



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

**SERVICES IN OCTOBER**

**SUNDAY SERVICES BEGIN AT 10:30am**

*Welcome to the month of*  
**BELONGING**



**DATE: Oct 6 2019**

**TITLE: We Belong to a History (a UU theology sermon)**

**HOMILIST: Rev Shana**

**CHOIR: Chalice Choir**

**WA: Lynne Bonner**

As we begin to explore what it means to be a people of belonging, we start by remembering that our congregation is part of a longer and larger history. What are the legacies of our Unitarian and Universalist forebears that we wish to continue to embrace? How did our ancestors in this faith tradition create and shape what we have now? What were their failings, and are there cautionary tales we need also not forget?

**DATE: Oct 13 2019**

**TITLE: Dual Faith Combo (with a side of fries)**

**HOMILIST: Rev. Melora**

**WA: Morgan Reid**

UU Jews, UU Buddhists, UU Christians, UU Hindus... Our Unitarian Universalist faith welcomes people of a wide variety of beliefs and traditions. What are the joys of living a dual faith life within our UU congregations? What are the challenges? How does it affect one's sense of belonging within a UU congregation? And what are the challenges for us, as a community, as we strive to create space and spiritual depth for all? How do we walk the fine line between drawing on the wisdom of the world's traditions and cultural misappropriation? How do we advocate for multi-faith appreciation in our larger community?

(Note: This topic was chosen by the winner of the 'sermon on the topic of your choice' in last spring's auction.)

**Child Dedication Today!**

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Livestream begins each Sunday by 10:25 am. To view [please click on this link](#). To view past worship services (as of Jan. 27) [click on this link](#).

Continued from previous page

**DATE: Oct 20 2019**

**TITLE: Going It Together**

HOMILIST: Rev. Shana

CHOIR: Chalice Choir Guest Conductor Brian Tate

WA: Shelly Motz

On this Sunday when we make our 2020 financial pledges in support of this congregation, we look at the meaning of community. There is a growing isolation epidemic, and loneliness abounds throughout our world with fewer and fewer people able to say they have close friends. If we human beings are indeed social creatures and can only find solutions to the biggest problems that face us together--why do we so often "go it alone"? What can belonging to this congregation do to point us in the opposite direction?

**PLEASE STAY FOR OUR ABC COMMUNITY LUNCHEON AFTER THE SERVICE. FREE!**

**DATE: Oct 20 2019 at 7pm**

**TITLE: Spirited Jazz with the Maria Manna Trio**

THEME: Love Lost

See **page 8** for details.

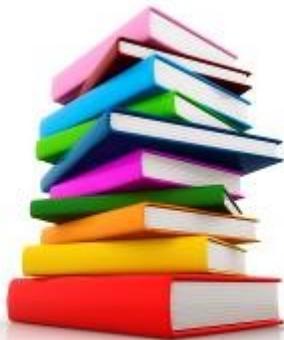
**DATE: Oct 27 2019**

**TITLE: Parenting These Days**

SPEAKERS: Parents

WA: Samantha Magnus

There is great diversity and complexity in who makes up a family, how parenting happens, and what family and home life look like. Small wonder that there is abundant variety in the philosophies, techniques and goals that different families have for their life together. Today is about the realities of spiritual life in a contemporary family within and beyond our congregation.



## **Another successful Giant Book Sale & Bake Sale**

**BAKE SALE: \$1003**

**BOOK SALE: \$4847**

**TOTAL: \$5850**

**Thanks to all the Volunteers who made it happen**

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### COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY

Talk to us. Do you have a concern about our church that you would like the ministers to know? One purpose of the Committee on Ministry (CoM) is centered on developing a strong, healthy relationship between the Minister(s) and the Congregation. Members of the CoM are:

Andy Lee, **Chair**, Lorna Anthony, Mark Danley, Jeri Dause, Bill Glassman, Mary-Ellen Nicol, Jan Thomson.

#### FROM THE EDITORS: GUIDELINES FOR YOUR SUBMISSIONS

*We try to standardize the presentation, to avoid the dog’s breakfast aspect...*

1. Where possible we use Calibri font.
2. One space between sentences and between lines.
3. No pdf files, please, use Word. Send pictures in jpegs.
4. Take the deadline seriously!

#### NEWSLETTER DEADLINE NEWS

**No more guesswork!**  
**The newsletter deadline will be the 15th of the month**  
**EVERY MONTH!**

## Belonging Here and Now

There are many ways in which belonging, to a family, to a place, or to a larger sense of human and all-life community comes naturally to us. We are social beings. We crave connection. At the same time, there have been many headlines lately about just how isolated so many people feel. The UK just created a Minister of Loneliness as a government position in an effort to stem the tide. Lots of people report a lack of close or meaningful connections.

A quotation from Quaker philosopher Douglas Steer keeps coming back (UU ministers spent a whole year together exploring this quotation about 5 years ago), ““The ancient question, ‘Who am I?’ inevitably leads to a deeper one: ‘Whose am I?’ – because there is no identity outside of relationship. You cannot be a person by yourself. To ask “Whose am I” is to extend the question far beyond the little self-absorbed self, and wonder: Who needs you? Who loves you? To whom are you accountable? To whom do you answer? Whose life is altered by your choices? With whose life is your own bound up, inextricably, in obvious or invisible ways? Seen in this light belonging is a profound question. Being a people of belonging means not only feeling connected to individual people, but striving to see and understand our place in the larger web of life. It is seeing that there is so much more than my personal, individual perspective. As we explore the theme this month I invite you to reflect on how and where you are connected to the other people and to Life itself. How might your sense of belonging grow? Here are this month’s questions from the Soul Matters Network:

- How would your days and heart change if you told yourself (and really believed): “I’m already home. I’ve already arrived”?
  - For you, what is the opposite of belonging?
  - We all have experiences of self-doubt. We all wrestle with “imposter syndrome” and the voice in our heads that says, “I don’t really belong here and will soon be found out”. Who was the first person that met you in that place of doubt and helped you get out?
  - Who is sitting just outside your circle and needs to be welcomed in?
  - Does your “belonging work” lie in making room for your grief?

