



Capital Unitarian Universalist Congregation

The Capital Letter

VOLUME 9, ISSUE # 11

VICTORIA, BC

March 2005

Adult and Children

SUNDAY SERVICES

March 6th Rev Alan Merson – “Where have we been and where do we go from here?” In celebration of Capital’s 9th Anniversary! A fascinating look at Unitarianism; from the people: Arius and Servetus to Philip Hewett, and the places: Poland, Transylvania, England, America and Canada.

Children’s Program: The Myths of Greece And Rome

March 13th Antonia Won, M. Div. “Crafting Hope: Improving our relationship with our earth” As mass production techniques are used for more of life’s needs, our direct contact with the stuff of the Earth decreases. Antonia will explore what we are losing and how we can change this process.

Children’s Program: The Myths of the Celtic World

March 20th Peter Scales “Integrity and Goals” Unitarians don't offer the path to enlightenment; we don't offer salvation, the secrets of the universe, or the protection of a god. If we don't want salvation, secrets or protection, what possible goals could we have? Peter will start the discussion of the worth of belonging to this congregation and faith. Come and be heard.

Children’s Program: The Myths of the Nordic Lands

March 27th Konnae Harresson “Challenging our Personal Principles” Does everybody have an entirely different set of standards? A fundamental truth for one person may not resonate at all with another. Where do you fit?

Children’s Program: The Myths of East Asia

SPECIAL NOTICES

Harmony Lines - March 2005

The "Now & Then Choir" has developed an exciting anthem for the March 6th. service, Capital's inaugural anniversary. We hope that you will enjoy our offering. "Community Music on Monday" is trilling along beautifully. Please come to support our community's musicians and have fun for the price of a few cookies.

In Harmony,
Elizabeth Atchison, Music Coordinator.

The CAPITAL UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION

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www.unitariancongregation.org/victoria/



The Capital Letter

Page 2

VICTORIA, BC

March 2005

VIUC NETWORKER REPORT

These past few months have been most rewarding in my role as your Networker for VIUC. On this spiritual journey I have become aware how vital our connectiveness is within the values of our CUC 7 Principles.

Along with my partner - Jeannie Corsi - we have managed to deliver services with the 7 Principles Theme which in turn magnifies my Networker involvements.

While attending all our VIUC congregations re Sunday Services, Board Meetings, Workshops & Pot-lucks, the realization of the blending of our island congregations within VIUC enables all of us to be involved beyond our own congregation.

Highlites include:

Comox Valley with Margaret White as president, now shares space in local United Church & following Capital UU's lead have hired an administrator to manage many tasks.

With Shurly Mazerolle as president, Capital continues its forward progress & is now in the process of hiring an Intern Student Minister in co-operation with 1St U Vic with Rev Jane Bramadat supervising

1St U Vic, with president Don Armstrong, is setting the example of exciting growth & spiritual practice as the "mother church" within VIUC.

Sharon Fulton, president of Salt Spring, has initiated this new Fellowship with Sunday Services, a Board & even a Chaplain. They will be hosting upcoming VIUC AGM on Apr 17th.

It was Cowichan valley UF that encouraged Salt Spring's presence - now itself, having lost many elder members is reviewing its position in the Duncan area led by folk like Alice Sinclair & the Taylors - Betty & Diane.

Powell River remains outside our CUC boundaries, but still maintains their own U Hall & is examining where they will continue to function primarily Humanists & Social Activists like Martin Rossander.

The latest Fellowship to purchase its own hall is Nanaimo UF. Led by president Joanna W Pierik has established a very visible presence along with plans to review the possibility of ministerial involvement.

Finally Gabriola Island led by Suzanne DeBalinhard has commenced their journey towards Fellowship just in the past few months.

Our numerical & spiritual growth has been for me a marvellous opportunity to share with many dynamic people as our paths continue to explore, enchant & endeavor with all our efforts in "spreading the word" of our liberal religious faith.

With Respect,

Alastair Mont
VIUC Networker.

Dare to be Religious in All That We Do

Create Connections - Inspire Participation - Risk Diversity

These are 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 the Canadian Unitarian newsletter.



Capital Unitarian Universalist Congregation

The Capital Letter

Page 3

VICTORIA, BC

March 2005

Board Notes

The Board held their monthly meeting on Feb. 15th, 2005. The correspondence was reviewed Check with the literature table for information from CUC. A workshop "Growing Healthy Churches" will be held at the Met United Church March 12th. If anyone is interested in attending let Shurly know. The treasurer's report was given and we are within the year's budget. Check your income receipts to be sure they are in order. If you have made a pledge now is the time to bring it up to date. Membership is doing well. More greeters are needed; see Victoria.

The four candidates we had and hoped to select one all have chosen other places. There are many students needing placements so we hope to have one selected soon as mid-March is the grant deadline, but this is being looked into and we are hoping for an extension.

Worship services are going well. If you have an idea for worship service see Alan or Amanda. Put April 9th on your calendar for a worship service workshop. We hope to be hosting people from up island so will need hosts.

