



# The Bulletin

Unitarian Church of Vancouver

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OCTOBER 2009

## Sunday Services in October

All services begin at 11 A.M.

Oct. 4

**Consider It: A Safe and Dignified Life for All Youth and Youth Allies**

Last year, some of our congregation's youth traveled to New York to attend the Spring Conference of the UU-UNO, in which they explored aspects of what it meant to have a safe and dignified life for all. Some of the topics regarded people in specific communities: What if you were a widow in India, or elderly, or a person in a country where you could be killed for being GLBTQ? Come join our youth in recognition of UN Sunday.

Oct. 11

**Do It With Thanks**

**Rev. Dr. Steven Epperson**

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

On this Thanksgiving Sunday, as a congregation we'll express and celebrate our gratitude through song, "The Story of Bread," procession and music. Bring your singing voices and good cheer.

PLEASE NOTE: On behalf of the UCV Food Bank, I invite you to bring a

Thanksgiving offering to share with our Food Bank families. Please bring a five-pound bag of whole wheat flour and a small soft package of ground cinnamon. Thank you.

Oct. 18

**Utopia: Beyond Enlightenment, Salvation and Afterlife Bennett Mitten**

Utopia is more than a fairy tale, more than some childish fantasy of marginal minds. Battered, betrayed, misused, misunderstood, Utopia remains with us still, waiting to open. Thinker and storyteller Bennett Mitten suggests that Utopia is far richer, far deeper than we may think—and that it is real.

Oct. 25

**Can We Celebrate the UN Anymore? Rev. Dr. Steven Epperson**

Unitarians claim to affirm and promote "the goal of world community." UUs have strongly supported the UN; indeed, we "celebrate" it today in this worship service. Is that celebration meaningful anymore? Join us; let's explore. We will also present this year's UN Gibbard Award. ■

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### Housing needed for Ministerial Intern

Do you have a separate suite in your home?

UCV will host a Ministerial Intern from September 2010 to June 2011. This is a chance for us to be a teaching church as well as to benefit from the involvement of an intern at UCV.

Because of the high cost of Vancouver housing, we are seeking a member willing to offer their separate, self-contained suite for the duration of the internship. UCV can issue a tax receipt for the housing value.

If you can accommodate this request, please contact Elisabeth Geller (president@vancouverunitarians.ca) by October 15. Thank you. ■

### UCV Centenary Feast & Soiree

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

It's a "Best Deal, Best Fun" congregational feast! Doors open at 5:30 with cash bar. Dinner is at 6:15, followed by a Soiree in the Sanctuary from 7:45–9.

Tickets are \$5.00 after Sunday services from Oct. 18 to Nov. 22. If you can't get to church, call the UCV office (604-261-7204) to order tickets for pickup at the door on Nov. 28. We can seat only 170 for dinner, so get your tickets soon.

Dinner options: Meat or vegetarian; all-local or Canadian menu.

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

If you want to attend only the Soiree, please come at 7:45. No ticket is required, just a small donation.

Don't miss our final UCV Centenary celebration. It won't happen again for—another 100 years!

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

**Submissions:** By the 14<sup>th</sup> day of the month preceding the month of issue. Guidelines available at church office.

**Editor:** Andy Fielding

**Email:** bulletin@vancouverunitarians.ca

### UNITARIAN CHURCH OF VANCOUVER

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#### Minister Emeritus

Rev. Dr. Phillip Hewett

#### Community Minister

Rev. Laura Friedman

#### Lay Chaplains

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Sherry King, Katherine Roback,  
Wayne Ulian

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## President's Message

Elisabeth Geller (president@vancouverunitarians.ca)

Activities and events at UCV continue at a speed and frequency that boggles the mind. There are so many important activities—both ongoing and one-time—here in our community that I am consistently impressed and amazed with the vibrant, relevant contributions our members and staff make.

At the risk of leaving so many of these important works out, I'd like to point out a couple of key things happening around UCV and hope you will find the time to engage in them.

First of all, you may know that UCV is engaging in a process to have a ministerial intern come for our 2010-2011 church year. A committee has been struck and is diligently working away on the pieces that are entailed in bringing an intern to Vancouver. This is an important reciprocal contribution—we have the opportunity to help shape and inform a future Unitarian leader, as well as learn from that person and have them contribute to our community.

