



# The Bulletin

Unitarian Church of Vancouver

949 West 49<sup>th</sup> Ave., Vancouver, BC V5Z 2T1 604-261-7204  
www.vancouverunitarians.ca Fax: 604-261-7205



DECEMBER 2010

## Sunday Services

All services begin at 11 am unless otherwise noted



**December 5**  
**Beyond Words**

**Thoughts on Loss, Women of the Downtown Eastside, and Books**  
**Maggie de Vries**

In this poignant and inspirational service, Maggie de Vries—new UCV member, long-time lurker—speaks about her work with women on the downtown eastside and about her on-again, off-again relationship with the church.

*Ingathering singing with Joyce Poley, 10:45.*



**December 12**

**Gospel of Hope/or End Times?**

**Rev. Steven Epperson and Joe Cherry, UCV Intern Minister**

How we map the future enables us to talk about values in our lives. Cherry and Epperson will examine three ways of looking at the times ahead of us; it's called *eschatology*. Eschatology is a lens by which we examine our world now and in the future and how we engage with it. Join us for a provocative exploration.

*Music with Elliott Dainow.*



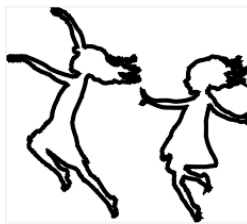
**December 12**

**Candlelight Service (7:30 pm)**

**Rev. Steven Epperson,  
Joe Cherry, the Chalice Choir,  
Michael Dunn &  
the Brighter Lights/Thicker Lenses  
and UCV members**

This is an annual seasonal highlight and a UCV tradition: worship, the spoken word, and music featuring the Chalice Choir. This service honours the religious and spiritual festivals of December and the turning of the seasons.

All are invited. (Childcare will be provided.)



**December 19**

**UU're Kidding! A Holiday Tale**  
**Cristin Lee and RE participants**

Hoping to get some advice on how to solve some of the world's problems, a scientist builds a machine capable of calling forth the ghosts of UU history. But when a small mechanical hiccup occurs, the ghosts arrive in their child forms. With a bit of holiday spirit and some modern technology, the scientist attempts to rectify the problem and ends up rediscovering his soul in the process.

*Music with Elliott Dainow.*



**December 24**

**Christmas Eve Celebration (7:00 pm)**

**Joe Cherry, UCV Intern Minister**

On this evening, as we prepare for the day to come, we gather with candles, carols, and story to commemorate our fellowship and the gifts of the season. Bring your family and friends; all are invited to this service for all ages.

(Childcare will be provided.)

*Music with Elliott Dainow.*



**December 26**

**Letting It Go: A Fire Communion**  
**Mary Bennett and Patrick Dubois**

Come celebrate with us at our last service for 2010. We will join together in this powerful communal service.

Come ready to "box up" all of what you're ready to let go of from the past year. As the old year ends, on this Boxing Day service, we'll set the scene for "thinking outside the box" about past and future. The fire communion ritual gives us an opportunity to deeply and powerfully connect and transform in a uniquely created environment of ritual, music, voice and fire.

*Children will join us for story time, then have a separate program in Hewett.*

**The Bulletin** is the monthly newsletter (Sept. to June) of the Unitarian Church of Vancouver.

**Editor:** Connie Wigmore

**Submissions:** By the 14<sup>th</sup> of the month preceding each issue. Guidelines are available from the Church office or from the editor.

**Email your submissions or comments**

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##### Minister Emeritus

Rev. Dr. Phillip Hewett

##### Community Minister

Rev. Laura Imayoshi

##### Ministerial Intern

Joe Cherry

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### President's message

## A year in the blink of an eye – my thanks

Kathryn Aberle ([president@vancouverunitarians.ca](mailto:president@vancouverunitarians.ca))



I find it hard to believe that a year has passed since I accepted the position of President of the Board for this amazing congregation. The

support of amazing people on the Board, and the energy and enthusiasm of the people who populate the committees of the church and volunteer to give life to the work of this church community made this past year a joy for me.

