



# THE BULLETIN

THE UNITARIAN CHURCH OF VANCOUVER APRIL 2009

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## CHURCH SERVICES IN APRIL

### **Resilience: Springing Forward** Sunday, April 5, 11 AM Rev. Dr. Steven Epperson

Trust in the resilience of Nature is not misplaced; even now, winter is giving way to spring, new life, colours, and the future. So too, our trust and commitment to the resilience of UCV and its future is not misplaced. Today's worship service celebrates the strength of our story and our vision, as well as our responsibility to ensure that our shared ministry thrives for years to come.

### **Salmon: An Easter Story Pageant** Sunday, April 12, 11 AM Caroline Farley and friends

The life cycle of the salmon is one of the true wonders of nature. Telling this story is a fine way to celebrate the meaning of Easter. It's an intergenerational, fun and information-packed pageant for all ages. Bring your family and friends!

### **The Golden Rule: Holding Its Value Despite the Recession** Sunday, April 19, 11 AM Rev. Wendy McNiven

This Sunday, coming between Easter and Earth Day, invites reflection on the Golden Rule. It appears in many of the world's religions; it informs our UU principles, and it can speak to the question: "How do we want to be, in relationship with one another and with Earth?"

### **Requiem and Remembrance**

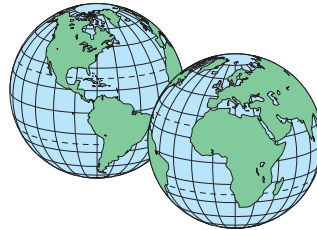
Chalice Choir Spring Concert  
featuring the **Rutter Requiem** and  
**The Vancouver Chamber Players**  
and a set of songs to mark UCV's 100th birthday.

**Sanctuary, Unitarian Church of Vancouver**  
Sunday, April 5, 7:30 PM

Tickets: \$15 (low income pay what you can)  
Available from any choir member or at the door

Childcare available

Reception to follow



### **'Forever Turning': Earth Day**

Sunday, April 26, 10:45 AM  
Rev. Dr. Steven Epperson

Unitarians sing praise to 'the earth forever turning'; place 'respect for the interdependent web' at the heart of its principles, and enjoin each other to 'live in harmony' with Nature's rhythms. Does that position us to be a truly responsible, ecological community? Do we 'walk our talk'? Join us for a celebration of Earth Day as we also explore the 'Sixth Source' of 'our religious faith.' Plan to arrive at 10:45 AM for Ingathering Singing with Joyce Poley

### **AFFORDABLE HOUSING EVENTS**

that need your support:  
Mark your calendar!

**April 4 Noon:** Grand March  
1:30 PM Rally

**April 26:** Event at  
Little Mountain Housing  
1 to 2 PM, East 33<sup>rd</sup>  
(between Ontario and Main)

See stories inside on  
pages 4-6 for details

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*From the Minister's Workshop*

## A Teaching Opportunity: Ministerial Internship at UCV

For many years, the Unitarian Church of Vancouver was well-known as a vital teaching site in forming professional ministry in the Unitarian Universalist movement in North America. Throughout the 1970's and '80's, UCV hosted, supervised, and ministered with women and men training to become professional UU ministers through an organized ministerial internship programme. Our ministerial interns went on to become successful settled parish ministers, community ministers, and leaders in the UU movement in Canada and abroad.

A congregation-based internship is one of the most critical formative experiences for those seeking to become UU ministers in fellowship. (It was an amazing experience for me in 2000-01.) Practical experience in a good, qualified congregation enables interns to develop confidence in their ministerial identity and to acquire professional competence across the full range of ministerial skills. Congregations also grow and benefit by being "teaching churches"—we learn more about ourselves; we serve through mentoring; and we enhance our programmes and ministry with the addition of what is, in effect, an assistant minister.

I'm obviously bringing this up for a reason: UCV should become a "teaching" congregation again by becoming an official UU Internship Site. By preparing ourselves and laying the proper foundations, we could welcome a ministerial intern in September, 2010 and enjoy the labour and fruits of that internship during the 2010-11 church year.

Fortunately, through the "Reverend Phillip Hewett Fund" and additional external resources, we have the financial means to make this possible for an initial internship. As well, we have the human resources, vision and enthusiasm to make it possible. Over the years, a number of UCV members have told me how much they would like to see this happen;

how UCV should become a "teaching church" again, and by doing so, how we will deepen and grow spiritually *within* our congregation, *and* have a greater impact beyond our walls and into the UU world.

There are steps mandated for us to take in order for UCV to qualify as an official Internship Site. I have begun to consult with the Committee on Ministry and the UCV Board: the process has begun. The success of our application as an internship site, however, depends upon us all. In the months to come, you will be hearing more about this process; you will have opportunities to raise your questions and concerns, and you will find out just how you can become involved in this important endeavour.

In spite of economic wreckage and deepening gloom, now, more than ever, we need to look forward and build this congregation and our movement. I'm no "pollyanna"; still, I believe from experience that we are a community of hope and have a saving, redemptive message to offer. Let's keep that in mind through the months ahead, and as we prepare to make room for an intern and become, once again, a teaching congregation.

