



The Bulletin

Unitarian Church of Vancouver

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NOVEMBER 2009

Sunday Services

All services begin at 11 a.m.

Nov. 1

Encountering Our Ancestors, Part V

Rev. Dr. Steven Epperson

It's the season of Samhain/Halloween/Day of the Dead. Again we summon eminent ancestors from our Unitarian history to experience their stories. Join us to welcome these visitors from the past: an occasion to reckon our good fortune as heirs to an amazing religious tradition. (Don't forget: We now begin at 11 a.m. *Standard* time.)

Nov. 8

In Memoriam: Remembrance Day

Rev. Dr. Steven Epperson

We commemorate this year's Remembrance Day with a service of meditations, in word and music, on the tragedy of war and the gift of peace. We honour those who have served us in life and death.

Nov. 15

Eco-Spiritual Journeys

Karl Perrin, Grant Watson,
Mary Lage

Environmental action comes in many forms. We all do our part and often it seems like whatever we do, it's not

enough to "save the planet". But what of our own "salvation"? What about the joy and pain that come with enlarging our connections beyond family and human community? How do gratitude and openness lead to less armor, less attachment, less fear of the suffering that comes with real connection?

Nov. 22

Building Schools and Spirit

Rev. Katie Stein Sather

"I went to Honduras to help build schools in poor communities . . . Now I realize what I did was so much more." Rev. Sather is Minister at Beacon Unitarian Church in Port Coquitlam.

*Please plan to arrive at 10:45 for
Ingathering Singing with Joyce Poley.*

Nov. 29

Eating the Sun: Photosynthesis and the Glory of Green

On this first Advent Sunday, what better way to celebrate the coming holiday season than delving into Nature's greatest miracle? From raw materials of sunlight, water and carbon dioxide, plants make oxygen, release energy and create living matter. Without this process, our world would be barren; with it, we have a living world to relish. A lively service for all ages. ■

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Chalice Choir

Annual Advent Concert: *Magnificat!*

Sunday, Dec. 6, 7:30 p.m.
UCV Sanctuary

Our illustrious Chalice Choir performs J.S. Bach's *Magnificat* with Peter Lang and the Vancouver Chamber Players. Seasonal favourites and a sing-along are also on the program. A reception follows; childcare provided.

Tickets are \$15 (low income, pay what you can) and will be available after Sunday services starting Nov. 22, or from any Choir member.

For more details, contact Donna Brown (quinn_brown@hotmail.com).

UCV Centenary Feast & Soiree

Saturday, Nov. 28, 5:30–9:00 pm, Hewett Centre Hall

Don't miss our final Centenary celebration! Doors open at 5:30 with cash bar. **Dinner** is at 6:15, followed by a **Soiree** in the Sanctuary from 7:45–9.

Dinner tickets are just **\$5.00** and are available after Sunday services on Oct. 25, and Nov. 1, 8, and 15.

Can't get to church? Call the UCV office (604-261-7204) to order tickets to pick up at the door on Nov. 28.

Dinner options include meat or vegetarian, all-local or Canadian menu.

Childcare is available for the Soiree; pre-registration required.

To attend just the Soiree, come at 7:45 and make a small donation.

Don't wait *another* 100 years! Come join the fun!

The Bulletin is the monthly newsletter of the Unitarian Church of Vancouver.

Submissions: By the 14th of the month preceding the month of issue. Guidelines available from the Church office.

Editor: Andy Fielding

Email: bulletin@vancouverunitarians.ca

UNITARIAN CHURCH OF VANCOUVER

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President's Message

Elisabeth Geller (president@vancouverunitarians.ca)

This month we hold our Annual General Meeting (AGM). While some of you may choose to do other things with your Sunday afternoon, I strongly encourage you to attend. Other faith communities may rely on centralized religious bodies for their mandates, but we Unitarians are fortunate to be accountable to each other in a free and democratic way. There is probably no clearer example of this than the AGM we hold every fall.

Among other important items at the AGM, the Board will provide a restated budget to the congregation. This is primarily because we were unsuccessful in our gaming grant application and felt it was important to let the membership understand the ramifications of that.

In restating the budget, we are also happy to be bearers of *good news*—and I wanted to share some of that with you now.