It has been a year with both challenges and wonderful achievements, and a year with some “goodbyes” and a number of “hellos”. After seven years with the church, Caroline Farley left her position as Director of Lifespan Religious Exploration to pursue a new career closer to home in Gibsons in late

2009. As interim director, Jennifer Fell took on the job of shepherding the RE program to the end of the church year and putting her own stamp on it. A national recruitment in June and July brought us our new Director of Children’s and Youth RE. Cristin Lee Schieder joined us in August and was able to hit the ground running with a great program for children and youth when the new church year began in September.

It was also a joy to welcome our ministerial intern Joe Cherry in September. Joe comes to us from Chicago and will spend ten months with UCV. He has quickly integrated into the church community and you will find him delivering sermons, working on committees and doing service work in the downtown eastside. It is wonderful that UCV is once again able to be a “teaching church.”

*(Continued on page 4)*

### Ministerial Intern

## Taking time in our busy lives

Joe Cherry ([joe@vancouverunitarians.ca](mailto:joe@vancouverunitarians.ca))



A couple of years ago, I threw a holiday cookie party. Because it’s me, I included a twist. The cookies you brought must

come from your own kitchen, and you must bring one full batch of cookies only. My roommate and I invited thirty-five people to this party, figuring about eight people would show up.

We were wrong. Thirty plus people showed up, some with multiple recipes. (Why would the rule apply to them?) All told, we calculated that there were over 1,000 cookies in our home that night.

One friend complained about having to bake the cookies, when cookies were so easy to buy at the store. And I

told him that was exactly the reason why the cookies had to be baked at home. “We live in a consumer society,” I told him. “What matters is that we are taking the time in our busy lives to prepare these cookies for each other, rather than taking the easy way out. Love and effort make the cookies mean more!”

“Must you always be so spiritual?!?” he asked me with a sigh.

Yes, I must.

Human beings are meaning makers. Embrace that and make meaning in and of your own life. Encourage others to do the same. This is a far greater gift to give someone you love than any package with a bow.

With our love for each other, we can change the world.

May many blessings be yours this holiday season, and also year ‘round. ■

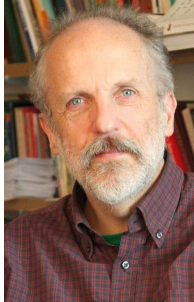
From the minister's workshop

## In Praise of Karel Capek

Rev. Dr. Steven Epperson

([minister@vancouverunitarians.ca](mailto:minister@vancouverunitarians.ca))

For years now, each December, I have written a *Bulletin* column reporting out on some book that I read for my own pleasure, one which gave me a measure of deep joy. They've tended to be thick 19<sup>th</sup> century books; this year, I want to tell you about a very different kind of book, though one that still filled me with admiration and pleasure in the reading.



It's Karel Capek's *War with the Newts* written in 1936, two years before his death. The story tells of the conquest of the world by large, intelligent newts which, after having been cruelly exploited as a labour force, turn against the human societies that became dependent upon them and their labour. Using a wild mixture of narrative styles, as well as newspaper articles, scientific papers, official documents, philosophical treatises, and board room meeting minutes—among other things, and all fake—it tells the

story of the newts and the fate of the world by describing the many different human responses to these uncanny creatures.

This imaginative, “science fiction/fantasy” genre was well-suited to Capek's aim to explore the implications of social, political, economic and environmental ideas and conflicts that gripped his time and place—pre-World War II Europe in particular. The book retains its appeal, for me, not only by its inventiveness, and its identification of problems that remain compelling problems in our time, but also, and most important, because of its keen humanism, its self-deprecatory humour, its attentiveness and appreciation for individual human personality—the unique worth of each person, no matter how quirky, strange, particular.

This is what lies at the heart of *War with the Newts*—a profound rejection of utopianism—political, economic, religious; a repudiation of that impatient, totalizing impulse in us that imposes one truth, one plan, one dogma on what Kant called “the crooked timber of humanity.”

“I belong,” Capek wrote, “among those short-sighted creatures who are unable to see the wood for the trees, or humankind for actual humans.” The

realization that the absolute was not attainable was connected, for Capek, with the recognition that all views of the world were partial, limited, situated. When someone comes along with views that claim to master the whole of reality (and they are still with us today), they become destructive about what is of most value in the human spirit.

But don't take my word for it; read the book—it's actually very funny and sobering at the same time. The growing unease and sense of doom in *War with the Newts* makes our folly appear pernicious (humans fail to unite against the newts) and endearing—we're too ridiculous, sensible, hopeless and precious to become like the collectivist, utilitarian, dehumanizing newts.

