



Capital Unitarian Universalist Congregation

The Capital Letter

VICTORIA, BC

2014



John Pullyblank

May the glory of autumn
lie about us
fresh gold
for a time.
And when the dark comes, and
the cold
may we remember how today we
stand in glory,
how we walk in bounty
heaped upon the earth's dark
carpet,
how we move knee deep in
abundance
flung against night's winter
curtain.
We are thankful for its coming
and for its passing.

Let it be.

Barbara J. Pescan

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.

Website: www.unitariancongregation.org

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email: contact.capital@unitariancongregation.org

Sunday Services in November

Nov. 2nd Lisa Greenly "Compassionate Action: Kiva and Micro-lending."

The nice things about UU principles is that if you are trying to do good you are most likely living out the intent of at least one or two of them. How about a compassionate action that covers all of our UU principles - costs very little money, takes a small amount of time and changes the world. Interested?

Children's Program



Nov. 9th Amanda Tarling "**The Unitarian Third Principle**"

Our Third Principle says: "Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations." To accept another is truly a challenging thing. How often have we tried to change someone? What are the tools available to help us accept? This morning we explore how we can deepen our spiritual knowledge and encourage others to do the same.

Children's Program



Nov. 16th Murray Enkin "**Contingency, Irony and Solidarity.**"

A Homily based on the title of a book by Richard Rorty that addresses these three subjects.

Children's Program



Nov. 23rd Dana L. Seaborn "**Celebrating our Sources with Gospel Music.**" Christianity is one of our UU sources; gospel music is an enthusiastic celebration of that faith. Join us as we explore the roots of this African-American music and its inspiring commitment to God, community and social change.

Children's Program



Nov. 30th Dr. John Pullyblank "**Mental Health, Atheism, and the Religious/Spiritual.**" This homily will look at thinking and findings about the relative virtues of atheism or a more "religious" belief system for protecting our mental health.

Children's Program



Board Notes

We are mourning the loss of our beloved Konnae Harresson. She was one of the eight co-founders of CUUC. Memories of her stalwart leadership and mischievous smile will remain etched in our hearts always.

The Board has been busy planning our Semi-Annual meeting for November 2. Our financial report will be presented. As well, we will present a Draft of Covenant of Good Relations. This document was created as a result of the workshop led by Antonia Wong. Please share any ideas you have regarding this document with us!

As well, the Nominating Committee is still searching for someone who would like to sit on the Board. If you have a suggestion, please contact Ben Dolf or Jim Rogers.

Thanks to Sara and John for hosting the Thanksgiving Feast. We are indeed thankful for our wonderful community.

On behalf of your Board,

Rita Wittman



John Pullyblank



News

A message from Ellie Higginson:

Greetings from Prince Rupert. I do hope this message finds you well and enjoying the beautiful change of season!

I am so happy to write to you that I will be visiting Victoria at the beginning of November!! My days will be involved with training at the conservatory. I was wondering if it would be possible to send a message to the James Bay UUs to see if there would be someone so kind as to allow me to stay with them for some or all of the days while in Victoria?

In community,
Ellie
email: ellie@elliehigginson.com



John Pullyblank

Director of Spiritual Exploration
for Children and Youth – part-time
position with The Comox Valley
Unitarian Fellowship. Details at:
www.cvuf.ca
Application Deadline: November 6.



John Pullyblank

Birthdays in November

Nov 4th Eileen Crawford
No 25th Dana Seaborn

If your birthday is missing
please let Amanda know.



Picnic photos by Anna Isaacs





Book Review - Alan Dawson

"The Millenium Trilogy" by Stieg Larsson.

"The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo," "The Girl who Played with Fire" and "The Girl who Kicked the Hornet's Nest."

For anyone who has spent some time in southern Sweden these books will possibly bring back memories of the many places mentioned in the stories.

