



# Capital Unitarian Universalist Congregation

## The Capital Letter

VICTORIA, BC

2015



Elsie Farr's 100th Birthday

### Jewish Prayer

Grant us the ability to find joy and strength not in the strident call to arms, but in stretching out our arms to grasp our fellow creatures in the striving for justice and truth.

### Sunday Services in July

#### July 5th Rosemary Morrison "T is for Transgender"

Capital received its "Welcoming Congregation" status in 1999. July 5th is the end of Pride week in Victoria and the Pride Parade. Join Rosemary as she explores the 'T' in LGBTQ, the letter getting a lot of press these days."

Children's Program



#### July 12th Ben Dolf "Summertime, and the livin' is easy"

This service is about listening to and singing along with some of our favourite tunes, mixed with some piquant quotations for our enjoyment and pleasure. Ben Dolf will do the cooking; if you would like to contribute to the fare, please do contact him.

Children's Program



#### July 19th Dana L. Seaborn "The Fire of Commitment"

Unitarians have been held in some degree of suspicion by other religious groups because of a perceived lack of conviction. And yet, our UU lyricists write about the fire of commitment setting our mind and soul ablaze. Dr. D L Seaborn will fan the flames of commitment by sharing some inspiring facts, ideas, and stories.

Children's Program



#### July 26th Peter Scales Peter Scales "Understanding UUism as a Faith Tradition", a sermon by Rev. Dr. John W. Baros-Johnson.

In a sermon to his UU ministerial colleagues, the Rev. Dr. John W. Baros-Johnson proposes that we understand Unitarian Universalism as a faith tradition: Faith and Meaning; Meaning, Language and Conversation; and Conversation and Tradition. He concludes, "The task of the conversation of faith is to develop our ability to discern more lovingly and caringly the speaking of the gods amidst the cacophony of the everyday."

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.



## **Sunday Services in August**

Aug 2nd Dana L. Seaborn **“Joy to the World”** How do we define joy? Is it the same as happiness? Or does it affect our lives in more subtle and profound ways? Join us as D L Seaborn (joyfully!) shares a homily by Unitarian minister Rod Richards.

Children's Program



Aug 9th Michelle Brown **“Universalism: roots and current practices.”** Our Universalist heritage is both the rational heart and the deep well of wisdom in our tradition. We'll look at the two aspects of the second U in UUism.

Children's Program



Aug 16th Rev. Samaya Oakley **“A Confluence of Ideas”** Over the last three years the Confluence Lectures at the Canadian Unitarian Council's Annual Conference and Meeting have built on each other, starting with Rev. Shawn Newton's *The Risk of Relevance* in Calgary in 2013. Join Rev. Samaya Oakley for an exploration of the ideas presented and what it means for us as Canadian Unitarians as we move forward into the future.

**Samaya Oakley** currently serves as the Developmental Minister at the First Unitarian Fellowship of Nanaimo. She also serves as the Executive Director for a Winter Weather Shelter the Fellowship offers during the winter season. Previous to that she was involved with the youth program at the North Shore Unitarian Church for 15 years. Samaya currently serves as the Secretary on the Executive for the Unitarian Universalist Ministers of Canada. She also is an Integrity Team member of the Liberal Religious Educators' Association that serves to educate its membership and Board on identity issues. She has been a part of the Weaving our Worship facilitation team and the Lay Chaplain's Deepening, Maturing and Growing retreat. She is involved regionally, nationally and continentally. She is in preliminary fellowship with the Unitarian Universalist Association. She completed her studies at Vancouver School of Theology in their Masters of Divinity program. Samaya has certificates in Business Administration and Life Skills Coaching.



Rev Samaya  
Oakley

Children's Program



Aug 23rd Susanne Garmsen **“Immigrants and Unitarians in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: Personal Stories”**

Continuing with the topic of Immigrants and Unitarians in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, we will hear and witness some personal immigrant experiences from our community. This will make for a compelling time, illustrating the positive role the Unitarian Church can play.

Children's Program



Aug 30th Jan Greenwood **“Come sing from your heart – familiar and popular songs which fill us with joy.”** A singing service. Children's Program



## Board Report

As difficult as it is to think of 2015 being half over already, with Solstice now past and the wedding season in mid-swing, it must be so. Our lay chaplains are now busily joining couples in marriage as well as putting the name of Unitarian Universalism out to a public not as familiar with us as we'd like.

Our representation at the CUC Annual meeting in Ottawa was ably carried out by Rosemary Morrison again this year. Our own congregation's AGM was held May 24th partly to help align our fiscal year with the calendar year. In the course of setting the budget for this "stub" year, we were surprised and very happy to learn that our member, the late Ted Harrison, had left Capital \$10,000. in his estate.

Board members Peter Scales, Rita Wittman, Jan Greenwood and Frank Bowie will continue in their positions 'though the Nominating Committee would be delighted to see one or more members join them in their work.

As a partner to our stimulating homilies both by guest and member speakers, our forums are always well-attended. We recently held a forum on these forums to hear ideas which might add to the experience and have already begun to implement some of them.

Two upcoming events should be noted for July and August. One is the annual Pride Week which culminates in Pride Parade on July 5th starting at noon at Government and Pandora Streets. As it's possible to attend our Sunday service and still help carry Capital's impressively long rainbow flag to MacDonald Park for the last half of the parade, we hope you'll join us.