Rev. Dr. Steven Epperson



The Worship Services Committee is looking for ideas for summer services. Maybe you want to lead a service, or maybe you can suggest a speaker for us to contact. If you have any bright ideas, please phone Elliott Dainow (604-254-1814) or talk to any other members of the Committee.

### The Bulletin

is the monthly newsletter of the Unitarian Church of Vancouver

#### Submission deadline is:

The fourth day of the month preceding the month of issue. All submissions *must* follow standard guidelines used in the publishing world, a copy of which is available in the church office or from the editor.

**Gerry Hayle, Editor**

Ph. & Fax: 604-322-1644

E-mail: [ghayle@telus.net](mailto:ghayle@telus.net)

#### MINISTERS AND LAY CHAPLAINS:

Rev. Dr. Steven F. Epperson: Parish Minister  
Rev. Dr. Phillip Hewett: Minister Emeritus  
Rev. Laura Friedman: Community Minister  
Lay Chaplains: Phyllis Bassett, Dan Enright, Katherine Roback, Wayne Ulian

#### BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2008-2009

##### BOARD EXECUTIVE:

Elisabeth Geller: President  
Kathryn Aberle: VicePresident  
TBA: Secretary  
TBA: Treasurer

Leslie Kemp: Past President

##### MEMBERS-AT-LARGE:

Michael Bradshaw, Corina Bye,  
Jeannie Corsi, Mason Harris,  
Bennett Mitten, Cordelle Neufeld

#### STAFF:

Tamara Shoup: Administrative Manager  
Samantha Taylor: Office Assistant  
Ravina Sangara: Accounting  
Zosia Brown: Campus Ministry Coordinator  
Sunday Reception: Virginia Crabill, Patti Turner, Lindsey Uden  
Caroline Farley: Director of Lifespan Religious Exploration  
Harold Douglas Brown: Director of Music Emeritus  
Donna Brown: Choir Director  
Elliott Dainow: Music Assistant  
Custodians: Stan Clarke, Gerald Hernesmaa, Wenta Tu'ume, Christie Maxson

## President's Message

**Budget Time!**

By ELISABETH GELLER

With the weather getting warmer and the final dark days of winter behind us for another year, UCV begins another 'season' critical to our health as a faith community: budget time!

It's at this time of year that the Finance Committee, under the guidance of the Board, begins to solicit budgets from the various committee chairs and members of the church, as well as the administrative operating budget. Once that is completed, the Committee reviews all the submitted budgets and makes recommendations to the Board on what is appropriate, possible and desirable with the church budget. This is often a difficult process of trade-offs and compromises, as the Committee and the Board struggle to ensure that we are meeting the best interests of the church and congregation as we mete out fixed and limited resources.

The budget is then presented to the congregation at the Extraordinary General Meeting in June, and voted on by the entire membership. This is an important feature of our self-government as a faith community. No one but us is responsible for our wellbeing as an organization and this includes our financial well-being.

Revenues fluctuate from year to year, but the primary source of revenue for the church continues to be pledges from our members. While we are living in uncertain economic times, it's more important than ever that members commit to the financial wellbeing of UCV and recognize the critical role each and every one of us plays in its success.

Please consider this when you are reviewing your annual pledge for UCV. This faith community is the sum total of what we make it, with our hearts, hands, minds—and wallets.

**R.E.Update**

By CAROLINE FARLEY

How exciting to see all of the spring flowers in bloom and feel the warmth of the sun on my skin! How long I have waited for this time. In this time of new beginnings and transitions I hope that you and yours take some time to breathe in some fresh air and feel the new grass in your toes.

In our religious exploration programs there is a lot to celebrate. Seven of our youth are travelling to New York this month to attend the Unitarian Universalist United Nations Organization annual spring seminar entitled "All In the Name of Faith: Rights, Religion and Responsibility". We wish them all an amazing trip and lots of learning. A big thank you goes out to all of you who have donated money and your support to these youth in their quest to get to the conference.

Did you know that this year's Co-Dean of the Canadian Unitarian Council's annual youth conference, Canuddle is our own (and my own) Keegan Graham. Congratulations, Keegan, and I know you will be an excellent ambassador for UCV. We also have a number of our youth representing UCV on regional and national youth leadership groups. You can see who these youth are and their positions on the CUC website ([www.cuc.ca](http://www.cuc.ca)) under the "who's who" tab.

Our preschool and primary group is working its way through the world's religions in our spirit play program under the excellent direction of Nan Gregory, Corina Bye, Robin Macqueen and Patricia Parkes. Want to learn more about spirit play? We will be hosting a mock classroom forum this spring where you can experience and discuss the program first hand. Watch for the date to be announced in the order of service. We are also looking for more storytellers to be trained for next year. Contact Caroline, Nan, or Corina for more information.

Our intermediate class has been working on a project creating their own T-shirts supporting a cause of their choice. They were asked to select a cause, make up a slogan/logo for their cause and will be printing up these on T-shirts which they will offer for sale to the congregation later this month. They will be taking the money from sales of their shirts and donating them to their selected causes. Please support their efforts and buy a T-shirt.

