



# Capital Unitarian Universalist Congregation

## *The Capital Letter*

VOLUME 9, ISSUE # 15

VICTORIA, BC

July/August 2005

### CHILDREN'S PROGRAM

The Myths for the month of July will be of West Asia.

The Myths for the month of August will be of East Asia.

Myths are a gateway to feeling and understanding of another culture's religion.

Can you let Samantha know if a regular child is not coming or if a newish child is coming. This will help to make the program more rewarding. 380-3510

### ADULT PROGRAM

#### **July 3rd Rev Alan Merson "UU Pride"**

It's Pride Parade day and Alan will portray the long and sometimes tortuous history of Unitarian involvement with the gay and lesbian community; from official neglect to embrace. (The Congregation is invited to wear rainbow clothing.)

#### **July 10th Rev Hanna Wells "The Case for Medical Marijuana: A Human Rights Issue"**

Marijuana is a recreational drug that has also helped thousands of people regain an acceptable quality of life in illness. However, medical marijuana quickly becomes a moral issue. All of us know someone who faces a health crisis, and as such this issue touches us all.

#### **July 17th Rev Dana Reynolds "Reverence: Its Meaning for Our Lives"**

Is reverence an obsolete value? Let's learn together the importance of this uncommon but vital human virtue.

#### **July 24th Michael McAmmond "The great flood; myth or reality?"**

By looking into the past through the eyes of history and science, can we see truth? (Annual CUUC Picnic in Beacon Hill Park)

#### **July 31st Juliana & Douglas McCorison "The Lammas Ritual"**

Lammas is the beginning of the harvest season, a "start" of the end, which will lead to a new beginning. We celebrate the circle of life, transformations leading to rebirth.

### ADULT PROGRAM

#### **August 7th Rev Alan Merson "Modern Prophets: Paul Tillich"**

Perhaps the most penetrating religious thinker of the past hundred years, two of his phrases have entered the popular lexicon: "ultimate concern" and "ground of being". How does this great man's thinking relate to UUism?

#### **August 14th Elizabeth Atchison "Reverence: A Humanist Perspective"**

The definition of reverence - "an attitude of profound respect arising from sensations of awe and wonder at the indescribable greatness of the object of that respect". What is respect and how do we choose what is most near and dear to our hearts?

#### **August 21st Max Zahir "Atheism and Theism"**

Recent interest in theism, even amongst some members of the scientific community, has renewed interest in this ancient controversy. What is it all about?

#### **August 28th Denise Wrathall "The Bright Lights of Social Change"**

Denise Wrathall of USC Canada (Unitarian Service Committee) will talk about Unitarians who are changing the world for the better in Nepal, Bangladesh and Canada. USC Canada is an international development organization that works in partnership with local people to build healthy and just communities.

Sunday Services are held at 10:00 am every Sunday, in James Bay New Horizons Centre, 234 Menzies St., Victoria, BC. Refreshments, coffee, tea, cookies and conversation follow at 11:00 am and a children's program is provided. **Every one is welcome!**

### HARMONY LINES

Now & Then Choir: We look forward to preparing a piece to spice up a service in August.

Community Music on Monday: The concerts will be held again in September, the last Monday of the month. Look for more detail in September.



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Future events:

Future events (continued)

### **CONFLICT MANAGEMENT**

John Slattery from CUC will be leading this workshop on September 24th, 2005. Again, we hope that Board Members, Committee Members, Staff and Members of the Congregation will attend.

### **REMEMBER WATER FOR HOMECOMING**

We will be having a Homecoming service on September 11 and will be including the Unitarian Universalist practice of a Water Communion. On your travels this summer, collect small quantities of water to bring home to add to the communal basin as you share with us where you have been. As the speaker for that day, I ask that during your travels you reflect on the question "When are we truly home?" At what point in your life did you arrive "home". What did you have to overcome to get there. Did it take you years, like Odysseus? Or have you always had a sense that you were where you belonged? These are the questions we will look at in the forum. Bon voyage!

Michelle Poirier

### **Solos Programmes in July**

July 9 -- The group will celebrate summer with a picnic a week later than the usual 1st Saturday of the month. We will meet in the Beacon Hill Park at 4 p.m. Enter at Arbutus Way (Opposite the foot of Quadra). Travel to the first parking area on your left marked plainly Arbutus Parking. Picnic tables are nearby. As always it will be a potluck, but please bring your own drinks. If the weather is inclement, we are invited to Nancy McMurchy's at 151 St. Andrew, Ste. 419, at 4 p.m. for the potluck and games.

July 23 -- Back to James Bay United Church, Menzies at Michigan, at 6 p.m. for a potluck supper at 6:45. Drinks will be provided as usual. All are invited to 7:45 presentation.