Capek is treasured by Czechs for his essays, novels, plays and journalism—playful, moral, ironic. (He's also the author of the zany, lovable *The Gardener's Year*—anyone who digs around in the dirt gardening will enjoy it.) I could start telling you how much I love Czech literature and movies, but I've run out of time and space for that—maybe another article or sermon down the road.

***Finally, my best wishes to all during the coming holiday season!***

Yours, Rev. Steven Epperson ■

### Child & Youth Religious Education

## Transform Today;

## Turn Around Tomorrow

Cristin Lee

([cristin@vancouverunitarians.ca](mailto:cristin@vancouverunitarians.ca))

Winter Solstice is nearly upon us and while the earth has been quietly transforming in preparation for its rebirth, a boisterous transformation has been occurring in our Child & Youth RE classes. Questions have been raised, ideas explored and souls expressed.

Comfort has given way to confidence which has given way to change in our young people. The roar and sacred silences transmitting from the basement of Hewett Centre on Sunday mornings let us know that our young great minds are at work and our young deep hearts are pumping with ferocity.



As the imperceptible season shift takes place, watch closely for the subtle metamorphosis taking place in each of our children. Ask them about what they are learning in RE classes. Ask them about their thoughts on things happening around them and in the world. Ask them what it means to love. Your observations and answers received from these questions will transform you and help prepare you yourself to make that imperceptible shift.

What is happening is miraculous—take part in this miracle. Breathe deep, feel deeper, love deepest. Love our children and support them as they transform in RE classes each Sunday in preparation to turn around tomorrow. ■



The Oak King of Winter Solstice

(Continued from page 2)

I would like to thank our wonderful administrative and custodial staff. They do so much to support the work of the church and its many committees. Without Tamara, Ravina, Tara Lee, Stan, Gerald, Wenta and Jeff, things would not run so smoothly. Their work is deeply appreciated.

It has also been my absolute pleasure to work more closely with our Parish Minister over the past year. More than ever I appreciate the dedication Steven Epperson has to this congregation and its wellbeing and to the Unitarian movement as a whole. This church is blessed to have him as

its minister.

A special thank you to my fellow board members; Michael Bradshaw, Jeannie Corsi, Elisabeth Geller, Mason Harris, Judith Holmes, Timothy McCormick, Bennett Mitten, Patti Turner and Keith Wilkinson. Their ongoing dedication to this, our wonderful community of faith, justice and action, is an inspiration.

And finally, thanks to you, the members of the Unitarian Church of Vancouver for allowing me the privilege of serving as president of your Board of Trustees for the past year. It has been my honour. ■

## Fostering community



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

Unfortunately, the **Piwonka-Corle** family will be leaving us all too soon. **Tim** has recently accepted an excellent position as director of an engineering firm in Boulder, Colorado, where he has already started working. **Toni** and daughters **Tori** and **Tian** will follow at

the Christmas break. During their three short years with us, this busy but friendly family hosted several circle dinners, and Tim, an excellent speaker, gave two well-received lay sermons. Ironically, Tim's parents had lived in Boulder until their recent deaths, but his sister and her family, who still reside there, will welcome the new arrivals. Toni promises to include Vancouver in future trips to visit her Seattle relatives. In the meantime, their Boulder contact information is available in the office, the welcome mat is out for UCV visitors to Boulder, but they will be missed!

Apologies for a belated report on the death of **Carl Crawford**, who passed away August 28, after a long illness. Carl, a civil engineer who spent most of his life in Ontario, was born in 1923. In 1989, he and **Adah** moved to Vancouver but continued to spend summers at their Ontario lakeside cottage. The couple celebrated their 60th anniversary there about two years ago. A service was held here September 15, as well as in Ontario. In addition to Adah, four children, nine grandchildren and two great grandchildren survive. Do say hello to Adah when you see her at church!

**Mavis Jemielita** is now at Arbutus Care Centre, 4505 Valley Drive, where she would appreciate visits and good wishes.

Congratulations to **Maggie DeVries** on her new book for young adults, *Hunger Journeys* about the adventures of a teenage girl in Nazi-occupied Holland toward the end of World War Two. It's based loosely on experiences of her own grandmother, and has had an excellent review. Rumour has it that it's being enjoyed by older adults too!