In our adult programs, this month will bring the start of four programs; *Foolish Wisdom* (March 28) with Rev. Laura Freidman, *UCV History Comes Alive* with UCV Archives Committee members, *Issues in Ethical Reasoning* with Geoff Gomery, and *Visions of the Day to Come* with Harold Rosen. There is still space in all of these programs. Call the UCV office to register. (Cont. page 4)

**Answering the Call****Unitarians to Meet in Thunder Bay May 15-18**

By Jeannie Corsi

On the May long weekend, Unitarians from across Canada will answer the call to gather in Thunder Bay at the Annual Meeting of the Canadian Unitarian Council. The Rev. Chris Buice will give the keynote address; and there will be workshops on diverse subjects such as *Taking the Heat: Food Justice, Fuel Issues and Future* and *To India with Camera and Chalice*.

If you are a UCV church member, you are invited to be nominated as a church delegate. Conference fees are paid by UCV and a tax receipt is issued by UCV for expenses that delegates incur for transportation, food and accommodation. If you are interested in being part of our national Unitarian conversation in Thunder Bay this May 15-18, contact UCV Board member Jeannie Corsi at 604-224-1040 or [nichorsi@interchange.ubc.ca](mailto:nichorsi@interchange.ubc.ca).

**R.E. Report** (Cont. from page 3)

In our continued journey of becoming a truly welcoming congregation here are a couple of other things for us to consider as we look at different learning styles:

**Kinesthetic Learners:** learn by doing; but struggle to pick up things by reading/listening.

- Master skills through imitation and practice.
- Find it difficult to sit still for long periods of time.
- Prefer to stand, walk about or use large motor muscles when learning
- Enjoy science experiments, construction games, arts and crafts

**Auditory Learners:** learn most effectively by listening to information, in lectures, speeches, and oral sessions

- Good at storytelling
- Solves problems by talking them through
- Speech patterns include "I hear you; that clicks"
- Moving their lips or talking to themselves to help accomplish tasks

**Visual Learners:** ideas, concepts, data and other information associated with images and techniques; great instinctive direction and can easily visualize objects and the past.

- Relate to written information, notes, diagrams, maps, graphs, flashcards, highlighters, charts, computers
- May have exceptional "photographic memories"
- Often ask for verbal instructions to be repeated
- Feel frustrated and restless when unable to take notes.

**BOOK CLUB**

**Upcoming Books Are:**

**May 3:** *The Book of Negroes*, by Lawrence Hill;

**June 7:** *The Cellist of Sarajevo*, by Steven Galloway;

**September 6:** *Walter Benjamin at the Dairy Queen:*

*Reflections at Sixty and Beyond*, by Larry McMurtry.

**The book for discussion on Sunday, April 5:**

*Palace Walk* (Arabic title **نيرصقلا نيب**) is a novel by Egyptian writer Naguib Mahfouz, and is the first instalment of Mahfouz's *Cairo Trilogy*. Originally published in 1956 with the title *Bayn al-qasrayn* (lit. *Between the two Palaces*), a phrase which highlights the cultural and political transition Egypt experienced, brought into focus by the lives of the el-Gawad family.

The book was translated into English in 1990: it begins in 1917, during World War I, and ends in 1919, the year of the nationalist revolution.

All who want to discuss this interesting book and times are welcome. The UCV Book Club meets in Budny at 12:30 PM on the first Sunday of each month.

—Al Jensen, 604-594-0170

**The UCV Food Bank Seeks Advisors**

Our Food Bank is well established, well run, successful and admired by other agencies in the community. The Social Justice Committee is developing recommendations for a revised management structure for the UCV Food Bank to be submitted to the Board of Trustees. The new structure calls for an Advisory Group to work with the Food Bank Coordinator and with Tamara Shoup, UCV's Administrative Manager. We need two or three members of the congregation for the new Advisory Group. Are you interested in learning more? Please contact either Leslie Kemp at [lkemp@telus.net](mailto:lkemp@telus.net) or Patience Towler, Acting Food Bank Coordinator at [ptowler@telus.net](mailto:ptowler@telus.net), or at 604-325-9902, for more information.

**Saving Little Mountain  
Community Advocates for Little Mountain**

Little Mountain is BC's first public housing project. On federal land, located between 33<sup>rd</sup> and 37<sup>th</sup> Avenue on Main Street in Vancouver, it was completed in 1953 by the Vancouver Housing Authority. The postwar housing shortage was so severe that returning veterans and their families squatted on the site in their former barracks for more than a year, prompting the city to build. Little Mountain residents have been a cohesive and supportive community, well integrated with their neighbourhood, particularly Riley Park Community Centre.

Over the years, federal and provincial Ministries of Housing have looked at renewing the Little Mountain project, and also at demolishing it. Most citizens would agree that increasing the density of housing on the prime 15 acre site would be a good idea. However the recent probable sale of this public property, along with the clearing of the tenants, and the developer's plans to build mostly luxury condos on the site has spurred **Community Advocates for Little Mountain (CALM)** to action. Despite the government's intention to split the profit of the land sale between the City and the province to finance "supportive housing", CALM believes that what is most needed at Little Mountain is affordable housing for low-to-middle income singles and families.

