or two for our Intergenerational service on June 11. I am grateful that we will also be able to continue to bring the children to the forest. Time in nature is a hugely important spiritual practice for me, and I hope the children's experiences there are helping to ground them in a similar way. Some of our outdoor time will be devoted to replanting the Garry oak seedlings started last fall, and to retrieving seeds from some dried Scarlet Runner beans, and planting them in pots. Experiencing the lifecycles of plants is another way of appreciating the natural world, and the food we eat.

Lead by Gita, Forrest and Victoria, the Grades Five to Seven Questors are in the midst of piloting a reflection guide recently developed by the CUC and entitled a “Truth, Healing and Reconciliation”. In it, they are considering their own ancestry as well as that of our First Nations Neighbours. Our hope is that the experience of this curriculum is a small step in our congregation’s journey towards reconciliation.

Our year long Grades Eight to Nine OWL Sexuality Education program will wrap up at the end of May. We warmly welcome all youth involved, to join our yU*Uth group who, amongst much else, will be considering how the experience at church can help them feel rooted. Three of our youth returned home from a ‘con’ in Oregon, full of energy and enthusiasm.

I hope to see you often - the more you come, the more we are able to create roots together.

Warmly,

Faye Mogensen

Director of Spiritual Exploration and Learning for Children and Youth

Postponed! Inter-generational Hootenanny and Other Whimseys

“Water in the Crawl-Space” (Farrell Boyce’s band) is looking for another suitable date to offer this afternoon of fun. We’ll keep you posted!

ABOUT OUR SPEAKERS

Paul Bramadat

Paul Bramadat is Professor and Director of the Centre for Studies in Religion and Society at the University of Victoria, and specializes in religion and public discourse, public policy, and public health.



The Very Reverend Dr. Logan McMenamie

Logan is an Anglican priest in Victoria, British Columbia. He served in a number of Anglican churches in the Diocese of British Columbia and was installed as Bishop in March 2014.

Prior to graduating from the Vancouver School of Theology in 1986 with a Masters of Divinity he worked in a variety of engineering positions in Vancouver and on Vancouver Island.

Logan has been married to Marcia for 39 years. They have seven children and twelve grandchildren.

A

Auction Fever 2017



Huge Thank You to everyone who helped make Auction Fever a party!

This includes those of you who offered such an amazing array of services and those who came to enthusiastically bid.

And then there are all the willing workers: the cashiers, auction recorders, ticket sellers, silent auction workers, gatekeepers, refreshment hosts, popcorn makers, and take down crew. Thank you to the office staff for providing clerical help and

Dar and Olivier for their help formatting ads in the E-Weekly. There's the crew at the bar, the cake-walk bakers, those signing out paddles, the sound and projection crew, the photographer, the intrepid people who approached businesses for gift certificates, and the Neighbourhood Groups who offered services. There would be no auction without our amazing auctioneers, Shirley and Farrell, assisted by silent auction promoter, Lorna.

There is a special place in heaven reserved for the auction team, who worked tirelessly from February until after the auction to make it all happen. Nancy Dobbs solicited the services, Lorna Anthony recruited all the workers, Astrid Firley-Eaton created the gift baskets, Thea Revoy managed the silent auction, and Jen Young was the lynch-pin, creating the posters, lists, bid sheets, and ads for the newsletter and E-Weekly, as well as recording the bids as they happened during the auction. It was a pleasure to work with such an amazing team! With all our effort, the auction has raised \$14,900 for the church so far.

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

CO-MINISTERS ON SABBATICAL

Our Co-Ministers, Reverends Melora and Shana Lynngood are away on sabbatical, followed by summer study leave until August 15, 2017.

The Sabbatical Team and the Ministers have assembled a robust slate of resources to support the congregation in their absence. The resource list was published in the March 2017 newsletter and can be acquired by contacting the church office churchoffice@victoriaunitarian.ca 250-744-2665.

In the case of an urgent matter, contact Sabbatical Team Chair, Kent Haden Kent@hadensoftware.com 250-479-6563; Congregational President Lorna Anthony Iranthony@shaw.ca 250-592-4831; or Ministerial Intern, Chris Wulff chris@victoriaunitarian.ca 647-708-2622 (cell/text).

