



The Victoria Unitarian

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

SERVICES IN JULY 2021

SUNDAY SERVICES BEGIN AT 10:30 am

Sunday, July 4, 10:30 am

“Oneness” - A Sacred Tool for Reconciliation

Sharon Jinkerson Brass, homilist

Lynne Bonner, worship associate



The medicine wheel is a metaphoric tool used to describe the infinite cycle of space and time according to Sharon’s ancestors. The medicine wheel offers Human Beings an opportunity to create connection and awareness to our physical and metaphysical worlds. In addition to creating connections, the medicine wheel offers us opportunities for healing, sharing wisdom, and provides a template for creating ceremonies that align with the natural forces in the universe. In addition to the Medicine Wheel teachings, Sharon will share some teachings around why the number “zero” is so powerful and healing to her people.

Please note that there are multiple stories and ideas around the Medicine Wheel and the teachings Sharon will share are based upon her cultural heritage and experiences.

Sharon Jinkerson-Brass is a member of Key First Nation in Saskatchewan. Sharon has a background as a Front-line Worker, Administrator, Artist, Writer and Filmmaker. Sharon’s practice is firmly rooted in the teachings of her Anishinaabe grandmother Rebecca Brass. Sharon is an advocate for Aboriginal Health Services that integrates ancient approaches and practices into mainstream Health Care Settings.

Currently, Sharon works as a community based health researcher for the Indigenous Wellness Research Team for the University of Saskatchewan. Sharon has also been part of many reconciliation activities and events for various groups and organizations. In addition, Sharon has been active in the Downtown East Side of Vancouver Community of Knowledge Holders, and she also returns home to participate in her family’s ceremonies. Sharon holds a vision for healing for Indigenous people and all people.

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Livestream begins each Sunday by 10:25 am.
view [please click on this link](#).

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Sunday, July 11, 10:30 am

Holistic Bodies and the Physical Education Revolution

Paloma Callo, homilist

Samantha Magnus, worship associate

Inspired by Paloma's undergrad thesis work, this sermon will be an exploration of body movement across time and space, primarily regarding the subtle (and overt) impacts of modernity's landscape and institutions. As many of Paloma's interviewees who identify as professional "movers" expressed through their stories, it takes patience and awareness to integrate being and body—especially when the rhythms of modern life disrupt our relationships to our vessels. How do our relational, spatial-temporal, and intimate contexts shape the way we move and dance through life? It's high time to shift the popular narrative regarding physical activity and body movement to one that honours a healing and revolutionary journey.

Paloma Callo is entering her final semester of Carleton University's Global and International Studies program and has specialized in Globalization, Culture, and Power. Delving into her own experience of the body and exploring various movement practices quickly trickled down into her academic work — it has now been the focal point of her studies for a year and a half. A short thesis film on the topic will be publicly available as of July 2021.

Sunday, July 18, 10:30am

Sustainability and Unsustainability: Coming to Terms with Living on an Island

Dr. Richard Kool, homilist

Fran Pardee, worship associate



Many of us living on Vancouver Island think we're pretty 'green' and are living more sustainable lives than people elsewhere in Canada. Rick's presentation will explore the reality of the unsustainability of the human population on Vancouver Island and outline some of the issues that keep our unsustainability hidden from our eyes, while also offering some suggestions for action.

Rick Kool is a child of Dutch parents who grew up in Boston, MA. He came to BC in 1971 and never looked back. He has worked as a high school teacher in Ucluelet, at the Royal BC Museum, in BC Parks and with the BC Ministry of Environment. He came to Royal Roads University in 2003 to found the MA program in Environmental Education and Communication. He is also a long-time member of the historic Congregation Emanu-El, and for the past seven years has been responsible for the 160-year-old Victoria Jewish Cemetery

Sunday, July 25, 10:30am

Class and Money

Anna Isaacs, homilist

David Vest, worship associate



What is it like to live "below" middle class? What is it like to be at a church with a middle-class culture for those "below" middle class? Socioeconomic class identity is about both culture and finances and is a topic we rarely talk openly and directly about. Let's start a conversation.

Anna Isaacs is a longtime UU. Her dad worked as a carpenter, her mom drove a school bus, and her current main paid gig is frontline care work for people with developmental disabilities. And as with most things in life, it's also more complicated than that.

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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, Jeri Dause, Bill Glassman, Jan Thomson, Shelley Motz.



REVISED CONTACT LIST WHILE OUR MINISTERS ARE AWAY

Now through Aug 9, 2021

Please print and save this list

Reverends Shana and Melora Lynngood are on a well-earned “mini-sabbatical” during the months of May and June, followed by four weeks of annual study leave and two weeks of holiday in late July and early August. They will return to work August 10th and be back in the pulpit August 22nd.

While they are away the ministers will not be available, however our church has a wealth of resources to support our ongoing shared ministry. ***Here’s who to call:***

1. Pastoral Listeners offer a trained, sympathetic and confidential ear to help with crises and emotional issues. (They do not, however, provide counselling.)