The Little Mountain community has already been scattered. 210 of the 224 families have been re-housed, but only by being put at the top of the BC Housing waitlist ahead of many hundreds of other wait-listed families.

The site cries out to be used wisely, imaginatively and retained as public housing for low and middle income singles and families. Join CALM (a member of CityWide Housing) on **April 26 at a special media event at Little Mountain Housing: Sunday, 1 to 3 PM, on East 33<sup>rd</sup> between Ontario and Main**. The event will be entertaining, with street theatre performances, art events, music, food, games and political parody with a light touch. The larger the turnout, the louder the message; please be there. You'll have fun!

—Catherine Hembling, 604-321-5144, [cathh1@gmail.com](mailto:cathh1@gmail.com)  
Housing sub-committee, Social Justice Committee, UCV

**DAYTIMERS****Learn More...**

**Thursday, April 2, 11 AM:** Telling Truths About Canada? John Church will review John Ralston Saul's book, *A Fair Country* for assembled Daytimers and friends. Following lunch and conversation, questions and discussion on issues raised in the book will continue in the Fireside Room until 2 PM.

**Thursday, April 16, 11 AM:** Martin Toren will present Daytimers with the *Politics of Happiness*. From 1 to 2 PM, points raised will meld into family stories.

**On the fifth Thursday, April 30, at 11 AM,** Alice James will discuss *Demographics and the Economy*. From 1 to 2 PM, we will be privileged to *Travel with the McEwans* to Egypt.

Daytimer programmes are open to anyone with the time free between 11 AM and 2 PM on the first, third and fifth Thursdays of the month. Bring your own lunch, and join in or just relax and enjoy the programmes and discussions generated by this group of thoughtful Unitarians.

—Wanda Justice, 604-327-1851  
cljlaw@shaw.ca

**THRIFT SALE****Thrift Sale '09!**

The Committee is busy planning this year's Thrift Sale. We are compiling a file on what has been done in previous years to streamline it. Looking for ideas to make it more lucrative, we met with the coordinator of the West Point Grey United Church sale. They make about \$30,000 each year! This meeting generated some good ideas about how we might do things more efficiently and generate more income.

To be able to do this, we need our community's support: to start hoarding suitable items—quality clothing, treasures, functioning electricals, books, small household furnishings, and sporting goods. Sorting will begin late June/early July with Sunday sales following. Don't forget that items from

**LIBRARY****April is Amnesty Month**

Remember all those books sitting in your closet or under the bed that you have been meaning to return to the UCV Library? We in the Library think about them too and, well, we have a solution!

In honour of Nancy Lagey, we are holding a Centenary event and Library Open House on April 19th, to which you are all invited. To celebrate, we are adding on an Amnesty so that all your long overdue books can be returned anytime in April, no questions asked, no fines levied. At present, each over-due item costs you 25 cents *per week* so your savings may be astronomical!

Your books and other Library items may be returned during our Library hours in April on Sundays from 10:30 to 11:00 AM and from after the service to 1:00 PM. As well, our UCV office has graciously allowed us to keep a box in the mailroom during April that will be marked for Library returns. You may return the books there from 9:30 AM to 2:00 PM Monday to Friday.

As these books may have been out of the Library for some time, put an elastic band around them with a note telling us your name and phone number. We *will not be collecting* any fines, but as time has lapsed, records may be scant and this information will help us locate your records..

Looking forward to your happy returns!

—Aphrodite Harris, *Library Chair*,  
604-987-5339

estates are much appreciated as a good revenue generator. Should the need arise, does anyone have storage space that we could use?

Helpers of all shapes, sizes and abilities will be needed during the summer and for September's public sale. Come have some fun and get to know your community! And come to our meeting **Sunday, March 29, 12:30, in the Board Room.**

—*The Un-coordinators: Julie Cowie, 604-267-1627, gibson120@shaw.ca, Dianne Crosbie, 604-876-6543, and Pat MacBain, 604-266-4225.*

**Library Holds a Centenary Event**

The UCV Library centenary project will celebrate the memory of librarian Nancy Lagey in Hewett Centre Sunday, April 19. After service the congregation is invited to attend a Library open house, hear a brief programme in Nancy's honour, and enjoy a slice of centenary birthday cake

The Library Committee chose to pay tribute to Nancy in their centenary event because of her considerable service as head librarian for thirty years. Nancy, who died in 2007, initiated many of the functions used today. She strove to include books known to appeal to Unitarian-Universalists, like comparative religion, spirituality, and environmental concerns. She gave special attention to the collection of Unitarian-Universalist materials. Over the years, new and prospective church members especially, have appreciated this collection because such literature is not readily available elsewhere.

Nancy also started the popular Herstory Book Club and launched the library's literature stall, which provides tapes and printed copies of sermons.

Members of the Library Committee will be on hand April 19 to talk about Nancy, give tours and answer questions about our evolving library.