- Reverend Melora

BOARD MEMBERS ON DUTY

May 07 John Tiffany
 May 14 Jim Jordan
 May 21 Lorna Anthony
 May 28 Marion Pape

DO YOU NEED SUPPORT THROUGH A DIFFICULT TIME?

During our Ministers' sabbatical a Pastoral Care Team is available to provide emotional support to individuals and families during a crisis. If you need someone to talk to please call any of the following:

Elinor Bazar	250-508-2819	elinorbazar@gmail.com
Suzanne Beauchamp	778-433-2829	suz46b@yahoo.com
Isabelle Grenon	250-857-0445	igrenon@hotmail.com
Pauline Kenneally	250-388-6865	paulinekenneally@shaw.ca
Clare Vipond	250-652-5491	donandclare@shaw.ca

If you have a question or need help and you don't know who to call, contact a member of the Sabbatical Team. We will help you find the resources you need to address your concerns.

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

WHITE SUPREMACY

The term is repulsive to me, and yet I've been reading and hearing it in contexts that I had never expected. For example, that UU churches are guilty of white supremacist practices. What, us? We're fighting racism, aren't we?

Within the Unitarian Universalist Association of our neighbours to the south, a huge controversy is currently raging about hiring and other entrenched practices that favour whites. The association has strongly embraced the "Black Lives Matter" movement and yet, when they began to look in the mirror this past month, they found the issue of racism staring them in the face.

Thankfully in Canada, we aren't white supremacists. Or are we?

Even before I saw the term bandied about on UUA blogs, I was very surprised to hear reference to "White Supremacy" at a session on Decolonization that I attended in Victoria this year. Others in the room, many of whom were university students, didn't appear the least flummoxed. Wikipedia makes reference to the modern (critical race theory) use of the term "white supremacy;" that can "refer to a political or socio-economic system where white people enjoy a structural advantage or privilege over other ethnic groups, both at a collective and an individual level." This is the kind of culture of white supremacy that my UUA colleagues are referring to, and the one that most of us are not aware of living in. As Canadians Unitarians, we might pat ourselves on the head; the CUC has a number of persons of colour in their office and we have a minister with African American roots. It turns out that these statistics are lucky coincidences for our self image; none of these folks were employed based on consciously anti-racist policies.

My colleagues have urged me to participate in a continent-wide 'teach-in' about White Supremacy and this article is my small effort in that direction. Over the coming months, I am pledging to become more aware of policies and practices that go on favouring people like me. Fortunately I know I am not alone here at the church - proponents of Truth, Healing and Reconciliation received a grant from the Ruth Humphrey's Innovation Fund so that they can enhance our programming and awareness of Indigenous issues. Three children's program volunteers were very quick to sign-up to pilot the Truth, Healing and Reconciliation Reflection Guide for upper elementary students. I am also pleased to be working with Chris Wulff, who is keen to explore the foundations of racism, beginning with his service on May 28. He and I both hope this month will mark a solid leg in the race to end racism.

May we all walk in peace,

Faye Mogensen

Director of Spiritual Exploration and Learning for Children and Youth



Community Dinner

Friday May 12 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.

THE REFUGEE REPORT**SUELLEN GUENTHER**

Sunny will finish her four courses at Camosun in late April and will be taking the last level of English courses in the May-July term. Because she will be in school only two days a week in the summer, she is hoping to find a job where she can work at least half-time to save money toward school and her living expenses when our support ends at the end of August. She has applied to enter UVic for the fall term and is waiting to hear if she is accepted. She understands her application may not be approved until she has successfully passed the English proficiency test at the end of her English class this summer.



Members of the Refugee Committee hosted the Salt Spring Syrian Refugee family on a weekend in March and Kristina organized the Saturday night potluck and musical evening. Kristina received this thank you note from Mr. Khalid, “I want to thank you for your beautiful hosting at the dinner and for the beautiful concert. I enjoyed it very much. Also the choral in the church was amazing. My wife thanks you also. I am appreciating it. Sincerely, Samer”.