Liz Graham	hello.liz.graham@gmail.com	(250) 384-4351
Hanny Pannekoek	hannyhugo@shaw.ca	(250) 385-2299
Darcy Alder	darcyallder@gmail.com	(250) 818-0419

2. Care & Concern Committee provides practical support with a caring spirit by making casseroles, phone calls and (virtual) visits. The committee is organized by Neighbourhood Groups.

Farout	Margaret McKelvie or * (see list of asterisks at the bottom of this list)	mmckelvie@richmond- systems.co	(778) 351-3458
Nearby	Nancy Dobbs or *	nandobbs@telus.net	(250) 652-5438
Royal Oak West	Chris Cook or *	49chriscook@gmail.com	(250) 386-3455
Gordon Head	Mary Cramer or **	marycramer4455@ gmail.com	(250) 477-1615
Cadboro Bay	Fran Hancock or **	hancockf@telus.net	(250) 477-1310
Royal Oak East	Elaine Dakin or **	ecdakin44@gmail.com	(250) 744-1357
Grand Central	***		
Oak Bay	Louise deLugt & Lies Weijs or ***	Ldelugt@shaw.ca eweijs@ryerson.ca	(778) 679-0456 (250) 595-6990
Fairfield	Andra Forney or ***	andraforney@gmail.com	(778) 678-4212
Western	Christine Petronis or ****	nebulanana@gmail.com	(250) 642-6624
Esquimalt	Barbara Boyle	barbara.boyle@shaw.ca	(250) 381-0264
James Bay	Carol Smith or ****	nuagesail@gmail.com	(604) 961-5381
Don’t know?	Barbara Boyle or * ** ***	barbara.boyle@shaw.ca	(250) 381-0264

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3. Lay Chaplains are trained and qualified to perform **rites of passage** such as weddings, child dedications and memorial services. To find out more, please contact:

Anne Vaasjo	annevaasjo70@gmail.com	(250) 385-1603
Oceanna Hall	oceanna.hall@gmail.com	(250) 886-1077
Jenny Heston	jfheston@gmail.com	1-(250) 509-1240

4. Dispute Management volunteers can help anyone experiencing difficulty in their relationships with other church members or groups while working on church-related matters. A solution-focussed process will invite participants to co-create ideas that lead to a successful outcome.

Steve Sharlow	sharlowsteve@yahoo.ca	(250) 514-4919
Jan Thomson	aurora2u@telus.net	(250) 480-1462
Bill Glassman	glassman@ryerson.ca	(250) 595-6990

5. The Committee on Ministry helps foster congregational health by facilitating communication between the congregation and our ministers. The committee acts as a clearinghouse for questions and feedback in the ministers' absence. Do you have a question or a concern, or do you need help and don't know who to call? Call us and we will help you find the resources to address your concerns.