Lay Chaplains have a number of weddings coming up soon and Alan M is interested in doing some work on the Campus Ministry.

A forum is being organized for information regarding the proposed changes to our principles. The Social Responsibility Committee is getting off the ground. If you are interested in this committee, see Patricia.

We are waiting for more information regarding liability insurance for board members

The Constitution and By-laws are being registered. We are looking into applying for Sharing Our Faith grants. We hope to have a set of policies and procedures ready soon. If interested contact Shurly.

We are looking forward to some special events: Ukrainian Lunch May 15th, Victoria will be selling tickets, A fashion show arranged by Charlotte (Colin's daughter) to raise funds for her volunteer trip to work with Women in Poverty (Aids/HIV) in Tanzania. The nominating committee will be getting in touch with members as we need to replace two board members in May. Also, we would like your ideas as to where the 2-1/2% of the unidentified funds should go this year. Put your ideas into the suggestion box. Our next meeting will be March 15th, all welcome. Shurly, chair

2005 EVENTS CALENDAR

**VIUC All Island Worship Service:
"Sowing Seeds" with Karen Fraser.**
April 17, 2005 1:30 p.m. Fulford Hall,
Saltspring Island, BC
Info: Mona Zaharia mzaharia@shaw.ca

CUC Annual Conference & Meeting
May 10-23, 2005 Hamilton, ON
Info: Mary Bennett mary@cuc.ca or <http://www.cuc.ca/CUCcalendar.html>

**Eliot at Naramata: 'Letters of the Spirit'
with Rev. Stefan Jonasson**
July 2-9, 2005 Naramata, BC.
Info: <http://www.eliotinstitute.org>

Birthdays for March

Mar. 10 Jo R.	Mar. 27 Doreen A.
Mar. 21 Elizabeth A.	Mar. 28 John L.
Mar. 23 Joan C.	Mar. 28 Celso M

Social Responsibility

We are ready to set up our first meeting date on Social Responsibility for the Capital Unitarian Universalist Congregation. This is an exciting new venture as we are the founding members of this committee, which gives us the freedom to evolve, shape, and create it to the best of our abilities and desires.

There are challenges, of course, as we will prioritise and define the issues we wish to support as representatives of the CUUC. My experience has taught me that a small group of people can move mountains in terms of creating a change in society to some degree or another. Working from a recognised group base in our community, is a stronger statement to make than working alone. We are open to welcome more members, please call me if you would like to join us. Sincerely, Patricia G. Liaison to the Board for SR



Capital Unitarian Universalist Congregation

The Capital Letter

Page 4

VICTORIA, BC

March 2005

UU Family Camp is calling you.

Do you know about the Eliot experience? Eliot is a week long camp for UUs and their friends at Seabeck WA, or at Naramata Centre on the Okanagan Lake in BC. It is both a conference and a holiday for individuals, couples and families. - a one-of-a-kind experience of play, community and worship.

At Naramata, July 2 - 9, the adult program will feature Rev. Stefan Jonasson from Manitoba, while the children and youth have their own programming. Afternoons are free time filled with offerings of workshops, art, swimming and music.

The Naramata Centre even boasts its own labyrinth, not to mention the many vineyards between Naramata and the next town! There is lots of music around the campfire pit at the beach, as well as a lantern parade on the last night. Once you have tried it, you will want to come back year after year!

In order to support more people coming to Naramata, the Eliot Board is offering a \$200Cdn discount to the first nine families (minimum one adult, one child) who are first-timers to this camp! Eliot Institute also has ample funds to support others who need financial assistance. Don't be shy about applying for scholarship funds. Naramata is a unique experience. Don't miss it!

For application forms and more information about Eliot at Naramata as well as the camps at Seabeck, visit the web-site at www.eliotinstitute.org or call 206-374-2497

A message from Mary

From the Executive Director of the Canadian Unitarian Council

February 13/2005

We Are Ten!

This March marks the tenth anniversary of the founding of the International Council of Unitarians and Universalists (ICUU or "I See You, Too!"—ICU2).

Rev. Brian Kiely, President of the Canadian Unitarian Council, and myself as Executive Director will be attending the Council meeting in Barcelona, Spain, in early November. Why don't you come too? ICUU council meetings have, in the past, been for delegates only, but this one's an open session and all are welcome.

It will be my first ICUU meeting, although I have met a number of international U*U's at General Assemblies in the U.S. and Britain, not to mention through the monthly Global Chalice Lightings, the Global Chalice Newsletter, the www.icuu.net website and the ICUU email list sponsored by the UUA. If Spain in November is not possible, you might consider some of these other ways to get to know what is happening around the world in our religion.

The Global Chalice newsletter goes out in the CUC congregational mailing, so check with whomever opens the mail and make sure you're on the list to borrow it. Go to www.icuu.net to see a map of the world and a summary of the various national U*U groups—as well as many other resources. You can receive the monthly Global Chalice Lighting directly by sending a blank email to global-chalice-lighting-subscribe@yahoogroups.com.

