



Capital Unitarian Universalist Congregation

The Capital Letter

VICTORIA, BC

2014



Earth teach me resignation
as the leaves which die in the
fall.

Earth teach me regeneration as
the seed which rises in the spring.

Earth teach me to forget myself
as melted snow forgets its life.

Earth teach me to remember
kindness as dry fields weep with
rain.

From the Ute Indians of
North America

Sunday Services in October

October 5th Don Evans “**Are You Ready to Be Changed?**” Our Place is an inner-city community centre serving Greater Victoria’s most vulnerable: working poor, impoverished elderly, mentally and physically challenged, addicted and the homeless. Our Place offers a sense of belonging to Greater Victoria’s most vulnerable citizens. Our Place provides a home, nourishment and hope through living, sharing, learning and worshipping together. Our Place serves over 1,200 meals per day, and provides hot showers, free clothing, counseling and outreach services, plus 45 transitional housing units. Most importantly, it provides a sense of hope and belonging to neighbours in need. Don is the Executive Director of the Our Place Society.

Children's Program



October 12th Dana Seaborn “**Sacred Sustenance: Thanksgiving for Unitarians**”

At mealtimes, Christians thank their god, while humanists thank the farmer. To whom or what do Unitarians give thanks? Where is the divinity - or the farmer - in today's factory food?

Children's Program

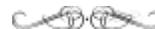


Oct 19th Rachel Phillips “**Are We Missing Historical Opportunity?**”

Bill 36, the proposed Protection of Communities and Exploited Persons Act, would introduce a controversial approach into Canadian law by criminalizing the purchase of sexual services but exempting one party from prosecution. Is this a helpful solution? What other approaches could we have considered?

Rachel Phillips, PhD, executive director of Peers Victoria Resource Society, and health researcher, has taken a very active part in the debate and will shed light on the legal and social tangles this bill appears to create. She will also highlight just how complex an issue our lawmakers are grappling with.

Children's Program



Oct 26th “**Pathways to the Spirit**” Capital is not holding a service today so that we can all attend the BC Fall Gathering Sunday Service at First Unitarian Church of Victoria. Start time is 10:30 am, please speak to Amanda if you would like transportation. More information on page 8.

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

CUUC Board Report for October *Capital Letter*

At the September Board Meeting John Pullyblank announced his intention to step down from the Board for personal reasons. The Board accepted his resignation mindful of the many contributions John has made. John's high level thinking has helped the Board become more organised not to mention his generous hosting of our meetings. Thank you, John.

This leaves us – Jan, Rita, Frank, Peter – short at least one colleague on the board, according to CUUC's constitution. The Nominating Committee – Ben and Jim – have been asked to find the next keen board member, so if you get a tap on the shoulder, please consider joining us in leadership!

Our congregation was formed in the spring of 1996 – 18½ years ago – by word of mouth. Friends invited friends, and a small number of UU's migrated from the big church on West Saanich Road. During all these years we have wavered between a membership of 25 to 50 but mostly 40 people. While church attendance drops in many other denominations, we have stayed even. But forty is a precarious number, and word of mouth is an uneven publicity method. Last winter a few of us decided to take the long-percolating step of actually doing some targeted advertising.

Last month members of our congregation distributed about 3600 postcards to households in James Bay. On a bright yellow background the postcards said "Meaningful living in progress" on one side, and "We need not think alike to love alike" on the other side. The cards sought to inform our neighbours that there is a Unitarian-Universalist congregation a short walk from their homes. The cards also invited people to attend a "free community event" on Sunday, September 21st. We left the details vague in hopes of attracting people to our website for more information. A counter on the website would show us if anyone new was looking us up.

The first batch of postcards went to apartment buildings on Tue., Sep 2, and visits to the website began immediately. Whereas typical visits to Capital's website are 1 or 2 per day, on Sep 5 there were 19 new visitors (called "unique IP's" by the counter) and on Sep 6 there were 57. Each of these represents someone new who is learning about UUism!

