



Capital Unitarian Universalist Congregation

The Capital Letter

VOLUME 9, ISSUE # 14

VICTORIA, BC

June 2005

CHILDREN'S PROGRAM

In May the program was Celtic Myths. This month the children will look at a variety of Nordic Myths.

For those of you that have read of the importance of myths in our own culture you will readily see the reasons for our children to study these myths and relate them to our principles. Myths help to supply a culture the beginnings of an answer to the important questions such as: 'Why are we here, who are we, what can become of us?'

June 5th, 12th, 19th, 26th, - Myths of the Nordic Land

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

FORUM

After refreshments join us, if you wish, visitors & all, for a lively discussion of whatever moves, concerns, and inspires you.

SOLOS PROGRAM

The group meets at James Bay United Church, Menzies at Michigan, at 6 p.m. for a potluck supper at 6:45 All are invited to the 7:45 presentation. Suggested \$2.50 for hall rental, \$1.00 for presentation.

June 4, Saturday

Skip McCarthy, a member of our First Unitarian Congregation who entered Canada during the Vietnam war, will speak to us on, Gimme Shelter -- Canadian Support of American War Resisters -- Then & Now

June 18, Saturday

Daphne Goode, Program Director, Shaw T.V., will talk on Fascinating People Are Everywhere. This programme had to be deferred due to Mary Winstone's death and we are grateful that Daphne has agreed to reschedule it.

ADULT PROGRAM

June 5th Rev Alan Merson "Modern Prophets: Karl Polanyi, social anthropologist and economic historian" Delve into the world of this extraordinary thinker and his famous book "The Great Transformation".

June 12th Rev Jane Bramadat "What Truly Matters in Life". Jane will talk about her own thought processes and experiences in making the long, still-underway climb out of homophobia. Starting from the assumption that those of us who grew up in Canada grew up homophobic...all of us...

June 19th Betty Krawzyk "The Spiritual Side of Civil Disobedience". When all else fails we can embrace civil disobedience as a way for our voices to be heard. This method of protest has already affected the way the courts in BC work. Does going to prison for your beliefs further them?

June 26th Ben Dolf "My truth is better than your truth". A guide to coping with competing claims to truth.

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

HARMONY LINES

Now & Then Choir: We were pleased with our rendition "Candlelight Carol" by Audrey Snyder. We look forward to preparing another piece to spice up a service in August.

Community Music on Monday: June 6th is the last concert until Sept., so come and join us. Starting in Sept. we hope to have the concerts on the 2nd Mon., so stay tuned. Thanks to all volunteers for this wonderful musical program.



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Review of our 2005 Annual General Meeting

The reports of all the 14 committees were discussed and accepted with total support from those present. (Changes noted) (Everyone received copies earlier)

With new business and questions from the 21 members who were present, the meeting was still completed by 1 p.m. Is that a Record?

The two outgoing Board Members, Shurly M. and Rustom P. were applauded and presented with exotic Flowers.

The two new Board Members, John P. And Peter S. ,were voted in with a consensus of endorsement. This latter has the meaning that the congregation members will give them time and treasure (if the request is reasonable of course).

A new Nomination Committee was formed: Alan D., Mary C. and Lena T. This committee was endorsed.

Under new business it was noted that Membership (speak to Victoria), Adult Religious Education (speak to Mary), Friendship (speak to Doreen), Music (speak to Elizabeth) and Archives (speak to Lien) are interested in you. There are many interesting jobs to be done arranged to your specifications and these committees need your help. Consider: You make a living by what you can get. You make a life by what you give.

Past event:

UKRAINIAN CULTURAL CELEBRATION

This was a great success I've had great feed-back from many of you.

We were pleased to have raised just over \$500.00 for our Children's Religious Education.

I'd like to say that it couldn't have happened without many of you who pitched in and helped with setup, cleanup, and just being there to take part in the event.

Making cabbage rolls on three different occasions was a highlight in my opinion. It gave us an opportunity to share our stories and learn more about each other. I call it "an intimate way of making cabbage rolls". Thanks to all of you!

Victoria

Future events:

DIALOGUE WORKSHOP

Look for this workshop that will be happening on two non-consecutive Saturdays in June. The dates and times will be announced as soon as the dates have been decided.

This workshop will be given by Edward Butterworth from First Church. We are looking for Board members, staff and chairs of committees to take this workshop and we hope many of the congregation will attend as well.

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.