Despite difficult economic times, unemployment, low wages, vulnerable investments and lower fixed incomes, the members of UCV continue to respond with exceptional pledges and commitments to the work of our church. Our 2009-10 campaign goal was \$350,000, and we have seen pledges of \$377,500 this year! In the first two months alone, our pledge income was \$8,000 higher than last year's. Our pledge income for the year just past was also outstanding—well over what had been pledged by the congregation, and totaling \$370,800!

So, thank you very much for your commitment to the work of UCV, and for digging deeper in these challenging times. Building a culture of giving and generosity is more important at UCV now than it may have been for some time. ■

Religious Exploration Update

Caroline Farley

Director, Lifespan Religious Exploration

(caroline@vancouverunitarians.ca)



I hope you all had a fabulous Thanksgiving with good food, friends and family.

This month I want to use this space to muse a bit about why we do what we do here at church. What brings us back each week? Is it the gripping nature of the sermons? Is it because we see old and new friends each week whom we would probably not otherwise run into?

Is it because we love to sing, listen, teach, learn, dance? Is it the beauty of UCV's grounds and buildings? Maybe all of these?

I think it's important, every now and then, to think about our motives and prioritize. If I think about why I come to UCV each week (besides the obvious reason, that it's my job), a few things leap to mind:

- I wholeheartedly believe in the principles of Unitarianism.
- There are people here I truly love and want to spend time with.
- I care about social justice work and want to be involved where I can.
- I love the good work that people in our church accomplish.
- I love being able to give children opportunities to wrestle with ethical questions and make positive change in our world.
- My children are being taught good things in our religious education programs.
- This is a place of action, creativity, inspiration and community.

But what I also understand is that it is up to me to make the experiences that I have here have meaning. It is up to me to participate when called to do so, or when

Continued, next page

From the Minister's Workshop Message in a bottle

Rev. Dr. Steven Epperson
(minister@vancouverunitarians.ca)

Some years ago, I remember listening to a song entitled "Message in Bottle" performed by the rock group Police. The lead singer crooned about writing a letter, rolling it up, putting it in a bottle, and casting it out on the waves in hopes that someone would write back, and that the currents of the sea would bear the bottle with a response back to him. He was looking for signs of life out there and a kindred spirit. In the song, thousands of message-bearing bottles washed back up on the shore.



There are times when I feel like that singer—at least in the first part of the song. I deliver a message that has a "hook" to it: a sermon, public forum, or *Bulletin* article that calls for a response from those I address. I toss my message-in-a-bottle out onto the waves, then stand on the shore scanning the horizon for a reply.

I have two recent "messages" in mind:

Religious Exploration, continued

I feel moved to do so. It is up to me to bring my creative self to the table and be seen. It is up to me to make religious education a priority in my household. It is up to me to make time to spend with those I love.

In essence, it is up to me to live my faith in Unitarianism. I am thinking about this and what it means I need to do in the next little while. What will it mean for you? ■

Women's Retreat in January

Mark your calendars now for a Women's Retreat Jan. 15–17, 2010. Watch for details, or call Pam Rickey (604-732-1370) for more information.

The first, in a September worship service, was an invitation to UCV members to start planning for life's final chapter. In particular, I asked those in attendance to fill out a form entitled "My Wishes in the Event of Death." The form included contact information about next-of-kin, lawyers, family doctor, and funeral homes/memorial societies; the location of wills, wishes for burial or cremation; and a Memorial Service sample form where we could indicate what kind of send-off we desired, including readings, music, etc. This "My Wishes . . ." form was then securely stored in a "Final File" for UCV members in our office.

I started filling out my own form to put on file. It felt a bit strange, I confess, but there is real satisfaction growing in my mind and heart knowing that I have attended to this part of "putting my affairs in order". It is a gift to those who will have to make decisions and act in the event of my death.

To date, I have received only one other "My Wishes in the Event of Death" form, from Rev. Phillip Hewett. Thank you, Phillip, for following through. I invite all of you to emulate his example. Please send your forms to me so that we place them in the UCV Final File.

The second "message" concerns our Future Site Development process. Co-

inciding with the UCV Centenary, the UCV Board initiated a visioning process (led by the Future Site Development Committee) through which we can define how we hope to grow and develop our site at 49th and Oak for decades to come.

Dozens of congregation members have already engaged in process interviews and filled out questionnaires identifying their dreams and programming and partnering ideas, as well as their concerns about site development.

