



Capital Unitarian Universalist Congregation

The Capital Letter

VICTORIA, BC

2015



Sunday Services in January

Jan 4th Joe Jencks “**Los Desaparecidos – The Disappeared Ones**”

The phrase “The Disappeared Ones” comes from Central and South America. It was originally used to describe the people who were abducted for real or perceived offences against the various military governments and juntas of the Americas, and whose status was never determined. Presumed dead, but never known, they became the martyrs of people striving, usually peacefully, for a more democratic society and transparent government. But the term, in its broadest sense, is applicable in Canada and in the US. There are disappeared among us, even in our own cities and communities, people who are allowed to be invisible among us. Borrowing the phrase Los Desaparecidos, internationally renowned performer, songwriter and lay preacher Joe Jencks will lead a New Year’s service in music and story, inviting re-commitment to Unitarian and Universalist principles, and focusing on how we can take specific action to prevent people from being disappeared in our own societies. Considering homelessness, addiction, mental illness, disability, racism, and justice for veterans, you are invited to come join together in a spirit of renewed commitment to our liberal religious movement, and to each other.

Children's Program



Jan 11th Amanda Tarling “**Laughter as a spiritual practice**”

How can we deepen our spiritual practice through laughter? Laughter is wonderful physical medicine, but what about mirth as a way to enlightenment? In the sometimes bleak mid-winter let’s look at how laughter can help us live in a more meaningful way.

Children's Program



Jan 18th Emma Morgan-Thorp “**Decolonization for the Settler Canadian**” One settler's experience thinking through colonialism and decolonization in 21st century Canada, from academics to Idle No More and beyond. (Emma’s biography is on page 3)

Children's Program



The First of January is another day dawning, the sun rising, as the sun always rises, the earth moving in its rhythms,

With or without our calendars to name a certain day as the new beginning, separating the old from the new.

Yet also we stand at a threshold of something truly new, still unformed, leaving a stunning power in our hands.

What shall we do with this great gift of Time, this year?

Let’s take the step forward, together, onto new ground.

Planting our dreams well, faithfully and in joy.

K McTigue (edited AST)

All services are held Sundays at 10:00 a.m. at The James Bay New Horizons Centre, 234 Menzies Street, Victoria, BC. Child care is provided free of charge with our Children’s program.



Board Notes

Happy New Year!

Dear ones,

The Board would like to wish each one of you a happy and healthy new year.

We have sustained our wonderful community for another year and we are very grateful for that!

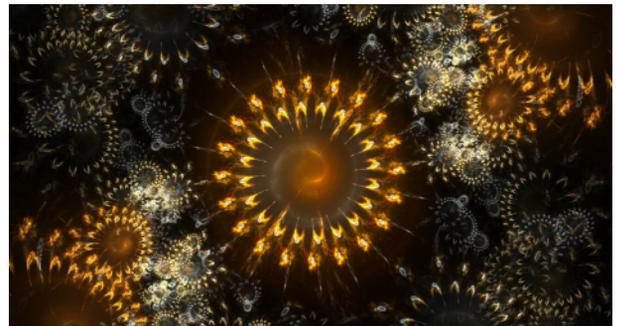
As well, we are looking forward to a wonderful new year of building community together.

Mark your calendar as Rev. Meg Roberts is coming to give us a workshop on February 21st and will give the homily at our service on February 22nd. Meg is a very dynamic facilitator and her workshop is sure to be enlightening, renewing and lots of fun. Please see this newsletter (page 4) for more details about the wonderful event.

Our wonderful Amanda applied to Thrifty's for the Smile Card program and we have been accepted. Anyone who shops at Thrifty's preloads her card and then a percentage is given to Capital. More details will be coming soon. Please pick up a Thrifty's card the next time you are at Capital and help us raise money for our new banner.

The Board thanks all of you for being such a caring, supportive community and wish you all the very best for the new year.