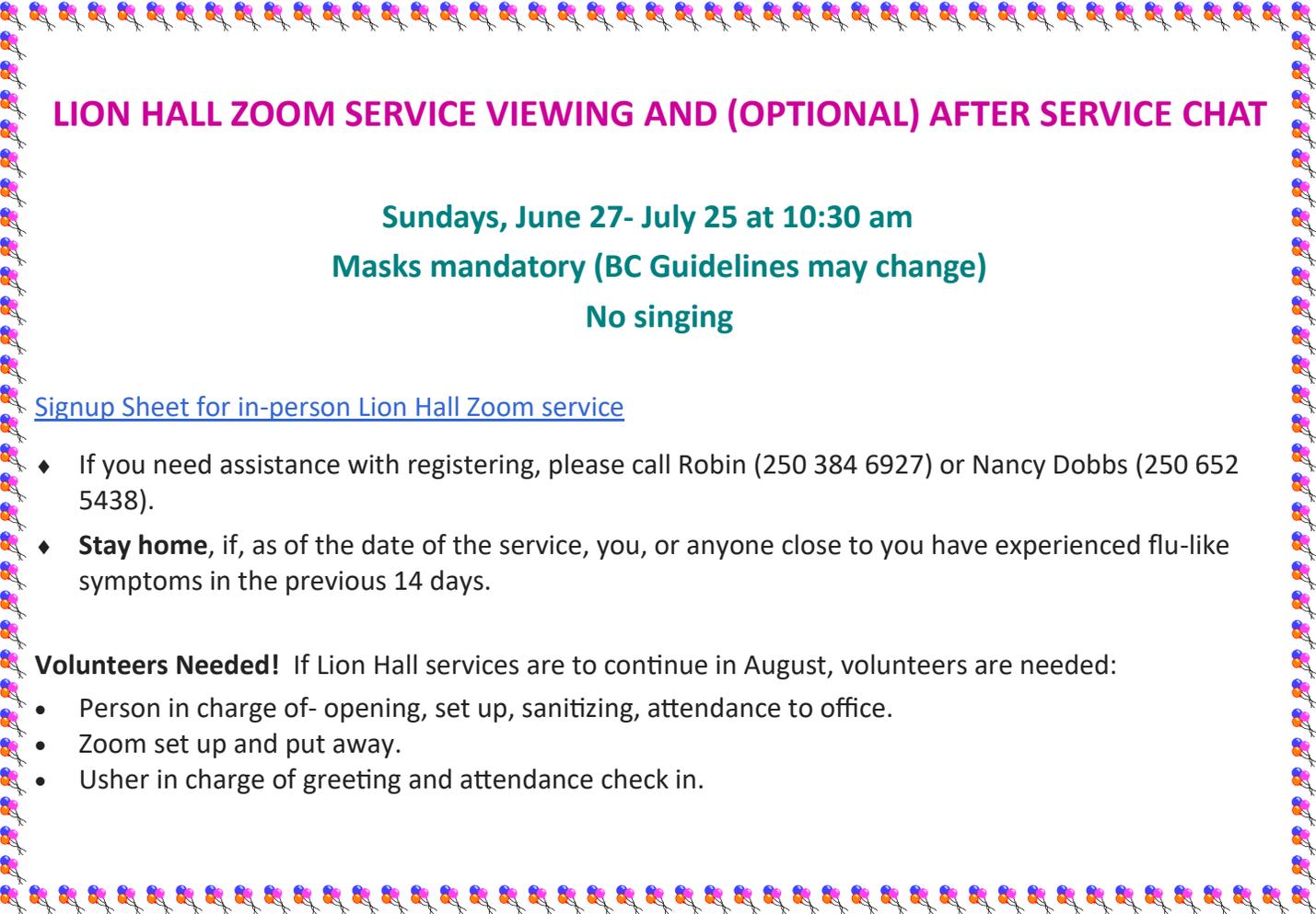
Lorna Anthony	lranthony@shaw.ca	(250) 592-4831
Jeri Dause	jkdause@gmail.com	(250) 384-4530
Bill Glassman	glassman@ryerson.ca	(250) 595-6990
Andy Lee, Chair	andrew.lee@firley.ca	(250) 858-5155
Shelley Motz	shelley.motz@shaw.ca	(250) 388-0654
Jan Thomson	aurora2u@telus.net	(250) 480-1462

6. The Board of Trustees can answer your questions about the ongoing governance of the church.

President	Steve Sharlow	sharlowsteve@yahoo.ca
VP & Outreach Council Chair	Jim Willis	jimwillis568@gmail.com
Treasurer	Kristina Stevens	kristina-stevens@gmail.com
Secretary	Audrey Taylor	audrey_t@telus.net
Past President	Marion Pape	marionpape@shaw.ca
Property Council	Peter Hancock	hancockp@telus.net
Congregational Life Council	Katherine Maas	katherine@kjmaas.com
Finance Council	Bruce Nicol	brucenicol@inbox.com
Spiritual Development	Wally du Temple	wallydutemple@telus.net

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ABOUT SABBATICALS A sabbatical is a period of rest and renewal that allows our ministers an opportunity to do some deep study and reflection, learn new skills, and renew their energies. As a condition of their employment our ministers earn one month sabbatical leave for each year of service to the church. While our ministers are away the congregation can experience again the fact that the church isn't just the ministers, nor is it the building; it is the people – the community we form and the work we do together to make our mission a reality.



LION HALL ZOOM SERVICE VIEWING AND (OPTIONAL) AFTER SERVICE CHAT

Sundays, June 27- July 25 at 10:30 am
Masks mandatory (BC Guidelines may change)
No singing

[Signup Sheet for in-person Lion Hall Zoom service](#)

- ◆ If you need assistance with registering, please call Robin (250 384 6927) or Nancy Dobbs (250 652 5438).
- ◆ **Stay home**, if, as of the date of the service, you, or anyone close to you have experienced flu-like symptoms in the previous 14 days.

Volunteers Needed! If Lion Hall services are to continue in August, volunteers are needed:

- Person in charge of- opening, set up, sanitizing, attendance to office.
- Zoom set up and put away.
- Usher in charge of greeting and attendance check in.

UU Summer Camps!

Kids can collect stories of involvement with our larger movement by joining these camps this summer!

August 16 – 20: Rainbow Path: Our UU Principles (kindergarten – grade 3) We are so excited to bring back the Rainbow Path week of Camp!

In this week of camp, we'll use the colors of the rainbow, art, and music to explore our Unitarian Universalist principles. Over the course of our week together, children will create self-portraits, use tissue and wax paper to create 'stained glass,' make handprint doves, and more! Children will learn favorite Unitarian Universalist hymns, like "Spirit of Life," and "Love Will Guide Us."



August 16 – 20: Minecraft Camp Good Trouble! (grade 3 +)

Our Minecraft group will work together to explore how social justice movements around the world influenced positive changes in society or in a community.