The Refugee Steering Committee met recently to decide what to do about the suite we are renting for the Sari family. The lease is expiring May 31, so we discussed whether to renew it or give notice. It is a difficult decision, with the tight rental market in Victoria and the uncertainty of an arrival date for the family. Andy approached the landlord to discover our options and was told the lease could be extended for the same rent, \$1,575/month, until August 31. After that, we could enter into a new lease for \$1,700/month, which is still a very favourable rate. It is such a difficult decision, because we have beautifully furnished the suite and the location is ideal: close to the Sari’s relatives, shopping, and UVic.

Roberta worked out the financials for our options and explained we could afford to extend the lease until August 31 and still have some money left in the budget. Sunny has been living in the suite, so that has saved us from paying for a second rental. Our support for Sunny ends August 31, so she has been notified that she will need to move by then, or sooner, if we receive an arrival date for the Saris. After considering all the options, we decided to extend the lease until August 31. If there is no word about an arrival date for the Saris by July 1, we will give notice, move the furniture into storage, and vacate the suite by Aug 31.

In making this decision, we considered a message we received the day before our meeting from April Hope at the CUC, who is handling our refugee application: “I have started to receive notice of arrivals for older cases recently, but have no way of knowing when we will hear about your family specifically. It is true that it may be years for some privately sponsored people to arrive, but it is still probable that your family will arrive this year. The caps and landing targets are the government’s way of tracking refugees as a whole and cannot easily be linked to individual cases. I would suggest choosing a date to let go of the lease if you have not heard about arrival times. I wish I could be more helpful and specific. However, **sponsorship is very much a game of hurry up and wait.** The government has promised that we will receive at least two weeks’ notice before the arrival of newcomers, and most recently it has been closer to one month. The best way I know of planning for arrival, is to have a temporary place (one to two months) for the newcomers to stay and then assist them with choosing and renting a more permanent home”.

Finding temporary accommodation in Victoria will be a different challenge, but we choose to be financially prudent with the money in the Refugee Fund. We are not soliciting donations at this time, but we have received inquiries from people new to our church who would like to contribute. If you would like to donate, please write your cheque to The First Unitarian Church of Victoria and write “Refugee Fund” on the memo line. In the meantime, we continue to wait, while remaining poised to suddenly snap into action.

BOARD BUSINESS APRIL 2017**LORNA ANTHONY**

The following is a snapshot of the Board meeting held on Tuesday, April 11 at 4:30 in the Farm House Common Room. A full set of minutes is posted on the Lion Hall Bulletin Board. The Council reports received in writing by the Board can be accessed by checking with the office.

Jim Jordan lit the chalice and gave a reading.

Ministerial Intern Report – Chris continues to be providing pastoral care as well as being busy with several committees; Membership, Sabbatical Committee, Shared Ministry, Strategic Plan.

President's Report – I am attending Sabbatical Committee meetings to ensure an open communication with the Board. I am also attending other Committee meetings as ex-officio to achieve a greater understanding of the behind the scenes work. I appreciate that members/friends reach out when they have questions or concerns.

Treasurer's Report - Jane reported the net ordinary income is 52% of budget. Open plate is slightly low at 19.5% for the first quarter but pledge income is right on target at 25.4%. Rental income is showing promise for this early in the year (47% of budget). Expenses are within budget at 23.6%

Property Management Council – A great deal happens within this council but Tiff wanted it noted that a new toilet has been installed in the Lion Hall washroom. Many thanks to Brad Clarke who sorted out the problem with the leaking toilet. A new floor will be installed in the Lion Hall this summer. Currently it is laminate which cannot be replaced piece meal so there is duct tape to cover a potentially dangerous spot for tripping resulting from a leak.

The Board Member on Duty responsibility for summer child minding was discussed. Nadia in the office will be the point person for child care workers who are not available and have not been able to find a replacement. BMODs will be available for emergencies.

Our accompanist, Victoria Beauchesne, resigned from her position. Others will be filling in until June, and a job posting is being circulated in the musical community for a replacement.

