



Capital Unitarian Universalist Congregation

The Capital Letter

VICTORIA, BC

2015



John Pullyblank

Sunday Services in May

May 3rd Jan Greenwood **“Flower Communion”** Join us in a unique Unitarian celebration of spring and community. (Please bring a flower, one found by the roadside or on a boulevard.)

Children's Program



Flower Communion

Infinite Spirit of Life, we ask thy blessing on these thy messengers of fellowship and love.

May they remind us, amid diversities of knowledge and of gifts, to be one in desire and affection and devotion to thy holy will.

May they also remind us of the value comradeship, or doing and sharing alike.

May we cherish friendship as one of thy most precious gifts.

May we not let awareness of another's talents discourage us, or sully our relationship, but may we realize that whatever we can do, great or small, the efforts of all of us are needed to do thy work in this world.

- Norbert Capek

May 10th Ben Dolf **“Re-enchanting the Personal”**

Our survival depends on integrating our feelings, intuition, and rational mind with love and respect of the natural world. This service lays out practical steps to deepen our personal connections with the world outside and within. In a later service, *Re-enchanting the Collective*, we plan to look at how our congregation and similar groups can provide the support the community needs as we approach more difficult times. The service will be offered by Ben Dolf, a member of the congregation.

Children's Program



May 17th Rabbi Shimon Moch **“How Best to Count our Blessings”**

Children's Program



May 24th Rosemary Morrison **“The Mystics”** Drawing on our first source - *Direct experience of that transcending mystery and wonder...* Rosemary will explore with us some of the teachings and writings of mystics through the ages. These could include Hildegard of Bingen, Julian of Norwich, Meister Eckhart, Ety Hillesum or Mary Oliver. The mystics have been a special area of interest and study for Rosemary this past semester at VST.

Children's Program



May 31st TBA

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 Report

Dear ones,

April has been another busy month for your Board! We have been preparing for our AGM on May 24th after the service. This will probably be a short meeting and we sincerely hope that you can all attend.

This month we were visited by Joan and April. They were here on a fact finding mission to see how the CUC can best serve us. They met with the Thursday morning coffee group and with your Board. We shared our issues with them, volunteer burnout, attracting new people, creating fifty-two services each year. These are problems that nearly all congregations face. These two representatives of the CUC listened to us and we hope to work with them in future to devise ways to meet our challenges.

As well, we shared with them all **the things that are going well for us**. This is a list that was compiled when we had a gathering of the Committee Chairs and the Board earlier this year. We thought that they were so impressive that we would share them with you.

Celebrating What's Working for Us!

- forum is well attended
- gatherings such as potlucks, Thursday coffee club, workshops
- Saturday evening coffee house
- lunch after church
- coffee hour after church (Continued next column)

- Sunday service, lay led
- sense of community
- spirited and open
- study group
- website
- participation in democratic process within our congregation
- music
- accompanist doing an excellent job
- blend of spiritual and secular homilies
- our finances are in order
- Care and Concern committee is very diligent in visiting our friends and members who are ill or shut in
- fabulous staff, staff roles have been defined
- CRE
- space works, good location
- Conflict Resolution Team has a volunteer professional from our congregation to help when needed.

It is wonderful to reflect on all the positive things that happen within our small, but mighty group. Thanks to all of you for supporting our congregation through your participation!

Rita Wittman for Capital Board



Peter, April Hope (CUC Social Justice), Amanda, Rita, Jan, Joan Carolyn (CUC Congregational Development for B.C. And the Western Region)



News

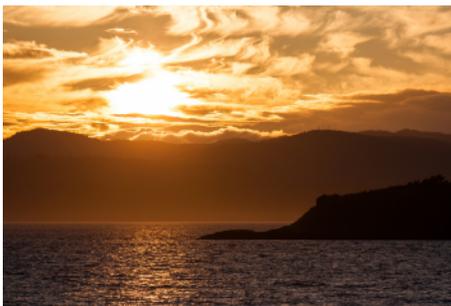
Membership news

Spring is here and we are growing. On April 12 we were pleased to welcome two new members into our congregation at Capital Unitarian Universalist Congregation. Recently, we were saddened to say goodbye to long time members, Konnae Harresson, Bel Paul, Shurly Mazerole and Ted Harrison. So that was last winter and now we are into spring and new hope and inspiration and all the delights the season can bring.

Spring has brought Dorothy Wood and Rev. Don Hume into our vibrant group. Dorothy is a retired scientist and Don a retired United Church Minister. Dorothy was born in Annapolis, Nova Scotia and raised in Edmonton. She is a life long student of biology, ecology, psychology and travelling, even to such places as Galapagos, Turkey, Egypt and India. I am happy to participate with Dorothy in the Capital Coffee Cove every Thursday morning and also in our monthly Book Study Group at Murray and Eleanor Enkin's.

It feels like I have known Don Hume for a long time with delight. His jovial nature and willingness to share on a deep, personal level, creates great pleasure in my heart. Don had a childhood in a rural community in Manitoba, not very far from where I was raised. He came to B.C. for his Masters degree and ended up staying as United Church minister and also counsellor of disabled people. Don joins with us, maintaining his deeply held Christian faith and affirming our seven Unitarian-Universalist principles. Dorothy and Don it is wonderful to have you in our midst. May you find joy and significance in being part of our dynamic group.