Over the week of camp, the participants will work together as a team to:

- Learn about social justice movements across history.
- Research important person(s) across various social justice movements and their role within those movements.
- Understand important social justice movements, the leaders, and the purpose behind them.
- Explore how to make meaningful choices to influence positive change.



Advance registration required for all three camps – [Find out more](#)

Fall 2021

Regular programs for kids, youth and families will return **September 26, 2021**. Look for information in the September newsletter or email arran@victoriaunitarian.ca with your questions or to sign up for the family e-newsletter.

**Our 2021 online auction has
raised an astonishing
\$20891!**

**We appreciate all
the donors and bidders
who made this auction
such a success!**

Auction Pickup Day at the church - Saturday, June 26.

Donors bring your items from 11:30 - Noon.

Label the item with the winner's name. Please wear a mask.

Winners pick up your items from Noon-2pm.

Please wear a mask.

UPDATE ON THE ZOIE GARDNER OVERSEAS FUND

(In Memory of Jim and Bunny Hackler)

Zoie Gardner Overseas Fund - Myanmar/Burma

When Jim Hackler considered how he and his wife Bunny could make lasting changes, Jim knew from his work as a sociologist that educating young females would improve the lives of an entire community. Jim asked that the church establish a fund called Zoie Gardner Overseas Fund (ZGOF) that would be managed by church members.*

The ZGOF gives funds to several overseas projects. One recipient is the Canadian charity Myanmar Burma School Projects Foundation (MBSPF) which builds schools in rural areas of Myanmar. ** Jim liked this charity's work as the decision of where to build is based on there being a strong partnership among the village, the Myanmar government and local Buddhist monks who know the village and make recommendations to the MBSPF.

In 2020, the MBSPF asked the ZGOF to fund the building of new classroom space for high schoolers and a residence for the high school girls and their female teachers in the Kalaw village of Baw Nin Ywar Thit. The charity had previously built a primary school and a middle school in this village. Students travel from other villages to go to school in Baw Nin Ywar Thit. While boys could stay at the local monastery, there was no place for girls or female teachers to live. Funding this project fits perfectly with the mandate of the ZGOF.

* Jim and Bunny knew and admired Zoie Gardner from their time living in Edmonton and named the fund in her honour.

The church receives 5% of the total amount disbursed to each charity.

**Citizens of Myanmar choose to call their country Myanmar.

- from the Zoie Gardner Fund Committee June Fukushima, Frances Hancock, Mariko Matsumato, John Worton, Remi Odense



The high school girls' and teachers' residence.



Children recently returned to school in Baw Nin Ywar Thit (new classroom).

The THRUU team (Truth Healing and Reconciliation Unitarian Universalists in Greater Victoria) aims to identify and facilitate opportunities for education and engagement, in the interests of contributing to the spirit of reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people in Greater Victoria.

Good News: Agreement with the Wet'suwet'en

Before the pandemic (remember those days?) recurring news releases focussed on the conflict between elected and hereditary Wet'suwet'en chiefs about who had authority over their traditional lands, and therefore who was responsible for decision-making about pipeline routes and expansion. This particular issue had not been decided by the historic 1997 Delgamuukw case where the Supreme court ruled on the nature and extent of First Nations title over their traditional territory. Since then, the federal and BC governments had failed to work with the Wet'suwet'en to resolve this issue. On February 29, 2020, Canada, BC, and the Wet'suwet'en Hereditary Chiefs released an MOU indicating that Wet'suwet'en Houses are the Indigenous governing body holding the Wet'suwet'en Aboriginal rights and title and indicating that associated issues would be negotiated in the following three months. COVID delayed that process. We wanted to bring your attention to a recent news release which didn't seem to make the headlines. The provincial government negotiated an important agreement which supports the Wet'suwet'en Hereditary Chiefs in negotiating the issue of governance in their traditional territory and take steps to restore unity in the Wet'suwet'en Nation. This is an important step forward in resolving the issue of Wet'suwet'en governance.

More Good News: Bill C-15

Bill C-15 passed in the House of Commons (May 25, 2021) and was approved by the Senate on June 16, 2021. Bill C-15 now only awaits Royal Assent before it becomes law, beginning the process of aligning Canadian laws with the United Nations Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP). [Link to CTV news report.](#) Kudos to all who wrote letters or otherwise supported this initiative.