Because of the high cost of housing in Vancouver, we are seeking a UCV member who has a separate suite in their home and would be willing to make that available to the intern from September 2010 to June 2011. UCV could provide a tax receipt for the value of the housing costs, and it would be a great contribution to make to this process. If you have such a suite available, please contact me.

Secondly, I hope you will join us on October 6 for a potluck dinner at UCV to meet the Canadian Unitarian Council's new executive director, Jennifer Dickson. This is an opportunity for you to learn more about her and the work that lies ahead for CUC. Please join us for dinner at 6 p.m. and bring a dish to share. ■

## Religious Exploration Update

Caroline Farley

Director, Lifespan Religious Exploration

(caroline@vancouverunitarians.ca)



Ever wonder where our program lessons come from? Who is teaching our kids? Well, we have all that and more this month.

As you know from other *Bulletin* articles, we have three levels of programming happening on a Sunday morning.

Preschool to Grade 3 uses a method of teaching called Spirit Play. Spirit Play is based on Montessori methods and Jerome Berryman's book *Godly Play*. Unitarian Universalists Nita Penfold (D.Min.), Rev. Ralph Roberts and Beverly Leute Bruce took Berry's program and adapted it for our churches. From the Spirit Play website:

"We see the *purpose of religious education* as helping children in living into their own answers to the existential questions, as in Jerome Berryman's work: Where did we come from? What are we doing here? What is our purpose? How do we choose to live our lives? What are our gifts? How do we use them? What happens when we die? Why do we die? Why are we lonely and sad sometimes?

"We use the Montessori approach and Berryman's morning-as-worship approach for the structure of the morning. As in Montessori, the key elements are the classroom environment and the teachers. These elements free the children to work at their own pace on their own issues:

*Continued, next page*

## From the Minister's Workshop Getting multi-faith and inter-spiritual—for real

Steven Epperson

(minister@vancouverunitarians.ca)

Last month, I traveled to Surrey to take part in an unusual inter-faith event: a “Pre-Parliament of Religion” convocation, devoted to the upcoming World Parliament of Religion in Melbourne, Australia this December, and on the state of inter-faith activity in the Greater Vancouver area.



What made this event out-of-the-ordinary for me is that the event organizers and the majority of the participants were not the “usual suspects” (white, liberal Christian, Jewish, and Unitarian religious leaders). Rather, they hailed from our South and East Asian religious communities. The chair of the gathering was Dr. Acharya Dwivedi; the “master of ceremonies” was Ms. Rukmini Chaitanya.

Representatives of Sikh, Jain, Zoroastrian, Muslim, Hindu, Baha’i, and Buddhist communities joined with those representing Aboriginal, Christian, Unitarian, and Jewish groups to offer up prayers and share ideas, music, food, thought, and good will. Sponsors included Sanjay Foods, Pearl Palace Banquet Hall, Dhoop Chaon Zindagi Ke Rang TV and Mirchi Television. Do you get the picture?

For years now in Vancouver, I have experienced an underdeveloped multi-faith infrastructure, and (with one exception) weak multi-faith organizations whose participants are aging, lack the support of their denominations/congregations, and represent too narrow a slice of the public religious spectrum.

Many of us are overwhelmed with the local responsibilities of our congregations and have precious little time, for too little tangible gain, to devote long hours to promoting and steering multi-faith endeavours.

And yet we Unitarians claim—and, I believe, truly desire—to participate actively in multi-faith and inter-spiritual work, worship and action because we claim that “religious plural-

ism” and drawing “from many sources” “enriches and ennobles our faith” (from *Principles and Sources of Our Faith*, Canadian Unitarian Council).

As well, I believe you have expectations that I will wisely use my time and resources in these domains.

Because this multi-faith event in Surrey looked like it was going to be something unusual and credible, I decided to take a whole Saturday to attend and participate.

I believe it may turn out to be time well-spent; it all depends whether the diversity of participation and the level of commitment and connection I experienced that day can be sustained by cooperation and mutual trust, by an ongoing commitment to real dialogue, and by opportunities to worship and serve together across religious and cultural divides for the sake of the common good and the well-being of all.

I’ll keep you posted on developments.

P.S.: I will be preaching to Nanaimo Unitarians on October 4, and working with the Western Regional Subcommittee on Candidacy October 15–18 in San Francisco. ■

### Religious Exploration – continued

1. The *Door Keeper* helps the children get ready to enter the classroom as parents drop them off.
2. The *Storyteller* leads the circle in the story of the day, followed by wondering.
3. Children choose an art response or to use a story previously heard, helped by the Door Keeper.
4. Children clean up, followed by a “feast” (snack) with the Storyteller.
5. Leave-taking is a formal process of saying goodbye to the Storyteller when parents arrive and children are ready.”