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- Have you ever had to sacrifice belonging for integrity? How about right now? Is your current source of belonging asking you to compromise your integrity?
- Is it time to shift the question from “Who am I?” to “Whose am I?” How would your living and loving be different (and better) if it was a bit less about becoming and a bit more about belonging? What if “Am I succeeding?” was replaced with “Who needs me?” “Who loves me? With whose life is my own bound up?”
- Have you ever found belonging in silence?
- Have you ever found your better self in the middle of a forest?
- Who taught you that it is safe to show your whole self? That every part of you belongs?
- Did you find your place of belonging or create it?
- What if belonging happens when you finally say to yourself “I’m enough”? What if belonging isn’t the moment you find your people but instead the moment you stop trying to prove yourself? What if it ultimately comes down to finally belonging to yourself?

See you in church,  
Rev. Shana



## **COMMUNITY DINNER**

Everyone is welcome!

**Friday 11 October at 6:00pm  
in the Sanctuary**

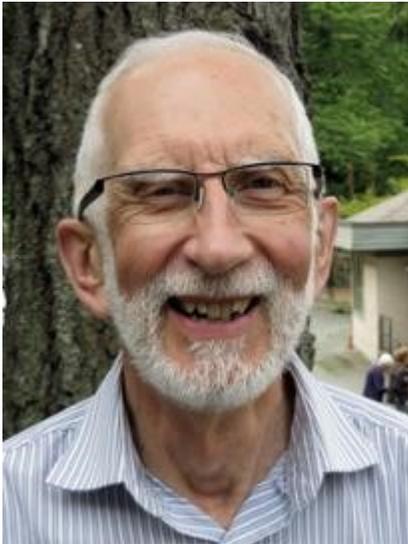
### **A special Thanksgiving Community Dinner**

For our Community Dinner in October we will be having turkey dinner with mashed potatoes, gravy and vegetables. Please bring a salad, vegetable or dessert to share. Vegetarian options will be available.

Community Dinner is a multi-generational event and an opportunity to meet new people or catch up with friends over a casual, fun delicious meal.

**Come and celebrate Thanksgiving with this beloved community! Everyone is welcome!**

To help with clean-up please bring your own plate, cup and cutlery. A rinsing station will be provided.



The President and Councils of the Board are asked to nominate volunteers who have made significant contributions to the life of the church and Unitarian community. John Worton has been nominated by John Tiffany, chair of the Property Management Council. He will be honoured at the Service on October 6<sup>th</sup> and will light the chalice.

## **John Worton**

I lived in Edmonton for many years and was part of the Unitarian Church there but I was not very active. When I moved to Victoria in 2008, I attended our church but didn't volunteer to help in any way.

I began to walk (and still do) with some men from our church. On one of these walks, Mike Graham urged me to join the Human Resources Team as it needed more members. That sounded easy, so I joined. I am still there and have somehow also joined the Finance Committee, the Investment

Committee, the Refugee Team, and the Zoie Gardner Overseas Fund Trustees. I served two terms on the Board as the Administration representative.

I sometimes pretend to grumble about my commitments but the truth is that, through our community, I have met and worked with some wonderful people and had many rewarding experiences. And it makes me happy to know there are still more to come.

Kristina Stevens said:

I have worked with John on several church committees, including the Refugee Committee. John provides thoughtful and timely ideas and feedback, whatever the topic at hand. He is very supportive of others' ideas, even when bringing his legal mind and experience to the discussion. John's contributions to our church are both valuable and highly valued!

Shirley Travis said:

I admire John's willingness to take on 'big' church projects. We have had the CRA regulatory non-profit learning curve, HR hires and terminations, church contracts and society documents, and finance, all he does quietly and behind the scenes. These days we are working on leases. John continues to step up. Thoroughness and kindness, his words are well weighted and appreciated by those who know his ongoing value to our community. Mostly, he is quick with a smile - even a chuckle, yes, willing to listen.  
Thank you John

John Tiffany said:

John Worton has been invaluable in working on outside rentals, in helping lead the team renegotiating the lease with Montessori School, getting CISV to rent from the Church in the summers, and in writing a general lease contract for outside rental. John brings his legal expertise (as a former lawyer) to bear on hammering out all of the necessary framework that is needed in these types of proceedings. Without him, the rest of us involved with rentals would be lost on how to proceed. Over the years, he has been a key 'go-to' person on these matters and is always willing - with a smile - to help out. John takes what would be a pain to work on into a (as best as possible) pleasure.



**Make Meaningful Connections,  
Talking About Things That Matter**

“Soul Matters” Theme Groups  
Sign Up Now!

This Fall, we are launching 3 new “Soul Matters” theme groups. Each group of 8 to 10 people will meet once a month to listen to one another’s experiences and ponderings related to each month’s theme. Group members will be given thought-provoking resources to explore and intriguing practices to try out in advance of each monthly gathering. Groups run the whole ‘Church year’ – now through June 2020. Nine sessions in all.

These are not ‘drop in’ groups – a full commitment to the program is required to make the experience as rich as possible for everyone in the group. (Of course, some people may have to miss one or two sessions due to unforeseen illness and the like.) People who have attended all of their group gatherings and who have engaged deeply with the at home material have found the program deeply enriching – they report it makes a difference in their daily lives, while also helping them grow in their understanding of big-picture ethical, spiritual, and personal issues.