The "Coffee and Conversation with the Board and Sabbatical Team" was held on April 9th with very few attending other than Board members and Sabbatical team members. There is not one scheduled for May.

Strategic Plan – The schedule and outline for sessions have been published in the e-weekly. Please plan to attend one or all three. The first one is Sunday, April 30th from 12 to 2:30 in the sanctuary – light lunch provided. The topic for Priority 1 is "Growing in Spirit Through High Quality Programs and Mutual Support." How should our programs stay the same or change? How can we be more relevant, responsive, innovative, diverse, welcoming and intergenerational? Your input matters.

As always, please feel free to chat with me with your questions, concerns or comments.

Sincerely,

Lorna Anthony,

President

FUCV FOUNDATION AGM

There will be a brief Annual General Meeting of the First Unitarian Church of Victoria Foundation on Sunday, June 4, 2017 in the Common Room.

Bursaries will be awarded for two First Nations students at Camosun College as well as funding for either the Church Music Program or the

Social Responsibility Committee. All church members are invited to attend. Thank you.

Peter Hancock, Secretary of the FUCV FOUNDATION



GIANT BOOK SALE SEPTEMBER 23, 2017

Save your books and save the date!

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

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



HOW 2017 – We did it! But why stop?

Our lone Healing Our World (HOW) project this year set out just last month to raise \$4,750, to support a total of 100 Grade Seven girls in Lesotho with a special need. And we did it! We have just passed the target in record time.

Thank you, generous people!

But HOW projects traditionally continue to July 1 – so if you choose, we can just keep on rolling. There are many more than 100 girls in need of this kind of help.

Here is the critical background: For girls in developing countries, menstruation often means missing a week of school every month. When your family struggles to put food on the table, the purchase of disposable sanitary products is impossible. Many girls try using old clothing, dirty rags, or even leaves to manage their periods, however these methods are both very dangerous to their health and very difficult to conceal, often leading to shame and girls being targeted with violence.

The project will provide each girl with:

A washable sanitary kit that includes: two shields with a moisture proof barrier and ‘wings’ that wrap around a pair of underwear; eight tri-fold liners. Each square liner can be folded in three to act as the ‘pad’; and Zip-lock bags, soap, and a beautiful carrying bag;

Two days of education to prepare them for the challenges and peer pressure they could encounter in high school. The training sessions will cover:

- Menstruation and reproductive health;
- Self-esteem;
- Making healthy decisions and resisting peer pressure; and
- Preventing teenage pregnancy.

How are things in Le-soo-too? (part 2)

It helps to put a face to any project. Last month Nthati (“En...tha...ty”), age, 12, wrote to us of her life in Lesotho (Le-soo-too). It turns out she has a twin sister. This time she tells us more about life in her mountain village, Thaba Tseka, and also about school.

“I have a twin sister. Her name is Nthatisi but we call her Tisi (Tee-see). She is my best friend. Some people cannot tell us apart because we look exactly the same. I am the one on the right. Sometimes we even say the same things or finish each other’s sentences. Isn’t that funny? I am so glad I have her in my life.

“Our school uniforms are blue. If we don’t have a uniform, an older girl might give us the one she used to wear.

“Tisi and I get up early. We bathe in a plastic basin with water our aunt has warmed on the fire. Girls must do many chores before and after school. Because we are girls, Tisi and I help with chores in the morning. When we come home from school we must fetch the water, wash the dishes, collect firewood, sweep and look after the baby. We can only do our homework when we have candles. When it is dark and there are no candles, we cannot see our papers. It would be nice to have a table to write on.

“On Saturdays . . . we may have to take a wheelbarrow to the shop to buy paraffin for the stove and lamp. It is so hard to push the wheelbarrow on the paths and the road. Tisi and I walk 45 minutes to school. We are happy we don’t have to walk as far as many of our classmates. In Lesotho, most children walk a long way to school, even on cold days and in the snow. . . Tisi and I walk down one mountain, across a river and then up the other side. My school is called Sefapanong Primary School.

