



Capital Unitarian Universalist Congregation

The Capital Letter

VICTORIA, BC

2014



John Pullyblank

Commitment

People say, what is the sense of our small effort.

They cannot see that we must lay one brick at a time, take one step at a time.

A pebble cast into a pond causes ripples that spread in all directions. Each one of our thoughts, words and deeds is like that.

No one has a right to sit down and feel hopeless.

There's too much work to do.

Dorothy Day

Sunday Services in February

February 2nd Rita Wittman "**The Power of Giving**"

We'll kick off Canvass with "A Sermon on the Amount". Rita will speak on how giving benefits the giver as much as the receivers. This talk is based on the work of Jamal & McKinnon as well as a sermon giving by Peter Friedrichs.

Children's Program



February 9th Amanda Tarling "**Unitarian Principles - wisdom to live by**".

Our first and most challenging principle is; "The inherent worth and dignity of every person". Is everyone inherently worthy? Where is dignity lost? How can we follow our first Principle in difficult times? The first in a seventh homily series looking at our Unitarian Principles and Sources and our own spiritual practice.

Children's Program



Feb 16th Anna Isaacs "**Different Like Me**"

Being different from others is something we all have in common. It can make us feel valued or isolated, truly whole or deeply divided. What does us being different together make possible?

Anna Isaacs is nearing a decade as a fervent UU and is rapidly approaching retirement from young adult status. She is a member of both First Unitarian Church of Victoria and Capital Unitarian Universalist Congregation in downtown Victoria.

Children's Program



Feb 23rd Peter Scales "**Polio, Science and Health**"

Sixty years ago, on this date in 1954, the first mass inoculation of children against polio with the Salk vaccine began in the US. Victoria was among many Canadian cities which were struck by polio epidemics. Polio has been essentially eradicated. For many Unitarians, openness to science is a spiritual practice.

Children's Program



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.



Sermon on the Amount

'From you I receive

To you I give

Together we share

And from this we live'

I love this song we sing every week after the offering. When I was an elementary school teacher, my students used to sing this whenever a volunteer or special guest was leaving us. It always touched their hearts to be so appreciated. And so it touches all of our hearts when we sing this together as an affirmation of our community and our support for one another.

John Wolf, the Minister Emeritus of a church in Tulsa, once wrote:

"There is only one reason for joining a Unitarian Universalist church and that is: to support it. You want to support it because it stands against superstition and fear. Because this church points to what is noblest and best in human life. Because it is open to women and men of whatever race, creed, color, place of origin, or sexual orientation.

"You want to support a Unitarian Universalist church because it has a free pulpit. Because you can hear ideas expressed there which would cost any other minister his or her job. You want to support it because it is a place where children come without being saddled with guilt or terrified of some celestial Peeping Tom, where they can learn that religion is for joy, for comfort, for gratitude and love.

"You want to support it because it is a place where walls between people are torn down rather than built-up. Because it is a place for the religious displaced persons of our time, the refugees from mixed marriages, the unwanted free-thinkers and those who insist against orthodoxy that they must work out their own beliefs.

"You want to support a UU church because it is more concerned with human beings than with dogmas. Because it searches for the holy, rather than dwelling upon the depraved. Because it calls no one a sinner, yet knows how deep is the struggle in each person's breast and how great is the hunger for what is good.

"You want to support a UU church because it can laugh. Because it stands for something in a day when religion is still more concerned with platitudes than with prejudice and war. You want to support it not because it buys you some insurance policy towards your funeral service, but because it insults neither your intelligence nor your conscience, and because it calls you to worship what is truly worthy of your sacrifice. There is only one reason for joining a Unitarian Universalist church: to support it!"

It takes a little over \$30 000 per year to keep our community running. Where does the money go? A little less than half of that amount pays our wonderful staff. Then we have rent and other expenses. Our amazing Committee Chairs have pared their budgets to the bone. (Continued on page 3)



News

Board report - Continued from page 2

With the help of their most thrifty ways, we have been able to hold our budget to a similar amount for many years even though costs have increased substantially. We have only one source of funding and that is ourselves. Every year the Canvass Committee tries to come up with ways to encourage us to pledge the money we need to keep ourselves going.

Attached to this newsletter is our **CUUC Guide For Giving**. Please refer to it to review what we get from our congregation. Many people ask "How much should I give? I don't know what the appropriate amount should be." Hopefully, this guide will help you. Some people say "I don't want to pledge. I give when I come to church." The difficulty with that is that it is much harder for us to plan if we are uncertain of what we are going to receive. As well, the expenses remain the same whether or not we attend every week. Therefore, if you are one of our wonderful donors who has not chosen to pledge in the past, I hope you will consider doing so this year.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions regarding our finances or if you would like to talk about canvass.