Two of the groups had their first gathering in September (Sept. 24 & 26), but, as of this writing, there is still room—you can still join in at the October gathering.

Reserve a spot in the group of your choice by contacting Rev. Melora (email [rev.melora@gmail.com](mailto:rev.melora@gmail.com) or text or phone (250)891-6330). If emailing, please put ‘Soul Matters Group’ in subject heading.

Time	Day of the month	Co-Facilitators	Location
7:00pm – 9:00pm	4 <sup>th</sup> Tuesday Next Gathering October 22	Kent Haden & Lesley Duthie	First Unitarian Church, 5575 W Saanich Road
6:30pm - 8:30pm	Last Wednesday Begins October 30	Jenny Heston & Mary-Ellen Nicol	Jenny’s home (Fairfield )
6:30pm - 8:30pm	4 <sup>th</sup> Thursday Next Gathering October 24	Lynne Bonner & Lynn Guengerich	Lynn's home ( North of Quadra and McKenzie)

# Workshop with BRIAN TATE



An award-winning composer, versatile musician, and educator, Brian Tate attributes the success of his multifaceted career to a love of working with people and a passion for the arts.

On Saturday, October 19<sup>th</sup>, Brian Tate will teach us several of his own compositions and arrangements which will then be performed during the 10:30am service at the church on the following day. All workshop participants are welcome to join the service on the following day, the 20<sup>th</sup>.

## WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

**WHAT: WORKSHOP WITH BRIAN TATE**

**WHERE: FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH**

5575 West Saanich Road  
Across from Red Barn

**WHEN: OCTOBER 19 FROM 10:00-2:30**

**(with a half hour for lunch — Please bring your own).**

**Coffee/Tea/Water provided.**

**Optional: Join our choir on Sunday to sing under Brian's direction.**

**COST: \$25 (Unitarian members) \$30 (others)**

**REGISTER: Reserve your place by emailing Peter at (hancockp@telus.net). Pay with cash or cheque at the door.**

**INFO ON BRIAN TATE: [briantatemusic.com](http://briantatemusic.com)**

**SPACE IS LIMITED -- REGISTER TODAY**



## **SPIRITED JAZZ**

### **Unitarian Jazz Vespers**

**Enjoy jazz with a splash of spiritual inspiration.**

**October 20<sup>th</sup>, Sunday, 7-8 PM**

#### **Maria Manna Trio**

**Theme: "Love Lost"**

Maria Manna, Vocals; Karel Roessingh, Piano; Joey Smith, Bass  
First Unitarian Church of Victoria  
By donation and greatly appreciated



Those who have been appreciating the short trip on a country road to a beautiful setting with top jazz musicians, completed with the musings of Reverend Shana, will be sure not to miss this upcoming vespers with the Maria Manna Trio.

Governor General Award winner, Woman of Style Award, Alberta Music Archives Inductee, a big lush, sensuous voice, impeccable diction and confident, theatrical stage presence - Maria's got it all. Maria Manna was born and raised in Edmonton, Alberta. She is the eldest of 4 daughters to Italian immigrant parents. Her first language is Italian and she speaks, writes and reads it fluently. She has 3 children, 2 of her own; Marco and Christina and stepson Kyle.

As Klondike Kate, Maria served as Ambassador for the City of Edmonton in 1999 and 2000. She was proud to have been chosen to entertain the Canadian Military in Aviano, Italy and the Canadian Military in Bosnia on a ten-day tour. Upon her return from Bosnia, Maria created the Bosnian Children Relief Foundation and helped fill a military aircraft full of school supplies and had it sent off to Bosnia. The Canadian Military helped Maria record a CD with total profits going to the foundation.

Her movie credits include the principal vocalist role as well as script coach for "The Engagement Ring". She currently has 3 CDs in her native language Italian and in English. She lives on Vancouver Island with her husband Christopher Grew and their dog Ciccio. In 2016 Maria became an Ordained Minister and provides services as well as visits to palliative care.

Enjoy jazz with a splash of spiritual inspiration in venues with exquisite sound and setting. These hour-long evening services are a unique blend of jazz and spirituality. Each service brings together live music from popular local jazz musicians, a brief meaningful message, and a little of the history of the music performed.

First Unitarian Church of Victoria 5575 West Saanich Road (250) 744-2665

Program of First Unitarian Church Victoria; [www.victoriaunitarian.ca](http://www.victoriaunitarian.ca)

**Environmental Action Team**  
**One Planet Saanich Team presents**

# EcoGames

As I write this, our EcoGames are only five days old and we already have 40 players registered from 11 different Neighbourhood Groups!

We were excited to learn this week that Vancity Credit Union is now a sponsor of the EcoGames! The Vancity Mount Tolmie Community Branch awarded us a Community Branch Partnership Grant. Sarah McCormick of Vancity wrote:

*“The members of our Branch Granting Team were very pleased with your alignment to the Vancity vision of taking action towards a more sustainable future. We are excited that you will be doing this through education and some fun, friendly competition!”*

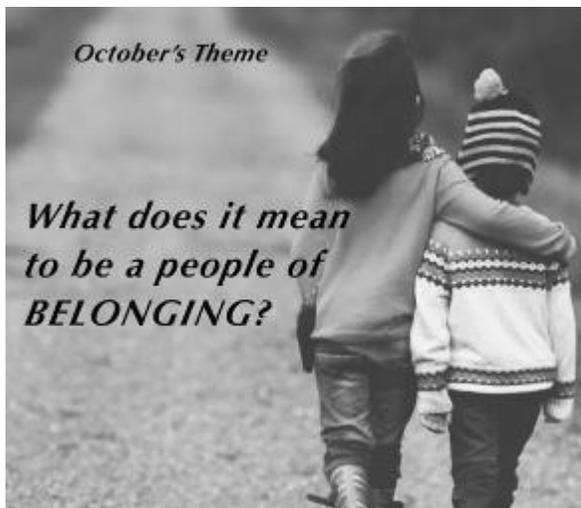
If you missed signing up at church on Sundays in September, you can also register online at: <https://victoriaunitarian.ca/ecogames/>

Not only church members and friends can play.