We need to hear from as many UCV members and adherents as possible, so that this process will be successful and well-informed.

Questionnaires are available at the UCV Office and in Hewett Hall. Please set aside some personal time and/or 10-15 minutes in your UCV committee meetings to fill out the questionnaires and interview guides, then return to them to me or the UCV office by Nov. 9. Your responses will be reviewed and your recommendations presented at the AGM on Nov. 29. **Again—we need to hear from you.**

So here I am, standing on the shore. Two messages, two bottles tossed on the waves of UCV. I am waiting still, hoping for signs of life and kindred spirits—and hoping, above all, to read your messages in return. May there be hundreds. ■

Adult Religious Exploration

A chance to reveal your hidden accomplishments

Jeannie Corsi (604-224-1040, nichorsi@interchange.ubc.ca)

Is the woman at the Welcome Table a person who creates puppets? Is the gentleman serving tea a maker of ceramics? Is the lady across from you at coffee hour a poet?

Have you created something that you would be willing and able to share with others at UCV?

We are planning an ARE (Adult Religious Explorations) course for UCV members called *Sharing What We Make and Do*. It's an opportunity for the poets, sculptors, composers, cooks, choreographers, inventors, cartoonists,

designers, calligraphers, and other creative people among us to reveal an aspect of themselves not usually seen at church.

If you would like to share your talents in our course, please obtain a proposal form from me (contact info above). Describe the work or creation you would like share and how you would like to present it at your session.

Applications must be submitted by Dec. 1. The course will be offered in March–April, 2010. ■

Save trees!

Read the *Bulletin* online at
www.vancouverunitarians.ca
> News > Monthly Bulletin



Need groceries? (Doesn't everybody?)

The UCV Youth Group is fundraising with food voucher sales.

Famous Foods in East Vancouver offers you full value for your dollar. The store is small enough to navigate easily, and has a fabulous stock of bulk grains and spices as well as organic and allergy items. It's at Perry and Kingsway, three blocks east of Clark.

For more information, call Jane (604-873-2208) or find her in Hewett Centre after each Sunday service.

Daytimers

Wanda Justice (clijlah@shaw.ca)

Back in the days before we learned the simple math of ecological responsibility, we burned 150-watt bulbs in Noel Armstrong's beautiful hanging lamps in the Fireside Room.



Now, a little wiser, Daytimers and other church members enjoy the same level of light provided by 40-watt compact fluorescent bulbs installed by Dale Norman.

Similar changes initiated by Dale and Noel around the premises have

saved the Church significant amounts of money on its (our) electric bills.

Taking this idea a step further, on **Thursday, Nov. 12**, Noel Armstrong will speak at 11:00 a.m. about the use and good sense of solar energy. We'll then have discussion until 2:00 p.m., with a pause for a BYOB lunch. Alternative ideas and points of view are always welcome.

On **Thursday, Nov. 26**, Martin Toren joins our group at 11:00 a.m. to speak about a troublesome subject: The Americanization of Canada. Please join us and add your voice to the lively discussion sure to follow after lunch. Tea or coffee available, but please bring your own bagged lunch. ■



Social Justice / Refugee Committee Refugee family update

Virginia Crabill (604-731-9393)

If you missed your chance to win one of Pat Meyer's gorgeous quilts, now is your opportunity to try again. We are raffling a quilt, a painting by Pat MacBain, and an exotic Mayan-motif chess set. Tickets are \$5 each or 5 for \$20. The draw will be in mid-December.

Our young Palestinian family arrived in late September. UCV members, spouses, friends of members, as well as Refugee Committee members and members of Vancouver Friends Meeting (Quakers) got together and found an apartment for the family on short notice. They helped clean it, furnish it, and make it cozy; stocked some food; then met the family at the airport and took them to their new home.

The family has been registered for English classes and has visited a mosque in Richmond. Huguette Sansonnet and a retired Arabic-speaking nurse from the mosque set about referring the baby to pediatric cardiologists. This small one-year old has a hole in his heart. The young couple hope to be able to go to their English classes in shifts so one of them can always be with the baby.

This family speaks some English. The father completed Grade 10 before having to leave school to support his mother and siblings. The family is one of five brothers, and several of the wives are sisters. Another two brothers and their families arrived at the same time. One of those families is sponsored by the South Burnaby Mosque and has settled in Richmond. The other family is being sponsored by the Mennonites, who are settling the family in Chilliwack.