Gord Hutchings, Entomology student who has spent three summers in the field of Saskatchewan's Athabaska Sand Dunes Park, his topic "The Wildlife on a Vast Sand Dune, Canada's temperate Sahara."

Kathleen I Lewis

### **FAMILY CHURCH PICNIC**

Sunday, 24 July at 4 p.m.

In Beacon Hill Park

FOOD, FUN, FRIENDSHIP

We will try to get a table near the children's playground. Entrance to the parking lot is from Southgate. Please bring folding chairs and any games you like to play.

### **ARCHIVES**

Marilyn Kan is taking over the Archives from Lien Patel from July 1, 2005.

Please submit items which could be of Historical interest Such as photos, biographies, special events or changes in the structure of the congregation, to Marilyn Kan.

### **BIRTHDAYS**

#### **July:**

18th Felice Larsen

22nd Rex Thomson

#### **August:**

9th Victoria Forsch

28th Ted Harrison

30th Shurly Mazerolle

30th Juliana McCorison

### **CUC FALL GATHERING: BC REGION**

November 5, 6, 7, 2005 West Vancouver, BC

Info: Sara McEwan [sara@cuc.ca](mailto:sara@cuc.ca)

See July/August #1 in the Silver Folder for more details ([www.cuc.ca/CUC\\_calendar.html](http://www.cuc.ca/CUC_calendar.html))



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Announcements:

Announcements (Continued):

### **OUR OWN ANNOUNCEMENTS**

All announcements will now be at the beginning of the Service. If you have an announcement to give, please give it in writing to the Board Member on Duty that Sunday A.M. Then the copy of the announcement will be put on the back table.

### **UNITARIANS UNITE**

An overview of the recent gathering at Hamilton. Comments are made regarding UU's spiritual history, comments by Brian Kiely, and our activity over time.

See July/August item #4 in the Silver Folder for complete article. (The Hamilton Spectator Sat. May 21/05)

### **UNITARIANS COULD FILL A VACUUM**

This is the title of an article by Tom Harpur of the Toronto Star. He makes a case for UU's as they are positioned to borrow the best of the world's faith traditions. He contends that many Canadians are longing for a spiritual home. See item July/August #3 in the Silver Folder for the complete article. (Toronto Star, Saturday May 21/05)

### **FROM CAPITAL'S SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY COMMITTEE**

Please visit the following website to offer support for Gays and Lesbians to marry, it is [www.equal-marriage.ca](http://www.equal-marriage.ca) the site is "Canadian for Equal Marriage" and you are offered a link to send your thoughts on Equal Marriage directly to the Prime Minister.

### **FALL FOLIAGE WEEKEND IN VERMONT OCTOBER 14-16, 2005**

11th Annual Event sponsored by The UU Church of Rutland, VT. Enjoy Vermont Fall, select from a wide range of tours and activities guided by UU hosts, stay in the home of a church member, all meals provided. For more info. Call 802-293-2510 e-mail [uufoliagevermont@yahoo.com](mailto:uufoliagevermont@yahoo.com)

### **COMPASSIONATE ANNOUNCEMENT**

For any low income members and friends, the MSP premium assistance is increasing. Here are the new rates:-

\$20,000 = 100 percent subsidy  
\$22,000 = 80 percent subsidy  
\$24,000 = 60 percent subsidy  
\$26,000 = 40 percent subsidy  
\$28,000 = 20 percent subsidy

Patricia Grinstead, Board Member, Chair S.R. Committee

### **RE: TED HARRISON**

In my recent copy of U. of Alberta alumni magazine listed were group of grads who were honoured recently at the University Spring Convocation.

Hilited was Ted Harrison who received an Honorary Doctor of Laws with the following write up.

Edward Ted Harrison 77 BEd from U of Alta - known for his colourful depictions of the land and people of the Yukon, will receive an Honorary Doctor of Laws on 9 June. His artwork is found in numerous private & public collections throughout the world, and he is also An internationally recognized author & illustrator of children's books. In 1987 Harrison was awarded the Order of Canada for his contribution to Canadian culture.

Alastair Mont

### **DIALOGUE THAT PROMOTES HEALING**

Find our if you missed a good thing (or not) by checking with our members (13) who attended Saturday workshop(s) where some saw dialogue to be a step above conversation. Attending were Mary C, Shurly M, Rustom P, Lien P, Anna I, Robert M, Barbara S, Amanda T, Lena T, John P, Muriel B, Mavis B, Michelle P.