Congratulations also to **Judy Villett**, with her incredible quilting, being one of many artists in the annual East Side

Culture Crawl, November 26 - 28, in which **my own daughter** Su, who makes jewellery, is also involved. Two more proud parents who are in our midst: **Jane Sutherland's** daughter, Kate, a consultant who is in demand for workshops, has a new book out, *Make Light Work — 10 Tools for Inner Knowing* which is available in our library and is highly recommended. And **Sandor Halebsky's** daughter Judy, is an accomplished poet, having won a prize in 2009 for her first book of poetry. She and another poet gave a reading November 25 at the People's Co-op Bookstore. Congratulations to these parents and their adult children! And a proud new grandparent is **Amanda Corrado**, whose son Chris and wife Tina welcomed baby Alexander into their lives September 26. Amanda doesn't live far from her young family so visits are frequent. Don't forget to ask Amanda if she just happens to have any photos along!

**Arthur Hughes** has done it again! For the twelfth consecutive year, he stood (chairs are for sissies) in his classic early 50's uniform, at the northwest corner of Robson and Hornby, for ten days, seven of which were from 7:30 to 5:30, in rain or shine, raising poppy funds for Remembrance Day, especially significant when Harper is cutting funding to veterans and their families. He raised \$20,374, while meeting and greeting all sorts of interesting people from around the globe, including Togo, Mongolia, and Kazakhstan. Also a numismatist, Arthur later weighed his coins to estimate their value, and ironed those wrinkled bills! CBC and CTV both offered media coverage. Congratulations, Mr. Poppy King!

Even if you haven't raised \$20,000 lately, we still need your important news in order to Foster Community! ■

## Sunday lunches for December

Dec.5: Refugee Committee (Palestinians)  
Dec.12: Refugee Committee  
Dec.19: Refugee Committee  
(West Africans)



If your group would like to serve a lunch, please contact Doris Lowe (604-435-6183).

First Friday Focus, *Platonics*

## Quotes of note - or not

Randall MacKinnon, moderator

(604-582-4651)

After asking and answering plenty of provocative questions in November, we are returning to evocative quotations - to look at what they can reveal, and seeing how they can be updated or parodied.

*Quotations will tell the full measure of meaning, if you have enough of them.* ~James Murray

Bring your favourites along for sharing and paring. There will be plenty more provided. Bring your incisive and inquisitive mind for slicing, dicing and occasionally splitting the necessary philosophical hair. The original quotes and revisions will be emailed to those who attend.

**Friday December 3, 7:00-9:00 pm, Fireside Room** ■



## The Refugee Committee

Virginia Crabill (604-731-9393)

The Refugee Committee will be offering three lunches this month, two given by refugee families to help pay back their travel loan. We can always use help with clean-up at our popular lunches. Also in December, we will have the draw for our raffle. Prizes are the Pat Meyer quilt, a Palestinian shawl, and a turquoise gym bag. Our meetings are on the fourth Sunday of each month, at 12:30 in Castellio. All are welcome!

We'd like to give a picture of who we hope will soon be our next refugee. He is a single, stateless Sunni Palestinian now living in the notorious el-Hol refugee camp in Syria, which is being closed by the United Nations High Commission on Refugees (UNHCR). The necessary funding for his sponsorship is generously being provided by a family in the Ismaili Muslim community here.

His history indicates that he is adaptable and eager to work. This young man was born and brought up in Baghdad. Palestinians in Iraq who were either refugees or descendants of refugees form a significant minority but have never been granted citizenship and remain stateless.

After the overthrow of Saddam Hussein and his regime in 2003, the Palestinian community who are Sunni Muslims became targets for persecution, arbitrary arrest, kidnapping,



torture and death at the hands of the long-suppressed Shia majority, now in their ascendancy.

He fled Iraq to escape further violence and eventually reached el-Hol camp in Syria. He cannot return safely to Iraq nor can he go to Palestine/Israel. He is not allowed to live outside the camp and integrate into Syria.

If you would like more information on the Refugee Committee, check out our bulletin board in Hewett Centre and contact the co-chairs, Fiona Graham and Virginia Crabill.