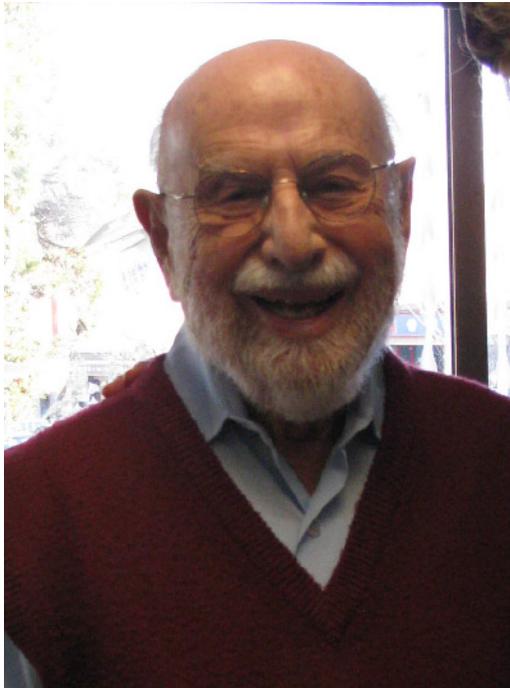
Rita Wittman





News and services in January

Come celebrate Rustom's 100th
Birthday!
January 25th at 11:15 am
at JBNH
Bring your good wishes and stories



Sunday Services in January (continued from page 1)

Jan 18th Emma is a settler feminist living on unceded Lekwungen territory. She has a BA in Gender & Canadian Studies and an MA in Indigenous & Canadian Studies. Her interests include decolonialism, feminism, and theatre for social change.

Children's Program



Thrifty Foods Smile Card Fundraising Program

THRIFTY FOODS™

For a number of years we have been brainstorming projects for this fundraising. Thrifty Foods will only approve of a project that is outside of our normal operating budget. The Board made a proposal to fund a new banner and we got approval just days before Christmas! In January Amanda will be handing out Thrifty Foods cards with "CUUC" on them. Please preload the cards with money before the cashier starts scanning your groceries - this then provides Capital 5% back on the dollars loaded onto the Smile Cards assigned to your group!

Jan 25th Dr. Ingrid Friesen, R.Psych.
**"Memory and
Aging: Is Decline Inevitable?"**

Children's Program





Rev. Meg Roberts' Workshop

Service as Spiritual Practice

A Workshop on Sat. Feb.21, 2015

9:00am – 3:00pm at James Bay New Horizons



How do we live our values and principles in ways that renew us, not exhaust us?

This workshop offers practical ways to discover how you want to be of service---living your values---and how to do it as a renewing spiritual practice. Spiritual practices are those intentional activities that more deeply connect us to the interdependent web of being.

We will explore how to cultivate those kinds of activities both in the congregation and in your own life.

This workshop is facilitated by Rev. Meg Roberts. Meg has been a Unitarian minister for 12 years. She has served congregations in Edmonton, Montreal, Calgary, and now is in her third year as the quarter-time consulting minister with Comox Valley Unitarian Fellowship. Meg lives in Vancouver where she is doing her own spiritual practices and ministry in Spirit Arts: using the arts for spiritual exploration.

To register please contact Amanda 250 382-6828 or tarling@shaw.ca



Capital Carollers



Birthdays in January

- | | |
|--------|----------------|
| Jan 11 | Kimiko Hymans |
| Jan 12 | Margot Garmsen |
| Jan 17 | Brooke Taylor |
| Jan 23 | Rustom Patel |
| | Rita Wittman |

Is your birthday missing?
Please let Amanda know
250 382-6828



A history of Unitarian Universalism in Victoria

A History of Unitarianism in Victoria

The Vancouver and Victoria Unitarian churches came into being at approximately the same time. The instigator in both cases was Albert J. Pineo, M.A. From the available records it appears that Vancouver's first Unitarian service was conducted early in the year 1909 by Dr. Wilbur, Principal of the Unitarian Pacific School for the Ministry at Berkeley, California.

After Dr. Wilbur's service a small enthusiastic group under the leadership of Mr. Pineo decided to organise a church in Vancouver. The first regular service was held on December 19, 1909. Mr. Pineo travelled from Victoria to Vancouver where he conducted services there every Sunday morning for two years.

Mr. Pineo, who was born in 1885 in Medford N.S. came to Victoria in 1893 to teach science in Victoria High School, a post he still held in 1909. How and when Mr. Pineo became a Unitarian is not known, but there is no doubt that he played an active part in organising the Victoria unit as well as the one in Vancouver. Some preliminary Unitarian meetings must have been held in Victoria earlier but the first meeting to receive notice in the church page of the *Victoria Times* was on January 16, 1910. It took place in Sir William Wallace Hall on Broad Street, and was conducted by Rev. H.E. Kellington, M.A. who spoke on *Unitarianism as a Positive Faith*. The next week the service was taken by Pineo, whose topic was *The Coming Day*.

For the next five months Kellington took all of the services and was referred to as the pastor or the minister. Kellington was described as a young man and little is known of him.