A fourth family, including the mother of "our" young woman, is due to arrive at the end of October. This family is being sponsored by Baptists and will be in the Kingsway/

Sunday Lunches

Lunch servers are urgently needed this winter. Would your group like to serve a Sunday lunch? Please contact Doris Lowe (604-435-6183).



This month's scheduled lunches:

- Nov. 1** – Refugee Committee (fundraising for Farahnaz)
- Nov. 8** – Refugee Committee
- Nov. 15** – UCV Youth

Joyce area, as is our family. A United Church congregation has agreed to sponsor a fifth family—a fourth brother of our young man—and they may arrive in November. Vancouver Interfaith is trying to find sponsors for two more related families.

The local Quaker community has been invaluable in their work with us, collecting donations and visiting. As we prepared to leave the family after a recent visit, the Quaker contingent showed up for their visit!

This all means that in addition to our African and Afghan friends, we now have two young families on the go. We need clothes and toys for our four-year-old Karen girl and clothes and diapers for the one-year-old boy.

We've planned three lunches for November, and have our meeting on the fourth Sunday of each month at 12:30 in the Boardroom. All are welcome! If you'd like more information about us, please contact me or my co-chair Fiona Graham.

If you can assist the Committee financially, please send a cheque to UCV, or place it in an envelope in the Sunday donation plate marked "Sheilah Thompson Refugee Fund". We would not be able to help so many people without your generosity. ■

Environment Committee

Saint Meg

Karl Perrin

(604-872-7326, perrink@shaw.ca)

In *The Year of the Flood*, Margaret

Atwood has invented an eco-spiritual religion for 2040.

Apparently, we'll need it. This 2009 novel is a sequel to *Oryx and Crake*, but lighter. This time, "God's Gardeners" survive in a feudal future, as if they were a co-



ed monastery in the DTES: poor, vegetarian scavengers with hymns and saints' days—Saint Dian Fossey, Saint Terry Fox.

They love their children and seem like evolved Unitarians—honouring forebears, seeking peace in the midst of hokum prosperity, and seeking truth while immersed in manufactured consent and a whole lot of garbage.

I always thought fact was better than fiction, but I'll take an Atwood novel over CNN any day. This book is so well-researched, so real, that I read it as a blueprint for my future home. If

worse comes to worse, "God's Gardeners" will be the least bad option. The reviews call this future "dystopian", but from Atwood's perspective, life is what you make it—even in dark times.

Let us enjoy our luck. We live in Vancouver, not Kabul. We live in 2009, not 1939. We are rich beyond a regal dream, enjoying a lush forest on high ground. We may not hold on to this beauty, but we can die trying—like God's Gardeners.

The Environment Committee meets at 12:30 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 8, in the Boardroom. All are welcome. ■

Book review

Hutcheon's life is "a page-turner"

Ann Foster (afos72@vcn.bc.ca)

Before I read Pat Duffy Hutcheon's autobiography, *Lonely Trail: The Life Journey of a Freethinker*, Pat, knowing I'm not the most avid reader, told me, "You don't have to read it all at once—each chapter stands on its own." But to my pleasant surprise, it turned out to

be a page-turner, filled with adventure, narrow escapes and close calls, along with poignant descriptions of some of the personal relationships in Pat's life.

From a childhood lived in the desperate poverty of rural southeastern Alberta in the dirty '30s, Pat blossoms into a capable and gifted young woman. Although she is as at home with farm chores as she is with people skills, it is the academic, intellectual life which is her passion and at which

she excels. More challenges lie ahead, however, when she has to deal with a difficult marriage and pregnancy as well as ongoing gender discrimination in academia.

How she resolves all this to become a leading Canadian educational sociologist, humanist thinker, and author, with warm, satisfying personal relationships and interests, makes for an inspiring, uplifting and memorable read. The book includes photographs from her earlier years. ■

It could be verse . . .

CUC seeks poetry for annual Chapbook

Editors are seeking unpublished poetry by Canadian Unitarians to be considered for the fourth professionally-published 2009 CUC Poetry Chapbook, to be launched at the CUC ACM in May, 2010. You're invited to submit a maximum of five poems related to our

theme for 2009: "How Shall We Live?" Each poem may be up to 45 lines (including title and blank lines).