If you wish to assist us financially, you can put your gift into the donation basket during the service or bring it to the office. Please note on the envelope or cheque *For the Sheilah Thompson Refugee Fund.* ■

*Daytimers*

## In memory of absent friends

Wanda Justice (604-327-1851)

Daytimers will meet only once in December since the fourth Thursday of our usual meeting schedule falls perilously close to Christmas. In place of the luncheon, we will meet and share memories of absent friends, finishing with our usual BYO bag lunches and tea and goodies to follow.

**Thursday, December 9, 11:00 am - 2:00 pm**, Philip Hewett and fellow daytimers, *In Memory of Absent Friends: poetry, reminiscence and fellowship.* ■



## Annual UCV Women's Retreat

Friday, January 21 to Sunday, January 23

at Camp Alexandra, in Crescent Beach, White Rock



The registration fee is \$150, payable by cheque, money order or credit card.

To enquire about available space or to be put on the mailing list, please contact:

[ucvwomensretreat@yahoo.com](mailto:ucvwomensretreat@yahoo.com) or Theresa Marion at 604-687-4864.

*Arts Committee*



## Unitarian Art Show

November 14

to

December 12



## Wreath Decorating Workshop

Sat., Dec. 11, 9:30 am – 1:00 pm

Our annual wreath decorating workshop is scheduled for Saturday, December 11, from 9:30 am – 1:00 pm in Budny in the Fellowship Hall. These are the wreaths that are mounted in the sanctuary for the Christmas season. Bring your own clipper, wire cutters and any greens or decorations you would like to use. Greens and decorations will also be provided at the work bee.

We would like to acknowledge the long time commitment that John and Lesia Voth have made to this project. After many years of coordinating this event they are stepping down. Gay Kuchta and Shirley Brunke have agreed to take their place.

Thank you John and Lesia for the many years of helping to make our sanctuary a beautiful place during the festive season.

Call Shirley Brunke if you wish to participate at 604-298-5982

Beacon Unitarian Church presents  
**Beacon Church Choir**  
 & special guests  
 with director **Marnie Jennings**



2:30 pm, December 5, 2010  
 at Sapperton Pensioners' Hall,  
 318 Keary Street, New Westminster

Tickets: \$12 in advance, \$15 at the door  
 children under 12 - free  
 Tickets available at church, from choir members,  
 or call 604-513-1526

[www.BeaconUnitarian.org](http://www.BeaconUnitarian.org)  
 with bake sale, crafts tables, and light refreshments

## A Family Recital

We have arranged a post-Christmas recital in the Sanctuary at UCV on the 29th of December at 2pm. Everyone is invited.



A variety of wonderful music will be played by:  
 daughter Pat (violin), granddaughter Frances (piano)  
 and Noel (cello)

Join us for tea and refreshments in Hewett Hall after the recital.

Noel and Joan Armstrong

## Welcome to the UCV Library!

Elizabeth Murdoch

The end of another year and a time to reflect on peace and consider thoughtful giving and the ceremonies that draw us close.

Along those themes, here's some interesting reading:



*Gaia Peace Atlas* by Frank Barnaby

*Our Stunning Harvest, a Dramatic Reading* by Meg Bowman

*Most of All They Taught Me Happiness* by Robert Muller

*Different Drum: Community Making and Peace* by M. Scott Peck

*52 Peaceful Societies* by Mathew Melko

*Gifts from the Heart* by Virginia Brucker

*Season & Solstice* by our own Phillip Hewett

*What Christmas Means to Unitarians* by Phillip Hewett

*Unplug the Christmas Machine* by Jo Robinson

*Sparks of the Cosmos: rituals for seasonal use* by Margie Abbott

*Calling the Circle* by Christina Baldwin

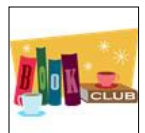
Note: We're accepting books in good condition for the

Book Bash early in the New Year.

For further information please contact: Aphrodite Harris, Library Chair (604-987-5339, [aphrodite\\_harris@telus.net](mailto:aphrodite_harris@telus.net)) ■

## UCV Book Club

Gail Thomson ([gailhthomson@gmail.com](mailto:gailhthomson@gmail.com), 778-789-5197)



The UCV Book Club meets in Lindsey-Priestley at 12:30 pm the first Sunday most months. Starting in 2011 we will be meeting the third Sunday of the month at 12:30 pm in Lindsey-Priestley. All are welcome.