“I friend from my village and I share our bench with two boys. They can be pushy There are 113 children in my classroom. We hardly have any books . . . Outside of school, we speak Sesotho. In school, we speak English. We must work hard to get good grades and save our money for high school fees . . .”



HONOURED VOLUNTEER LESLIE O'HAGAN**ELAINE DAKIN**

Leslie has been a Unitarian for 20 years and a member of FUCV since 2005. She discovered Unitarianism when her family lived in Plano, Texas and her children kept getting invited to go to church with their friends. They didn't feel good saying no unless they had an alternative to offer them. They stumbled upon a Unitarian Church near their house and decided this was a 'church' they could live with!

Because teaching is her profession, Leslie got involved with the RE program, first in Texas, then Seattle and in Victoria. In 2006, she took the training for OWL and began teaching the program at FUCV. She has taught many OWL Programs for ages K-12 over the last 11 years. It is a program she says she is passionate about and truly believes it is the best Sexuality Education available for youth in Victoria.

Community Dinner is the other committee she has been involved with for the past five years. She says that Fiesta Night is her specialty!

Lisa Greenly says:

Leslie is a caring, kind and supportive person. Always willing to lend a hand and seek the opportunity to make the lives of others better. Leslie is committed to helping children find, and develop, their skills to obtain and use knowledge. Her belief in the life changing importance of the OWL program and willingness to dedicate countless hours and resources to its success has enriched the life of the church's children, their families and the wider community. Leslie loves to cook and ensure everyone is fed so in addition to OWL you will often find her in the church kitchen cooking up a storm for Community Dinner, Out of the Rain youth shelter and other events.

Like ripples in a pond we will never really know the how far the impact of Leslie's dedication to helping others has gone or impact it has had - only that it has been widely felt and life changing for many.

Faye Mogensen says:

The entire church has been very lucky on Community Night Dinners that one of Leslie O'Hagan's many joys is cooking. The children's program has hugely benefited by her zeal for safeguarding the well-being of children, which has prompted her to be a devoted OWL (Our Whole Lives) Sexuality Education volunteer for more than 10 years. On a more personal level, she is a devoted mother and I've enjoyed watching her exude with characteristic enthusiasm and love over her children's various interests and passions.

Kent Haden says:

In reflecting on my experience of working with Leslie I would describe her as a 'whole-hearted instigator'. She does not do things 'half-heartedly'. She gives much time and energy to all the tasks she undertakes to make sure everything goes well for everyone.



MULTIFAITH SOCIETY COMMITTEE **Interesting Creative Role Available**

I have been the Unitarian rep on the local Multifaith Society Committee for the past two years. Through it I have met and worked with some outstanding leaders in creative outreach and educational projects but it is time for me to move on this summer so I am hoping some Church member might be interested in representing our Church Community and in exploring this creative challenge.

Past reps have been Mac Elrod, Fran Pardee, Alan Dawson and myself.

Questions? Contact Christine Johnston.

PHOTO PRESENTATION ON BURMA **May 24 7:30 pm**

The Zoie Gardner Overseas Fund of the SRC Coalition invites interested people to attend a presentation on May 24 at 7:30 pm at the home of Bunny and Jim Hackler to hear a presentation of a new project applying to the Fund.

Topic: Building a school called Wah Bo Yee in a remote village in Lalaw district of Myamar/Burma by an established Canadian charity.

Location: Common room at 1485 Garnet Rd close to Cedar Hill Rd and McKenzie

ARTIST OF THE MONTH LAURIE MCAMMOND**MARY THEAL**

Laurie McAmmond currently lives and paints in Victoria, BC. Having spent most of her life on the West Coast, her favourite medium is transparent watercolour as it reflects the fluid interplay of light, water and atmosphere. Her compositions are based on simple natural elements, slightly abstracted and richly pigmented.

She is most interested in painting the “feel” of the landscape that resonates with the image within. Her very early influences included a watercolour artist who could not afford to give up his day job as a grade four teacher and much much later, painter Alan J. Bruce who taught her the art of seeing with a brush.

Laurie has a studio in Victoria and can be contacted at 250-598 1245 or greenbits@hotmail.com

**INNOVATION FUND RECIPIENTS**

We are pleased to announce the recipients of the 2017 Ruth Humphreys Innovation Fund.