We are focusing on the Promises (seven principles of Unitarianism) stories with our kids. This class is a purposely multi-age group, as in the Montessori approach to learning. We will, as numbers dictate, split this group into two groups when necessary.

Our Grade 4–7 class uses programs developed as part of the *Tapestry of Faith* series by the Lifespan Faith Development department of the Unitarian Universalist Association (in the US).

The *Tapestry of Faith* series includes age-level curricula that must include educational components of the “four strands”—areas of development that help our members, children and youth become well-rounded Unitarian Universalists. These “strands” are:

- Ethical development
- Spiritual development
- Unitarian Universalist identity
- Faith development

Last year, this age group used a curriculum called “Toolbox of Faith” that looked at everyday tools as symbols of our Unitarian Universalist faith (e.g. duct tape as a symbol for being flexible). These symbols serve as reminders to our children of some of the skills

and beliefs of being an ethical, spiritual person.

This fall, we will use a different curriculum called “Windows and Mirrors”. According to the UUA website, this program will:

- Present Unitarian Universalism as a faith lived out through identifying and acting on responsibility toward one another.
- Introduce the reality and impact of multiple perspectives and multiple experiences as we live in this world.
- Use the metaphor of a window and mirror to help children understand themselves in relation to others.
- Present the “windows and mirrors” metaphor as an effective tool for understanding and living our Unitarian Universalist principles.
- Guide children to identify and respect their own values, views and

*Continued, next page*

Religious Exploration – from page 3

needs as well as those of others in a variety of contexts, and teach that to do so is a faith practice.

- Provide children with practice in observation, interpretation and critical thinking.
- Develop children's empathy, open-mindedness and respect for differences, seen and unseen.

Our wonderful slate of ARE programs is beginning and should be very exciting. Details are on the Church website at [www.vancouver.unitarians.ca](http://www.vancouver.unitarians.ca). Our next brochure comes out in December for the January to June term.

Have a program idea? Call or email me. Happy Thanksgiving, Fall and Halloween! ■

## Book Club meets Oct. 4

The UCV Book Club meets in the Budny room at 12:30 p.m. the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of each month. We welcome those who love books or who are interested in one we are discussing in a given month.



On October 4, we discuss John Updike's *Due Considerations* (2007, 736 pages). People are invited to select from his book one author or writing they like and briefly speak about it at the October meeting.

In *Due Considerations*, many books are discussed, some in introductions to classics such as Thoreau's *To Walden* and Henry James' *The Portrait of a*

*Lady*. Others are reviews, usually for *New Yorker* magazine. Ralph Waldo Emerson and *The Five Books of Moses* (Pentateuch/Torah) by Robert Alter come in for appraisal, along with *Uncle Tom's Cabin* and *The Wizard of Oz*. Contemporary American and English writers such as Colson Whitehead, E.L. Doctorow, Don DeLillo, Norman Rush, William Trevor, A.S. Byatt, Muriel Spark and Ian McEwan receive attention and appreciative reviews, as do Rohinton Mistry, Salman Rushdie, Peter Carey, Margaret Atwood, Gabriel Garcia Márquez, Karuki Murakami, Günter Grass and Orhan Pamuk. Reading *Due Considerations* is like taking a cruise that calls at many ports with a witty, sensitive and articulate guide. ■

Social Justice / Refugee Committee

## Caring opportunities galore

Virginia Crabill (604-731-9393)



So much to report! Our 5 Palestinian families were due to arrive by the end of September. We'll be working with the Quaker community with one family; the Muslim community will work with another; and Mennonites and the United Church will work with the rest. What an incredible opportunity for inter-faith interaction and getting to know other faith communities!

This leads us to:

HELP!! We need more volunteers. You don't have to join the committee; just offer assistance as you have time and energy. We need help with:

- **Lunches**, including shopping, preparing, serving, and cleanup
- **Apartment-searching**, then cleaning and setting it up once it's found
- **Transporting** donated furniture from storage to the new domiciles
- **Home repair**, including caulking and minor carpentry
- **Installing** TVs and computers
- Basic **computer, cooking, or English** lessons
- Helping new families **learn about their new neighborhoods** (community centres, grocery stores, thrift shops)
- **Taking families on outings** to parks and beaches
- **Donating bus tickets** as families look for work

Our Palestinian family has a 1-year-old son with a hole in his heart. Could you:

- **Drive them** to medical appointments?
- **Comfort and advocate** for them?
- Find them a **stroller, high chair, baby bed or crib** and

## Sunday Lunches

**Lunch servers** are urgently needed this fall. If your group would like to serve a Sunday lunch, please contact Doris Lowe (604-435-6183).