Send your poems, and a 50-word bio, to Jo-Anne Elder, either by email (eldergomes@yahoo.com) or postal mail (180 Liverpool St., Fredericton, NB E3B 4V5).

Please write "Attention: CUC Chapbook" as your Subject or on your envelope. Submissions must be received by Nov. 30, 2009. If you submit by postal

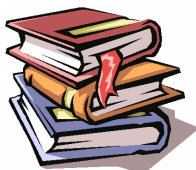
mail and want a reply, please include a self-addressed stamped envelope. Accepted submissions will be acknowledged by March 21, 2010.

The editors also seek submissions of artwork for the cover, or a complete cover design including text. Send your original colour images to Janet Vickers (tojan@smartt.com) with your name, address and bio.

Thank you for your time and creative contributions. ■

Book Club meets Nov. 1

The UCV Book Club meets in the Budny room at 12:30 p.m. the first Sunday of each month. We welcome those who love books or who are interested in one we are discussing in a given month.



The selection for our Nov. 1 discussion is *The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak.

Winner of the National Jewish Book Award and other prestigious awards, *The Book Thief* is a brilliant look at a child's love affair with books and words in World War II Germany. One reviewer said, "Zusak's story is about words, the power we give them, and the magic they carry in their own right. *The Book Thief* is both gripping and touching, a work that kept me up late into the night, feverishly reading the last 300 pages." ■

IF I REGARDED MY LIFE from the point of view of the pessimist, I should be undone. I should seek in vain for the light that does not visit my eyes and the music that does not ring in my ears . . . I should sit apart in awful solitude, a prey to fear and despair. But since I consider it a duty to myself and to others to be happy, I escape a misery worse than any physical deprivation. —Helen Keller

Fostering Community

Ann Foster

(afos72@vcn.bc.ca, 604-736-2117)



Kudos to **Edwin Bussey** and his partner **Rampai (Noi) Vajarapana** and their crew for whipping up an incredible Thai feast enjoyed by 60 UCV members Oct. 10. The event was a fundraiser for the Unitarian Service Committee celebrating **Lotta Hitschmanova's** 100th birthday, and raised almost \$800! The chefs donated the ingredients as well as their time and talent.

Kudos also to **Pam Rickey** and her crew for organizing a Thanksgiving Dinner for about 200 Downtown Eastside women and children on Oct. 14.

Jos Sharp and his family, formerly UCV members who now live in Trail, write that he and his wife **Ricki Ewings** both like their jobs in employment counselling, and that daughter **Sarah** is making new friends in her Grade 10 classes. They all enjoy the peace, quiet, space and friendliness of rural life, but miss meeting Unitarians as the nearest fellowship in Nelson is 2 hours away. They hope to connect with others, including **Dale Norman** and **Marcia Braundy**, and eventually start a fellowship there. And they'd love to hear from old friends in Vancouver. Their email is joslyn-sharp@gmail.com. Come back and visit us some time, too!

An unfortunate reality of aging is that sooner or later many elderly people fall and break a hip. Such misfortune

happened recently to two of our own. **Lydia Sayle** is now back home at Honoria Conway residence after successful hip surgery this summer. She's in good spirits and welcomes visits and phone calls. **Claire Buckland**, now in her mid-90's, also fell, breaking a hip. As of mid-October she is recovering at VGH and is also in good spirits.

Cancer is also all too often an unfortunate presence among us. **Cheryl Amundsen**, who underwent a double mastectomy Oct. 6, is also recovering and even getting out and about.

And **Julie Cowie** is grateful that, despite too many BC government cuts, the funding of treatment for her genetic heart disease remains intact. She wishes to thank UCV members for their support and prayers. And we thank you, too, Julie, for your tremendous Thrift Sale accomplishments, despite living with this condition!

We applaud all four of these strong and resilient UCV women, and wish them well!

It's great to meet the younger and newer members of our vibrant church community, including **Trish** and **Emily Garner** with their cute 11-month-old twin sons, **Jack** and **Finn**, who were dedicated recently. The family has been coming to UCV for about 9 months.

Finally, yet another Unitarian couple is on the move: **Lars Anderson** and **Velia Laval** quickly sold their Arbutus home and almost as quickly found their dream condo on the sixteenth floor of a West End co-op, with incredible views.