Bell Choir – Applicants: Nick Fairbank, Peter Hancock

Unitarian Universalist Islands Network Summer Camp – Applicants: Anna Isaacs, Martha McDougall

Truth Healing and Reconciliation – Applicants: Pat Kinrade, Diana Smith, Lynn Beak, Kathryn Harwood

Strategic Planning Process – Applicants: Marion Pape, Marion Sollazzo

Many thanks to Ted Humphreys for his generous support of this fund which is in honour and memory of his wife, Ruth.

NOTABLE UU**CHRISTINE JOHNSTON**

Susan B. Anthony (1820 –1906) was an American Unitarian social reformer and women's rights activist who played a pivotal role in the women's suffrage movement. She became committed to social equality, anti-slavery, women's rights, temperance and finally women's suffrage. The Anthony Amendment in Congress became the 19th Amendment to the US Constitution in 1920. She also helped to bring about the World's Congress of Representative Women in Chicago in 1893. Her 80th birthday was celebrated in the White House at the invitation of President McKinley.

She became the first actual woman to be depicted on US coinage when her portrait appeared on the 1979 dollar coin.

Susan Anthony visited Victoria in 1871, months after it became a province, in order to promote woman's right to vote at a series of public meetings at the Alhambra Theatre, corner of Yates and Government. Her eloquence won over many women as well as the reporter for the Daily British Colonist but not most of the men. However, in 1872, women who owned property were allowed to vote in municipal elections and soon after serve on school boards. But not till a hundred years ago, in April 1917, did women in BC get the vote. We are grateful to the pioneers of yesterday, including Susan B. Anthony, for this opportunity.



Path to Membership



Are you new to our church?

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

Would you like to know more?

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

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

STEP TWO: Church Orientation

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, May 7, 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. (If you missed the recent Church Orientation but feel ready to 'consider membership', you are welcome to attend this session.)

Events are 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 or both of these events, or if you have questions, please contact **Chris Wulff (Intern Minister)** at Chris@victoriaunitarian.ca or Cell (647) 708-2622.

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

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

Points to Ponder before May 9

Your Environmental Action Team suggests you may want to consider where parties and candidates stand on some of the following issues before casting your ballot on May 9:

- A credible and timely plan for BC to address climate change, including carbon tax.
- Pipelines and expansion of tanker traffic.
- Review of the Site C dam.
- Food security and safety, including such things as GMO labelling, ALR issues and open pen fish farms.
- Resource extraction, including fracked LNG and mining industry approvals.

WHY DO WE NEED A STRATEGIC PLAN?

Historically setting priorities, planning and budgeting has been an annual process of Committees, Board members and Ministers. Finance instigated a three-year plan a few budgets ago, wanting to get a longer perspective to deliver on church needs. The Ministers and Board yearly (often at retreat) set priorities to be proactive in church congregational health. Yes, in accomplishing goals something feels good as well.

April 30, May 28 and June 25 the board is asking the congregation to help extend our planning in a real way. We want to answer the question: Where will we be in 2020?

These are initial meetings that will bring focus and further conversations in the fall. My personal opinion is that each of us is already thinking where we would like to be. Each committee has had conversations about what they can do. We can stretch beyond one year, give ourselves the time to expand.

Priorities are not written in stone, they may flex or change in the next three years. But input from the congregation will have been heard, documented and be in use when the board or committees continue with their mandates on behalf of all of us.

This is an opportunity to think about our beloved congregation and select, dovetail with, or help prioritize needs, wants and visions of the whole. Our greatest assets, volunteer hours, community spirit and finance need your voice.

Thankyou

Shirley Travis, Past President

We Care!

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or your Neighbourhood Group Care & Concern person

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AROUND THE NEIGHBORHOOD**SUELLEN GUENTHER**

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, "Esquimalt hosted Souper Sunday on April 2. Many thanks to Fran Pardee, organizer, who commented, "Souper Sunday was a great success and I so deeply appreciate the team efforts to make it so. People were such willing helpers - makes it a joy to work together. We were a great team with Royal Oak West, delivering delicious food to an appreciative community'." Pat adds, "Coffee meet-ups continue on the third Tuesday of the month, 2:30 at Fol Epi/ Café Fantastico on Harbour Road."