Meeting with Minister Murray Rankin, 11 June, 2021

On June 11, members of the Truth, Healing and Reconciliation – UU team (THRUU) and some board members from Capital and FUCV met with BC Minister Murray Rankin to explore how we can support the implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People (UNDRIP) in BC and Canada. The THRUU team is composed of members from both UU congregations in Victoria. Its mandate is to identify and facilitate opportunities for education and engagement, in the interests of contributing to the spirit of reconciliation. Our questions focused on the implementation of UNDRIP in BC and its progress through the Senate, the situation of unmarked residential school burial sites, and First Nations and old growth logging in the province. What follows is an abridged version of notes from the meeting. Potential actions on these issues are underlined. If you wish to receive the longer version, please contact Evelyn Peters at: Evelyn.Joy.Peters@outlook.com

UNDRIP

We asked about initiatives to implement UNDRIP in BC, how BC politicians are encouraging other jurisdictions to implement UNDRIP, his perspective on Indigenous people who are against Bill C-15 (the bill that would implement UNDRIP federally), and how the THRUU team can support efforts to implement UNDRIP in BC.

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Minister Rankin referred us to BC's recently released five-year roadmap for implementing UNDRIP. Concrete actions to align provincial legislation with UNDRIP are to be measured in an Annual Report every year. He mentioned progress in working out how to negotiate free, prior and informed consent, and define Aboriginal title. He also mentioned his involvement in the recent Fairy Creek agreement to defer logging old growth forests. Minister Rankin indicated that both he and Premier Horgan are enthusiastic promoters of implementing UNDRIP to other federal and provincial leaders. His perspective on calls not to pass Bill C-15 were that it is not perfect, but it's better to pass it than reject it and wait for something perfect.

Minister Rankin noted that education was an emphasis of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) and that we needed to work to educate ourselves and each other about Indigenous issues. Another recommendation was to review the TRC recommendations and the 94 Calls to Action because they were not addressed only to governments. He also mentioned the need to be aware of racism against Indigenous peoples and to work to combat it.

Recent Discovery of Unmarked Graves in Kamloops

We asked about the province's role in assisting Indigenous peoples' requests for the identification of residential school burial sites and the names of children buried there. Should the TRC resume its work on burial sites? What is the best way to keep this current wave of empathy alive so that it leads to positive change?

Minister Rankin noted that Indigenous communities are reacting in different ways to the Kamloops discovery. Many will ask for support to do similar research, and the federal government has funding for this. Some will want burial sites to remain undisturbed. It will be up to Indigenous communities to decide what they wish to do. With respect to gaining access to records, he said that if anyone has some connection to the Sisters of St. Ann, "ask, plead, cajole" them to release their records. Minister Rankin noted that community knowledge of children who never returned was an important source, but that sometimes this knowledge is lost, and so religious order records are essential. He mentioned that Senator Murray Sinclair has put out a call to re-open the TRC Inquiry, but that there needs to be careful consideration of the benefits and costs of such an inquiry in terms of re-opening old wounds. Indigenous leadership would need to be heavily involved in any such a decision.

Minister Rankin indicated that the federal government has committed money toward implementing the TRC recommendations including the treatment of burial sites and records, and is now more motivated to follow through. Minister Rankin suggested that one way of keeping the current wave of empathy alive is to remind each other of First Nations' histories, and the ways that it might affect their current situations and actions.

Note that the media have used the term "mass grave." This is a misnomer – this was most likely an unmarked burial site of children. Of course the fact that children were buried and not identified is terrible and tragic.

The TRC published a 266-page paper researching the possible sites of unmarked graves with aerial photo technology and through survivors' testimony. It also collected existing records on deaths. When the TRC asked for further funding to document this more fully, the Conservative government refused, saying this was beyond the TRC's mandate.

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Indigenous People and Old Growth Logging

We asked whether the Government's June 9 press release means it will implement recommendation 6 of the *Old Growth Strategic Review* that reads: "Until a new strategy is implemented, defer development in old forests where ecosystems are at very high and near-term risk of irreversible biodiversity loss." Can we find a way to finance conservation and other economic alternatives for Indigenous communities as a part of a moratorium? What can the THRUU team do to support efforts to effect reconciliation with respect to logging issues?

Minister Rankin indicated that, in addition to Recommendation #6, there needs to be forest reform to address redistribution. The previous government allowed five logging companies to control 50% of the forestry land base and these companies treated timber as their own private property. The NDP government is trying to regain control of this land so that it can be more equitably distributed to smaller entities including First Nations interests. A key initiative would be to encourage the premier to take back more of the forestry land base from the five companies. However, Minister Rankin noted that some First Nations will prioritize developing forestry experience and opportunities for subsequent generations over conserving old growth forests and there is no guarantee that First Nations will want conservation.

Minister Rankin stated that financing conservation was transformational and required multiple partnerships. If we know foundations supporting conservation, encourage them to provide funding for conservation and economic alternatives. He said that BC has spent a great deal of money on the current forestry deferrals, and that it is time the federal government come to the table with support for conservation. Federal Minister Jonathan Wilkinson has set up a large fund for preserving biodiversity. Minister Rankin stated: "Let's make sure the federal government comes to the table."

With respect to THRUU support regarding logging issues, Minister Murray had two main suggestions: i) get involved (re: forestry issues); and ii) follow forestry issues across the province and see if you can plug in.