### Book Titles and Authors:

December 5, *Daughters of Copper Woman* by Anne Cameron, this year's recipient of the George Woodcock Lifetime Achievement Award for outstanding literary achievement in British Columbia.

January 16, *The Way the Crow Flies* by Ann-Marie MacDonald

February 20, *Lilac Moon* by Sharon Butala

March 20, *The Lacuna* by Barbara Kingsolver ■

**From:** United Nations Connections Club Burnaby  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 24, 2010 11:21 PM  
**To:** Steven Epperson  
**Subject:** Thank You

Dear Reverend Dr. Epperson,

I, my two colleagues - Jocelyn Beaton and Albert Lee - and the 7 Burnaby students who came to accept the John Gibbard award in your church would like to send a special thank you to you and to those participating in the service today. Immediately upon arriving, a pleasant woman took the time to find out where we should be, guiding us into the Sanctuary. We entered the Sanctuary and were immediately greeted by two lovely women who greeted us with smiles and warm wishes. You took the time to welcome us and show us exactly what to expect during the service and the presentation, making us feel very comfortable and as if we had known you for a long time. Wherever we were, people spoke to us and asked us questions with interest and struck up conversations.

We found the service to be interesting and, I would say, captivating. Learning of your members' work in the field and hearing lively songs was soothing, but not surprising; it was the sudden arrival of all of those kids! at the front on the stairs who took part in such a great story. They must feel so important to be up there. And the numbers in the choir singing so passionately. Your in-depth discussion about Canada and the Security Council renewed my hope that there are many others who wish Canada to be a valued and compassionate member of the world community, just as we wish and encourage our students and children to be such.

The Sanctuary is truly a sanctuary; I would like to add that personally, I felt for a few moments sheltered from the burden of everyday life - it was so calm inside.

Thank you for inviting us to be a part of your vibrant community today. Our students will always remember the event.

Regards,  
Deirdre Moore  
Burnaby School District  
UN Connections Club Teacher Sponsor

*Environment Committee***Cancun**

Karl Perrin (604-872-7326)

Never have expectations been so low.

Last year's Copenhagen Conference on Climate Change (UN FCCC COP 15) was supposed to build on the Kyoto Accord, which expires in 2012. True, Kyoto had no teeth, so Canada had no honour.

We are now laughably behind our Kyoto target of 6% below 1990 greenhouse gas levels. Environment Canada estimates that our 2012 emissions will be 29% above that target. Meanwhile Norway, a major oil exporter, will achieve its Kyoto target.

And now, we are fighting to stop the Enbridge pipeline, to keep the tar behind the Rockies, off our coastline. World wide, indigenous peoples warn us of desecration. Indigenous peoples, whom our government spurns, are suffering the most from global warming.

But we can act. KAIROS, a Canadian Christian coalition, is asking churches to *Beat the Drum* on Dec. 5 (see Dec. Forum blurb). We will stand up and be counted on the corner of Oak and 49<sup>th</sup>, Sunday, Dec. 5, 12:30 - 1:30. Join us in the fun, as we get out the word. Or just drop by and wish us well. Honk for Climate Justice! Beat the Drum!

<http://www.kairoscanada.org/fileadmin/fe/files/PDF/TakeAction/10-10-BeatTheDrum.pdf>

Also, there will be climate justice actions on Dec. 7 and Dec. 11.

The Environment Committee will meet on Sun., Dec. 12, at 12:30 in Lindsey-Priestley. All are welcome.

**Social Justice Committee welcomes new members**

Leslie Kemp

Are you passionate about social justice and want to make a difference on issues locally, nationally and globally such as affordable housing, income security, fair wages, public health, peace and human rights? The Social Justice Committee is working on these issues and invites you to join us in this important work. We know that many people are attracted to our congregation because of our longstanding work on social justice issues and we want to particularly welcome people new to our congregation.

Recently, we have been working to build support for Bill C-304, an act that would put in place a national strategy for affordable housing; this is a private members' bill put forward by Vancouver East MP Libby Davies. Rev. Steven Epperson has been organizing monthly letter-writing sessions (on the third Thursday of each month from 5 – 7:15 pm) and the Social Justice Committee has produced background information on the Bill and organized several forums and information sessions on the topic of affordable housing. The Committee also has been an active supporter of the work of the BC Health Coalition; Social Justice Committee member Jenny Podlecki represents the committee at meetings of the coalition and keeps the congregation informed of issues related to public health, home care, and health services to seniors.