We hope you, too, will be moved—to share your news with *Fostering Community!* ■

New event room needs furnishings

Marilyn McVicar (778-737-1897)
and Mary Murray (604-733-6873),
Lay Chaplaincy co-chairs

The Lay Chaplaincy Committee is working to expand the number of wedding and memorial ceremonies held in the UCV Sanctuary.

With this in mind, we are creating a room which can be used as a Bride's Room for weddings and as a place where families can convene before memorials. When not being used for these purposes, it can serve as a small meeting room.

Here is our wish list of items to nicely furnish this room:

- Wood dining table with matching chairs
- Loveseat
- Small wood table (2' x 4')
- Area rug (at least 6' x 9')
- Floor lamps
- Paintings
- Paint for walls
- Curtains and/or blinds



(Not a co-chair)

Items should be in neutral colours and good condition. Since everything in the room must be coordinated, we reserve the right to decline items that don't fit the overall decor.

If you have items to donate but don't know if they're suitable, please contact us before Oct. 26, 2009. We can arrange to pick up items if necessary.

We appreciate your contributions and will acknowledge them with thanks in a future *Bulletin*. ■



Annual General Meeting

The UCV Annual General Meeting will be Sunday, Nov. 29 at 12:30 p.m. in Hewett Hall. Included on the agenda is the election of the 2009-2010 Board of Trustees. Information packages will be mailed to congregation members in early November.



Philosophers' Fireside Café

Randall MacKinnon, Moderator
(unitarity@yahoo.ca)

The evenings are as warm as our fireside, as comfortable as our chairs, and as interesting as the diverse, intelligent people we attract.

We offer a supportive, friendly atmosphere to encourage you to participate actively and share your unique and interesting thoughts and perspective.

On Friday, Nov. 20, join us as we share and discuss our answers to these questions:

- With our ever-increasing rate of change, is much wisdom at risk of becoming obsolete or irrelevant?
- Are elders' outlooks and perspectives as necessary as they were in previous times?

The Philosophers' Café meets from 7–9 p.m. on the third Friday of each month in the Fireside Room. Admission is \$5 and everyone is welcome. ■



The Art Studios Winter Sale and Silent Auction

Thursday, Nov. 26, 12–8 p.m.

Heritage Hall

3102 Main St. at 15th Ave., Vancouver

The Art Studios is a nonprofit program providing art classes to people with mental illness. UCV congregants have had the pleasure of seeing TAS artists' work on display at our church.

The Winter Sale and Silent Auction is to raise funds, build awareness of the value of art in self-expression and recovery, and to offer great art to the community. Pottery, sculpture, jewelry, paintings, art cards, prints and more are for sale.

Admission is a suggested \$2 donation. For more information, please call 604-871-9788 or visit TAS's website:

www.vch.ca/programs/art_studios.htm

UCV Food Bank report

Diana Epperson (604-569-3944)

Lauren Griffin (604-688-0179)

A big thank-you to everyone for our first twenty-two 2.5-kg bags of whole wheat flour and packages of cinnamon. We hope for 60 more of the same items so our clients can enjoy an equitable distribution of an important winter staple.



The UCV Tuesday morning Food Bank is also thankful for visits from Merva Cottle and David Steele last month. Merva and her daughter Laura made a produce delivery: Swiss chard, carrots and beets with their greens from her boulevard garden—a garden her grandson Robin prepared, her son

Bill raised and walled, her grandchildren Aya and Robin helped seed, and her daughter Laura helped to harvest and deliver.

Merva volunteered for years at the Food Bank helping Elizabeth Campbell and others with childcare. This was her second boulevard harvest delivery gracing our tables this season. Fresh produce is a rare and valued treat on the Food Bank tables.

David Steele said hello and made a generous purchase of all the leftover Thrift Sale appliances cluttering the Hewett foyers and gifted them to our clients.

These visits added to the festivity of one of our (Diana's and Lauren's) first mornings at the Food Bank. Patience Towler spent dozens of hours answering our questions and sharing with us much of what she'd learned during her year as interim coordinator. The task is enormous and will require at least two people to fill her shoes.