Should We Stop Using Peat Moss?

In Canada and the U.S., peat moss is used extensively as a natural soil enhancer that retains moisture, nutrients and promotes root growth. So what is wrong?

Peat mining has a detrimental effect on the environment. Wetlands need to be drained thereby destroying habitat for water fowl and other creatures. Like oil, peat moss accumulates slowly; each inch takes twenty years to form under water. Peatlands store a third of the world's soil carbon, and their harvesting and usage releases carbon dioxide. Both old growth trees and old growth peat bogs are capture warriors to fight global warming. Most of the peat moss sold in Canada and the US come from vast sphagnum moss bogs in Canada.



Because of the undisturbed value of peat bogs Britain announced in May 2021 that the sales of peat will henceforth be banned in the UK. Fortunately there are good alternatives.

Compost made of rotted plants, green waste and animal manures is the very best choice because no transportation is involved.

Coconut fiber with the same water holding and porosity of peat is another choice made as a by-product of fibre processing made in India, Sri Lanka and Vietnam. The downside of using this is the transportation footprint.

Pine bark is a finely shredded and composted bark (not the needles or pine mulch). It is a valuable substitute for peat moss as part of a mixture. Please read the labels on mixes to avoid the use of peat.

The Royal Horticultural Society has banned the use of peat noting " that using peat for soil incorporation and ground mulching is unnecessary and unacceptable."



Project Update

Our technical team is working with MC2 to finalize the call for proposals for the December installation. MC2 is the company that has been contracted to provide technical support for Amplify UU from concept to completion.

A concern was raised by a member of the congregation about the environmental impact of installing fibre-glass acoustic panels. Our volunteer technical team spent a great deal of time and effort working with MC2 to evaluate alternatives suggested but none was suitable. As a result, we have decided to proceed with the fibreglass panels. These panels include 56% post-consumer recycled content and have a building service life of 60 years. In addition they are attached to the wall and can be removed and reused without damage if and when they are replaced. Materials are the same as panels already in use in the sanctuary.

If you have questions or concerns about Amplify UU please email or call Marion Pape (marionpape@shaw.ca 778-265-4567) or John Hopewell (hopewell@telus.net 250-721-3920)



Tipping Point to a New Paradigm

The world and our society are changing—fast! We are near a tipping point where our society is being condemned for past actions and attitudes, which must be replaced by means of a “paradigm shift.”

A tipping point occurs as a series of small changes or incidents accumulate to cause a larger, more important change. A paradigm shift occurs when the current ways of thinking and acting are replaced with new and fundamentally different ways of doing things.

The recent tragic discovery of 215 bodies apparently of indigenous children who attended a residential school in Kamloops has raised questions and changed attitudes. Why have we heard so little about residential schools, despite what Indigenous peoples have been telling us? How and why did these children die? Would there have been such an outcry 20 or 30 years ago? Learning the truth about residential schools has caused a ground swell of changing attitudes—for the better.

The “war in the woods” was fought in the Carmanah and Walbran valleys in the 1990s. Despite partial victories there, logging old growth forests continued until now few such forests remain. When Fairy Creek was recently threatened with clear-cutting, demonstrations erupted. Over 200 people were arrested. Indigenous peoples took a stand. Premier Horgan had to announce deferral of old growth logging in Fairy Creek and nearby Central Walbran Valley. People lead; governments follow - reluctantly.

This past June, G7 countries held a summit in Cornwall, England, in part to propose imposition of an international minimum tax on all large corporations transferring their profits to countries with low or no taxes. Attempts to stop this would have been scoffed at a decade ago. As recently as 2019, Evelyn Forget in her book *Basic Income* dismissed the idea of increasing taxes on wealthy individuals as impossible. Now increasing taxes on the wealthy is also being discussed - as a means of curing many of society’s ills.

Paradigm shifts can be threatening. Gun violence in some of our cities, vandalism, and racial hatred appear to be on the upswing. Is this a rising backlash that could destroy progress, or merely the last gasp of a past paradigm in a world that is changing too fast to allow everyone to adapt?

GVAT, Greater Victoria Acting Together, is both a result and a cause of this paradigm shift. GVAT is concerned with the climate crisis. It’s fostering compassion and care for the homeless, and for those with mental health and substance addictions. GVAT is helping to tip us toward a needed paradigm shift.



Learning Together Tuesdays

As a member of GVAT (Greater Victoria Acting Together), your Core Team is proud to announce an exciting learning opportunity!!

(GVAT) is a community that strives to improve the world we live in and believes that such work starts with ourselves. We are dedicated to building a community where we encourage each other to learn and grow to become inclusive and respectful changemakers. We do this by working on ways to foster diversity and inclusivity within our organization. GVAT's Diversity and Inclusion Committee has been hard at work creating a Learning Tuesday's training schedule that offers a host of different opportunities for members of GVAT and our affiliate groups across the world.