The committee also works collaboratively with community organizations to raise awareness and support for issues related to peace and human rights. One recent example was our co-sponsorship on November 12 of a very successful fundraising event to send a Canadian aid boat to Gaza to provide concrete support to the people of Gaza. The evening event featured the Vancouver Premiere of "Seven Days from a Gaza Diary," a reading performance by Seattle playwright Edward Mast of a riveting personal account of the first seven days of Israel's 2008-09 military assault on Gaza, written by Klulood Ghanem, a young woman living under the bombing. Close to \$4000 was raised to support the boat to Gaza.

The committee meets the second Sunday of each month from 9:30 – 10:45 am. Our next meeting takes place on Sunday, December 12, 9:30 am in Budny. For further information please contact David Steele, chair (604-434-1919, [dsteELE@earthsave.ca](mailto:dsteELE@earthsave.ca)) or Leslie Kemp (604-877-1720, [lkemp@telus.net](mailto:lkemp@telus.net)) ■

*Unitarian Music Club***Solstice Party**

David Donaldson

The Unitarian Music Club's Solstice party will be held on Monday, December 20, at 7:30 pm in the Fireside Room. The evening will consist of a short informal concert and will include performances by Nyla Sunga, David Donaldson, Michael Bradshaw and several others.

The evening will include carols, so bring your voices and instruments. When you come, please bring a contribution to refreshments.

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.

More information: Jeannie Corsi (604-224-1040 or [nichorsi@interchange.ubc.ca](mailto:nichorsi@interchange.ubc.ca)); David Donaldson (604-224-6010 or [dvdd@telus.net](mailto:dvdd@telus.net)) ■



## Wilderness Camp

Philippa Syme ([appili@shaw.vca](mailto:appili@shaw.vca))



The Annual General Meeting of the Northwest Wilderness Society of the Unitarian Church will be held on Saturday November 27 in the Fireside Room of the Unitarian Church of Vancouver. The business meeting starts at 7 pm. Beverages will be provided, and there is a savouries/dessert potluck after the meeting. All who are interested are welcome to come whether you have been a camper at Wilderness or not.

The Society operates the camp during the summer months and it is a wonderful place to experience nature in the company of others. Wilderness Camp is located past Kaslo, on the east side of Kootenay Lake, BC. The Society (and camp) website is [NWSCAN@comcast.net](mailto:NWSCAN@comcast.net). See you there!

The Northwest Wilderness Society mandate and vision is as follows:

*Our mission is to promote the principles and values of Unitarianism, and to strengthen the bonds among Unitarians and adherents, their families and friends, by experiencing community in a wilderness setting.*

*We are stewards of our land. We facilitate enjoyment of this land and are committed to preserving the peace, beauty and essential wildness while protecting it from development so that future generations may continue to draw nourishment from it.*

■

## Winter Eliot

Diane Donaldson (604-224-0933, [donaldsond@telus.net](mailto:donaldsond@telus.net))

Winter Eliot is a five-day family camp. It's both a conference and a vacation at a wonderful conference centre—a one-of-a-kind experience of play, community, and worship for the whole family. In addition to the adult theme presentation each morning, there are concurrent programs for children and youth.

The rest of the day there are a variety of inter-generational activities—games, workshops, art, musical and performance events, to name a few. Or you can sit curled up with a book by the fire and lazily watch the shadows lengthen. Winter Eliot feels intimate and cozy. There's no better way to celebrate New Year's Eve—we hold a boat burning ceremony at the lagoon and then dance the night away, culminating in a Midnight Winter Feast! Meals are provided and served family style. All you have to do is register and show up!

Seabeck Conference Center is located amid tall cedar and fir trees at the foot of the Olympic Mountains, overlooking the beautiful Hood Canal in western Washington. Come find out how good life still is, and how simple happiness can be.

The speaker, Dr. Nancy C. Reeves, from Victoria, is a clinical psychologist, psychotherapist, spiritual director, best-selling author, and published poet. In 2002, Nancy was the recipient of the Victoria YW/YMCA Woman of Distinction Award—Health and Wellness.