For a number of years I bided my time until the first volume jumped at me from a secondhand bookshelf, mainly because following the trend of a book or film that is touted to be the greatest that a person could ever imagine is not what I do and secondarily a new volume is much more expensive than a secondhand one just as waiting until first run movies finally arrive at Cinecenta is much more my style.

The series lives up to the hype it has been given, gripping mystery, murder, sex, corporate and political corruption, (with secret service intrigue involved in that corruption along with a very large component of larceny. Reminiscent of the banking scandals that brought about the financial crash in 2008 and more recently the financial scandals of our Canadian Senators and other politicians.

We follow numerous characters through the three volumes, a number of them are removed in various ways by the end of the third volume where the possibility of a newer more positive way of life opens up for the main character.

Each book has its chapters set into about four sections, introduced by a lead page, with a half or full-page statement. This at first puzzled me, but then the realization came that this sets the theme for the book and section.

"The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo" is about the oppression and misuse of women; the quotes used are statistics from Swedish records which list the number of rapes and assaults against women in Sweden. This reminded me of our problems in Canada with the First Nations women on the Highway of Tears (#16, the Yellow Head) and other issues in the not-too-distant past.

"The Girl who Played with Fire" has introductions to each section which were at first a surprise as they are concerned with mathematical equations and Fermat's Equation in particular. Perhaps someone else who has read the book can enlighten me about the relevance of mathematics in this volume other than the possibility of computer geekiness.

"The Girl who Kicked the Hornet's Nest" has introductions about the history of the Amazon myth and women who were leaders, soldiers and warriors. Needless to say these three volumes all contain many examples of strong capable women.

At the back of this third volume was an advertisement for another Stieg Larsson book, "The Expo Files." Which showed me why he wrote his trilogy in the way he did and I quote, "As a professional journalist, Stieg Larsson, author of the best selling "Millenium Trilogy," was an untiring crusader for democracy and equality. Now you can read Stieg Larsson's essays and articles in "The Expo Files." Discover the issues - right-wing extremism, violence against women, homophobia and honour killings - that were closest to his heart, and to which he devoted his life."

These three books were for me a gripping read and hard to put down. I highly recommend them to you all.

Alan Dawson.



Peace and Justice in Palestine and Israel

As part of Christine Johnson's Peace and Justice in Palestine and Israel a second movie will be screened. Here is part of her email invited Capital-ists to join her...

at First Unitarian Church of Victoria (5575 West Saanich Road) on FRIDAY Nov 14 after the community dinner there.

Everyone is invited to join the community dinner which begins at 6pm. One can donate money for the main course; and bring salad and dessert for the pot luck.

The screening will begin at 7 pm in Lion Hall. We will show one of the DVDs prepared by the US Presbyterian church which I hear are of top quality.

Ryan Kinrade kindly made copies of the Anna Baltzer DVD (information following) if any of you wish to borrow one.

The US Presbyterians (usually a traditional denomination) voted to divest of goods made in the Palestinian West Bank to profit Israeli companies. Before doing that their congregations educated themselves on the issues and these tapes were part of this process. We heard some Evangelicals also did this so it is not just liberal denominations that are waking up.

RSVP

Cheers, Christine christine_johnston@telus.net or 250-385-5444

Peace and Justice in Palestine and Israel
(Joint with First)

RSVP

"WITNESS IN PALESTINE" DVD by Anna Baltzer

Since 2003 Anna has spent time in the occupied territories documenting the everyday life of Palestinians. An American Jewish girl who had taken the "BirthRight" trip as a student to learn about Israel, thinking all was well in this peace-loving country. She then taught on a Fulbright grant in Ankara. Later her travels in the Middle East showed a very different reality to the "BirthRight" experience. She has spoken across the United States about the American aid to Israel. Her DVD on her experiences is a gently spoken description of real everyday life in the occupied territories, with the frequent query "how would you feel if this was your situation?" Her website is A Witness in Palestine.