We want to cheer on staff and visitors, too!

For results and a weekly update, check your E-Weekly.





As we settle into October, the new church year begins to take shape. Our younger kids, both the new STARS program (for those age 2-5) and the SPACE program (for those in K - gr.2) will explore belonging through the following themes:

#### October 6: Belonging to a Story

What story do we belong to? In this session, we will focus on inclusion and how to include others in our lives.

#### October 13: Belonging to Yourself

Who are you? This week we will be focusing on how each person is special and should be celebrated!

#### October 20: Belonging and Not Belonging

In this session, we will be focusing on how to identify what belongs in certain places and what doesn't, and also touch on bullying.

#### October 27: Belonging to the World

We are all interconnected. From humans to plants to animals, we all belong on this Earth and need to understand where we belong.

Our World Religion Programs (for gr. 3-5 & gr. 6-12) will explore Judaism through our monthly theme "What Does It Mean to Be a People of Belonging?" For centuries, the Jewish people have endured and survived persecution. Along the way, deep spiritual wisdom and innovative spiritual practice have helped them navigate that difficult journey. And while our persecution and sense of exile is quite different than theirs, we can still learn much from them.

In the midst of all the talk of belonging this month, I hope you and your children find yourself especially grateful for the space of connection and belonging that you've carved out for each other.

Find out more about all our programs here: <https://victoriaunitarian.ca/children-youth/curriculum/>

# LOCATION TASK FORCE

## Getting to Church

### We're making ridesharing more accessible!

If you are able to offer a ride to people who live nearby or along your route to Church, please complete the questionnaire at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/6TY6QZB>. Once set up, this service will allow those needing a ride to directly contact people who pass nearby. You don't need to be available every Sunday or even offer rides in both directions; just do whatever is convenient for you

### Royal Oak Exchange Shuttle

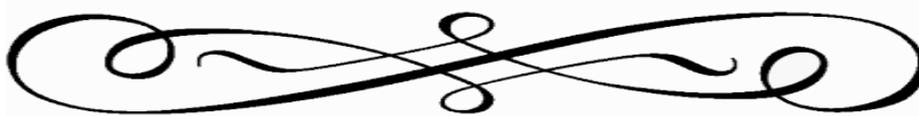
The shuttle from Royal Oak Transit Exchange to the Church is up and running. If you can't get to Church services but you can get to Royal Oak Transit Exchange this is for you. Arrive at Royal Oak by 10 AM and meet our Greeter at the bus shelter at bus Bay "D". At 10:05 you will be driven to church by taxi at no cost to you. It's paid for by the Ruth Humphreys Innovation Fund. Gather at the main entrance of the Church around 12:10 and you'll be whisked back to Royal Oak Exchange.

### Volunteers still needed

We still need a couple more volunteers to share responsibility for greeting riders at Royal Oak Exchange. If you can spare about 15 minutes on your way to Church on occasional Sundays, this is for you.

### Questions?

If you have questions about these transportation initiatives or if you wish to volunteer, please contact John Hopewell at 250-721-3920 or email [LocationTaskForce@victoriaunitarian.ca](mailto:LocationTaskForce@victoriaunitarian.ca)



## Offsite Services

### Mark your calendar!

The Location Task Force heard you when you asked for some services to be held closer to town!

On October 6, at 4PM, we will be piloting the first of three services to be held at Cedar Hill Rec. Centre.

You can choose whether to attend the regular service in the Sanctuary at 10:30 or the service at Cedar Hill in the afternoon — same sermon, same minister, slightly different format.

And don't forget to bring your own mug! We will have hot drinks and cookies but no dishwashing facilities!

PS. Invite your neighbours and friends.

## The New Church Directory is Live!



The new secure online church directory has launched and many in the FUCV community have already signed up. If you missed the activation email, please contact Nadia in the church office to have it resent.

To activate your account, please follow the instructions in the email (subject: *Create Your First Unitarian Church of Victoria Account*). After completing this step, you will receive a second email confirming the creation of your account and username. You may want save this email and bookmark the login page, <https://fucv.breezechms.com/login>, in your internet browser.

To access the directory on your smartphone or tablet, you can install the Breeze app, available [HERE](#). If your device is an Apple product, you'll want to download "Breeze App for iOS" and if your device is not an Apple product, you'll want to download "Breeze App for Android." Use **fucv** when asked for a code or ID to set up the mobile app.

With Breeze you will be able to update your profile and view your individual contribution history. **Please keep in mind that this is a confidential directory and the information you see in your profile will be different from the limited information you see in other people's profiles.**

You will also be able to find contact information for other Members and Friends, search the community by various criteria including Neighbourhood Group, email people, view the church events calendar, register for selected programs, and submit forms.

The online directory includes a photo component. If you have not yet had your photo taken at the church and wish to, please contact First Unitarian's resident photographer, Mary Cramer, at [mary-cramer4455@gmail.com](mailto:mary-cramer4455@gmail.com) or 250-477-1615. Once your Breeze account is activated, you will also be able to upload your own photo(s).