Scheduled Fall lunches:

- Oct. 4** – Refugee Committee (fundraising for Farahnaz)
- Oct. 11** – Refugee Committee
- Nov. 1** – Refugee Committee (fundraising for Farahnaz)
- Nov. 8** – Refugee Committee
- Dec. 6** – Refugee Committee (fundraising for Farahnaz)

*More news:* Our musician friend got an A+ in his VCC course in group counseling and plans to enter this field when he gets his certificate next year.

Our young part-time custodian plans to finish her high school diploma, then to take a practical nursing course and be working as a nurse in 4 years. Right now she is looking for part-time, long-term work of 15 to 20 hours a week. If you can help, please email Fiona Graham.

Our young Afghan mother has almost paid off her travel loan, through her Sunday-afternoon lunches.

Our Karen mother is learning English and revealing her sense of humour. The story of how we managed to find an apartment with a Burmese-speaking landlady for the Karens is worthy of a column itself—ask us!

The Refugee Committee meets the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of each month at 12:30 in the Board Room. And YES, we are still selling our wonderful recipe books!

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".

For more information about the Refugee Committee, contact either of the co-chairs—me, Virginia Crabill (number above), or Fiona Graham. ■

Environment Committee

## UN Day of Climate Action

Karl Perrin, Chair

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

Saturday, Oct. 24 will be an international day of inspiration and creativity. The United Nations has asked all 6.7 billion of us to light a fire under our leaders by participating in a world rally: the International Day of Climate Action.



Every city and town will have its rally, and Vancouver's will be incredible.

Remember, annual peace marches helped end the Arms Race. We can show leaders heading to Copenhagen in December that a new cooler planet is coming. ("Lead, follow, or get out of the way!" – Thomas Paine)

On October 24, the Cambie Bridge will host dancers, skateboarders, Halloween costumes, and music. UCV will have a huge banner, and banners will hang from the bridge facing Science World. (It's all City of Vancouver approved and encouraged.)

The parade of thousands will move past BC Place to Science World where we will learn the what, how, and why of fighting climate change.

Why? Because we love our kids—so kid-friendly events will be in the kids' area. How? Local food—so a farmer's market will spring up around Science World. That silver globe will become a symbol of a cool planet for this event called "Bridge to a Cool Planet". Google it, volunteer for it, and visit [www.350.org](http://www.350.org) for the world perspective. (350 parts per million CO<sup>2</sup>—that's the goal. We're at 389 ppm now.)

In the evening, speakers and music at Christ Church Cathedral will bring us joy and inspiration.

After a long day of learning, parading, and celebrating solutions, we will flop into bed, energized to carry out the Great Turning of this overheated planet—turning from our old industrial-growth society to a new life-sustaining one.

Join us at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Oct. 24, on the east side of the Cambie Bridge.

The Environment Committee meets at 12:30 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 11, in the Boardroom. All are welcome. ■

## First Friday Focus

Friday, Oct. 2, 7–9 p.m., Hewett Hall  
Convenor: Randall MacKinnon

Part lecture, part performance, part philosophers' cafe . . . Through words and music, we will 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 is "Three Stories: One Evening in Two Parts". We'll begin with a presentation by "storyteller" Bennett Mitten, followed by refreshments, then finish with a chance to share and reflect. ■

## Centenary Services Auction

The Services Auction is back! Reserve the evening of Saturday, Dec. 5 for supper, music, and silent and live auctions—this time with a theme around winter celebrations and our Centenary.

Think what you might donate as a service, and what you might like to bid on during auction night—then watch for more information in the November *Bulletin*. ■

## New and exciting books

Elizabeth Murdoch

UCV Library Committee

Welcome to the UCV Library! With fall here, this is a great time to visit us.

We've quite a selection of books, sermon tapes, and a few videos on Unitarianism. We also have an interesting selection of other nonfiction material for adults, youth and children, including world religions and spirituality, environmental issues, autobiography (some from UCV members), meditation, death and dying, and personal rituals through the lifespan. There are many more categories and an interesting magazine selection.