ICUU encourages all member congregations to host a once-a-year ICUU Sunday in March. We send out (and post) worship service readings from ICUU to assist you in this. If March hasn't worked out for your congregation this year, consider planning a service in November to coincide with the international council meeting.

Take care of yourselves and each other,

Mary, CUC, maru@cuc.ca



ICUU at CUC ACM

At our Annual Conference this year, in Hamilton May 20-23, there are two events that will be of interest to those who want to learn more about the international movement:

The ICUU Ten Years Later

How has the International Council of Unitarians and Universalists developed over the past ten years? Come hear about what has been accomplished and what is currently in the works - our new adult curriculum, for example. Hear too about some of our member groups and the ways they practice our Unitarian heritage.

John Slattery was one of two Canadian delegates to the founding meeting of the ICUU ten years ago. He has served four years as its treasurer and is currently its VP.

Follow Your Own Path: the First Unitarian's and others' Destiny

Last fall 24 Unitarians from all over North America traveled together through Barcelona, Spain and Provence and Paris, France. Learn about this fascinating journey from the trip participants. They experienced the culture, art, architecture and various regional cuisines while learning about Servetus and others who created their own path.

Margot Young has worked as a Career Management consultant and a Human Resources professional for over 25 years. She coaches individuals and groups who are developing careers or planning for retirement.

John Slattery will also be hosting an exhibit table for the ICUU.

A Members View Point.

TSUNAMI

Whoosh! What a way to go!

Of course we would all rather reach a ripe old age, with no aches or pains, wonderful children and grand children ranged about us, then die quietly in our bed. Who gets a choice?

To have friends and loved ones separated by the all too human cruelties of war, or the ravages of genocide is far far worse.

The loss of life, in the thousands, to India, Sri Lanka and Indonesia cannot compare with the six million holocaust victims of the tiny nation (13 million) of Israel or the two million of the Rwanda civil war.

Who gets the practical and financial help of the whole world?
Mavis B.

Ministerial Student:

Ministerial student Auto Needed: Seeking low cost vehicle use or purchase options for prospective student intern starting 10 month internship this Sept. Ideas? Contact Anna at anna_isaac@alumni.uvic.ca or 472-0117

Regional Fall gatherings

There are four regions - BC, Western (Alberta through Thunder Bay), Central (most of Ontario) and Eastern (Kingston through Newfoundland). Each has a Regional Fall Gathering in October or November. Check the Events Calendar at www.cuc.ca for dates and locations.



Capital Unitarian Universalist Congregation

The Capital Letter

Page 6

VICTORIA, BC

March 2005

March

Date	Coord	Story	Bd Mbr	Counters
Mar.6	Ben	Renee	Mavis	Ted/Colin
Mar.13	Lien	Sara	Shurly	Sara/John
Mar.20	Muriel	Lynda	Rustom	Kimiko/Norma
Mar.27	Maureen	Elizabeth	Patricia	Audrey/Elsie

The Silver Folder

The purposes of the Silver Folder are two

The number and length of material could make the newsletter to twenty pages and any one person would be interested in about one fifth of it. So to keep mind and matter in reasonable boundaries there is editing.

To oblige the other four fifths who don't want the cutting up or cutting out editing the Silver Folder contains the un-shortened or cut out material with a reference number so it is easily found.

Since the Folder is available on the literature table weekly anyone may take the material away for a week. All is changed monthly. When the new monthly messages arrive the old ones are put below a red sheet in the folder At the next month all is replaced from the top . So, at that point those that were below the red sheet are to be discarded.

If this doesn't work well let us change it.

I choose to risk my significance to live
So that what comes to me as a seed
Goes to the next as a blossom and goes on as a fruit
By Dawna Markova

The Silver Folder for March

Look and find under these numbers;

For March #1 re Gender and Sexual Diversity news group. at www.cuc.ca

For March #2 Same sex marriage from a Pastors view cuc-bc-social-responsibility

March # 3 How to tell if this is a stroke mavispj@shaw.ca.

March #4 Alaska UU's vacation package www.wuurld.org

March #5 Bush is my shepard==a spoof. Alamont@islandnet.com

March #6 An updated pictorial of global conditions re flood, drought, storms, earthquakes, etc. www.hewsweb.org/home

March #7 Gifts for a Living Planet. Compiled from the Worldwide Home Environmentalist's network

March #8 Moyer on receiving Harvard Med's Global Environmental Award (7 pages)

March #9 Our CUC President's letter to Ottawa re the American Ballistic Missile Defence system.

March # 10 A CUC Youth Training program

March #11 Details on the May Conference

March #12 UU gifts for the coming High School graduated or those on their being18 . UUA

Selected bloopers from church bulletins

The Fasting and Prayer Conference will include meals.

The church will host an evening of fine dining, super entertainment and gracious hostility.

This evening at 7pm there will be hymn singing in the park. Bring a blanket and come prepared to sin.