Fairfield: This group will be providing treats for coffee time in May.

Gordon Head: Mary Cramer writes, "We are hoping to have our next potluck in May, but a date has not been set, at this time. We have several new folks who are interested in being involved in our NG, so it will be great to introduce them to our NG then."

James Bay: Lynn Hunter reports, "The James Bay neighbourhood group had a lively pot luck lunch at the home of Myra Rippon on Saturday, March 4."

Oak Bay: Tiff shares the idea for their next potluck, "On April 22nd, we will have a potluck at Mary Burcher's place. As Mary wrote in her invitation, 'From 7 - 9 p.m., we will drum or shake (or percuss in other ways) along to the music on Randy Bachmann's VINYL TAP on CBC radio. Among other things, Randy was a member of the Canadian band, "The Guess Who". He plays an eclectic selection of music from the 60's, 70's, 80's. I have several drums, spoons, shakers and other percussion instruments for you to try. This is an event especially for the 'never-musical', 'I don't have any rhythm', 'I-wouldn't-be-caught-dead making a noise' kind of people' (as well as those who just love to express in sound). I want to share with you my joy in making rhythms. COME and PLAY!!'" He adds, "OBNG had our usual monthly luncheon on the third Wednesday of the month. We had eight people show up on March 15th and had a fun time chatting and eating."

I would like to send a shout out to the Oak Bay NG for helping Sheri Tromp during the 18 months Menno was in hospital. A special mention goes to 91 year old Suzanne Dearman who delivered a fresh chicken casserole to Sheri **every single Sunday** for 18 months! Our church mission statement in action: "Living with Compassion and Inspired to Serve."

Royal Oak East: Hanny Pannekoek writes, "Royal Oak East met on March 7 at Hugo's and my home. We had agreed at our last gathering to have our meeting circle between the appetizers and the potluck dinner, instead of at the end of the evening. This was well received: people participated with more energy and everyone was included -- nobody wanted to leave before having dinner. We shared news about some of our members. Helen and Thane Waldie have sold their home and are now living in Carlton house in Oak Bay, we will follow up with Tess Steele, and Grace Scarabelli has sold her house and has moved into Highgate Lodge. Our group is aging, so we better take care of each other and enjoy each day. We agreed to offer a dessert extravaganza as an auction item before a Jazz Vespers Sunday in February. In the meantime we are in the middle of providing goodies for April's coffee hospitality. Our next gathering will be on June 6.

Royal Oak West: Fran Hancock sends this appreciation, "Royal Oak West had the pleasure of hosting the Souper Sunday with Esquimalt on April 2nd as it gave both groups an opportunity to get to know one another. It is such a good feeling to see church members enjoying DELICIOUS food prepared by others while strengthening friendships with those at their table. What a vital part of building community! Thank you for the support of both NG groups to host the lunch!" In addition to the wonderful community atmosphere, the Souper raised \$445 for the church.

Western: Susan Lean reports that they expect to gather for their regular Saturday potluck on April 22.

UUIN NEWS

The UUIN would like to spread the word about upcoming events that are open to all interested Unitarian Universalists on Vancouver Island and surrounding Islands.
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EVENT HIGHLIGHTS FOR MAY

DATE	TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
5/7	10:30 AM to 11:30 AM	SUNDAY SERVICE	
5/12	6:00 PM to 9:00 PM	Community Dinner	Sanctuary
5/14	10:30 AM to 11:30 AM 12:00 PM to 3:00 PM	<i>MOTHERS' DAY</i> SUNDAY SERVICE Annual General Meeting	Sanctuary
5/21	10:30 AM to 11:30 AM	SUNDAY SERVICE	
5/22	<i>VICTORIA DAY</i>		
5/28	10:30 AM to 11:30 AM	SUNDAY SERVICE	

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

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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.

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Barbara Nyland and Jen Young (editors); Doreen Burgess
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