An advisory committee under the Social Justice Committee is also joining the Food Bank effort. We thank them, and will keep you posted here in the *Bulletin* and in the weekly Order of Service. ■

First Friday Focus

Friday, Nov. 6, 7–9 p.m., Hewett Hall

Convenor: Randall MacKinnon

(unitarity@yahoo.ca)

Part lecture, part performance, part philosophers' café . . . Through words and music, we attempt to goad and delight ourselves into the deeper, poetic regions of thought and feeling—and through doing so, seek a fuller appreciation of one another, ourselves and the world about us.

This month's program: "Using Questions with Appreciative Inquiry." Come with a project you would like to work on in the group. We will structure the time to allow you to ask some questions, have others ask you some questions, and draw from a "question pool" the moderator has developed to help participants explore their project more deeply. There will be an opportunity to discuss each project with others. Admission is \$5.00.

Randall MacKinnon has a Master's in Social Policy and Planning, is a past executive member of the Organization Development Network, and has been a member of the Appreciative Inquiry Group for five years. ■

Unitarian Music Club



The Unitarian Music Club meets on Monday, Nov. 30 at 7:30 in the UCV Sanctuary. The evening will consist of a short informal concert, including performances by Jody Carpenter, Gerard Satamian, and Dwight Ivany.

The Music Club welcomes all styles of acoustic music and performances are arranged in advance. If you would like to perform, come and we will set a date. Everyone is welcome.

If you're new to the Church or looking for something different, try us out. We're a mix of listeners and performers who get together for enjoyable evenings. When you come, please bring a contribution to refreshments.

The Music Club's Solstice party takes place on Dec. 21 in the Fireside Room. Mark your calendars.

For more information about the Club, contact Jeannie Corsi (604-224-1040, nichorsi@interchange.ubc.ca) or David Donaldson (604-224-6010, dvdd@telus.net).

Our 2009–2010 schedule

All Music Club meetings are on **Monday nights at 7:30 p.m.** and are in the **UCV Sanctuary**, except where noted:

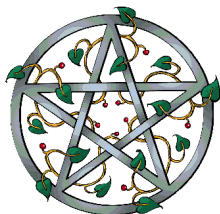
Oct. 26
Nov. 30
Dec. 21 (Fireside Room)
Jan. 25
Feb. 22
Mar. 29
April 26
May 31
June 21

Pagan Committee

The Pagan group meets 7–9 p.m. on the second and fourth Wednesday evenings. (Huguette coordinates the second and Mary the fourth.)

Email us at unitarianpagans@gmail.com for details.

Sacred Circle Dancing



Come join the dance! We meet from 7–9 p.m. on the second and third Mondays. The third Monday is organized as a Unitarian worship service with poetry, story, sharing—and dances.

All dances are taught; no partners or experience needed. Everyone is welcome.

Email us at ucvdance@telus.net or visit our blog at sacredcircledance.wordpress.com for details. ■

Another Reason Why I Don't Keep A Gun In The House

Billy Collins

The neighbors' dog will not stop barking.
He is barking the same high, rhythmic bark
that he barks every time they leave the house.
They must switch him on on their way out.

The neighbors' dog will not stop barking.
I close all the windows in the house
and put on a Beethoven symphony full blast
but I can still hear him muffled under the music,
barking, barking, barking,

and now I can see him sitting in the orchestra,
his head raised confidently as if Beethoven
had included a part for barking dog.

When the record finally ends he is still barking,
sitting there in the oboe section barking,
his eyes fixed on the conductor who is
entreating him with his baton

while the other musicians listen in respectful
silence to the famous barking dog solo,
that endless coda that first established
Beethoven as an innovative genius.

Billy Collins was U.S. Poet Laureate 2001–2003.

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UCV-ers serve Thanksgiving cheer to Downtown Eastside women

(See photos, next page) For the second year, Vancouver Unitarians pitched in to provide a wonderful Thanksgiving dinner for over 200 women and children at DAMS (Drug Alcohol Meeting Support), held at the LifeSkills Centre on Cordova Street.

Fifty-three UCV members provided 15 turkeys and all the trimmings along with vegetarian dishes, pumpkin pies and other desserts. As well as serving and cleaning up afterward, volunteers spent over a week preparing for the event by soliciting donations, donating food and cash, shopping, cooking, and publicizing.

UCV volunteers were joined by Ben Dodd, the chef at Monk McQueen's Restaurant and a regular DAMS volunteer; two other DAMS volunteers and three staff members; and our community minister Rev. Laura Friedman.