There is also our Literature Stall in the main hall of Hewett Centre. It holds, among other items, printed and audio copies of sermons and some fiction/nonfiction videos.

Come on in! Borrow, browse, sit quietly and read, make a recommendation for additions to our collection, or ask a reference question.

New nonfiction:

- *Why Your World Is About to Get a Whole Lot Smaller* by Jeff Rubin
- *Cascadia, The Elusive Utopia: Exploring the Spirit of the Pacific Northwest*, Douglas Todd, ed.
- *We Are the Ones We Have Been Waiting For: Inner Light in a Time of Darkness* by Alice Walker
- *Depletion and Abundance: Life on the New Home Front* by Sharon Astyk
- *Powerful Prayers for Everyday Living* by Mark Linden O'Meara
- *Here If You Need Me* by Kate Braestrup (a Unitarian minister's autobiography)
- *Descent into Chaos* by Ahmed Rashid (donated by Anne Stuart)

- *Daily Meditations for Calming Your Anxious Mind* by Jeffrey Brantley and Wendy Millstone

New fiction:

- *The Winter Vault* by Anne Michaels (fiction)
- *Skelly the Skeleton Girl* by Jimmy Pickering (junior fiction; picture book)

For more information, please contact Library Chair Aphrodite Harris (aphrodite\_harris@telus.net, 604-987-5339). We'll see you soon! ■

## Optimists' Corner

Cellist Pablo Casals was once asked why, at the age of 95, he was still practicing six hours a day. "Because," he said, "I'm still improving!"

## Fostering Community

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



Isn't it wonderful news that **Laura Friedman**, our Community Minister, is getting married! The wedding is at Cecil Green Park on October 17. The lucky groom is **Cameron Imayoshi**, who works in the nonprofit sector. Cameron's father, a minister, will officiate. Warmest wishes to the young couple for a bright future.

On the move are **Samantha and Jeff Taylor**. Samantha retired in late August as our office assistant and has been ably replaced by **Tara MacNiven**. Samantha and Jeff have moved to Agassiz where they are now proud homeowners. Jeff, who has a agriculture degree, likes his new job at a tree farm in Chilliwack. Congratulations to them both!

Also recently moved is **Philippa Syme**, from Dunbar to the Cambie / King Edward area. She loves her new place and her daily commute on the Canada Line. She also enjoys running into friendly neighbours like **Betty Bronson** and **David Marmorek**.

**Ruth Shaw** has been using her sewing and cooking talents to help the less fortunate, fundraising for her Make a

Difference group. She recently raised \$300 toward an African mission from the sale of her hand-made aprons. She'd like to acknowledge the many other hands behind the scenes who've been making tasty lunches which help the desperately poor, both at home and abroad. More help would be welcome; please call Ruth at 604-267-2758.

**Geoff Gomery and Louise Bunn's** kitchen in their Dunbar home has recently undergone extensive renovations. An important and beautiful part of those renovations has been their new kitchen cabinets, handcrafted by none other than **Fritz Muntean**. Also working for a fellow UCV member is **Reed Harris** who is doing some basement renovations for **Mavis Jemielita**.

A sad note: **Carolyn Gaebler**, wife of **Max Gaebler**, our Interim Minister in 1994-1995, died on August 21 after a long illness. Our condolences go out to Max and his family.

It's wonderful to see **Paul Wright** back at church with his wife, **Karen Brumelle**. Paul is convalescing from a stroke suffered last spring.

**Norm Hoyer** reports that he's recovering from a hospital stay and can't get to church or to Daytimers right now. But he'd really like to keep in touch, hearing from old friends by email (fernhill@dccnet.com) and by phone. Best wishes to you in your recovery, Norm.

*Fostering Community* wants to hear from you! ■

## A Warm Welcome

Have you noticed the Welcome Table in the Sanctuary foyer before every Sunday service?

No, we are not the Nametag Police!

Several years ago, Reverend Steven Epperson suggested that we set up a Welcome Table for visitors and newcomers. It works best when Steven is outside directing people to us. Otherwise, we greet anyone *not wearing a nametag*.

We ask a few simple questions:

- Is this your first visit?
  - Are you already a Unitarian?
  - Where are you from?
  - How did you hear about our church?
  - Would you like to fill in a simple form to initiate further contact from us?
  - Would you like a more detailed information package, or a copy of the *Bulletin*?
  - Would you like a pamphlet on child/youth activities?
- (Very soon, we will also be able to offer them a map of the buildings and grounds.)