—Barbara McDaniel,  
*Library Committee*

**April Lunches:**

**April 5:** Partner Church

**April 12:** Refugee Committee  
(fundraising for Farahnaz)

**April 19:** Refugee Committee

**April 26:** Youth Group

**May 3:** Refugee Committee  
(fundraising for Farahnaz)

**May 10:** Refugee Committee

**May 17:** TBA

**May 24:** Youth Group

**May 31:** Chalice Choir

—Doris Lowe

**ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

**Earth Day Pilgrimage**

Join a multifaith pilgrimage to Burns Bog on Sunday, April 26.

**Part one** is from Annacis Island, across the Alex Fraser Bridge; an easy, safe 3.2 km walk.

**Part two** is from the entrance to the Delta Nature Reserve, by boardwalk into the Bog, and finally a singing ceremony in the Cedar Forest.

Carpools leave from the UCV parking lot after the Earth Day service and a quick bite of lunch. We arrive on Annacis Island at 2 PM and start walking at 2:15. By 3:15 we meet the rest and go into the Bog. We should be done by 5:00.

The pilgrimage leaves from Quizno's, 640 Chester Road on Annacis Island and crosses over the Fraser River (and the 9,000 year old St. Mungo Archeological Site) to the Bog.

You can make this journey as you wish. Peacefully seek a blessing. Make

the journey over a nourishing river to a sacred site. Sing, chant, pray, contemplate, listen. Or walk and talk with friends, yell blessings to the fish and fowl, bike or wheelchair. All characters welcome!

We make this pilgrimage for many reasons—spiritual, political, connecting with river fish, bog critters, and our greatest carbon sink. We'll sing as "one strong body", meet young and old, show drivers that walking a bridge gives one a new viewpoint. Just stop for a minute and take in the wonder of a clean river and a healthy bog in the middle of a still healthy city.

The Environment Committee meets Sunday, April 12, at 12:30 in the Board Room. All welcome.

—Karl Perrin, 604-872-7326  
Chair, Enviro Committee

**SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE**

**March for Affordable Housing**

The Grand March for Housing is organized by **CityWide Housing**, a group of people from 20 Vancouver neighbourhoods, committed to ending homelessness. As a collective group it is independent of political and faith organizations. You've seen its motto, *'Homes for All'* on turquoise banners at busy intersections in Vancouver and all over BC.

The March for Housing on April 4 is to underline public support to end homelessness, build permanent social housing, raise minimum wages and welfare, and protect rentals and renters.

This is the time! Builders and workers are available. Infrastructure dollars have been promised by both senior governments. Our city government is listening. A boost to political will is the intent of the march. A successful march needs a big turnout.

Gathering points for the April 4 noon march to the Vancouver Art Gallery are: Thornton Park at the Main Street Skytrain station, Hastings and Main, and Peace Flame Park at the south end of the Burrard Bridge. The rally at the Art Gallery begins at 1:30 PM.

—John McVicar, 778-737-1897, [mcvicar@shaw.ca](mailto:mcvicar@shaw.ca)  
Chair, Housing Action Group, Social Justice Committee

**Philosophers' Fireside Café**

3rd Friday of the Month, 7 - 9 pm  
Fireside Room, Unitarian Centre,  
949 West 49th Ave. (at Oak Street)

Everyone welcome. Pre-registration is not required. Admission is \$5.

The evenings are as warm as our fireside, as welcoming as our carpet, as comfortable as our new chairs and as interesting as the diverse, intelligent people we attract. There is a supportive, friendly atmosphere to encourage you to participate actively and share your unique and interesting thoughts and perspective.

Moderator: **Randall MacKinnon** has a Masters in Social Policy and Planning and is an "IDEASage" with MackINNOVATION, a service consultancy.

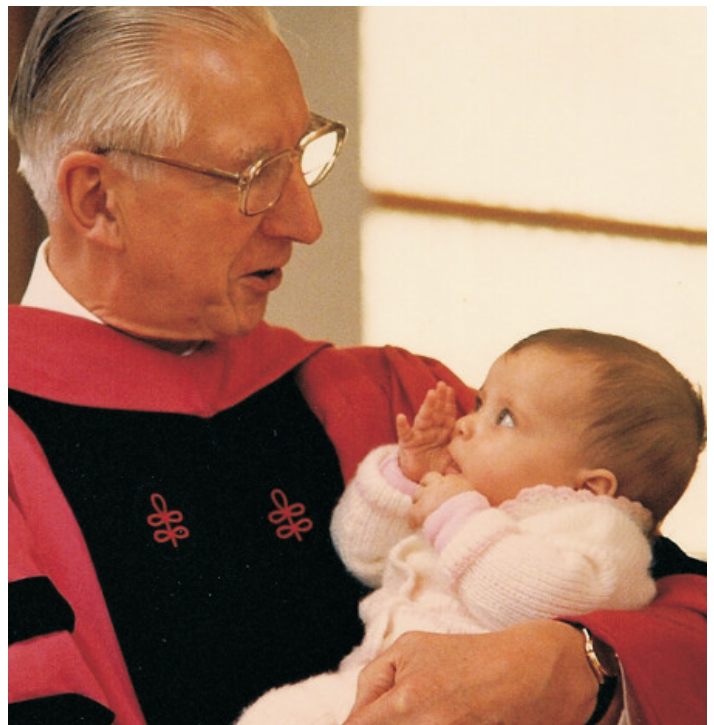
**Next Café:**

**Friday April 17 at 7 PM**

Who has had a bigger impact on the world — Mother Teresa or Madonna?