The dinner was a fantastic success. Thanks to all who helped, and special thanks to Pam Rickey for rallying the troops.

DAMS offers counseling, harm reduction, and two weekly dinners to Downtown Eastside women and children. ■



UCV Calendar – November 2009

- Sun. 1** Forum (details below), Fireside Room, 12:30–1:30 p.m.
UCV Book Club, Budny 12:30–2 p.m.
- Mon. 2** Library Committee Meeting, Fireside Room, 1–5 p.m.
ARE: Mythos 1 (through Nov. 2), Fireside Room, 7–9 p.m.
- Tue. 3** ARE: Humanity Spiritual Evolution, Fireside Room, 7–9 p.m.
- Thu. 5** ARE: Saul's A Fair Country (through Nov. 26), Fireside Room, 7–8:30 p.m.
- Sun. 8** Forum (details below), Fireside Room, 12:30–1:30 p.m.
- Mon. 9** Sacred Circle Dancing Fireside Room, 7–9 p.m.
- Wed. 11** *Remembrance Day—office closed*
- Thu. 12** Daytimers, Fireside Room, 11 a.m.–2 p.m.
- Sun. 15** Forum (details below), Fireside Room, 12:30–1:30 p.m.
- Mon. 16** Sacred Circle Dancing Fireside Room, 7–9 p.m.
- Thu. 19** Daytimers, Kitchen, 11 a.m.–2 p.m.
- Sun. 22** Forum (details below), Fireside Room, 12:30–1:30 p.m.
- Tue. 24** ARE: Reclaiming Christmas, Budny 7–9:30 p.m.
- Wed. 25** Paganism Fireside Room, 7–9:30 p.m.
- Thu. 26** Daytimers Fireside Room, 11 a.m.–2 p.m.
- Sat. 28** UCV Centenary Feast & Soiree, Hewett Hall 5:30–9 p.m.
- Sun. 29** UCV Annual General Meeting (AGM), Hewett Hall, 12:30–2:30 p.m.

Forums

Coordinator: Mary Bennett
(Looking for a co-coordinator)

Forums are **Sundays, 12:30–1:30 p.m.** in the **Fireside Room**. All are welcome.

Nov. 1

**Panel: Unitarian
Group Show Artists
(Arts Committee)**

November is the month of the annual Unitarian group show. A panel of participants share their thoughts about their art and respond to your questions.

Nov. 8

Social Justice Committee

Poverty Olympics organizer Trish Garner tells us about this year's event and the province-wide Poverty Olympics Torch Relay that will precede it.

"For the last two years, we have staged the Poverty Olympics in the Downtown Eastside. It is a remarkable community-led event that aims to emphasise the nature of poverty in BC through fun, family-friendly skits loosely based on

official Olympic events. It's an afternoon to remember, not only for its brilliantly presented analysis of Olympic spending and priorities, but largely for the community spirit shining through."

Nov. 15

UCV Board (TBA)

Nov. 22

**The UCV Social Justice
Committee's New Model**

Members of the Social Justice Committee and its action groups explain the model on which they have operated for the last year, report on their successes and failures, and invite UCV members to get involved in the committee, its action groups, and/or action groups that members may choose to start themselves.

Dec. 6

***Braving the Inchoate Through
Poetry and Other Arts***
Janet Vickers & Keith Wilkinson

Art is created with a balance of intuition and craft as a way of exploring that which is still unknown, that which is inchoate, incipient, imperfect, emergent.

Because language is such a complex, pervasive, practical, loaded and

subtle human tool, poetry, which intentionally combines reason and pre-reason in linguistic form, treads a very special path amidst denotative meaning, connotative meaning, exhortation, emotive value and new meaning discovered through metaphorical thought.

No wonder so many people struggle to like poetry! What is the purpose of art, and poetry in particular? Why do we feel art enriches our lives? Do the arts offer us ethical guidance, or is aesthetics a value on its own?

Come share your thoughts on these and related questions and hear some of the poems from *The Moon That Follows You Home: Poems of Call and Response*, UCV's third annual Poetry Chapbook.

Janet and Keith are two of six current editors of the UCV Poetry Chapbook series. UCV congregants are invited to submit their original verse for the fourth Chapbook, to be published in May, 2010 (see pg. 5). ■



Carry the Flame