



Capital Unitarian Universalist Congregation

The Capital Letter

VICTORIA, BC

2014



TRC Chalice - CUC website

In this season where light and dark balance the day, we seek balance for ourselves.

Grateful for the darkness that has nourished us, we push away the stone and invite the light to awaken us to the possibilities within us and among us - possibilities for new life in ourselves and in our world.

-- Sara Campbell
in Singing the Living Tradition
#628

Sunday Services in April

April 6th Dana Seaborn "That Inescapable Network: a UU principle."

D L Seaborn will share a sermon (by Rev Rod Richards) that she enjoyed while visiting the Unitarian Universalist Church of San Luis Obispo.

Children's Program



April 13th Peter Scales "The Flaming Chalice" and Sharing Our Faith Sunday.

Unitarian and UU congregations around the world use the image of a lit chalice as a symbol of the religion. UU services and many UU meetings feature a chalice. Why do we do that?

Also, once a year Unitarian congregations in Canada are asked to contribute to the national Sharing Our Faith fund, which gives grants for special UU projects. Please bring a cheque.

Children's Program



April 20th Amanda Tarling "Our Second Unitarian Principle."

Following on from our first Principle the second Principle states: "Justice, equity, and compassion in human relations". Let's get to the bottom of what justice and equity really mean. Being a part of a religious community provides a platform and an opportunity for us to deepen compassion. Do we take this opportunity? How do we live this second principle every day?

Children's Program



April 27th Matt Morrison "Role and Power of Connection in Building a Movement" "To create the systems we envision, beyond the reaches of oppression and inequity, we must look to ourselves, those around us, and the earth which sustains us to find meaning, inspiration and power.

Looking into ourselves, looking into our communities, and truly breaking down the structures of violence and appropriation, we find the role and power of connection. I'll share my experience on how building community focused on food security has helped me discover this role, and taught me the power of connection."

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.



On Board

Palestine and Israel were the focus of our service on Sunday, March 23, with four visiting speakers giving us their views on the history, current situation and possible actions. On Friday, May 16th in Montreal, at our national annual general meeting, Canadian Unitarians will vote on a resolution to establish a study group related to peace and justice in Israel and Palestine. Capital's delegates to that AGM need to know how we want them to vote. The text of the resolution has been on our bulletin board at the coffee time during the last few Sunday services. The text is also available at http://cuc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2012/02/HumanRightsInPalestineIsrael_ProposedResolution.May143.pdf. I encourage you to read and understand what the resolution says. Soon I will send a 'call to meeting' for a congregational general meeting, to discuss and share opinions and then to give direction to our delegates. This is one way that we work toward the Unitarian principle of 'the use of the democratic process' in congregational matters.

On a more cheerful note, we are happy to see the children back with us on Sunday mornings after their 9-week Our Whole Lives (OWL) program at First Unitarian Church. They learned a lot about healthy decision-making in intimate relationships, and were given tools that will help them and others to be safer.

Each month via 'Capital Connects' our congregation donates 20 percent of the cash in the offertory basket to a different charity or social justice organization. The amounts may seem small but Capital Connects allows us to highlight the work of people who are engaged in work that we feel is valuable. For the month of April, the Capital Connects money will go to the CUC Sharing Our Faith fund, which helps Unitarian-Universalist congregations to kick-start projects. See a description of Sharing Our Faith, elsewhere in this newsletter.

Three interesting bits of news from First Unitarian Church: first, Rev. Shana has been accepted into part-time service within the chaplaincy program at UVic! It has been many years since Unitarian-Universalism was officially part of the multifaith chaplaincy at the university, and I think it's great to see 'us' back in that office. Rev. Shana's duties will make her available to the 20,800 students, 900 faculty and 4,200 employees of UVic.

Second, First Unitarian is planning to conduct special evening services at UVic, likely with a 'jazz vespers' feel. These services will be open to CUUC folks as well as to newcomers. I look forward to learning more about this and sharing the news with you!

Third, last month the congregation at 5575 West Saanich Road held two well-attended discussions about their name. Led by Rev. Melora they discussed the history, meaning and relevance of the words 'First', 'Unitarian', 'Church', and 'Victoria'. Stay tuned for possible changes at our sister congregation.

One of the best things about Capital is our tradition of potluck dinners. I don't know if anyone has an Easter or Pass-over or spring potluck planned but if you are thinking of such an event in April or early May, let me know so I can let everyone else know!

For the board,

Peter

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PROPOSED RESOLUTION: Human Rights in Palestine and Israel
Therefore it be resolved that:

1. The CUC establish a Study Group - Human Rights in Palestine and Israel - to assemble information and resources to enable congregational study about the history of the conflict in Palestine and Israel, and the present conditions which prevail in the state of Israel including the occupied territories of Gaza and the West Bank.



