



Capital Unitarian Universalist Congregation

The Capital Letter

VICTORIA, BC

2017



Oh, the comfort -- the inexpressible comfort of feeling safe with a person -- having neither to weigh thoughts nor measure words, but pouring them all right out, just as they are, chaff and grain together, certain that a faithful hand will take and sift them, keep what is worth keeping, and with the breath of kindness blow the rest away.

-Dinah Maria Mulock Craik,
poet and novelist
(1826-1887)
(submitted by Frank)

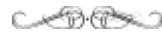
All services are held Sundays at 10:00 a.m. at The James Bay New Horizons Centre, 234 Menzies Street, Victoria, BC. Child care is provided free of charge with our Children's program.

Sunday Services in June

June 4th Karen Christie "A Global Perspective: Knowledge Versus Altruism"

Karen's homily will provide a global perspective through her life's lens of having lived and worked on six continents. She will look at knowledge and altruism through both definition and experience, inviting you to reflect on your contributions to making the world a better place.

Children's Program



June 11th Rosemary Morrison "Scratching the Surface"

Rosemary likens getting a Master of Divinity degree to 'scratching the surface' to the knowledge and literature on philosophy and theology. In this service Rosemary will discuss some of the insights, struggles, and understandings she has encountered studying at Vancouver School of Theology. It has indeed been a journey, and Rosemary is excited to share some of this journey with you.

Children's Program



June 18th Dana L. Seaborn "Native Voices"

Celebrating the stories & songs of the indigenous people of Canada.

Children's Program



June 25th Peter Scales "Confederation and Faith"

Religion was important to the signatories 150 years ago, and God remains in Canada's 1982 Constitution. On its 150th birthday, is Canada a nation of faith?

Children's Program





Board Notes

Board Report – CUUC June 2017

Newsletter

Dear members, friends and visitors. I'm happy report that all is well in our community! I'd like to *especially* welcome back Moon and Nancy fellow UU's from Tennessee, USA who are 'summering' for a 2nd year in Victoria and have been regular attendees at our services and discussion groups. Also, a welcome to Gregg and Nancy who've become regular attendees.

Membership of Capital is a constant priority for the board, so on behalf of all us I'd like to thank Karen and Winnie (*membership committee*) for their ongoing efforts in attracting new members. The board met with Karen and Winnie for an in-depth meeting to discuss the growth and sustainability of our community. One idea, was to celebrate new members, and we'll do that on Sunday, June 4 directly after the service with 'The New Members Tea' ---- *all are welcome!*

The board had a very productive meeting with Karen and Winnie and encourage the other Capital committees to meet with the board to discuss their

The board had a very productive meeting with Karen and Winnie and encourage the other Capital committees to meet with the board to discuss their specific issues and concerns on a rotating basis.

Another celebration to announce: --- Rosemary Morison will be completing her 'Masters of Divinity'. We will be celebrating her accomplishment on Sunday, June 11 after the service with small party.

On a personal note, as one the 'newbies' (February, 2016) I'd like to express my appreciation on being welcomed so warmly into the community; *a community that "walks the walk"!*

On behalf of the board, a profound thanks to all... *for who you are... and for what you do!*

Just showing up every Sunday in and of itself means so much.... everybody counts!

-Mike Riess -- for the CUUC Board.



PUUB Night

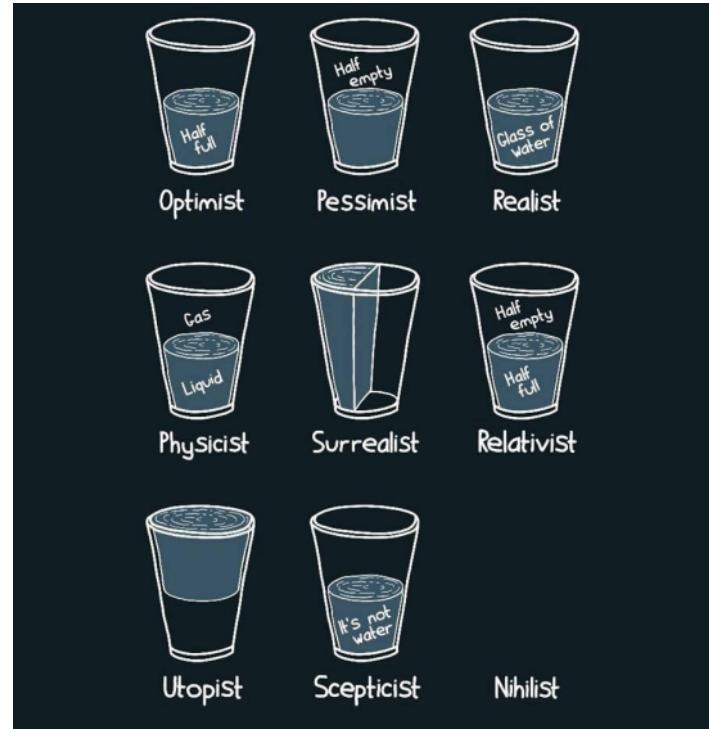
Note from Karen, the founder and coordinator of a CUUC social event