We give directions, and suggest that newcomers join us for coffee after the service. And yes, we do offer them a nametag—a sticky one just for the day or, for repeat attendees, a colourful interim one to be replaced if and when they become members.

We tell them about the information table in Hewett Centre, where they can find materials on church programs and activities, and on becoming a member.

We are often the "first contact" for our visitors, many of whom have learned about us from our website. We try to have the Welcome Table set up by 10:30 and stay there until 11:15 in case of latecomers.

Michael Scales and Judy Villett have been greeters for the last three years, with help from Frances Anderson and Michael Welton. Patience Towler was invaluable *every Sunday* this summer, as Judy and Michael could not attend. We would love to see some new faces at this table (and to be able to sleep in every now and then!).

Being a Welcome Table Greeter is an enjoyable way to **meet people and provide a valuable service** to the Church. If you'd like to volunteer, please contact Judy Villett (jvillett@hotmail.com, 604-215-8537). ■

### Budget Report

## UCV loses gaming grant

The Unitarian Church of Vancouver, like many other nonprofit organizations in the province, was denied its application for funds from the BC Gaming Commission. The church was advised of this decision in mid-September.

Given that the 2009-10 UCV budget included income of \$40,000 from gaming, the Board will review the figures and any financial changes that have occurred in the past few months. A restated budget will likely be presented to the congregation at the Annual General Meeting in November.

## Saturday, Oct. 17 on the North Shore – one great day, two great events

Meet, discuss, and learn with BC Unitarians...

### BC Heartwarming 2009

If you've stopped at Hewett Hall in September or October, you may have seen the colourful posters for our 2009 Lower Mainland Fall Gathering, **BC Heartwarming**.

Featuring small group get-togethers, joyful worship with lots of music, and even a virtual meeting with CUC's new executive director Jennifer Dickson, this one-day event is from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, October 17, and is hosted by the North Shore Unitarian Church.

You'll find registration forms for this Fall Gathering at the UCV office, or go to [www.cuc.ca](http://www.cuc.ca) and click *News and Events*.

Registration is \$25, or an "early bird" price of \$20 if you register before Oct. 12. Reduced fees are also available for those with limited resources.

Lunch will be provided at the event.

If you plan to attend BC Heartwarming, NSUC's planning committee invites you to give a worship-service reading or facilitate a small group meeting. To volunteer, or if you'd like more information, contact Jeannie Corsi (604-224-1040, [nichorsi@interchange.ubc.ca](mailto:nichorsi@interchange.ubc.ca)).

Our own minister, Steven Epperson, has said, "Regional Gatherings such as this serve an important function as our denomination is going through a process of transition and transformation. Ministers and congregants reach across congregational boundaries to share ideas, explore our challenges and inspire one another."

Come join in the 2009 BC Regional Fall Gathering! ■

... then sing ABBA songs with them (naturally!)

### Sing-Along *Mama Mia*



You won't want to miss this! Following the **BC Heartwarming** at NSUC, we're hosting a fundraising event that's sure to have you singing, laughing and enjoying some quality time with your UU friends from the Lower Mainland.

**Where:** North Shore Unitarian Church social hall

**When:** Sat., Oct. 17, from 7:30 p.m. till you're AABA-ed out

**Cost:** Adults \$10; children \$5; families \$25 (or an amount that makes you feel good about supporting our Teachers' Retreat)

#### Perks:

- Elevated endorphin levels and ensuing stress-release
  - Goody bag with items to enhance your viewing and singing along with the movie, *Mama Mia* (please **phone ahead** so we know how many bags to prepare)
  - Munchies and no-host bar; intermission door prize
- Sure, Pierce Brosnan can't sing, and the movie is corny (hey, it's a musical), but it's a chance to have fun and raise funds too—so don your best disco duds and join us!

For more info, and to let us know you're coming, please call Lynn Sabourin (604-926-1621). ■

## Philosophers' Fireside Café

7–9 p.m., 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of each month, Fireside Room

Moderator: Randall MacKinnon

The evenings are as warm as our fireside, as welcoming as our carpet, as comfortable as our 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.

