



Capital Unitarian Universalist Congregation

The Capital Letter

VICTORIA, BC

2016

Sunday Services in May



Spring

Somewhere
 a black bear
 has just risen from sleep
 and is staring
 down the mountain.
 All night
 in the brisk and shallow
 restlessness
 of early spring
 I think of her,
 her four black fists
 flicking the gravel,
 her tongue
 like a red fire
 touching the grass,
 the cold water.
 There is only one question:
 how to love this world. ...

Mary Oliver

May 1st "A Muslim Woman in Canada"

Children's Program



May 8th Susanne Garmsen "Honoring Our Mothers"

Mothers exist in many forms: our actual mothers, matriarch, Gracious Mother, Matrix of Creation, Mother Nature, Earth Mother, Ancient Mother - Grandmother Spirit, etc. On this Mother's Day, let us reflect together on the opportunity to mother, to be or to have been mothered, and the ways in which these experiences are expressed on a grander scale. Happy Mother's Day!

Children's Program



May 15th Peter Scales "Principles, Sources and Aspirations"

A preview of the Unitarian National Gathering, which includes a proposed vision for the CUC that features five 'aspirations': deeply connected, boldly inclusive, actively engaged, theologically alive, and spiritually grounded. What does this mean?

Children's Program



May 22nd W E (Bill) Smith "Salish Space Program"

As part of his passion for all things relating to the Salish Sea, astronomy, and extra-terrestrial life, Bill has written a children's story called the Salish Space Program, which is the topic for today's talk.

Children's Program



May 29th Murray Enkin & Peter Scales "Are you: Religious? Spiritual? Neither? Both?"

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.



Board Notes

Thoughts on April and Looking Forward to May

Kudos to the Sunday Service Committee for delivering another wonderful month of services!

With heavy hearts we said goodbye to our beloved Muriel Buchner (1930-2016) who has been a stalwart member of our congregation for many years. Muriel served in many roles in our congregation and she was always ready with a funny quip and smile. She is missed.

Jan Greenwood has taken a respite from her Board duties due to health reasons. We wish her well and hope to have her back very soon!

Anna Issacs begins her role as Sunday Service Director May 1st. We are very excited about this and we are looking forward to working with her.

Peter Scales and Brooke Taylor will be Capital's delegates to the CUC ACM May 20 to 23 in Vancouver. Amanda Tarling will be presenting a full day of training for Lay Chaplains. Thank you to all three of you for being such wonderful ambassadors for Capital. The Sunday service is open to everyone. It will take place at the UBC Chan Centre at 10:30 am. If you happen to be in Vancouver that weekend, you might want to take it in.

For the Board,

Rita Wittman

Birthdays in May

May 3	Gemma Tarling Rosemary Morrison
May 15	Jackie MacDonald
May 21	Graham Tarling
May 29 th	Murray Enkin
May 30	Elsie Farr

If your Birthday is missing
Please tell Amanda
250 382-6828





News

Care and Concern Workshop: A stay in hospital can throw out a number of unexpected, and sometimes unpleasant, surprises. Are you ready for them? Come and join the Care and Concern committee for a workshop on preparing for, and coping with, a stay in hospital. Presented by **Sara Comish** on **Sunday, May 15th** 1:15-3:15 p.m. at James Bay New Horizons, Room 5.



Remembering Muriel



Several congregants have asked what concerts Peter is singing in during May.

There are three concerts by three different choirs. Google and Facebook, or a private email to scalesp@telus.net, for more information on these choral experiences.



May 6-7-8 with the Victoria Choral Society, but only for 12 minutes at the end of Beethoven's Choral Symphony.



Sat., May 14: 7:30 p.m. Linden Singers concert at Lutheran Church of the Cross; tickets in advance only; no tix at the door.



Sat., May 28: 7:30 p.m. Vox Humana concert, "Rachmaninoff Vespers"; at St. Andrew's Catholic Cathedral, 740 View St.



Music - Gift of the Gods by Muriel Buchner

Pythagoras said music is proportion and mathematics. Well of course he was right but it is a great deal more than that. Later Leibniz, the German mathematician and philosopher put it rather better by saying “Music is Mathematics for those souls who don’t know they are calculating”.

Music is perhaps the oldest gift given to mankind. It encompasses every human emotion, far better than the most elegant words. And here at the beginning of the 21st Century we have a veritable cornucopia of riches, with centuries of great composers who have left us their legacies. We have music for every occasion, music to make love by, music to leave by. Music to march off to war by – think of all the bands playing their military tunes and the flags flying, while the young men full of courage and bravado tramp off to battle, and later, brought back dead only the lament of the pipes to mourn their loss.

Weddings wouldn’t be very merry without music and of course we need it to dance, for from the beginning music and dance have been partners. Music to work by. Think of slaves hauling stone, pulling on ropes or bent double harvesting the fields. They sang, sometimes with amazing harmony, to ease the hours of back-breaking labour. And of course music to weep by. I recently heard a piece by a Polish composer named Gorecki who had written an elegy for a mother who had lost her son in the war. It was all sung in Polish, and I didn’t understand a word and didn’t have to. It was all there in the music and that woman’s beautiful contralto voice, the loss and desolation and pain.

And think of cinema. Even the best movie would be pretty flat without its background music. We almost take it for granted today, for with the flick of a switch the best of the world’s offering flows into our homes. But of course it hasn’t been that way for very long. Less than a hundred years really, when music became available to the masses with the invention of the phonograph, or especially the radio. Once they became cheaply produced we were all in the game.

I remember as a small child we had a battery operated radio which every now and then went dead. And it had to wait for someone who had time, or more likely could afford it, for money was tight in those days, to haul it off to the shop to get it recharged. The day the battery came home was a celebration. Hook it up, turn the switch and Magic! Out came the strains of the Merry Widow Waltz, or the latest dance tune, and the whole atmosphere of the house lightened.

Before that only the rich could enjoy the delights, as they could afford to hire musicians to entertain in the evenings. The rest of us, got a meager diet indeed. Perhaps some chanted responses in church, not always the most cheerful stuff, and the odd night in the tavern when you could thump your tankard of ale on the board table and sing the well known folk songs with your mates. And that was mostly men of course. The only entertainment most folks got was at the annual fairs, when traveling bands of musicians came around and played for pennies, so the young folk could dance. No wonder fairs were so popular and anyone who could so much as hobble didn’t want to miss them.

So in spite of all the carnage the 20th century brought us, it has given us benefits too. The advancement in electronics brought us the sounds of nature and something we hadn’t heard before – the magical mysterious sounds off the great whales in the ocean.