



Capital Unitarian Universalist Congregation

The Capital Letter

VOLUME 9, ISSUE # 13

VICTORIA, BC

May 2005

MAY SERVICES

May 1st Rev Alan Merson "How Music Shapes Our Culture: J. S. Bach to John Denver". Music both reflects and determines how we view the world and it influences our actions. "Show and Tell", lots of music both live and recorded and a little less talk!

Children's Program: Myths of Nordic Lands -1

May 8th Patricia Grinstead "The Measurement of Love". Patricia will take you on a Mother's Day journey of love concluding with "touched by Unitarians whose spirits burn so brightly that you feel warm and blessed to be in their presence", (Rev Brian Kiely, CUC President).

Children's Program: Myths of Nordic Lands -2

May 15th Nestor Gayowsky "The emergence of democracy in the Ukraine". An observer at recent elections in Ukraine in late 2004, Nestor Gayowsky will share his insights on the "Orange Revolution" and Ukrainian democracy. Mr. Gayowsky opened Canada's first diplomatic mission to Ukraine in 1990 while that country was still one of the Soviet Union's republics and was there during the collapse of the Soviet Union in August 1991

Children's Program: Myths of Nordic Lands -3

May 22nd Mavis Butlin "God Through Eight Decades" A late bloomer comes to Unitarian Universalism.

Children's Program: Myths of Nordic Lands -4

May 29th Anna Isaacs "Kitchen Witch" Personal reflections on discovering the magic flavour of the everyday.

Children's Program: Myths of Nordic Lands -5

Children's Program

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

Intern Minister

Our Intern Minister, Jennifer Devine, who will be starting in September is coming for a Visit. She will arrive on May 25th, leaving May 31st. We are having a wine and cheese party for her Monday, May 30th, to meet the Board Members and Staff. Then at 6:00 p.m. will have a Potluck Supper to the whole congregation can meet her and talk with her.

All this will happen at James Bay New Horizon, Monday, May 30th, 2005, Meet the Board and Staff at 4:30 and meet the Congregation for a Potluck Supper at 6:00 p.m. Mark this date on your Calendar and meet Jen.

Harmony Lines

The "Now & Then Choir" are working on a piece that we hope the congregation will find inspiring, as we enter deliberations at our AGM on May 22nd. It will be sung at the worship service before the AGM.

The Music Committee needs you! If you are interested please speak to me. There are many aspects to the committee and we would certainly appreciate your help and suggestions. Speak to or call Elizabeth at 472-6262.

Community Music on Monday is thriving. I sure hope that you don't miss out on May 2nd. or June 6th. The programs, this year have been wonderful. Thanks to all you volunteers who willingly share your gifts of music.



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Did you Know:

--that Ted. H. does an Art Program at Oak Bay High to share his World View

--that Dawn M. has read her very moving poetry at Harmony Lines

--that Robert and Shurly M. recently entertained a couple who are on an around the world trip

--that Pat G. is a Raging Granny

--that the Nominating Committee has volunteers for a the 2005-2006 Board

--that under <http://Vancouver.Unitarians.ca/> there is a 4 page letter from an ex-american on same sex marriage. For those without PC access see #1 May in the Silver Book

--that details on the July 8th Leadership School in Calgary are available re: sara@cuc.ca or #2 May in the Silver Book.

--that Anna I. will be registering for CU*UL in Calgary, July 8th

--that Brooke T. will be registering for the AGM in Hamilton, Ontario

Words to Live By

Drive carefully. It's not only cars that can be recalled by their maker.

Thumbnail Bio's

DOREEN ATKINS, one of the senior members of our congregation, has a liking for radical outspoken poetry, and is very politically aware. Her mother was a War Bride, from the First World War, and Doreen was born in London, England, coming to Canada as a child.

She went to school in Toronto till she was fifteen, then took a job. She married when she was eighteen, and had two daughters Mare and Dianne. Her son Gary was killed in an accident.

Doreen lived around Bancroft and Toronto, and worked as a Peace Activist as a member of the Voice of Women for Peace and Justice. She was also a member of the Raging Grannies. For the last five years she has lived in Victoria. Doreen is especially happy now as she and both her daughters live in the same apartment block in James Bay.

AYAT ARIF was born in Hyderabad South India, and though his father died when he was two and a half, his mother set him on the road to a good education. His mother had eighteen children, but only four survived. Ayat did not attend school until he was ten years old, but was taught at home by a tutor.

He attended Anglo Arabic High School in Delhi, and later Usmania University for two years. He was an ardent scholar, receiving his Post graduate degrees from Delhi and Hyderabad by 1945. He supported himself as a junior lecturer, until he was awarded a scholarship to Cambridge, England.