On Sep 12th to 14th the remaining postcards were delivered by Anna, Jan, Nancy, Paul and Peter. Website visits spiked again. Almost all of the visitors came via a search on Google or Bing. The visit counter does not say who the people are (your privacy is pretty safe) but it tells us how many pages they looked at and how long they were on the website. About 2/3 of visitors looked at only our first page, and only for a minute or two. But the other 1/3 of visitors looked at our front page and then as many as 20 pages on our website, including transcripts of past homilies. People **are** interested in what we do.

On the eve of the autumn picnic on Sun., Sep 21 our website had been visited by 86 people. Only one person came to the picnic specifically because she had learned about it on our website. But we know that we have reached dozens of potential newcomers. Capital UU Congregation has made a solid effort to tell our neighbours that a liberal religious community is a short walk from their homes.

This will be one of the many things we can express thanksgiving for, at the CUUC Thanksgiving Potluck on Sunday, October 12; see details elsewhere in this newsletter.

Finally, several of us will attend the BC Unitarian Fall Gathering, October 24-26, at our sister church. Come and learn more about UUism, and meet UU's from Nanaimo, Comox, Surrey, Vancouver, New Westminster, North Van, Kelowna, and Kamloops!

Peter Scales, for the board



Anglican Clergy Statement on Bill C-36

Peter writes: In advance of Capital's guest speaker on October 19th, please read the following statement that was sent on June 17, 2014 by three dozen Anglican priests, male and female, to our representatives in Parliament. The government's proposed bill to severely regulate the sex trade is atrocious and backward. What do you think?

Subject: Statement by Clergy opposed to Bill C-36 and its disregard of constitutional rights for Sex Workers

We, ordained ministers and laity of various faith groups and denominations, wish to express our concerns regarding Bill C-36 "Protection of Communities and Exploited Persons Act" now before the House of Commons of the Parliament of Canada.

We wish to make it clear that we continue to uphold marriage as an ideal and as the normative place for sexual relations. We have great concerns about the commodification of sex in our economy, and the exploitation and abuse of vulnerable women and men who are sex workers.

That said, we cannot support Bill C-36, for the following reasons.

First, we believe that it infringes upon the human rights of sex workers to health, safety, and life. It disregards the issues raised by the Supreme Court of Canada when it struck down the provisions of the Criminal Code that target sex workers. It simply re-inscribes the old provisions in different language, and will result in immediate legal challenges. This does not further the welfare of sex workers, but continues their marginalization.

Second, the proposed Bill C-36 will drive sex workers and their clients further underground, putting sex workers at even greater threat of violence.

Third, there was almost no consultation with sex workers or their advocates prior to the drafting of this bill; the viewpoints shared in the online consultation by these parties were not duly considered. The provisions of this bill run counter to a considerable body of sex work research conducted in Canada and other jurisdictions. The provisions of the bill are not based on evidence, but unproven assumptions.

Fourth, there is no meaningful provision to deal with the underlying economic and social conditions that result in many people engaging in sex work. This bill continues to criminalize poverty, especially amongst indigenous peoples, youth coming from government care, women with disabilities, and lower income single mothers, who are all disproportionately represented among sex workers.

This is a moral issue. While we can debate the pros and cons of sex work in our Canadian society, and bring our religious beliefs to bear upon both sides of this question, we are all agreed that this proposed legislation does nothing to advance the welfare of sex workers and in fact, it increases the potential for dangerous situations. This is immoral.

We urge the Justice Minister Peter MacKay, the Members of the House of Commons on the Standing Committee on Justice and Human Rights, and the Parliament to withdraw this proposed bill. We believe broader, meaningful consultation is required for any future legislation, not only so that it will be an act which will stand up in a court of law, but so that it serves the fundamental needs of this vulnerable population.