As the name indicates, Breeze is quite user-friendly and you are encouraged to take some time to explore it. If you have questions, please contact Nadia in the church office at 250-744-2665 or [churchoffice@victoriaunitarian.ca](mailto:churchoffice@victoriaunitarian.ca). You are encouraged to go paperless, but if you do want a paper copy of the directory you may request one from the church office.

**“United World Colleges make education a force to unite people, nations and cultures for peace and a sustainable future.”**

***Now what could be more Unitarian than that???***

Metchosin’s Lester B. Pearson College of the Pacific is one of 18 United World Colleges in 18 countries on four continents.

Pearson invites **200 young people from 100 countries** to spend their last two years of high school living together, studying together and getting to know each other. They discover that the humanity and the values they share vastly outweigh whatever differences might separate them.

**Pearson College believes “...that to achieve peace and a sustainable future, we must:**

- Value international and intercultural understanding
- Celebrate differences
- Promote personal responsibility and integrity
- Encourage mutual responsibility and respect
- Prioritize compassion and service
- Respect the environment
- Advocate idealism
- Accept personal challenges and take action
- Listen and collaborate
- Set fearless examples”



**This month’s Share the Plate will support Pearson’s Scholarship Fund**, enabling young people to attend who could otherwise never afford such an opportunity. Students take Pearson’s values with them when they graduate, enriching the world. Will you help them succeed?

For more information, see [uwc.org](http://uwc.org) or [pearsoncollege.ca](http://pearsoncollege.ca), or talk to Andy Lee.

**Board Training on the FUCV Mission:** Rev. Melora facilitated a session on the FUCV Mission that stimulated board members to reflect on our UU community, it's purpose and what we as a faith community are called upon to be and do. The board then reflected on FUCV's Mission to determine if it accurately expressed what is needed 'in this particular historical moment '. This was a fascinating experience as we realized that more work is required as we go deeper into understanding and providing leadership in linking the three strategic initiatives of the board to our mission.

**Oliver Belisle** has stepped down from the Board in order to lead a social media and digital strategy for FUCV and co-lead a continuation of our offsite services through 2020. I am delighted that Ollie is motivated to help FUCV in both of these leading-edge initiatives but we will miss his skills and passion on the board. The Board is developing a Terms of Reference for the Offsite Services Task Force which will be brought to the October Board Meeting. A Social Media and Digital Communications Strategy is being circulated for board input.

**2020 Budget orientation:** It is that time again when we gear up with all our energy to prepare our budget to try to fund the various programs of FUCV. Jane Wilson and Treasurer, Kathleen Zimmerman gave an orientation to the 2020 budget to board members in preparation for future Board meetings where we deliberate on the 2020 budget.

**Annual Budget Campaign (ABC):** The ABC team, led by Shirley Travis, is planning a fun filled pledge canvas for October. ABC will be launching the Annual Pledge Drive throughout October and you will remember that the Board has focused attention on a benefits package for qualified staff and the two Co-Ministers. As members of the Board, we recognize that we need to step up to the plate to increase our donations beyond COLA this year so that our beloved staff can receive a proper benefits package. This will only happen if we all bring forward the generosity of spirit which we display so often. Thank you for considering this. We particularly urge you to give thought now to your pledge and be ready to fill in your form in early October to facilitate the hard work of our valiant volunteer ABC team. Please don't leave it to the last minute.

**Membership Initiatives:** Rev Shana attended a UUA workshop and sent the Board a statement about some of the current thinking around membership within UU Congregations. She suggested that the first programs for new members ((the orientation) touch lightly on only a few things so people can begin to sort out what they need to know as they explore. UUA Congregations had success when they used the church Mission Statement to create a Membership Program so there was clarity and relevance to the orientation. This quality of discerning why we come here to FUCV and do what we do is an important theme for everything we do as a Congregation.

**EcoGames is launched:** Sign up to be a part of the EcoGames that kicked off on Sept. 8. Don't miss this very fun program. Pick up your scorecard, your nametag sticker and choose your challenges. Neighbourhood Group standings will be displayed as results come in. Get those points coming in by encouraging your fellow neighbourhood group members to register. And a just for kids program is about to be launched in the near future. Thanks to EAT and Glenyss Turner and Jim Willis for a highly professional endeavour that shows off FUCV to ourselves and others.

Shall I try for a gold medal with my organic rooftop garden? I think I will.

As September arrives, along with the family's first anniversary in Victoria, we have all good news to report. Mohammad has returned happily to school, entering grade 1 at Quadra Elementary and getting back together with last year's class mates. He says he likes his new teacher! Wasan will be enrolling in kindergarten which, of course, is a big move but as an active and outgoing girl she is sure to enjoy it - more news to come.

Raweah's ESL classes at the Inter-Cultural Association of Victoria have restarted for the new academic year - 3 hours/day Monday to Friday.

Having studied with Galina and Erin over the summer months, we hear she's coming along very well and her comprehension is good. It's also nice to know that Arabic speaking friends with two young children live nearby and are helping her with childminding when needed.

Finally, Khaled has re-enrolled at Camosun for two hours of English in the mornings then goes on to his painting job all day, and Skip the Dishes from 6 to 8 pm. Needless to say, he tries to get some sleep whenever he can!

We're very proud of the family's efforts to settle here and the independence they have already achieved. When housing support from First Unitarian ends shortly, we believe Khaled and Raweah will be able to remain in their current home supported by both Khaled's earnings and rental assistance for a further year from a generous UU private donor.



## Fundraising update

Our goal of \$30,000 has been reached! Thank you to the First Unitarian and Capital communities. This allows Kristina Stevens, Chair of the Refugee Committee, to file the new refugee application papers with the Canadian Unitarian Council head office who will make the submission to the Canadian government.