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MINISTERS WORKSHOP

CUUC - MARY

Speaking Out on Same-Sex Marriage

Because I am a recent transplant for the States, it may be the case that what has been happening in this nation with regard to same-sex marriage is particularly extraordinary and moving. The legal and positive sanction of same-sex marriage by provincial courts and the Supreme Court of Canada are profoundly progressive, morally decent, juristically sound, and long overdue. I hope that we appreciate just what is taking place, for same-sex couples who desire to wed, for their supportive family members, friends and activist communities and individuals in the States and in most of the rest of the world, it is a deeply held, but distant goal. In most of Canada, it is now a fact; and though contested by some communal groups, faith based organizations, and agenda-driven politicians, it is being inexorably woven into the fabric of our cultural, social, legal and political life.

See item 2 in the Silver folder for additional information.

WORSHIP SERVICE WORKSHOP

From Sara McEwan

I am pleased to share with you the feedback to the workshop provided by your CUC worship service consultant, Mary Partridge.

Why would you recommend this workshop:

- informative, instructional, helpful
- needs to be given at VIUC/RNG/CUC events
- it will improve services immensely and inspire more people
- because there is a lot to be learned and it was educational
- it fills a very specific need in our non-ministered congregations.
- it gave me confidence to consider creating a ws.
- very practical and useful
- builds on levels, worship service is the 'heart' of a congregation and deserves to be worked on

See item June 1 in Silver Folder

Mary Bennett's annual report for this, her 5th year as CUC "ED". It's been quite the journey!

Sustainability and Stability

After five years of rapid change, CUC is ready for a period of stability and sustainability. Creating this "new CUC" has meant enormous change for all involved.

Living the change has been more challenging than any of us would have thought. People often quip that home renovations take twice as long and cost twice as much as planned. For CUC this has not been an option to go over budget or time.

Much of what has been accomplished this year is written elsewhere. So let me simply thank all those who have been part of Team CUC over the past year, as well as those who have brought us to what we now call "Today's CUC".

I am privileged to be in position to see a breadth and depth of Unitarian*Universalist activity in Canada. So many contribute so much, from their very depths. Along the way they get challenged, excited, stretched, frustrated, satisfied, inspired, proud - and that is how we live this religion.

ICUU - I See You Too!

International Council of Unitarians & Universalists meet Nov. 3-8 in Barcelona, Spain. For the first time all are welcome (used to be just delegates from member organizations). Rev. Brian Kiely, Pres. And Mary Bennett, Ex. Director, of the CUC, will be attending. We'd love to see you there!

See June item # 3 in Silver Folder

Dare to be Religious in All That You Do

Create Connections - Inspire Participation - Risk Diversity --- These are the four statements the CUC board has made to guide their work in the coming year. For more about how they used the Appreciative Inquiry process to set this vision, see the fall edition of Canadian Unitarian newsletter.



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FESTIVAL OF PEACE JUNE 10-12, 2005

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE REVISED

Friday June 10th, 7.30 – 9.30 – Garry Oak Room, 1335 Thurlow Rd, Fairfield

7:30- 7:40 Welcome and overview of the festival (Saul)
7.40 - 8.00 Poets for Peace – Linda Rogers, Garry Geddes
8.00– 8:15 Intro. to Dept of Peace and Saul – Mary-Wynne Ashford
8.15 – 9:00 Update/discussion on Dept. of Peace Project - Saul
9:00 - 9:15 Launch of :”Searching for Peace” Anthology – Marya and Contributors
9.15 – 9.30 Klezmer Group sings two songs – “Swords Into Ploughshares” with audience participation
will conclude the evening

Saturday June 11th, 10 AM – 2.30 PM – Garry Oak Room & Moss St. Market

Proposed in Fairfield Community Place, Fairfield Road space:
Peace Prayer flag-making with Marya and Power of Hope youth.
NB. This event may conclude with the flag makers parading with flags to Lt. Governor General’s residence to present her with info. on Dept. of Peace.

Kindness Crew (Erik) to roam throughout the Market carrying out random acts of kindness and directing people to the Garry Oak Room

In Garry Oak Room – Ongoing Displays by Peace and Justice Organizations

10:00 – 10.15 Raging Grannies – Freda Knott

10.30 – 11.00 Readings by poets from Searching for Peace booklet

NB. This booklet will be for sale in the Market at our stall

11.00 - 12.00 Storytelling with Peace theme

12.00 - 1.00 Lunch – possibly a soup and sandwich ‘peace special’. Opportunity for people to view information tables, discussion etc.