Rita Wittman

Treasurer

CAPITAL COFFEE HOUSES

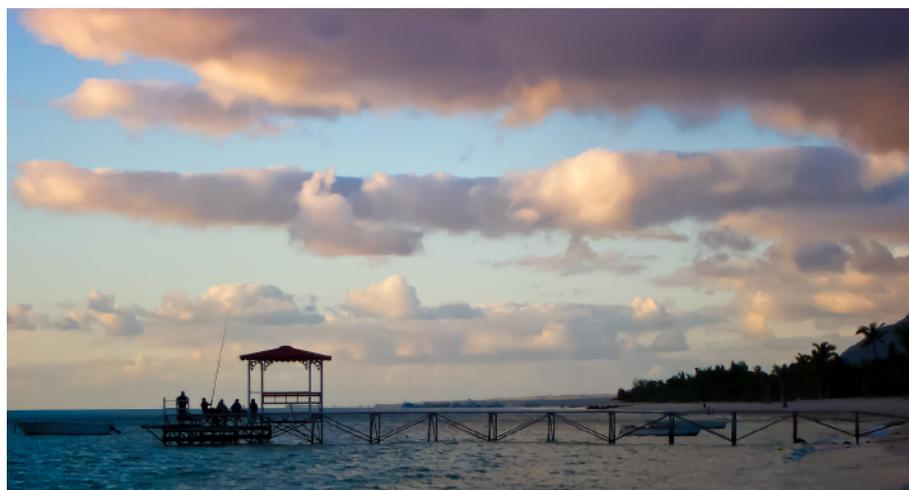
Have you noted the absence of an evening coffee house in the warm surroundings of a Capital UU's home? I have, so I was delighted when two people offered to have a coffee house in the next couple of months. Maureen Zahir is looking for a time towards the end of February and Nan Fairchild is considering one towards the end of March.

Do we have a volunteer for the month of April?

Please watch the notices in the Order of Service for more detail.

Elizabeth, findlaygirlea@gmail.com

or phone: 250-472-6262



John Pullyblank



Birthdays and schedules



The Congregation on Jan 26th

Kitchen Schedule

Feb. 2 Dyanne Lineger
open
Feb. 9 Maureen Zahir
open
Feb. 16 Eileen Crawford
Audrey Woodward
Feb 23 Lena Toneff
open

Birthdays in February

Feb. 12 Anna Isaacs
Feb. 17 Barbara Spencer
Feb. 21 Alan Dawson

If your Birthday is missing please let
Amanda know 250 382-6828 or
tarling@shaw.ca

Greeters

Feb. 2 Mimi Otway
Feb. 9 Marilyn Kan
Feb. 16 Frank Bowie
Feb. 23 Nan Fairchild
(Fifth Sundays-Carole Smith, Sub-Alan
Dawson)

Counters

Feb. 2 Frank Bowie and Audrey Woodward
Feb. 9 Dyanne Lineger and John Pullyblank
Feb. 16 Kimiko Hymans and Margaret Vallins
Feb. 23 Rosemary Morrison and Jim Rogers
(Subs: Rita Wittman and Jim Rogers)



The Knight Award and CUC ACM news

Call for Nominations for the Knight Award

Since 1995 the Knight Award has been presented annually to a living person who has, as a volunteer, contributed at the national level to furthering the principles of Unitarianism in Canada. The award honours the ideals exemplified by the lives of Victor and Nancy Knight. Nominations for the 2014 award may be submitted by any member or friend of a Canadian UU congregation, and must be accompanied by a citation describing what the nominee has done at the national level to promote liberal religious principles in Canada and why she or he should be considered for the award. The citation should be at least 200 words in length and may be submitted to Mary Lu MacDonald electronically at knight-award@cuc.ca or by post to her at 1206 – 2677 Gladstone Street, Halifax, Nova Scotia, B3K 0A3.

Nominations must be received by March 17, 2014.

Annual Conference and Meeting 2014: Montreal, May 16 – 18, 2014

Posted on October 31, 2013 by CUC

“Building Beloved CommUunities: Sacred Spaces Beyond Walls”

ACM 2014 will build on 2013’s theme of “Diversity: Creating A Shared Understanding.” Expanding from Rev. Shawn Newton’s Confluence Lecture (The Risks of Relevance) and Rev. Mark Morrison-Reed’s Keynote address (Radical Inclusion), ACM 2014 will take us into an exploration of how we expand our UU community beyond congregational walls, how we remain relevant into the future, and being radically inclusive.

Co-hosted by the Unitarian Church of Montreal with the CUC, the ACM will be held at the Sheraton Montreal Airport Hotel. While the hotel is some distance from downtown Montreal, it is close to the airport and offers a cost-effective site for the ACM.

The Annual General Meeting will be held on Friday, May 16, 2014, preceded by the Resolutions Plenary on Thursday evening, May 15.

Registration for the ACM will open in January 2014.

If you have questions or would like further information, please email acm@cuc.ca.



New Members' Service & UVic Lectures

The University of Victoria 's Centre for Studies in Religions and Society presents:

John Albert Hall Lectures Winter 2014 - Religion in Focus

Thursday, January 9

Victims of Evil: A Challenge to Forgiveness and Faith

Michael Hadley, CSRS Associate Fellow

4:30 pm, David Strong Building, room C122

Thursday, February 20

Religious Laws: Do We Need "You Shall"?

Robert Gibbs, CSRS Visiting Research Fellow, Jackman Humanities Institute, University of Toronto

4:30 pm, David Strong Building, room C122



The New Members' Service on January 26th. Sara and Elizabeth welcome Murray and Eleanor Enkin and Frank Bowie as new members.