Invited guest speaker:

Bennett Mitten



Rev. Dr. Phillip Hewett welcomes a new adherent in her naming ceremony (Circa 1990)

## Highlights from the CUC Board March 2009

The CUC Board met this past February. Traditionally the Board meets three times a year, face-to-face. Over the last year, we have held monthly teleconference meetings using desktop sharing software. Face-to-face meetings cost money and have a substantial carbon footprint, and as the technology becomes more robust, we are considering moving to two face-to-face meetings a year.

Central to our discussion was the question of how the Board receives input and responds to it. Board meetings always begin with a report back from each member based on conversations they have had with congregational presidents and ministers in their region. The Board is drafting a formal communications plan. Please talk to us about how best to keep the channels open and in use.

How well are we weathering the current financial storm? Our congregations are experiencing widely varied responses to the current financial situation. Some have seen an immediate negative impact on pledges, others have been buoyed by modest increased financial support for their communities, underscoring the importance of a caring community in these difficult times. On paper, the CUC's investments have lost value along with those of everyone else. However, our conservative investment strategy has contained that loss to 16.3% during 2008. Sustainability and growth continue to be major concerns to most congregations. However, a number of congregations have taken a conscious decision not to focus on numeric growth for its own sake, but rather to deepen the spirit of the existing community, thereby making a more welcoming and enjoyable place for newcomers to visit, and, of course, stay!

Naturally, the CUC Board is excited that it will soon be naming a permanent Executive Director. We were pleased with the number and quality of applicants and are beginning the interview process. We would dearly love to have the new ED present and engaged at the ACM in May. Once in place, the ED will rebuild our staffing.

Much of the weekend was taken up reviewing progress against the CUC's short-term plan. Details can be found on-line at [www.cuc.ca/strategy/short\\_term\\_plan](http://www.cuc.ca/strategy/short_term_plan).

The Board is tremendously grateful for all the input it is receiving from our congregations' leaders and members. It seems that, together, we are responding to the challenges we face in our local communities and our national organization with determination and a positive spirit. Our upcoming ACM in Thunder Bay offers a fine time to celebrate that spirit.

—CUC Board of Trustees, [www.cuc.ca](http://www.cuc.ca)

## REFUGEE COMMITTEE

### Still Waiting on Bill C-291

For years, refugee claimants in Canada have been denied the appeal that Parliament granted them in the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act. Instead, their fate is determined by a single decision-maker in a system never approved by Parliament. Please contact the MP's in your area and ask them to implement the Refugee Appeal Division by quickly adopting Bill C-291. You can also contact MP Thierry St-Cyr, the sponsor of Bill C-291 in the House of Commons.

This Bill is important. It will provide refugee claimants with their right to appeal and may save lives. Wrong decisions at the refugee hearings that go uncorrected can lead to refugees being returned to persecution, torture, and even death. Contrary to popular opinion, there is currently no appeal on the merits for refugee claimants.

For more information or questions, please contact the Canadian Council for Refugees at [info@ccrweb.ca](mailto:info@ccrweb.ca), 514-277-7223. You can also get the Refugee Appeal Division Backgrounder at [www.ccrweb.ca/RADbackgrounder.pdf](http://www.ccrweb.ca/RADbackgrounder.pdf).

Again this month we are still waiting on our new refugee family. We have done all we can on our end to get our young Karen family here. As singer/songwriter Tom Petty says, "The waiting is the hardest part!" Soon, we fervently hope!

To find out more about the Refugee Committee, contact the Co-Chairs, Fiona Graham or Virginia Crabill. If you wish to assist the Refugee Committee financially, you can send a cheque to the church or place it in the donation plate on Sunday. Write "For Sheilah Thompson Refugee Fund" on your cheques.

—Virginia Crabill, *Refugee/Social Justice Liaison*

## THRIFT SALE

### Planning the '09 Thrift Sale

The Committee is busy planning this year's Thrift Sale. We are compiling a file on what has been done in previous years to streamline it. Looking for ideas to make it more lucrative, we met with the coordinator of the West Point Grey United Church sale. They make about \$30,000 each year! This meeting generated some good ideas about how we might do things more efficiently and generate more income.

To be able to do this, we need our community's support: to start hoarding suitable items—quality clothing, treasures, functioning electricals, books, small household furnishings, and sporting goods.

Sorting will begin late June/early July with Sunday sales following. Don't forget that items from estates are much appreciated as a good revenue generator. Should the need arise, does anyone have storage space that we could use?

Helpers of all shapes, sizes and abilities will be needed during the summer and for September's public sale. Come have some fun and get to know your community! And come to our meeting Sunday, March 29, 12:30, in the Board Room.