July/August #2 in Silver Folder for more information. Ed Butterworth- facilitator



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### CONFLICT AS A WAY TO GROW

Good working relationships are not defined by an absence of conflict: rather, conflict is an element of all relationships. How it is addressed and resolved is what builds trust. In effective partnerships, conflict is anticipated and proactively managed in a variety of ways to ensure the conflict is an opportunity for relationships to grow. (Fraser Basin Council, 2000, p.1)

July/August # 11 in Silver Folder for complete article

### JUST IN CASE

Just in case you have the time and inclination for information

- about Chalice Lighting see July/August Item #5 in the Silver Folder. (May 05 issue of the Chalice Lighter)

-or the address for the full copy of the Unitarian "Jihad" July/August Item # 6 in the Silver Folder. (<http://sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi>)

-or Mary Bennett's update on Same Sex Marriage, July/August Item # 7 in the Silver Folder. ([mary@cuc.ca](mailto:mary@cuc.ca))

-or our UU activities at the United Nations, July/August Item #8 in the Silver Folder. ([www.uu-uno.org](http://www.uu-uno.org))

-preserving the Nuclear Weapons Treaty, July/August Item #9 in the Silver Folder. ([www.cuc-bc-social-responsibility@yahoogroups.com](mailto:www.cuc-bc-social-responsibility@yahoogroups.com))

-or reading "Tye" with articles that empower, July/August Item #10 in the Silver Folder. ([www.thetye.ca](http://www.thetye.ca))

### A FIERCE UNREST

"A Fierce Unrest" is the title of an address by Leaf Seligman, the minister of the Unitarian Fellowship of London, about abortion. He makes a case for us living our questions of the ethical complexities, the political and economic realities so that we can make informed choices.

See the Silver folder, July/August #12 for the complete article.

### DR. HENRY MORGENTALER

On June 16, 2005, the University of Western Ontario, granted Dr. Henry Morgentaler an honorary degree. This decision has resulted in strong opposition from those who oppose the Pro-Choice position. In response to this, members of the London Unitarian congregation have begun a scholarship fund, in Dr. Morgentaler's name. Once the amount in the fund reaches \$25,000, scholarships will be granted, and Dr. Morgentaler's work will receive the honour it deserves.

Donations, \*directed to the Morgentaler Scholarship\* can be made to, The University of Western Ontario. A tax receipt will be issued for any contribution of \$10.00 or more. You can direct your payment to:

Development Office  
Rm, 101, Alumni Hall  
The University of Western Ontario  
London, ON N6A 5B8

If you prefer, you can also make your gift on line at <http://www.givingtowestern.uwo.ca/makegift/online.htm> or call (519) 661-3836 directing your donation to the Morgentaler Scholarship.

### ECCO NEWS FOR MAY (#149)

The editorial this month is "A tale of two Elections". The Ecco.Corner invites similar people to action locally.

There are web contacts (global) and a list of "greenish and sustainable" local activities day by day for the next four weeks in the latest issues.

Contact: Guy Dauncey at [Earthfuture.com](http://Earthfuture.com)

See Silver Folder July/August #13.

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Newsflash:

Today (June 27) Konnae informed us that Maggie had died. Someone pointed out that visitors might not know who Maggie was. Konnae answered "Maggie was a person in the shape of a dog".



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### From Christine Johnson (First Church of Victoria)

The Social Responsibility stream for the Regional Gathering in the Fall will need to present significant issues. Can you pass on to Christine any suggestions in areas such as STV, Democracy Resolutions, our present relationship with American UU'S or what have you.  
christine-johnson@telus.net

### GLOBAL CHALICE LIGHTING FOR JULY 2005

All congregations are asked to submit brief chalice lighting readings. Every month, a chalice lighting reading will be distributed to Unitarian and Universalist congregations around the world. We ask each congregation to use the reading distributed for at least one worship service in the designated month, identifying it as the "Global Chalice Lighting" for that month and naming the group which submitted it.

It is hoped that the ICUU Global Chalice Lighting Project will enhance the worship experience in our congregations and raise awareness of the international dimensions of our religious movement.

E-mail: paola@cuc.ca, www.cuc.ca, phone: 1-888-568-5723.

### WOMEN'S RETREAT IN NANAIMO

The 8th Van. Isl. Women's Retreat will be held Oct. 28-30, 2005 at Bethlehem Retreat Centre in Nanaimo, BC.

The main workshop will be presented by Connie Fey entitled "Creative Play". The cost for the weekend is \$160.00 if registered before Sept. 15th, \$170.00 Sept. 15th - Oct. 15th. For further information &/or registration email or phone Janice Hocking after June 20th @ tjhocking@shaw.ca or 250-390-1332.