We expect it may be one year before Khaled's parents, Mohammad and Fatemah, and his 16 year-old brother Abdulrahman, arrive in Canada. If you would like to volunteer in helping the Committee prepare for and settle the new family, please contact Kristina.

## HOW 2009 Microloan Project - Loan #1989

Sierra Leone

Ramatu's Female Farmers Group's story:

Ramatu (first on the right), the featured borrower of Ramatu's Female Farmers Group, would like to sincerely thank all the Kiva lenders for their first loan.

It enabled them to break free from the local lenders who were charging them nearly 100% interest. And as a result all group members have fully recovered their businesses, have repaid their first loan, and are successfully farming again after the devastation of Ebola.

The group is now seeking a second loan to expand further. The profits will be used to ensure all member's children go to school.

In this group: Ramatu, Hawa, Adamssay, Yeabu, Kadiatu, Baby, Fatmata, Amie, Yeabu, Fatmata, Zainab, Ramatu, Adama, Kadie

*Kiva.org changing the world!*



### WISH LIST ITEM for the NEW CHURCH YEAR: LIBRARY HELP

Our beloved Church Library has been neglected for a few years and some of us very much would like to see it up and running again, preferably by a **TEAM OF FIVE** members who would take turns on Sundays and have the Library **OPEN from 10- 10.30 and 11.30 -NOON**....Our Library is a tremendous resource of children books, historical books on Unitarianism and other religions, poetry and probably soon a shelf of books by Indigenous writers!

If you are interested in working on a brand-new LIBRARY TEAM, please do not hesitate to contact Marya Nijland at [philmar@islandnet.com](mailto:philmar@islandnet.com)



The research program of Greater Victoria Acting Together (GVAT) is proceeding steadily with the aid of GVAT's new organizer Chet Phillips, who was hired last July. He attended two of our church services with his three children by mid September, and we hope to see more of him.

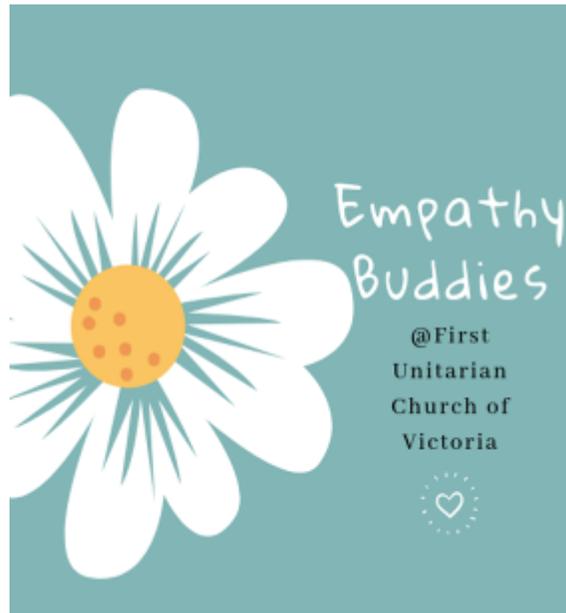
GVAT will be working over the next year or two to recommend solutions to some of our housing and mental health/addictions problems in Victoria. GVAT accomplishes this through Action Research Teams (ARTs). These teams collect information about housing and mental health problems through interviews with knowledgeable people. They then formulate recommendations on how some of these problems may be solved. Housing ART researchers have already met with personnel from Pacifica Housing, some Mayors, Together Against Poverty, and will be approaching developers. The first round of ART reports are to be ready by October 31<sup>st</sup>.

Information from the Action Research Teams is then considered at a Delegates' Assembly where solvable problems, road-blocks, and persons with the power to carry out the recommendations are identified. The Delegates' assembly will be held around November 17<sup>th</sup>. FUCV will be asked to send delegates to this Assembly.

Finally a Founding Assembly is convened. This is where you, our congregation members, play an important role. GVAT needs forty or more people from each member organization to attend the Founding Assembly, because our strength lies in GVAT's numbers, and it is numbers that influence politicians, developers, philanthropists and others with power. We need 400 or more people in attendance at this Founding Assembly.

The Founding Assembly will be held in March 2020. It will begin with a rollcall of member organizations (trade unions, faith groups, environmentalists...) and the numbers of people supporting each. We need you there as representatives of First Unitarian Church of Victoria. Those in power will be urged to implement the recommended changes. Progress may take time, but with time GVAT will achieve its motto, "Working for the Common Good."

*Philip Symons for our Church's core group: Susan Layng, Sonya Ignatieff, Kym Hines and Philip, plus Rev. Melora Lyngood and Marion Pape (president) ex officio.*



### WHAT IS AN EMPATHY BUDDY?

An empathy buddy is a listener, who makes themselves available to support any congregant who needs help processing emotions that are brought up after a Sunday service. Empathy buddies are not counselors and are not there to “fix” anything, but rather are a compassionate presence for those in need.

**Next workshop is October 5, 9:30- 12:30 at the Farm House Common room.**

**Please sign up with either:**

**Kressa Sisu:** [kristinasisu@gmail.com](mailto:kristinasisu@gmail.com)

**Or Samantha Magnus:** [magnussamantha@gmail.com](mailto:magnussamantha@gmail.com)

## The Amazon is Burning

Here is an excellent letter to the editor in the TC from Shelagh Levey a well-known Environmental Activist from Cordova Bay, with some very practical actions we can take. She has given me permission to submit this to our Unitarian Newsletter.

I don't get it! At a time when the Amazon forests are burning, crops are failing and people are dying from heat waves, letters to the editor complain about cyclists and a mayor who is trying to address climate change.