Proudly sponsored by the SFSAA – Society of Friends of St. Ann's Academy (a GVAT organization), this training will run every **Tuesday from June 14 – August 3, 2021, for one hour via Zoom**. The training sessions are open to anyone in the congregation. Some of the topics include an Unconscious Bias training and a discussion featuring Seth Klein's book – A Good War. If you are interested, please register for whichever workshop you wish to participate at [this link](#). You will be required to state your organization, i.e., First Unitarian. Once registered, you will be sent a Zoom link.

VICTORIA CHILD HAVEN INTERNATIONAL UPDATE

The Victoria Child Haven International (CHI) fundraising event was held over Zoom on Sat, April 3rd with Bonnie and Fred Cappuccino (founders) and their son Robin present as well as CHI staff members. I note that the program was quite innovative with the first "live" Internet connection to CHI homes in Kathmandu (Nepal) and Kaliyampoondi (Southern India), with young students performing dance and song routines for everyone watching on Zoom. Many Victoria participants ordered delicious Indian food from a local restaurant, delivered to their homes. Almost like being there in person!

Bonnie and Fred Cappuccino report the following contributions from the Victoria Child Haven fund-raiser held on April 3:" After a second cheque from the many dedicated participants from the First Unitarian Church of Victoria for \$750, the total received was \$14,335.

After a matching donation of \$10,400 from a wonderful CHI supporter in Victoria, the result was: **Total: \$24,735 !!!**

Congratulations to the Vancouver Island Support Group and all who participated." For further information on CHI, see their Website: <https://childhaven.ca/>

'Child Haven, founded in 1985, operates nine homes for destitute children - six in India, one each in Nepal, Tibet in China and Bangladesh. It also helps a few children in Afghanistan and Bhutan as well as 48 elderly people. In addition, Child Haven supports a number of children living outside the homes. Child Haven has a Soya Cow Centre and a Family Planning Awareness and Womens' and Childrens' Literacy Program, all in Ghaziabad.'



SHARE THE PLATE

MEAL SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

During the month of July our Share the Plate initiative is sponsoring meals at Our Place. We all know how a healthy start can influence our own sense of well-being. Imagine how much more important a morning meal is for someone waking up scared, hurting and with an empty stomach.

Our Place serves over 1,200 nourishing meals and 1,350 snacks per day, 7 days per week. On special occasions, such as Christmas, Thanksgiving and Easter, the dining room opens its doors even wider to provide a family holiday meal to those who would not otherwise have a home to turn to. A nutritious meal is often what brings folks through the doors of Our Place, but it is more than just food. It is a chance to mingle with friends, receive a warm smile from the volunteers, a handshake, or a hug – to be a part of a community.

Together, we can absolutely change lives!



OUR INTERESTING HISTORY WITH UU TRANSYLVANIANS: MEMORIES ARE MADE OF THIS!

By Christine Johnson

Back in the 1990s the CUC-UUA started a Partnership Council where North American UU churches adopted Unitarian partner churches in Transylvania. They visited, exchanged gifts, and sent donations for projects. The well-known Rev. Philip Hewett and our own Brooke Taylor as well as church office administrator, Janet Evans, became enthusiastic supporters. Our partner church was in Magyarsaros, a village of 3,000, where over half are born Unitarians! Originally they were Hungarian as the area was part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire prior to 1918. Their pulpit is still adorned with their flag and their language is Hungarian.

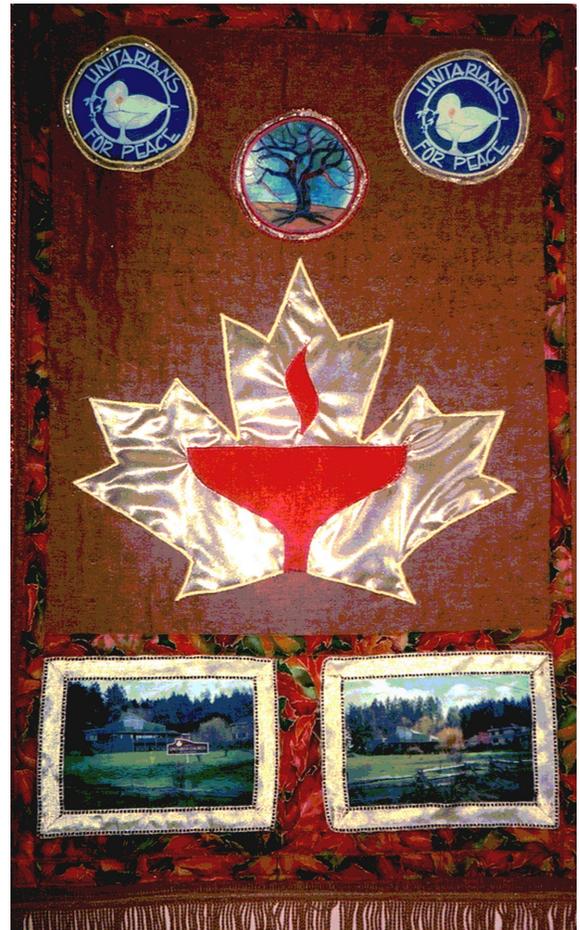
Janet arranged to visit in 2001 but sadly took ill. Christine and Mel Johnston made it in 2002 following the International Association for Religious Freedom Congress in Budapest. They were told that they were the first westerners in 100 years to visit Magyarsaros and were welcomed warmly. They stayed with the minister who borrowed the village's only car to show them around. On the itinerary were Torda (where in 1568 Bishop Francis David read out the Edict of Religious Freedom); David's prison cell and memorial where he died in 1579 (he was persecuted after the monarch changed); and famous Count Draculas's castle. A rich experience! Later, Jim Hackler visited on his bike. And Brooke Taylor has visited Transylvania frequently.