Birthdays in April

April 10 Jan Greenwood
April 29 Phil Kasten



celebrate community **April 25 + 26**
 Friday, April 25th* 7 pm (indoors)
FREE EVENTS: Saturday, April 26th noon - 6:30 pm (outdoors) rain or shine!
 Earth Walk arrives 1 pm + opening ceremonies
 Dinner Vert* An Enchanted Garden Dinner Party Saturday, 6 pm
 Documentary Film* Saturday, 6:30 pm

live music • dj's • films
 food • art-making displays • talks
 photography • fun dancing + more!

A FREE, fun-filled all-ages festival!

World-Class Speakers & Performers including:
 Robert Bateman
 Elizabeth May
 Nick Bantock
 Daniel Lapp
 Murray Rankin
 Garth Lenz (National Geographic)
 *Tickets required for some events & dinner

St. Ann's Academy
 835 Humboldt St.
 Victoria, BC
 wheelchair accessible
 costumes welcome!

Logos: CTV, VICTORIA, tictalking, Vancity, Shaw, Island Parent, The Third Annual creatively united FESTIVAL, FOCUS, LIFESTYLE MARKETS, MAXIMO, PROMMAGING, BC hydro, Reliable, Island Parent, TUGWELL CREEK, VICTORIA, LUSH VEGAN, spinnakers

Dinner Vert
 An Enchanted Garden Dinner Party

April 26, 2014
 6-8:30 pm
 The Novitiate Gardens (St. Ann's)
 Theme: Green ~ Dress: Fun

An Intimate Experience
 Enjoy locally-sourced sumptuous food, drink, art and fabulous live music/entertainment in a private garden setting. Featuring: The Merry McKentys, silent auction, contra dancing & much more!
 Special gifts for all guests

Logos: TUGWELL CREEK, VICTORIA, LUSH VEGAN, spinnakers

Connect • Collaborate • Create • Celebrate Community

April 25+26, St. Ann's Academy, 835 Humboldt St, Victoria

Monday, April 7: (11:30-1:15 pm): Join Creatively United and Vancouver Island Green Scene for a custom tour of the Bateman Centre. Enjoy a catered lunch, networking and be among the first to learn about some exciting new ways to build community and make connections.

Pre-registration required: \$20 members; \$25 non-members (includes gallery admission). [RSVP](#) by noon, April 4th.

Friday, April 25 (7-9:30 pm) and Saturday, April 26 (noon-8:30 pm):

Did you know one of the most unique, FREE all-ages community events in Canada is held at St. Ann's Academy in Victoria during Earth Week?

More than 5000 people attended the Creatively United for the Planet Festival last year. Our amazing and committed volunteer team makes the festival possible, and we think we're putting together a pretty awesome event for this year. Come take in the music, art and art-making, documentary films, exhibitors from the non-profit and values-based business sectors, food, silent auctions and more!

Check out our full program, which includes amazing speakers, a Friday night concert of iconic songs, a Saturday Enchanted Garden Dinner Party with live fiddle music and contra dancing, fascinating displays and conversations: www.creativelyunitedfortheplanet.org/festival.

Greater Victoria Citizens Counselling is now taking applications for the next training program for volunteer counsellors, starting in September, 2014. They are particularly interested in older volunteers with life experience. For more information, please talk to Sara Comish or visit the website citizenscounselling.com



CUC ACM - Montreal May 16th - 18th 2014

ACM 2014

“Building Beloved CommUunities: Sacred Spaces Beyond Walls”

Friday, May 16 – Sunday, May 18

Co-hosted by the [Unitarian Church of Montreal](#) with the CUC, the ACM will be held at the [Sheraton Montreal Airport Hotel](#). While the hotel is some distance from downtown Montreal, it is close to the airport and offers a cost-effective site for the ACM.

This year's [keynote address](#) will be given by [Rev. Meg Riley](#) at the opening of our Annual Conference and Meeting (ACM) Friday, May 16 at 6:30pm. Saturday and Sunday are packed with an exciting offering of workshops, meals, awards, celebrations, lectures and much more. [Click here](#) for a detailed schedule of events.

ACM 2014 will build on 2013's theme of “Diversity: Creating A Shared Understanding.” Expanding from Rev. Shawn Newton's Confluence Lecture (*The Risks of Relevance*) and Rev. Mark Morrison-Reed's Keynote address (*Radical Inclusion*), ACM 2014 will take us into an exploration of how we expand our UU community beyond congregational walls, how we remain relevant into the future, and being radically inclusive.

The [Annual General Meeting](#) will be held on Friday, May 16, 2014, preceded by the [Resolutions Plenary](#) on Thursday evening, May 15.





Lectures - Centre for Studies in Religion and Society

CSRS Public Lecture Series -

The Literary Response to the Conservative Christian Resurgence in America

Christopher Douglas, Associate Professor, Department of English, UVic

In this presentation Christopher Douglas considers the ways religiously-themed literature, written over the past 40 years during the rise of the Religious Right, has responded to religious change in the United States. Frequently insightful and often critical, a wide range of novelists directed their literary attention to this social and political transformation, including Cormac McCarthy, Thomas Pynchon, Marilynne Robinson, Philip Roth, Barbara Kingsolver, Carl Sagan and Dan Brown.