On October 8, 1910, the following notice appeared on the church page of *The Victoria Times*:
Visitor expected. Rev. Frank W. Pratt, the Canadian representative of the American Unitarian Association of Boston... is expected here. He will spend some time in Vancouver and Victoria in the work of further organising and strengthening the young churches.

Mr. Pratt, whose home was Calgary, spent four weeks at the Coast, preaching in Vancouver each Sunday morning and in Victoria the same evening.

The Rev. Sidney E. Lindridge, B.D. became Victoria's Unitarian minister in 1911 and preached his first sermon on July 2. His subject was, *The Path of Life*.

Two weeks after Lindridge's arrival, the Victoria Unitarian group purchased a large lot at the corner of Fernwood and Balmoral for \$2000. The title was held by George Hutchinson of Boston, who was probably acting for the Boston church. In 1912, some discord developed between Mr. Lindridge and several members of the Victoria church and by 1912 the church was without a minister. The church carried on without a minister until 1913 at which time a church was erected on the Fernwood/Balmoral lot. The cost of construction was \$1200.

In the summer of 1914, the Victoria church invited Rev. Harold E.B. Speight, an Englishman, to be their minister. His salary was \$1200 per year, of which Boston paid \$550, London \$300, and the congregation \$400 (perhaps the extra \$50 was for contingencies). By 1927 Speight had been succeeded by several other ministers. When the final service was conducted, on June 26, the congregation had dwindled to between six and ten members. The church building stood vacant until 1929 when it was lifted from its foundations and turned at right angles. The building has gone but parts of its foundations may still be seen.

In 1950, a Victoria Unitarian fellowship was founded by a small group of people including Dr. Douglas Alcorn, Mr. Clare Yarwood, and a few survivors of the 1927 church. It was mostly lay-led. For the next eight years monthly meetings were held in the waiting room of Dr. Alcorn's office.
(continued on page 7)



A history of Unitarian Universalism in Victoria

A History of Unitarianism in Victoria - continued from page 6

The Victoria fellowship's annual meeting on April 17th 1959, Mrs. Marney Stevenson was elected president. The official membership was reported to be 38. On Sept 29, 1959, the fellowship reopened in a new setting – The School for Retarded Children, at 1075 Joan Crescent. Rev. Philip Hewett, of the Vancouver church, gave the services three or four times a year and on those occasions it was necessary to rent the much larger War Amps Hall.

After surveys conducted by Ruth Ralston and others, the Victoria fellowship decided to form a church and call a minister. The Rev. Peter Raible, of the UU Church of Seattle, agreed to help find a suitable minister and eventually proposed Marvin Evans, a 38-year-old Virginian. The Victoria fellowship board thereupon invited Mr. Evans to visit on June 8th to 17th to “candidate”.

Mr. Evans, a graduate of the Meadville Lombard School of Theology, preached on the two Sundays to audiences of about 100 each, and met a great majority of the members of the congregation. After Mr. Evans's departure the board voted unanimously to call him.

On September 15th 1963, under Mr. Evans's ministry, services resumed in the War Amps Hall. Mr. Evans stayed with the Victoria church until 1966. After intermittent periods of lay ministry Mr. Evans was succeeded by Rev. Richard Norsworthy, Rev. Stanley Sears, Rev. Felix Lion, Rev Vann Knight and Rev. Jane Branmadat. The present co-ministers (as of December 2014) are Revs. Melora and Shana Lynngood.

In 1977, the Victoria Church purchased 106 Superior Street. In 1993, the congregation purchased 5575 West Saanich Road and the Superior Street property was sold. A sanctuary was added to the existing building.

In 1996, a group founded the Capital UU Congregation. The first Sunday service took place in March 1996. in the James Bay New Horizons Centre. Services at Capital are for the most part lay-led.

Written by Stan Evans, with copious borrowings from 1909-1964, *Unitarians in Victoria*, by Dr. Geoffrey Gilbert.



Former Unitarian Church on Superior Street



John and Sara's Christmas Eve potluck





Snowflake - by Tracy

A snowflake fell straight from heaven
Passed a cloud at 11:11

It continued down towards some trees
Cedars, Firs and Spruce babies

Kids threw snowballs all in fun
A snowman nearby was half begun

Angels framed the Christmas tree
By arms and legs of Sue and Lee

A little girl named Shirley-Lou
Looked up at the snowy sky so blue

Above a zillion flakes of white
A silent, magical, merry sight

She focused on that special one
Knowing inside what must be done

She got ready and opened wide
And on her tongue that flake did ride

It chilled and tickled and melted fast
Snowflake pleasures not meant to last

Then it started all over again
The life of a snowflake from beginning to end

Tracy Fraser

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