—The Un-coordinators: Julie Cowie (604-267-1627, [gibson120@shaw.ca](mailto:gibson120@shaw.ca)), Dianne Crosbie (604-876-6543), and Pat MacBain (604-266-4225).

## *A Travelling Unitarian*

Over four years ago, several members of the Vancouver Unitarian Church invested in affordable housing through Canadian Rockport Homes International, a company that has worked hard to make home affordability a global reality. We are not there yet but getting closer, so first let me thank church members for your investment which is still safe in this international financial crisis.

Next, I want to share four things of importance and encouragement.

**First**, I (30 year Unitarian) am the VP Corporate Social Responsibility (of which there are few in companies today) and China Advisor, and without your trust, vision and caring this would not have happened. I became involved after a lay-led Sunday service about ethical investing in Calgary in 2003. It was the Sunday that changed my life.

**Second**, I met a group of Unitarians at the 19<sup>th</sup> annual SRI in the Rockies held at Whistler (the 900 participants were mostly Americans) who all work in the field of Socially Responsible Investing. They thought this focus on homes for poor and working class people was something they are keen on and will support the movement professionally.

**Third**, CRH offered to help with the rebuilding after the earthquake in China May 12, 2008 and I was invited to the Vancouver Chinese Consulate June 12 to offer suggestions because of my Red Cross Disaster Response background and the safe concrete housing technology from Canada. I went to China July 12 with a group and we presented to several groups ranging from senior government officials to a senior's pension plan group in Chengdu (capital of Schzewan province, where the quake happened) to major business contacts in Beijing. Everyone who saw what we had, agreed that this is exactly what China needs, to help in the building of 16 million homes per year for the next 20+ years. All this has put us 2 years ahead of schedule for Asia and we are devoting resources to that end.

**Fourth** and the biggest piece of news was this past week, when we were presented with The 2008 International Innovation of the Year Award by the American Shotcrete Association, who co-sponsor the World of Concrete Show annually in Las Vegas where over 70,000 people attended. The head judge said "Canadian Rockport Homes has come up with the biggest innovation in the concrete construction world in decades", of which we are very proud. And without the ethical investments by Unitarians across Canada, much of this would not have been possible, so again your ethical thinking is appreciated, and paying off.

—Ed Taylor, a Travelling UU, 778-999-6770

## **Curious about UCV History?**

Or are there things you know about UCV's past life that you'd love to share with other curious folk? Sign up for the special Centenary 'UCV History Comes Alive' ARE sessions this coming April 6 and 20, 7 PM, in the Fireside Room. These two sessions will be in-the-round, with anecdotes and stories to start everyone off. Facilitated by the Archive Committee: Patience Towler, Michael Welton, Diana Ellis and Rev. Phillip Hewett. Long-time and new members welcome. Call the church (604-261-7204) to register.

## **Eliot Summer Camps Are Coming!**

The Naramata Conference Centre on beautiful Okanagan Lake is the place to be for Eliot camp June 27-July 4! The adult programme, led by Rev. Amanda Aikman and Julia McKay, is a theology-in-action workshop which includes singing, theatre games and movement along with moments of reflection, art and poetry. A full morning programme for each age group of children and youth is followed by plenty of free time to swim, hike, boat, play games, enjoy crafts or just relax.

Seabeck (Washington) on the Hood Canal is the site for July and August's Eliot camps. Rev. Stephan Jonassen will lead the July 11-18 session with the theme "Letters to the Spirit". We will reflect upon passages from Liberal religious traditions spanning centuries of great literature. He will help us create our "loose-leaf Bible" of writings from which we draw our inspiration.

The August 1-8 camp will explore "The Great Story" of evolution led by Michael Dowd and Connie Barlow. These "itinerant evolutionary evangelists" bring a sacred understanding of evolution into Unitarian circles. Their passionate presentation helps us explore how we understand our place in the universe.

Both large Seabeck camps have programmes for all ages of children and youth. Families, couples and singles are sure to have a great time with the many activities available throughout the afternoons and evenings. Music plays a key part in bringing us together during camp.

For more information, or to register, visit the website [www.eliotinstitute.org](http://www.eliotinstitute.org) or [registrar@eliotinstitute.org](mailto:registrar@eliotinstitute.org). If you do not have Internet access, call 206-374-2497 or Diane Donaldson at 604-224-0933.

## **Unitarian Family Camp 2009!**

Come share in the beauty and rejuvenating spirit of Camp Sasamat this summer!

Unitarian Family Camp 2009 will run at Camp Sasamat June 5-7. Registrations are now being accepted. Set in the natural splendour of Belcarra Regional Park, the camp offers swimming, boating and hiking. Other activities are walks around the lake, felting with your children, a games corner and line dancing just to name a few!

Due to popular demand, we again are offering a choral workshop led by Alison Nixon! For the brochure, go to [www.beaconunitarian.org/sasamat-brochure-09.pdf](http://www.beaconunitarian.org/sasamat-brochure-09.pdf). The registrar, Dan Theal, can be directly contacted at [danthéal@yahoo.ca](mailto:danthéal@yahoo.ca). Cross your fingers for warmer weather than 2008!