Christopher Douglas is an Associate Professor of English at the University of Victoria. He teaches contemporary American fiction, and his current research project is titled *If God Meant to Interfere: American Fiction during the Conservative Christian Resurgence*.

Related Website <http://www.csrs.uvic.ca>

Location DAVID STRONG BUILDING
C122

Times 16:30:00 to 17:30:00

Pricing

This lecture is free and open to the public.

CSRS Public Lecture Series

How do we Experience Religious Diversity?

Valérie Amiraux, Department of Sociology, University of Montreal

In North America and in Europe, the question of which religious symbols are tolerated, regulated or forbidden in public spaces provokes debate. In this talk Valérie Amiraux will discuss the legal, administrative, aesthetic and emotional dimensions of the debate about the visual presence of religions in public urban contexts. Amiraux will examine the question “Can we be fair to religious diversity in our cities?” through the moral and ethical lens of “spatial justice”.

Valérie Amiraux is a full professor in the department of Sociology at the Université de Montréal and holds the Canada Research Chair in Religious Pluralism. She has held positions at the Centre Marc Bloch (Berlin), the Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies (Florence, Italy) and at CNRS-CURAPP (Université Jules Verne Picardie). Her current research focuses on the legal regulation of conflicts caused by religious pluralism as well as ethnographic explorations of the relationship between pluralism and radicalization within urban contexts.

Related Website <http://www.csrs.uvic.ca>

Location Legacy Gallery, 630 Yates Street

Times 19:30:00 to 21:00:00

Pricing

This lecture is co-sponsored by UVic's Committee for Urban Studies as part of The City Talks lecture series.

This lecture is also part of, and co-sponsored by, The John Albert Hall Lecture Series.



CUC Expression of Reconciliation

The Canadian Unitarian Council and the UU Ministers of Canada stand in solidarity with our Aboriginal brothers and sisters, and commit to the journey of healing and reconciliation between Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal people. On Saturday, March 29th, 2014, the CUC and UUMOC presented an Expression of Reconciliation to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) at the Final National event in Edmonton. Rev. Meg Roberts (UU Ministers of Canada representative) and Gary Groot (President of CUC Board of Trustees) offered the expression to the TRC, together with the gift of a chalice.

The text is reproduced below and at <http://cuc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/CUC-Expression-of-Reconciliation.pdf>. The CUC notes that it uses the term 'Aboriginal people' in this case to include First Nation, Indian, Métis, and Inuit peoples, and 'non-aboriginal people' to include people from cultural backgrounds other than these.

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We, the Canadian Unitarian Council and the Unitarian Universalist Ministers of Canada, commit to the journey of healing and reconciliation between Canadian Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal people.

Today, as we acknowledge and accept our responsibility for truth-telling, healing and reconciliation, we commit to these specific steps to advance that journey:

- 1) To assemble and promote educational materials for our congregations regarding the history and impact of the Indian Residential School system.
- 2) To create and promote a new program for congregations about racial equity and intercultural competency.
- 3) To continue to encourage our congregations and their members to learn more about the richness of Aboriginal spirituality and cultures, working together to advance the struggle for justice for Aboriginal people.

To further express our understanding and commitment to change, we offer the following acknowledgement that the principles which Unitarian Universalists affirm were transgressed in the Canadian Indian Residential School system and by government legislation.

- The inherent worth and dignity of every person. This was denied when you were forced to relinquish your cultural identities and denied the nurturance of your families and communities.
- We affirm justice, equity, and compassion in human relations. These were violated when parents were forced to give up their children to a school system where so many children were emotionally, physically and sexually abused.
- We seek to accept one another and encourage each other's spiritual growth. This was disallowed when your spiritual practices were outlawed and another religious tradition imposed upon you.
- We support a free and responsible search for truth and meaning. Although many children received basic education, they were also used for manual labour, living in unsanitary conditions, leading to thousands of deaths from tuberculosis and other contagious diseases.
- We promote the right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large. The mere imposition of this school system was a clear violation of the use of any democratic process.
- We affirm the goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all. How could this be achieved when government legislation revoked the basic rights of Aboriginal people to govern themselves?
- We respect the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part. This principle is integral to Aboriginal cultures. Not only did non-aboriginals lose an opportunity to learn from your culture, this understanding was all but eradicated from your children's way of life by this school system.

We must learn from these travesties, as well as from the strength, courage, honesty, resilience and success of those who survived the Indian Residential School system. We have asked our congregations across Canada to read this statement. We want you to know we walk with you. Finally, we offer this chalice, a symbol of Unitarianism, as a gift. May it light our way to truth, offer its warmth in our healing, and may its fire strengthen our commitment to the process of reconciliation.