As some of you know, prior to moving to Victoria last fall, I was a member of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Ottawa, or the UUFO! While I was committed to that community for over 20 years, I was often working outside of Canada. On returning to Ottawa in 2015, I launched a social gathering for UUFO members and their friends one Friday evening a month. I was still working at that time and so I called it the TGIF event - thank goodness it's Friday. However, it soon became known simply as PUB night, as we chose casual, less expensive venues, and as a name, it is much shorter after all! Those who participated enjoyed it, and I'm happy to report that the tradition has carried on since my departure!

This is the background to why I started a similar social get-together last November with the CUUC. The event acquired the name of the one in Ottawa. Now, I know by now that all things "Ottawa" are not necessarily "revered" here in Victoria. I have also learned that there may be those in the CUUC that are not overly enamored with either the name or the activity itself. Please allow me to tell you a little about what we get up to, the third Friday of every month.

So far, we've held seven different "soirées", in six different venues around town. We've returned to the James Bay Inn twice, and will go there again in June. It is the closest for some, but we've chosen other locations that are closer for other participants. We consult during the evening as to where we might go next.

We are usually around a dozen people, sometimes all CUUC members, sometimes with folks from the First Unitarian Church of Victoria, and sometimes with guests, occasionally from out of town. The bottom line is that we have fun with this opportunity to socialize with each other in another context. We raise a glass together, with or without alcohol, and usually we order some-



thing to eat. We have often dispersed by 8:30.

In the interests of being as inclusive as possible, we are proposing to change the name of this event to "PUUB Night". What, you may well ask, is that? Well, in fact, you can suit yourself. At the May Board meeting, we came up with several variations on this acronym. The one that stuck for me, and after all, I do organize these grandiose events so I get to call the shots (so to speak!), is "Playful Unitarian Universalist Bantering" or "PUUB"!

So come one, come all, to our next PUUB Night on Friday, June 16 around 6:00 p.m. at the James Bay Inn at 270 Government Street. All are welcome.

To help reserve a table with enough seats for those who plan on coming, I welcome a short email, text, or call to confirm your presence.

- Karen Christie



CUC News

Special greetings to all of you and a welcome to share the following CUC Special Event information within your circles of connection!

1. CUC Welcomes All To Consider the following Retreat!

Serving with Spirit: nUUrting UU Leaders

Do you wish that you experienced your participation in your congregation as an expression of ministry, not primarily an obligation to do your part?

We invite you to a weekend to explore where you find the “springs” which fill your life’s well of energy, and how you can live out of that rich resource. There will be opportunities to connect with and be informed by other UUs; times to engage with others as we learn new and hone familiar strategies; and space to do deep reflection, identifying and strengthening the rich practice potential in your own life.

Returning to your home communities with a stronger network, you will have a fresh perspective from which to re-engage personally along with some rejuvenating ideas to explore with your congregation as you seek to deepen a shared experience. There are two locations and dates from which to choose! People from across the country are welcome to select the one that suits them best. We encourage congregations to help identify potential attendees and to "tap leaders on the shoulder", encouraging them to attend and to consider providing some financial support.

Eastern: July 21-23, University of Waterloo.
Register www.cuc.ca.

Western: August 18-20, Providence Retreat Centre, Edmonton. Register www.cuc.ca

Upcoming CUC Roundtable conversation.

Roundtable Conversation on Archives

May 27, 2017 12:30 p.m. EDT | 9:30 a.m. PDT

Please join us as we explore how to safely and appropriately preserve records for our congregational archives. We will be joined by several experienced people who will share the practices within their congregations, both regarding protocols and storage options. Participants will then be welcomed to share their questions, practices, and ideas.

Please register www.cuc.ca

Thanks to all of you for sharing the above information and we welcome you to contact either Rev. Linda Thomson [linda@cuc.ca] or myself [joan@cuc.ca] if you have further questions!

Peace & gratitude,

Joan

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Joan Carolyn
CUC Congregational Dev. Staff
joan@cuc.ca
(204) 960-4944



Delegates from First Unitarian Church of Victoria and Capital take part in the CUC's AGM. Missing from the photo is Peter Scles, who took the picture.