Humans are wired to deal with immediate dangers rather than existential threats such as climate catastrophe. To avoid an environmental breakdown, we need to come together and act quickly. Until governments accept responsibility, there are many things we can do on an individual basis. Here are a few:

- Reduce the use of fossil fuels and encourage sustainable energy

- Cut back on travel, particularly planes and cruise ships

- Eat less meat and dairy

- Help threatened salmon by not eating them

- Drive less, use public transit, walk and cycle where possible

- Conserve more and consume less

- Protect and plant trees

- Vote for a party that consistently stands for economic, social and environmental justice

We have a choice. We can continue along the present path to a likely extinction or we can work together for a better world for the future of our children. Let's think beyond bike lanes and personal inconvenience.

Submitted by Betty Sherwood

## Green Corner At Election Time

This is a critical time for non-partisan political decision making. Putting 'non-partisan' and 'political' together seems absurd. However, consider this. Most parties have a great variety of views and policies, an umbrella to protect and a basket to provide. These could include policies on multiculturalism or its opposite, human rights or selective rights, global warming or denial by rhetoric or actions/inactions, habitat preservation or destruction for economic growth. Seldom do political parties act on all promises. Will your candidate promise to vote yes on all of the promises, or if broken, speak out and cross the floor to another. Ask it.

In my opinion, the preservation of the natural world for itself is the fundamental crisis of our time. Therefore, I will seek to elect individuals who can represent me for the most important topic today. I wish we could have the system of government like that of the NWT and Nunavut where the party system is banned. Since I have to vote for a party and a person I will try to find a candidate with heart, conviction, courage and integrity who will stand up even against 'the direction of cabinet for the poor, for habitat preservation, for the fragile web of life on our blue planet, for reconciliation with First Nations, for the right to a healthy environment. I want candidates with integrity and conscience for people and planet.

I will ask the candidate what is more important, obedience to the party whip or to your own convictions. Will you demand that votes on these issues be 'votes of conscience'? May we all decide our own list of issues that need free and open votes of conscience without any cabinet coercion. Ask your candidate, 'will you think long term and stand strong for an equitable society that seeks to preserve species, to write environmental rights into Canada's laws?

If the candidate answers crooked, hedges and deflects, look for another. If yes, will he/she act and vote on conscience alone and oppose party if necessary? That is what matters more than Party hype and slogans.

In my opinion. Wally du Temple.

### **Annual Budget Campaign (ABC) Community Pledge Luncheon**

**October 20 at Noon in the Sanctuary**

**Video, great company and lunch by Jen Young**

**DF/GF and Vegetarian Options**

**Put this on/in your Calendar**

**Everyone Welcome — No charge**





## HAVE YOU EVER THOUGHT ABOUT LENDING A HAND TO NADIA AND SHANNON, OUR HARD WORKING OFFICE STAFF?

We are grateful for the volunteers who fold the Order of Service on Fridays (or Saturdays) to help the staff but more assistance is needed. If you would be interested in volunteering to fold the Order of Service one time/month for 35 minutes on a designated Friday (or Saturday), please contact Frances Hancock at [hancockf@telus.net](mailto:hancockf@telus.net) or at 250-477-1310. Thank you for your support of the church!

With gratitude, Frances Hancock

## SONG CIRCLE – EVERYONE WELCOME (VISITORS TOO!)



*Nancy Dobbs and Jewel Spooner*

In the Sanctuary: 2:30 pm-4:00 pm

Fall Song Circles: October 25 and November 22

Join us for songs of peace and joy...familiar, new, folk, world songs, lighthearted, chants. Jewel will also lead a (optional participation) sacred dance.

## TURN YOUR COMPASSION INTO ACTION: SUBMIT A SHARE THE PLATE REQUEST

Share the Plate is a great way to get the congregation to support your favourite charity. Submitting a Share the Plate request is an opportunity to be of service to the congregation and to interact with a team of friendly and dedicated members. We organize congregational giving to charities on a monthly basis where we split the collection between the church and a charity. Members and friends can suggest charities, and the Share the Plate team approves and schedules them, and provides support for the proposer to implement the appeal.

We are looking for suggestions for Share the Plate charities to be implemented in the fall and on into next year. It is a great way to raise money for your favourite charity and to raise awareness and opportunities for service with the charity. Share the Plate request forms are available in the church office or online at <https://victoriaunitarian.ca/wp-content/uploads/Share-the-Plate-Application.pdf>. Once completed, it can be returned to the church office or to Jim Willis. For further information contact Jim Willis, Margot Lods, Christine Johnston, Christine Petronis or Karen Sharlow.



All members, friends and newcomers to the church are invited to be part of the Neighbourhood Group where they live. Groups meet with different frequency for social activities, organizing one Souper Sunday per year and making goodies for Sunday coffee one month per year. The Care & Concern contact for each N.G. keeps tabs on members who may need extra assistance.

In January, February and March six NGs will meet one at a time with one of the Ministers after church. This is in place of the “coffee with the Ministers.” The idea was in response to the survey conducted by the Committee on Ministry – some respondents said they wanted to get to know the Ministers better.

Approximately 6 to 12 people attended each of the gatherings in early 2019 and found them to be worthwhile and enjoyable so the format will continue in 2020.

The Souper Sundays will resume in November. This coming year there will be 4 Souper Sundays with 3 NGs hosting at a time. This will lighten the load of each NG. Thanks to those who generously contribute soup and dessert to these events and to the coordinators who organize them. The Soupers are popular events with everyone welcome. Donations are appreciated but not required.

With friends/members moving in and out of areas, it is time to revisit the boundaries of the current NGs. Some of the NGs have many participants while others not so much. The earliest the changes will be made is for the beginning of the 2020 church year. There will be plenty of input prior to any decisions.