Welcome, Welcome, Welcome. -Elizabeth



John Pullyblank

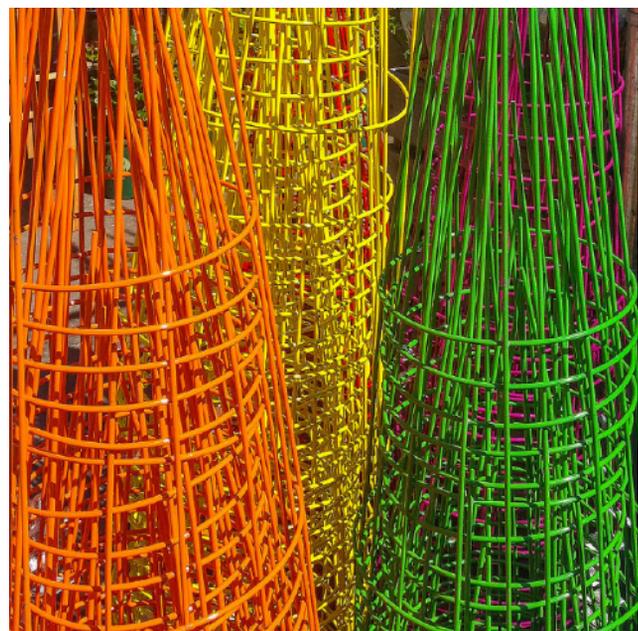
The Vancouver Island UU Summer Camp Band has already started practicing for this year's Saturday evening dance. A heads up that this year camp will be held at the Easter Seal's Camp location in Shawnigan Lake and will be August 21 - 23rd. More details in subsequent Newsletters.



Cathy Baker

Birthdays in May:

May 3	Gemma Tarling Rosemary Morrison
May 14	Muriel Buchner
May 15	Jackie MacDonald
May 21	Graham Tarling
May 29	Murray Enkin
May 30	Elsie Farr (100th)



John Pullyblank



John Pullyblank's Photographs





Rosemary at the Vancouver School of Theology

The semester has whizzed by, just as I thought it would. Classes are over, campus is beginning to empty out and papers are due. I have to admit, my favourite part of attending VST is going to the classes. My classmates are brilliant, imaginative and funny. We have great discussions and many laughs. The caliber of the instruction has been very high. I have learned a lot this semester and I find it hard to believe I have earned about half the credits I need to graduate. That being said, it may still take several semester to graduate!

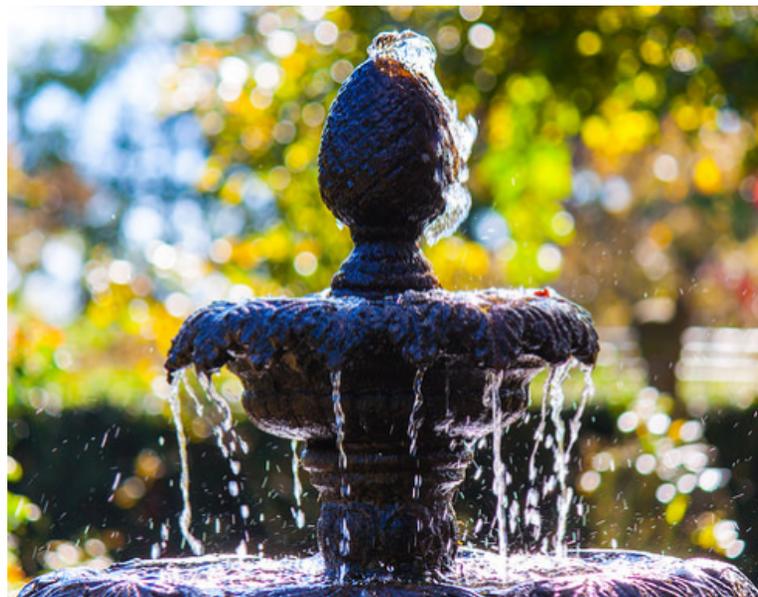
This summer, I will be attending the Native Ministries Consortium as well as taking another course on Thomas Merton. This one is on the humour of Merton, so should be pretty great!

I am looking forward to attending the CUC Annual Conference Meeting in Ottawa next month and the UUA General Assembly in June. A great opportunity as it is so close this year. I'm still looking for a roommate – I have a room booked in Portland and would love to share space and cost!

Next year will be quite a bit different. The exciting news is that I am doing a practicum at South Fraser Unitarian Congregation with Rev. Amanda Aikman as my field supervisor. I have started attending services at SFUC and really love the energy and warmth of the congregation. It reminds me of Capital in some ways. I will be initiating and leading an adult education program along with doing outreach in the community. It should be very rewarding, as well as a good opportunity to meet my learning goals.

I miss being in Victoria and attending services at Capital. I will be with you on May 24th and will attend the AGM. I look forward to seeing many of you then. I'd like to leave you with this poem by Richard Gilbert (please see following page). It speaks of some of my journey this past semester.

-Rosemary Morrison



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In Praise of Doubt

It is not that we are not believers.
It is that our belief
Has to be passed through the fires of skepticism
And boiled in the crucible of doubt.

You have heard it said,
“Ours is not to reason why,
Ours is but to do and die.”
But I say unto you,
Ours is not to doubt and die,
Ours is to seek the reason why.

When we doubt, we affirm the importance of reason
And our confidence in ourselves as centres of religious authority.
When we doubt, we affirm the seriousness of the religious quest.
When we doubt, we recognize that truth was not engraved in
stone 2000 years ago.
When we doubt, we acknowledge that our understanding of
truth is imperfect.
When we doubt, we strengthen our faith.

For the faith of doubt we give thanks;
For the doubt of faith we make glad thanksgiving.
For the courage of adventure
That welcomes questions
As much as answers;
For the beloved community of seekers,
We sing our alleluias into the silent darkness.
By Rev. Richard Gilbert UU Church of Rochester