Canada accepted him as a student in 1955. He started working for the Canadian Government and took more courses in Public Administration and Statistics in Ottawa.

He met Mary in 1971 and by 1997 they succumbed to the call of our beautiful climate and moved here permanently. A comprehensive description of his life can be found in his autobiography called "O The Story of an Immigrant" which is in the library at JBNH.



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Board Notes

Spring is here for sure and the Board is working hard for all of you. We are keeping within our budget with a little over so we are looking forward to some interesting workshops in the future. Watch for details.

The worship committee has planned interesting Sunday Services and they are looking at some changes in the Order of Service, so be surprised!

Publicity is going well, information is being passed onto the media, our website, the newsletter and posters.

The Lay Chaplains are planning 3 weddings between now and August.

The Intern Minister will be visiting May 25th to May 31st. A potluck is planned for Mon. May 30th, 6 p.m. at JBNH to meet Jen Devine. Mark this date on your Calendar. The Board and staff will meet her at 4:30 p.m. If you can help, speak to Victoria, Lena or Shurly. Check #20 in the Silver Book for Jen's resume and picture.

We are hoping to walk our Banner in the Earth Walk on April 23rd, come and join us.

JBNH April 27th, 7 p.m. a meeting on the STV, sign up if you need more information.

We are still investigating Indemnity Insurance. Also, look for the policy and procedure book that should be organized soon.

Anna I will be representing us at Leadership School, in Calgary and Brooke T will be our delegate for the CUC AGM in Hamilton.

We have ordered two hymnals in Braille and it has come to our attention we are in need of more hymnals, would you like to have your own? Would you like to donate one or buy one in memory of someone, the inside of the book could have your message?

We will continue our security regarding the door and greeters until we have received the recommendations from the Conflict Resource Team.

Mark May 22nd, 11:30 p.m. JBNH on your calendar as this is the date of CUUC's AGM.

Next Board meeting is May 17th, at Victoria's, 4-6 p.m., everyone is welcome.

Shurly – Chair.

Solos Programs in May

For over twenty years, members of the Unitarian community who live alone have been meeting the first and third Saturdays of the month for fellowship and an interesting lecture. The group meets at James Bay United Church, Menzies at Michigan, at 6 p.m. for a happy hour and 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.

May 7, Saturday Monty Crisp is back in Canada, and has kindly agreed to accept our invitation to tell us about his experience of The Tsunami, Then and Now. He is an Agriculture Engineer who goes into disaster areas to advise on rehabilitation.

May 21, Elsie Farr will give us a slide show entitled From Venice to Dubrovnick.

News of the Unitarian Jihad

Via Peter S.

This includes the doings of Brother Flaming Sword of Moderation and Sister Hand Grenade of Love. Herein is a venue provided to look at ourselves and the world as if we had eyes in the back of our head.

A hard copy is available under #3 May in the Silver Book.

Massaged Media Messages

Via John Taylor

This talk at the Vancouver Church was given by Eleanor O'Donnell, author of "Between the Lines: How to Detect Propaganda in the News and Everyday Life."

Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Conference

Via Helmut Kuhn

Here is additional input as a background for the CUC Campaign to Revue the Nuclear Weapons Treaty. It includes an article by Ian Black or the Guardian. See #4 May in the Silver Book.

World Activities re: NPT

For an informative Website see: <http://www.ploughshares.ca/content> It seems the US is coming to the May 2-27 UN meeting to undermine the treaty and will get varying support from Britain, and the other major nuclear weapons states, Russia, France and China. Declaration from UU congregations are needed to show at the United Nations review. Hard copy see #4 May in Silver Book

Vote Your Principles

Via Christine Johnson

An approach to withstand the forces of market economies which work to commodify everyone and everything to book keeping units. See hard copy #5 May in Silver Book for contact or review.



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MESSAGE FROM MARY

April 15/2005

Religious Communities say “YES” to Equal Marriage

In April, I'm proud to say, the rumour that all religious groups are opposed to same-sex marriage was squashed. Canadian Unitarian Council participated with several other religious organizations in a cross-Canada effort to let Canadians know that some of us are saying “Yes” and want our view heard.