Eventually our involvement died because of the cost of travel and lack of interest on both sides, particularly their minister who was moving on. But recently I heard their congregation still considers we are their Partner Church and Brooke Taylor has developed a good friendship with the new minister Rev. Markus Hunor and his wife.

I suggest we again make this official but we need a member to work with the Outreach Council and Brooke. I can assist too.

So let us maintain this contact with our Unitarians beginnings of 450 years ago. It is a rich part of our history!

I suggest we again make this an official connection but we need a church member to work as liaison with the Outreach Council and Brooke. I can assist too.



Our Church had a yearly special Partner Church Sunday Service for about 10 years. As a gift Pat Kinrade and Marya Nijland made a beautiful quilted wall-hanging of our church which hangs in a place of honour in the Magyarsaros Church and we received in return several lovely embroidered table cloths (sometimes on display).

CALENDAR:

[CLICK HERE](#)

**The Newsletter Deadline is the
15th of the Month
EVERY MONTH!**

FROM THE EDITORS: GUIDELINES FOR YOUR SUBMISSIONS

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

- Where possible we use Calibri font.
- One space between sentences and between lines.
- No pdf files, please, use Word.
- Send pictures in jpegs... Don't send text as jpegs.



JULY BIRTHDAYS

First Name	Last Name	Birthday
Hanny	Pannekoek	July 1
Lisa	Greenly	July 1
Suellen	Guenther	July 2
Lori	Waters	July 5
Patricia	Hofstrand	July 6
Molly	Twidale	July 9
Mary	Cramer	July 10
Robert	Stock	July 10
Nan	Fairchild	July 10
John	Worton	July 10
Brenda	Greenwood	July 11
Myra	Rippon	July 12
Judy	Gaylord	July 13
Farrell	Boyce	July 15
Shannon	Roberts	Jul 15
James	Black	July 16
Al	Hoffman	July 17
Katherine	Maas	July 17
Thomas	Ovanin	July 17
Marg	Rose	July 18
Penelope	Pattison	July 19
Caroline	Tashish-Rentz	July 20
Rex	Thomson	July 22
Sheri	Tromp	July 22
Ray	Travers	July 25
Henry	Amick	July 26
Don	Vipond	Jul 26
Janice	Hlady	July 30

FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA

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Reverend Jane Bramadat

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Anne Vaasjo 250-385-1603

Oceanna Hall 250-886-1077

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!

DIRECTOR OF SPIRITUAL EXPLORATION AND LEARNING FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Arran Liddel 250-744-2695

arran@victoriaunitarian.ca

Continued next page

Continued from previous page

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CARE AND CONCERN COMMITTEE

We Care!
for hospital and home visits,
or just to talk...

Barbara Boyle
250-381-0264

or your Neighbourhood
Group Care and
Concern person



Ads appearing in this issue are not necessarily endorsed by the church.



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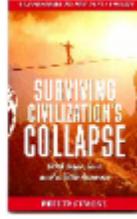
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Books by Philip Symons



These are the first two of four Secret Agent stories for young adults. \$19.95



Non-fiction \$16.95

All books available at local bookstores; church members/friends may buy them from the author.

Further information philipsymons.ca



WANTED:
\$3,000 month / 4-bedroom
housing for a larger
family (Victoria/Saanich)

Looking for a 4-bedroom rental in Victoria or Saanich for a lovely, respectful family that has recently arrived here as asylum-class refugees.

This Syrian family came to Victoria the long way (through multiple countries and unstable living situations) and are happy to finally settle somewhere they can flourish. Since settling, they have found stable work, schooling, and community in Victoria. They are looking for a long-term accommodation that will help them move forward with their lives here.

This notice has been posted by the family's refugee sponsorship group, whose responsibility it is to support the family's transition during their first year in Victoria.

Thank you so much for reading.

Sincerely,
The family and their supporters

Please contact Deb Rutman (drutman@uvic.ca) or Hope Hickli (ahopeh@outlook.com) if you know of a possible home rental or have questions.

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

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