On October 16, join us for "The road to Copenhagen: Canada's role as a responsible global citizen in the era of climate change." The upcoming talks in Copenhagen will determine the future of the Kyoto Protocol. We as Canadians are in a unique position as the home of the tar sands, the "Gateway" to China, and a neighbour to the US. Will we enable the climate crisis, or live up to our reputation as responsible global citizens?

Guest Ben West is a filmmaker and activist. As the Healthy Communities Campaigner for the Wilderness Committee, Ben coordinates campaigns related to land use and transportation planning, protection of agricultural land, and climate change policy.

Admission \$5. Registration not required. Everyone is welcome. ■



## Kitchen News

Tamara Shoup,  
Administrative Manager

In preparation for a new contract between UCV and the Food Bank, it is necessary for us to meet the conditions for a “restaurant” type permit from the Vancouver Coastal Health Environmental Health Department.

This category of permit is required to prepare and deliver food—in this case, snacks—to members of the public, i.e. our Food Bank clients.

Our area health inspector has reviewed our food storage, preparation and sanitation practices and has recommended some changes.

We must establish a Food Preparation Plan and a Sanitation Plan. Guidelines based on these plans will be posted in the kitchen and will appear in the next *Bulletin*. (continued . . .)

Meanwhile, a thermometer has been placed in the refrigerator to ensure food safety. The thermometer is to remain in place and temperature controls should not be adjusted. ■

### Do you need groceries? (Doesn't everybody?)

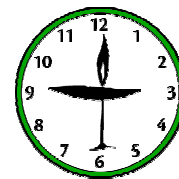
Our Youth Group is fundraising with food voucher sales.

**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  
(cljlah@shaw.ca)



Daytimers is open to anyone with free time from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and an interest in the topic of the day, good company, and conversation.

At our Thursday, Oct. 8 meeting, Joan Armstrong will review Judy Rebeck's *Transforming Power*, followed by discussion. If you haven't read the book, join us anyway to add your ideas and opinions.

Two weeks later, on Thursday, Oct. 22, Daytimers gets together again to hear Martin Toren speak on “The Politics of Inequality”.

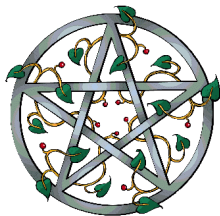
Join us from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Fireside Room.

Don't forget to bring your lunch. Tea, coffee, and Vancouver's good water are available. ■

### Pagan Committee

The Pagan group meets 7–9 p.m. on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday evenings. (Huguette coordinates the 2<sup>nd</sup> and Mary the 4<sup>th</sup>.) For more information, email:

unitarianpagans@gmail.com



### Sacred Circle Dancing

Come join the dance! We meet from 7–9 p.m. on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Mondays. The 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

For more details, email us at [ucvdance@telus.net](mailto:ucvdance@telus.net) or check our blog: [sacredcircledance.wordpress.com](http://sacredcircledance.wordpress.com)

## New member profile: Alexandra Henriques



Mary Bennett (UnitarianMary@telus.net)

I met Alexandra at the breakfast for people who've taken the *New U* workshop and have decided to sign the membership book. Representatives of church committees and groups are invited to attend the signing breakfast, and I—and Alexandra—can vouch for the welcoming atmosphere, and the great food and company.

After church the same day, Alexandra was at the Environment Committee meeting! She went to the orientation and “one thing led to another.” To say she's gotten involved at UCV is an understatement.

Alexandra first heard about Unitarians three decades ago. It was only in March of this year that she attended, when she heard a colleague was going and asked if she could come along.

She found the orientation very informative, especially learning about the Church's history and about famous Unitarians. “I'm pretty well-informed,” she says, “but didn't know much about Unitarianism. Very little known about Unitarians and what [we've] done. We're too quiet.” She also notes that she still connects most easily with the folks in her cohort.

Most recently Alexandra got involved with our thrift sale, sorting items and finding “gleaners” to take goods remaining at the end of the weekend.

Alexandra hopes the Church will continue to grow and thrive, attracting and nurturing all kinds of people, especially children and youth. “Let's not lose them,” she says. “We have to make sure it's inclusive so that everyone feels there's a place for their voice.”

Is there anything she'd change about UCV? “Not much!” she says, but adds that she'd like to see more social opportunities around food, like the *New U* breakfast.

You can learn more about Alexandra and her company at [www.eco-audit.ca](http://www.eco-audit.ca). ■

*Thrift Sale Report*

## Attention, shoppers—thanks!

Our 2009 Annual Thrift Sale is over and we made over \$12,000! About half of that amount came from our after-church Sunday sales to the congregation.