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The second event is the 2015 Vancouver Island Summer Camp at Shawnigan Lake August 21-23<sup>rd</sup>. The weekend will offer interesting workshops for adults, playshops for youth, Nature co-operative games for kids and Wee Care for children 1-5. For information or registration, visit

[www.unitariancongregation.org/viuc](http://www.unitariancongregation.org/viuc).

Happy summer to all.

Frank Bowie



John Pullyblank



## Poem by Alastair Mont

### THE ALL OF UNITARIANISM

I sit in my corner of Unitarianism  
Presenting a Belief so profound  
Awareness of and satisfaction with  
The tenets of what and whom we are

Grace my Being with words  
Based on generations explaining  
Reasons why , how and maybe  
Our existence is so spelled out

Within the grasp of all Humankind  
And yet mysteriously ignored  
Devastating realized  
But unable to act upon

We feel and even sense we know  
What All is about  
The All of everything that contains us -  
Surrounds us - is us  
Oh what Bliss - enables us to exist

Small in numbers  
Large in awareness  
What does this mean  
Is that our Beings primarily to be  
But a miniscule blip upon the screen of  
life

Inclusiveness involves our All  
Enabling folk of all kin  
Acknowledging our place in the sun  
To be entranced by words

Oh the enormity of being the All  
Our very senses stir with meaning  
The entire scope of our Beliefs  
Entertain our intellect of the All

Passion creates all things  
My own Being rises to the occasion  
Whenever the very fibres of my Soul  
Excite - inflame - this one person guy

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(Cont'd)

As spirited Beings

A myriad of choices grace the paths  
before us  
As we of this Faith  
Constantly entertain our presence within  
and without

A blend of human conditions  
Wrapped in the warps of time  
This is our identity  
The All of Unitarianism  
Our presence determines our condition

What meaning lies ahead ?  
Hope for all Beings ?  
Does it lie within our grasps ?

-In Spiritual Harmony

Alastair Mont



John Pullyblank



# Vancouver Island Unitarian Summer Camp



## VANCOUVER ISLAND UNITARIAN SUMMER CAMP

**AUGUST 21 - 23, 2015**

*“Live in the sunshine, swim in the sea, drink in the wild air”*

*~ Ralph Waldo Emerson ~*

***Friends new and old are waiting to meet you at camp on the shores of beautiful Shawnigan Lake.*** Easter Seals Camp Shawnigan offers a lovely outdoor setting to have fun, relax, deepen friendships, explore spirituality and feel part of the larger Unitarian community. Take part in campfire, a Friday BBQ, the variety show and family dance with live music! As well, Saturday morning offers great programming for all ages, and the fabulous waterfront will be open in the afternoon. Hike up Mt. Baldy for a 360 degree view of Shawnigan Lake, explore the Kinsol Trestle, board games and crafts are other offerings for you to explore.

Vancouver Island Unitarian Camp has something to offer everyone. Whether you are part of a family, single, senior or young adult, you are welcome here, and are sure to have a wonderful and enriching experience.

### **This Year There Are Three Streams Of Adult Programming To Choose From:**

~ Compassionate Communication with Selinde Krayenhoff

~ Music for Joy with Barb Slater and Kevin Wilkie

? ~ Spiritual Workshop with Penelope Hagan

**Plus:** A youth “play” shop program, children’s program, as well as wee care on Saturday morning.

**Please Note:** the new location and date this year. To find out more details about the programs, registration forms and brochures please check out the website at:

<http://viuc.unitariancongregation.org> **Early Bird discount before June 14th.**



# News

Capital is co-sponsoring an all candidates meeting for the Fall federal election.

Seems early you say?

Will you volunteer on the evening of Monday, September 21?

Help set up, greet at the door, usher people to seats – some tasks to make the event run smoothly.

OR you are welcome to attend the planning meetings as the B.C Sustainable Energy Association (BCSEA) organizes meetings in all our regions.

You'll get a look behind the scenes at how these occasions work.

Who knows – we may be experiencing the dwindling of the old ways as citizens want change and are more and more concerned with how Canada is governed. Let Capital be well represented.

Contact Jan- [papillon1@telus.net](mailto:papillon1@telus.net) or 250 896-3813 as soon as you can.



## Birthdays in July and August

July 5	Juan Comish
July 10	Nan Fairchild
July 26	Brian MacDonald
Aug 18	Lynda Mazerolle
Aug 26	Lena Toneff
Aug 31 <sup>st</sup>	Adrienne Poirier

If your Birthday is missing please let Amanda know. 250 382-6828 or [tarling@shaw.ca](mailto:tarling@shaw.ca)

## Counters

July 5-Jim & Rita

August 2-Dana

July 12-Dyanne & John

August 9-Dyanne

& John

July 19-Kimiko

August 16-Kimiko

July 26-Frank

August 23-Frank

August 30-Jim

& Rita

Thanks to these folks for helping out.

We should have two counters every week,

so if you can volunteer for half an hour

once a month, it would be greatly

appreciated! Please talk to Rita or email

her at [wittmanr@gmail.com](mailto:wittmanr@gmail.com) if you'd like

to help out!



John Pullyblank