### BOARD NOTES

A Board dilemma, no one to take on the position of Chair. Thus Shurly has agreed to stay on until May 2006. Our Finances are in good shape. Watch for more information regarding our welcome of Jen, our Student Minister. Our speaker Harold Foster kindly donated \$50.00 to the Mengo Hospital in our name. We are sending the 2.5% of unidentified donations to the Open Door this year. Mavis will be looking after the volunteers of counters. Pat is continuing to do a great job with the literature table. Info. on the Dialogue Workshop and Soc. Resp. can be found elsewhere. Kim, our P. A., has renewed his contract with us for another year. Braille books are in and will be available at the next service.

Marilyn K is taking over the archives from Lien P. and Konnae H. is taking over the bookings of events from Lien. Lien had done a great job for years

Our next meeting is Mon. July 18<sup>th</sup>, 6-8 pm, JBNH. Shurly M. Chair.

Pre-Christmas

### Gifts to Sustain a Living Planet:

- a sack of wild flower plants to sprinkle in the spring
- cloth napkins, to prevent the disposable alternative
- a pot of kitchen herbs
- a cake made from purchased bulk organic ingredients.
- a tour of a local wilderness area.
- a gift of time to an elderly or disabled person
- gifts from a used book, clothing or furniture store

For Children

- musical instruments from third world countries
- used toys that may require a little of your love in touching up
- homemade bean bags

Just thinking of what you might or can do can be a worthwhile and pleasant exercise.

### LETTER FROM A NEWCOMER

Hello! I'm a newcomer to your church. You can't know the reasons why I'm here this morning; it might be as simple as a move to your community, or as complicated as a personal crisis that leads me to seek strength through a spiritual community. In either case, I'm here and there's a good chance I might return if you welcome me in the following ways:

**Smile at me.** You are my first impression of your church during the first few moments that I am in your building, and this first impression will probably stay with me for a long time.

**Speak to me.** I know that you want to see your friends and talk about the latest things that have happened during the past week. However, I find it hard to believe that you truly care for each other unless I see evidence that you also care for the "stranger in your midst".

**Tell me the good things about your church and minister.** I want to believe I have come to a good place where people love each other and where they believe that they are doing something exciting and which gives meaning to life.

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Letter from a Newcomer (continued)

**Notice me even if I'm not "family".** I don't want to feel invisible just because I'm unmarried, a teenager, an older person, a single parent, or have come with my nontraditional partner.

**Talk to me again the second week, and the third and fourth.** I am still not part of your church family. It may take me a while to decide to join your church. Please don't feel you've "done your duty" because you greeted me the first week I was there.

**Introduce me to others.** I will come back, maybe forever. And I will invite my friends. I will worship with you, work at dinners and other activities, teach religious education, make financial contributions and become a committed member of your - now possibly my - church.

**In doing so, my life will be greatly enhanced and maybe yours will be also.**

Reprinted from other Congregations.

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### **NEWS FROM: A friend of mine**

I wanted to let you know about Independent World Television, a plan to build the world's first global independent news network - without funding from governments, corporations or advertising. Check out their sample video and tell them what you think [www..IWTnews.com](http://www.IWTnews.com).

### **NEWS FROM: Another Friend**

Mike Nickerson is an advocate of the 7th Generation Initiative. He is promoting acceptance of Bill C-268 (Federal) which is known as: Canada Well-Being Act.

There are 3 major facts to the Act:

- \*How we measure well-being
- \*Problems that arise from only counting economic expansion.
- \*Ways to augment our measuring system to guide us more directly toward well-being

The booklet shows the possibility of citizens coming together to cooperate sharing their natural gifts with the gifts of nature.

See July/August #14 in the Silver Folder

### **News from a Friend of Yours:**

This is my last edition where I will be the Capital Letter editor. The reason for this change is my plan for a new lifestyle.

In brief, I have enjoyed it. It has been a treat to be a member of the team.

The team consists of Peter Weis who is webmaster and electronic father of the operation, Amanda who generally organizes and connects us all, Jill, chair of the publicity committee who provides overall direction, Audrey Woodward and Lien Patel who proof read and see that the hard copies are printed and properly distributed, Juliana who sees to the proper distribution of the email copies and all of you readers which makes the effort meaningful.

Consider a once only contribution such as a short biographical of yourself. Perhaps a seasonal greeting from another culture. It is possible to start a column such as collecting travel tips from members of the congregation.

Of course you have to find out what is fun for you.

Thanks for the opportunity to be of service.

Regards from Robert Mazerolle

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### **FRIENDSHIP COMMITTEE**

We will need 2 more kitchen helpers starting in July, as Adreanne and Emma will have finished their volunteering term for their school year by then. We are very sorry to see these two extremely efficient young ladies leave us. Their young fresh faces were a wonderful break from us oldies. A male volunteer would be a great attraction behind the counter.

Good luck to you, Adreanne and Emma, we'll miss you. Our heart felt thanks for your great work, well done.

Lena T. And the rest of our Committee.