If you don't know which group you are in, please phone the church office. The NG conveners are:

- ✦ Oak Bay: Convener Mary Burcher 778-977-5394
- ✦ James Bay: Convener Lynn Hunter 250-220-2240
- ✦ Gordon Head: Convener Mary Cramer 250-477-1615
- ✦ Western: Convener Susan Lean 250 478-5261
- ✦ Nearby: Convener Nancy Dobbs 250-652-5438
- ✦ Cadboro Bay: Convener Val Roberts 250-477-7192
- ✦ Royal Oak West: Convener Martha McDougall 250-477-1541
- ✦ Royal Oak East: Convener Hanny Pannekoek & Hugo Sutmoller 385-2299
- ✦ Grand Central: Convener Jane Wilson 250-598-4348
- ✦ Fairfield: Convener Lynn Beak 250-598-3584
- ✦ Far Out (Sidney/North Saanich): Convener Phyllis Aherne 250-655-7149
- ✦ Esquimalt: Convener Maureen Sherlock 250-384-6492

## First Unitarian Church of Victoria

5575 West Saanich Road • Victoria BC • V9E 2G1 • 250-744-2665

churchoffice@victoriaunitarian.ca • www.victoriaunitarian.ca

Office hours: Monday thru Thursday 11 - 4; Sunday 9 - 1; closed statutory holidays on weekends

### Ministers

Reverend Melora Lynngood  
Cell phone: 250-891-6330  
rev.melora@victoriaunitarian.ca

Reverend Shana Lynngood  
Cell phone: 250-891-6331  
rev.shana@victoriaunitarian.ca

*The ministers' day off is Monday.*

### Minister Emerita

Reverend Jane Bramadat

250-652-1272

### Lay Chaplains

laychaplains@victoriaunitarian.ca

Oceanna Hall 250-886-1077

Kjerstin Mackie 250-598-5975

Anne Vaasjo 250-385-1603

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

Arran Liddel 250-744-2695  
arran@victoriaunitarian.ca

Arran is in the office Tue, Wed, Thu and Sun

### Director of Music

Nick Fairbank  
music@victoriaunitarian.ca

### Church Administrator

Nadia Kozak  
churchoffice@victoriaunitarian.ca

### Communications Assistant

Shannon Oatway  
communications@victoriaunitarian.ca

### Officers

<b>President</b>	Marion Pape
<b>Vice President</b>	Steve Sharlow
<b>Treasurer</b>	Kathleen Zimmerman
<b>Secretary</b>	Audrey Taylor

### Board Members

Trustee	Bruce Nicol
Trustee	Nancy Dobbs
Trustee	Susan Layng
Trustee	John Tiffany
Trustee	Jim Willis

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](mailto:laychaplains@victoriaunitarian.ca)



## We Care!

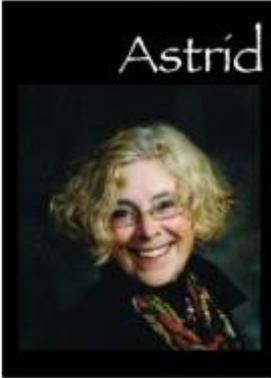
### Care and Concern Committee

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

**Barbara Boyle at 250-381-0264**

or your Neighbourhood Group Care & Concern person

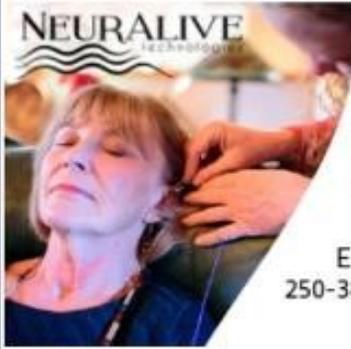
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**Astrid Firley-Eaton**  
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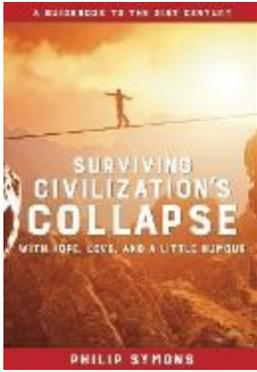
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**CALENDAR**

### October Birthdays

Karen Sharlow	October 01
Cedar Thokme	October 01
Stella Hagan-Braun	October 05
Francois Duruisseau	October 06
Karen Furnes	October 08
Sarah Harris	October 08
Mariko Matsumoto	October 11
Margaret McKelvie	October 12
Scott Branch	October 13
Barry Wiebe	October 13
Doreen Burgess	October 14
Stuart Whitney	October 14
David Smith	October 15
John Edwards	October 16
Patricia Henry	October 16
Shirley Marcuse	October 16
Rebecca Mellett	October 16
Rowland Mak	October 18
Bernice Halvorson	October 19
Lorna Shaw	October 20
Sharon Boldt	October 22
Virginia Daniel	October 25
Marion Pape	October 25
Frances Hancock	October 26
Don Armstrong	October 27
Allen Milne	October 27
Susan Lean	October 28
Diane Berry	October 30
Kent Haden	October 30
Douglas McGinnis	October 31
Ruth Pozer-Telford	October 31

### Board Members on Duty

Oct. 6	Bruce Nicol
Oct. 13	John Tiffany
Oct. 20	Audrey Taylor
Oct. 27	Ollie Belisle

### Contact Changes

None to report

### Membership Changes

Diana Kozinuk

The First Unitarian Church of Victoria  
5575 West Saanich Road  
Victoria, BC V9E 2G1

Phone: 250-744-2665

E-mail: [churchoffice@victoriaunitarian.ca](mailto:churchoffice@victoriaunitarian.ca)

[www.victoriaunitarian.ca](http://www.victoriaunitarian.ca)

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For those without e-mail, copy may be left at the church  
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