To open the public sale, Rev. Epperson officiated at a ribbon-cutting ceremony (*at right*) and dedicated the sale to celebrating UCV's 100<sup>th</sup> year and our community efforts.

We received the largest number of donations ever this summer. Unsold goods were passed on to various charitable organizations. Over 90 people volunteered over the summer—a fine example of people of diverse beliefs working together for a common good. Thanks to all for your help!

The Thrift Sale Committee is looking at ways to simplify the very labour-intensive process from July till past Labour Day. Given the current economic times and the proliferation of consignment shops, Internet selling etc., we may need to rethink the practicality of a thrift sale. To let the Thrift Sale Committee know your ideas, contact:

Dianne Crosbie (dcrosbie@uniserve.com, 604-876-6543)

Pat MacBain (604-266-4225)

Julie Cowie (gibson120@shaw.ca, 604-267-1627) ■



## UCV Calendar – October 2009

- Sat. 3:** The Sacred Voice, Meditation Rm., 10–5 p.m.
- Sun. 4:** Forum (details below), Fireside, 12–2 p.m.  
UCV Book Club: *Due Considerations*, Budny, 12:30–2 p.m.
- Mon. 5:** Library Committee Meeting, Fireside, 2–4 p.m.
- Tues. 6:** Potluck dinner for new UCV Executive Director Jennifer Dickson, Hewett Centre main hall, 6 p.m.  
ARE: How Did You Live Your Life Today? (cont. until Oct.27), Budny, 7–9 p.m.  
ARE: Humanity's Spiritual Evolution (cont. until Nov.24), Lindsey/Priestley, 7–9 p.m.
- Thu. 8:** ARE: Saul's *A Fair Country* (cont. until Nov. 26), Fireside, 7–8:30 p.m.
- Sat. 10:** The Sacred Voice (cont. until Nov. 14), Meditation Rm., time TBA
- Sun. 11:** Forum (details below), Fireside, 12:30–1:30 p.m.
- Mon. 12:** Mythos 1 (cont. until Nov.2), Budny, 7–9 p.m.  
Sacred Circle Dancing, Fireside, 7–9 p.m.
- Thu. 15:** Daytimers: History of Universal Human Rights, Fireside, 11 a.m.–2 p.m.
- Sun. 25:** Book Bash, Alcove, 9 a.m.–1 p.m.
- Wed. 28:** Paganism 101, Fireside, 7–9:30 p.m.

### Lay Chaplaincy Committee opening

The Lay Chaplaincy Committee has received the resignation of Denise Ne-reida. Denise has been a supportive, hard-working member of our committee. We thank her for her contribution to the lay chaplaincy program and wish her all the best in her future endeavours.

If you are a UCV member who is interested in becoming a part of this important outreach committee, please email LC Co-Chair Marilyn McVicar (mmcv@shaw.ca), or speak in person to Marilyn or Co-Chair Mary Murray. ■



### 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.

#### Sunday, Oct. 4 UN's International Day of Climate Action

Environment Committee  
Coordinator: Karl Perrin

The Kyoto Plus petition recommends Canada cut its greenhouse emissions by 25% below 1990 levels by 2020. (So does Lord Nicholas Stern, author of *Last Chance*.)

On Saturday, Oct. 24, millions around the world will demand that government leaders meeting in Copenhagen this December create a "Kyoto with teeth" to stop a major climate crisis. Join us and learn what you can do.

Sunday, Oct. 11  
Social Justice Committee

Sunday, Oct. 18  
UCV Board

Sunday, Oct. 25  
Social Justice Committee

### Parting Thoughts

### Our Beloved Community

Diana Ellis

I remember, when I first came to UCV, hearing Rev. Sydney Morris referring to "this, our beloved community." I wondered, being new there and unconnected, what that might feel like.

On a recent Sunday, after a time of absence from Sunday services, I sat and looked around. I saw familiar faces, still there, with a comforting "hello, good to see you back."

In rows nearby, UCV members who I knew had endured recent hard losses: death, illness, separation. Next to me, new faces, intently listening, wondering if this was the place for them.

The light fresh faces of youngsters listening at story time; and our "cool" youth, hugging after a summer away from one another. Words of hope and encouragement from our ministers. Words of congratulation and thanks to hard-working volunteers.

All of us there. Together. This, our beloved community. ■



Carry the Flame