Registration Deadline: June 15, 2017



Committee News

Hi Everyone,

For the past few weeks I have tried to locate the File folder with my name on it and the forms that ask you "what are your skills and interests." I thought these questions would help you and me become more acquainted and to see if there was some particular area of life at Capital Unitarian Universalist Community in which you wanted to participate . However this has gone missing and if you have seen it or picked it up to give me, please contact me at findlaygirlea@gmail.com or phone me at 250-472-6262.

Your help mate, Elizabeth (volunteer coordinator)



New Members Tea

On behalf of the Board we would like to extend a warm welcome to all of Capital's new members. Everyone is invited to the New Members Tea, following the service on June 4th, in the Main hall of James Bay New Horizons.

Please join us for cake and Refreshments.

Winnie & Karen, The Membership Committee

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

All weekend, or
just Saturday

FOR ALL AGES!

August 18-20, 2017

Easter Seals Camp Shawnigan



Early Bird Deadline: June 30th—Register & Pay Today!

Volunteer camp coordination provided by the Unitarian Universalist Islands Network
(Comox, Nanaimo, Salt Spring, Capital & Victoria Congregations)
viucamp@unitariancongregation.org | viue.unitariancongregation.org

Website

on.org



Murray's Credo & Rustom

Credo May 17th 2017 Look inside – from Harari
Homo Deus, in quote and paraphrase

Throughout recorded history, prophets and philosophers have argued that if humans stopped believing in a great cosmic plan, all law and order would vanish. It is impossible to sustain order without meaning. If we are not actors in a divine drama, and nobody cares about us or our deeds, what prevents social collapse?

Our medieval forbears did not believe that humans could determine by themselves what is good and what is evil, what is right and what is wrong, what is beautiful and what is ugly. Only God could create and define goodness, righteousness, and beauty. This view made God the supreme source, not only of meaning, but of authority. God's role of as the source of meaning and authority was not just a philosophical theory. It affected every facet of daily life. It inspired music, monarchy, and art.

The great political, artistic, and religious achievement of modernity has been to find a meaning in life that is not rooted in some great cosmic plan. We found one! The antidote to a meaningless and lawless existence was provided by humanism, a revolutionary new creed that conquered the world in the last few centuries.

The humanist religion worships humanity, and expects humanity to play the part that God did for Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, or that the Laws of Nature played for Buddhism and Daoism.

Whereas traditionally the great cosmic plan gave meaning to the life of humans, humanism reverses the role, and expects the experience of humans to give meaning to the great cosmos. The primary commandment humanism has given us is to create meaning for a meaningless world.

Accordingly, the central religious revolution of modernity was not losing faith in God; rather, it was gaining faith in humanity. Thinkers wrote pamphlets, artists composed poems and symphonies, politicians struck deals – and together they convinced humanity that it can imbue the universe with meaning. It took centuries of hard work.

-Murray Enkin



Rustom Patel, son of Ratanshaw Patel and Piroja Patel (Chitthiwala), born in Bhavnagar, India on January 23, 1915, peacefully passed away in Victoria B.C. on May 18, 2017. Rustom is predeceased by his sister Jarbanu, and by his beloved wife Micheliena 'Lien' VanBalcum (1918-2008), and survived by his nieces, nephews and their families. Rustom was trained as an electrical engineer, worked for the Bombay Port Authority, served in the Royal Indian Navy during WWII, emigrated to Canada in 1959, and worked in the federal Ministry of Supply and Services until retirement. Always polite and courteous, he wore a big smile on his face and was very knowledgeable and resourceful. Even at the age of 102, Rustomji always had his wit and sense of humor around him. Love for nature and travel were his two passions.

Rustom was a life-long Parsee (Zoroastrian), and was a Unitarian for more than 50 years. Rustom and Lien came to Victoria in 1996 "for the weather" and were active in Capital Unitarian Universalist Congregation. Rustom enjoyed his walks along Dallas Road. He was happiest when immersed in political and philosophical discussions. He often said: "There can be no peace without justice."

Rustom's friends would like to express our sincere thanks to the team of doctors, nursing care teams, health care aides' team and the Social Worker on 4North at Royal Jubilee Hospital for all their care and support during the last few weeks of his life.

Parsee funeral prayers will be held on Friday, May 26 at 2:00 p.m. at First Memorial Funeral Services on 1155 Fort Street, Victoria.

Please do not bring any flowers or food to the funeral home. Instead you can make a donation to the charity of your choice; Rustom volunteered for and donated money to USC-Canada (formerly the Unitarian Service Committee) for over 60 years. A UU celebration of life will be held soon.

-Peter Scales