Unitarians and Universalists participated in rallies and press-conferences in Halifax, Ottawa, Toronto, Calgary and Vancouver. And the media showed up! The events were covered on radio, TV and newspaper across the country. In Vancouver, a couple of hundred people showed up to stand out front of the Vancouver Art Gallery and hear the Affirmation of Diversity statement read by United Church minister Philip Cable. One by one, more than 20 clergy including Rev. Katie Stein Sather from Beacon in Coquitlam and Rev. Dr. Steven Epperson of Vancouver, came forward to say how many same-sex weddings they had officiated at. On the CBC Early Edition the next morning I was interviewed by Rick Cluff and news about the rally and a statement by Rabbi David Mivasair was included in the hourly news report for all that morning - on the half hour as well!

In Calgary, a press conference was held at the Unitarian Church of Calgary. The Rev. Meg Roberts was quoted in the Calgary Herald along with a photo of the youth who constitute the Pride Rainbow Project with their 500+ rainbow banner. In Toronto, Linda Thomson, Director of Regional Services-East represented us at an interfaith press conference. In Ottawa, a small but mighty group were on “the Hill” at the same time as Stephen Harper and the group in the thousands were stating their opposition. In Halifax, Raging Grannies (including several Unitarians) sang as part of a celebration where a proposal was made!

As intended, these were all joyous, celebratory events. Post-cards were distributed at the events and now a petition has been launched for those who want to add their “yes”. With the defeat of Stephen Harper's proposed amendment defining marriage as a union between a man and a woman one more obstacle to passing Bill C-38 has been removed.

See #13 May in Silver Book

CUC Regional Fall Gatherings

There are four regions – BC, Western (Alberta through Thunder Bay), Central (most of Ontario) and Eastern (Kingston through Newfoundland).

Western Regional Fall Gathering -- Oct. 14, 15, & 16 Calgary AB.

BC Regional Fall Gathering -- Nov. 4-6 West Vancouver

Eastern Regional Fall Gathering —Nov. 4-6 - Montreal

Central Regional Fall Gathering —Nov. 12-14 – Olinda (near Windsor)

CUC Annual Conference and Meeting

Post Conference Tours

Tour A: Dundurn Castle and Royal Botanical Gardens.

Tour B: Niagara Falls

Outing 1: Waterfall Picnic

Outing 2: Marine Discovery Centre and HMC Haida, and possibly a Harbour Boat Tour

Outing 3: Hikes

A form for post conference tour registration is available.

A Welcoming Congregation?

A brochure created by Art Brewer on behalf of the CUC's Gender and Sexual Diversity Monitoring Group is available.

A logo and photos are available, also.
See #12 May in Silver Book



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COMOX UU

An Excerpt

Obviously many of us are serving in more than one capacity. Others are not contributing their gifts and talents at this time. Is this a bad thing? Absolutely not. One of the reasons for our strength as a spiritual community is the support we offer to each other in times of need. At any given time, some of us are giving a lot of our volunteer energy to the Fellowship while others are standing back and drawing strength from our Services and groups; at any given time some of our Members are making substantial financial pledges and others are only able to give a little. To look at this in another way: in, say, a ten-year period of involvement, each of us may spend four years doing small jobs for the Fellowship, three years taking at least one major leadership role, and three years receiving more than we give. These are typical cycles in the relationship between a Fellowship and its members.

See #16 May in Silver Book

UU United Nations Office publication

Some of the articles are:
Achieving the Millennium goals (MDG)
Refugees from around the World
US Foreign Policy
Towards a Democratic UN
Youth connect with World, etc.

See #17 May in the Silver Book

Why Uuism Is Dying

This is a Davidson Loehr Theme Talk given at the First UU Church in Austiln, Texas.

Some compelling points are made which may apply to some degree in Canada/

Davidson@austinUU.org or see #8 may in Folder.

Calendar of Events

Wynyard Summer Service

August 14, 2005 Wynyard, SK.

Info: Stefan Jonasson smjonasson@shaw.ca

CUC Fall Gathering: Western Region

October 14, 15, & 16 2005 Calgary, AB.

Info: Sara McEwan sara@cuc.ca

CUC Fall Gathering: BC Region

November 5,6, & 7, 2005 W. Vancouver,BC.

Info: Sara McEwan sara@cuc.ca

Vacancy: Part-time Ministry (½ time)

South Fraser Unitarian Congregation

Surrey BC info: JoanofArt@shaw.ca

Leadership Symposium

Planning is ongoing to have a pivotal UU Canadian event in 2006.

Openings are being offered at many levels and areas. Contact: laine@telus.net and see #6 May in the Silver Book

'CUC Endowment Campaign

The chairman, Paul A Evered notes the campaign has several phases and A DVD is available to help local promotion.

See #7 May

May Birthdays;

Gemma T. Jane R. Muriel B. Phoebe R.

Yvonne B. Graham T. Elsie F.