Signatories: 3 dozen Anglican priests



Jackie MacDonald's Climate Change Lyrics

Night and Day

Like the beat beat beat of the tom-tom
When the jungle shadows fall
Like the tick tick tock of the stately clock
As it stands against the wall

Like the drip drip drip of the raindrops
When the summer shower is through
So a voice within me keeps repeating
renew, renew, renew

Night and day, change must come
To be safe beneath the moon and under the sun
Whether near to us, or far
Climate chaos will affect you where you are
I think of it

Night and day, Day and night, why is it so

The denial for change follows wherever I go
In the roaring traffic's boom
Reading and listening in my room
I think of it
Night and day, night and day

Expectations are avoided by me
There's oh such a hungry yearning burning inside of me
And this torment won't be through
Til you tell politicians no more votes for you

Unless change like, night and day





Jackie's Lyrics and picnic photos

Summertime

Over my lifetime,
Oh the livin' was easy
But the change that is comin'
Will bring fires and drought

Oh, farms will suffer
And your children may hunger
So why friends & neighbours
Don't you cry out

One of these mornings
You're goin' rise up grievin'
Then you'll spread your voice
But will it be too late?

Can't wait for that morning
Now stop consumin' and travelin'
Tell all politicians the growth model's not workin'

And be clear,
you want strict regulations
increasing carbon taxes

A stop to new carbon structures
Keep on writing
'Cause it takes repetition
Tell MPs, MLAs and Local Council too



Summer Potluck Photos





Sara and John's Thanksgiving Potluck

Birthdays in October

Oct 2	Callum Tarling
Oct 9	Amanda Tarling
Oct 14	Rich Scales
Oct 15	Durga Perival
Oct 19	Cathy Baker
Oct 19	Mavis Butlin
Oct 26	Ikuyo Ito

Thanksgiving Potluck
at Sara and John's,
Sunday Oct 12th from
5:30pm.



University
of Victoria

Centre for Studies
in Religion & Society

The Migration of Colonial Knowledge:

The Case of Harry Hawthorn and the 'Doukhobor Problem'

Thursday, October 2, 4:30 pm

UVic David Turpin Building, Room A104

Adam Carmichael, Vandekerkhove Family Trust Graduate Student Fellow, UVic Political Science

20-20 Vision: On the Cusp of the Next Twenty Years in Research

CSRS 20th Anniversary Celebration

Thursday, October 30, 4:30 pm

University Club Fireside Lounge

Paul Bramadat, CSRS Director



Dying with Dignity

Hi, every fellow Unitarian across Canada. 1st Unitarian Church, Victoria BC proudly supports the right-to-die movement in Canada. In March 2013 we created a sub committee under the Social Responsibility Committee of First Unitarian and have been busy advocating for a change in the Federal Law which forbids assisted suicide and charges those aiding someone in dying with a felony. October 15th, 2014 marks the opening of the Carter/Taylor Case at the Federal level of the Supreme Court of Canada, Ottawa. Unitarians will be preparing and presenting a brief. Dying with Dignity will also. Please send your energy, warmth and support to this worthy cause. Victoria Unitarians and other interested people are holding a Flash Mob above the highway in downtown Victoria. Here's our announcement to share with your congregation. Thanks, Bonnie (Choices in Dying Victoria)

News Release: from Choices in Dying Victoria and Dying with Dignity (Canada) October 10th and October 14th Please send MEDIA COVERAGE. This is a Charter of Rights and Freedoms Issue. Thank you Bonnie Halvorson, 2178 Stone Gate, Victoria, BC V9B0B9 250-478-7736

FLASH MOB TO SUPPORT

**FEDERAL SUPREME COURT HEARING
RIGHT-TO-DIE
CARTER/TAYLOR CASE , OTTAWA**

**OCTOBER 15TH, 2014
3:30-5:30 PM**

Continued on page 8



Dying with Dignity

Continued from page 7

500 BLOCK CUDUTHEL ROAD DOUGLAS STREET GALLOPING GOOSE REGIONAL TRAIL OVERPASS

THIS IS A CHARTER OF RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS ISSUE.... PLEASE COME OUT!!

PARKING ON: CUDUTHEL ROAD BY
EMCO / MCLAREN ELECTRIC
ACROSS FROM UPTOWN MALL

The Galloping Goose Regional Overpass is gently ramped; and can be busy with cyclists and joggers....but no vehicular traffic.

Interested in attending the Fall Gathering Sunday service October 26th at First Unitarian Church of Victoria but need a ride - or can offer a ride??? Please call Amanda 250 382-6828.