—Anne Merrett-hiley,

*UCV Liaison for the Sasamat Camp Committee*

## FOSTERING COMMUNITY

## Lots of News

Our UCV community was saddened to hear of the death February 20 of Mary MacDonald, aged 80. Although she had undergone recent bouts of surgery, her death was unexpected.

Mary was a diminutive, colourful lady with a unique style, who volunteered in our Library as well as at the Co-op Book Store. She will also be remembered for her coffee hour reminders, complete with bell ringing, that a Forum would soon be starting.

Earlier in life, she had been an actress and lived in San Francisco and Alaska before moving to Vancouver. At this writing, memorial service plans are not yet finalized. She leaves behind a son and 4 grandchildren.

Our condolences go out to Virginia Crabill, a Refugee Committee stalwart, on the loss of her mother. She returned to Virginia State to be with her father and other family members, and sent us a lovely tribute in her mum's memory, read aloud at a recent Sunday service.

Kudos to Leslie Hill and her library crew, who held a very successful book bash on March 1st, raising about \$700. Also to Jane Slemon and our youth for organizing a wonderful musical evening, raising a little over \$300 toward their upcoming trip to New York.

And congratulations to long time UCV member and award-winning Humanist leader Pat Hutcheon, whose new book, her sixth, *Lonely Trail: The Life Journey of a Freethinker*, a memoir, has recently been published. She has accomplished this despite fluctuating, sometimes painful health problems. Pat would like to thank another long time UCV member and Humanist, Margaret Wilkins, for considerable editing help. We look forward to seeing the book soon in our library!

Unfortunately, Harold Brown is no longer able to come to Music Club because it's in the evening. But on February 16, some Music Club members and friends came to Harold! David Donaldson, Jeannie Corsi, Tara Bonham, and Beacon Church members David and Donna Hamilton and Donatella Clignon entertained Harold and other Fellburn Care Home residents with a delightful hour of musical variety including harp, piano, penny whistle and vocals!

Kathryn Aberle's theatrical family is very busy these days. Daughter Rachel just finished playing the lead in Studio 58's production of *Bye, Bye, Birdie*. Currently she's in a new Canadian play, *Jocasta*, which runs until April 5th at Studio 58. Husband Stephen starred in *The Thing About Men* just before Christmas, appeared in *The Emperor of Atlantis* in February and is now in the musical *The Full Monty* at the Norman Rothstein Theatre until April 5th.

It's good to see Joan Armstrong back at church! She has recently experienced severe back pain. Also good that

## —FORUM—

**April 5:** Pat MacBain and Mary Bennett are participating in the 2009 Artists in Our Midst – a Vancouver Westside Art walk. Pat has exhibited many times and Mary is a first-timer. 2009 is the 17<sup>th</sup> annual event. Artists in Our Midst is Saturday & Sunday, April 25-26, 12-6 PM, with an opening at Lord Byng school on Thursday, April 23. Come to the forum and then drop in on the weekend.

**April 12:** Social Justice TBA

**April 19:** Board (topic TBA)

**April 26:** City Councillor Kerry Jang updates us on housing policy from City Hall, and a view of what a Faith Community like UCV can do to support good social housing policy in Vancouver.

## Visions of the Day to Come

Many religious and spiritual traditions envision a 'better day to come' for humanity—a New Millennium—a culminating era of peace, justice and prosperity for the whole world. These bright visions endure, despite the many dark tragedies and atrocities of human history. Usually the 'expected time' or the Future Golden Age is understood as coming after a period of significant trials and reckonings. In the build-up to this promised fulfilment, the world religions all acknowledge a crucial role for human choice and resolve in the unfolding of humanity's future. There is a great deal of common ground among the world religions—even more than most globe-watchers and universal seekers have realized.

Participants in an upcoming series of lectures/discussions led by Harold Rosen will attempt to identify wise and uplifting guidance for today's troubled world through the exploration of a rich, comprehensive array of spiritual longings and prophetic writings.

This program runs in the Fireside Room for eight Tuesdays from 7 to 9 PM. [www.interfaitheducation.org](http://www.interfaitheducation.org)

April 14: Introduction to Prophecies & Visions

April 21: Native Visions of the Rainbow Nations

April 28: Jewish Visions of the Messianic Age

May 5: Zoroastrian & Hindu Visions

May 12: Buddhist & Chinese Visions

May 19: Christian Visions of the New Millennium

May 26: Islamic Visions of the Day of Renewal

June 2: Baha'i Visions of the New World Order

\$85 for the whole course or \$15 per drop-in session. To register, contact Caroline Farley ([carolinefarley@telus.net](mailto:carolinefarley@telus.net)) or 604-261-7204.

Reed Harris is giving Joan some much needed help with organizing those great circle dinners.

Don't forget to help Foster Community by sharing your news!

— Ann Foster, 604-736-2117,  
[afos72@vsn.bc.ca](mailto:afos72@vsn.bc.ca)