1.00 - 2.00 War on Trial - Marion Pape, Canadian Voice of Women for Peace

Conclusion

Note: We have the offer from the Moss St. Market to set up a special stage for our poetry and music. Between 10 AM and 2 PM when the Market closes. This is separate from our Market stall. We have to decide whether to use it. This will depend on having enough acts to utilize it. Please send ideas for musicians or other acts relating to peace.

SUNDAY JUNE 12

2:00 PM Getting’ Higher Choir Concert, Alix Goolden Hall, 910 Pandora

Shivon Robinsong to lead some songs on a peace theme and to speak about the Department of Peace proposal and Peace Choirs



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VANCOUVER ISLAND UNITARIAN COMMITTEE (VIUC)

FAMILY SUMMER CAMP

August 12th, 13th, and 14th, 2005

George Pringle Camp, Shawnigan Lake

Theme: The Wholeness and Holiness of the Interdependent Web.

Summer Camp has been part of Vancouver Island Unitarian life for many years. It gives opportunity to get to know one another and share in the greater Unitarian Family. Check-in and room allocation begins Friday at 5:00 PM. No supper will be provided on Friday evening, but we can have pizza delivered if we wish. A welcoming ceremony will take place at 7:30 PM. The youth will have their own ingathering following. With parental permission youth share a cabin. Friday evening is an informal introduction of camp, stories, and a chance to meet and get to know one another.

Saturday AM workshop: "Sacred Ecology" with Debra Faulk

Talent Night: On Saturday PM we traditionally raise the roof with our talent show ... This is fun! Bring instruments, short skits, poems, etc. Keep it short so our Master of Ceremonies can maintain a zippy pace.

Sunday Worship Service:

Debra Faulk, will lead our Sunday Services in the Chapel In the Woods this year.

VIUC Meeting: On Sunday after Worship Service campers are invited to join a VIUC meeting to set-up the next Summer's Camp.

Fees: Post marked by July 30th: Adult \$90, Youth 6-19 \$70, child 2-5 \$30, under 2 no charge.

After July 30th: A- \$95, Y - \$75, C 2-5 \$35

For complete information on facilities, activities and possibilities, and registration form see June #4 in the Silver Folder.

NARAMATA CAMP

First timers, first nine families (1 adult, 1 child) to register for the Naramata camp the Elliot Board is offering a \$200.00 discount. Eliot Institute has some funds to support others who need financial assistance. (Scholarship Funds)

For more information: http://www.eliotinstitute.org/pages/program_fees.htm#naramata

See June #5 in Silver Folder

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY

We have topped the 1000 target and since more is better in this case appeal to everyone to simply take the words of Declaration and put them in a personal letter to Prime Minister, Paul Martin and Foreign Affairs Minister, Pierre Pettigrew with a message asking that Canada support the preservation and full implementation of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

Thanks to your terrific contribution to this effort.

Peace Helmut (June #6 in Silver Folder)

19TH ANNUAL, WOMEN'S GATHERING

July 1-3, 2005

St. Michael's Retreat Centre
Lumsden, Saskatchewan

Our theme this year:
"ARE WE THERE YET?"

For information: M. Ruth Patrick, email
mruth.patrick@shaw.ca
#315, 2903 Rabbit Hill Road, NW.
Edmonton, Alberta, T6R - 3A3

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 register 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.



Global Chalice Lighting for May 2005

The International Council of Unitarians and Universalists announces the 21st in its monthly series of global chalice-lighting readings. Congregations worldwide are invited to participate in this community-building project.

All ICUU-affiliated groups have been asked to submit brief chalice lightings for the project. 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 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. Readings will be circulated in English and, where different, in their original language.

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.

This Global Chalice Lighting is to be used during May 2005:

We light this chalice to mark the commencement of our Unitarian and Universalist service of witness. By this simple act of lighting a flame we are activating a symbol of our solidarity with a noble line of freedom of thought that is relevant today and necessary for the future of all humanity. By this simple act we are identifying with a world-wide community of fellow believers who seek to enrich the world by their peaceful and tolerant commitment to Unitarian and Universalist principles.

–Jeffrey Teagle

submitted by the British General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches
(www.unitarian.org.uk)

Note: This notice was received too late for the May issue. Is it possible to follow through at this later date?