The topic that she will be exploring “Stepping Past Limits: Transcending the Introvert/Extrovert Dichotomy”. As part of her research findings, outlined in her new book, *Spirituality for Extroverts and tips for those who love them*, Nancy Reeves discovered that a number of her research participants had become omniverts, able to use more of their brains and live a multi-faceted spirituality. In this camp, we will explore how to live more fully into our familiar inclination, as well as learning to live in the less familiar one.

Learn more at [www.eliotinstitute.org](http://www.eliotinstitute.org) and click on Winter Eliot at Seabeck, WA or contact Diane.

Hope to see you there! ■

## Eliot at Naramata threatened

Diane Donaldson (604-224-0933, [donaldsond@telus.net](mailto:donaldsond@telus.net))

For the last eight years, Unitarians have gathered at the United Church Conference Centre at Naramata (near Penticton) in early July. The event is run by the Eliot Institute, which also holds conferences/camps at Seabeck, WA. But enrollments have been decreasing, and the Naramata Centre requires us to increase our numbers if our events are to continue.

If you have attended any of the Eliot conferences there or have been thinking of attending, we need you to register early: by January 15, 2011. This is easily done by visiting the Eliot website at <http://www.eliotinstitute.org>, downloading the registration form and sending a deposit (in Canadian funds) of \$50 per person attending.

In late January, the Eliot board will decide whether the camp will continue. If the decision is made to cancel, the Naramata Centre will no longer be available to us. Please consider this enriching and delightful summer experience in 2011.

## UCV Calendar – December 2010

Wed. 1	6 – 10 pm. Mo-vement Shave-off, Sanctuary	Sun. 12	12:30 – 1:30 pm. Forum
Fri. 3	7 – 9 pm. First Friday Focus, Fireside	Sun. 12	7:30 pm. Candlelight Service, Sanctuary
Sun. 5	12 – 2 pm. Green Market, Alcove	Mon. 13	7 – 9 pm. Sacred Circle Dancing, Fireside-
Sun. 5	12:30 – 1:30 pm. Forum	Tues. 14	7 – 8 pm. ARE: Meditation, Budny
Sun. 5	12:30 – 2 pm. UCV Book Club: <i>Daughters of Copper Woman and Other Works</i> by Anne Cameron, Fireside	Thur. 16	5 – 7:30 pm. Eat, Meet, and Write, Hall
Wed. 8	6:30 – 9:30 pm. Pagan Group, Budny	Sun. 19	12 – 2 pm. Green Market, Alcove
Thur. 9	11am – 2 pm. Daytimers, Fireside	Mon. 20	7:30 – 9:00 pm. UCV Music Club, Fireside
Fri. 10	7 – 10 pm. Second Friday Friendship Group, Fireside	Wed. 22	7 – 9 pm. Pagan Group, Budny
		Thur. 23	11 – 2 pm. Daytimers, Fireside
		Sat. 25	Office closed until Tues. Jan. 4. For UCV members, ministers will be available for emergencies.

## UCV Forums

Mary Bennett

Sundays, 12:30 - 30 pm in the Fireside Room.  
All are welcome.

December 5, 12:30 - 1:30 pm

(Join us for a few minutes at the corner of 49<sup>th</sup> & Oak)

**UN-Forum: Climate Justice ACTION**

**UCV Environment Committee**

Across Canada, KAIROS is calling on churches to *Beat the Drum* on Dec.5.

Last December, churches everywhere held vigils during the UN Climate Conference in Copenhagen.

This year, during the UN Climate Conference in Cancun, Mexico, we will go out on the corner of 49th and Oak to SING, DRUM, BURN CANDLES, and alert drivers to the good and bad of Cancun.

Right now, Arctic indigenous peoples are suffering from



climate change. Tar Sands effluent sickens Fort Chipewyan, AB. We are guests on this land.

Join us and our First Nations hosts to *Beat the Drum*.

**December 12**

**Global Pathology: How Crazy Are We**

**Peter Prontzos of Langara College**

A global system which allows tens of millions of people to die every year from preventable causes while it wastes trillions of dollars on war and the destruction of Nature is clearly pathological. Human beings created this nightmare and we have the power to stop it."

Coordinated by UCV's Social Justice Committee

**December 19**

**No Forum**

**December 26**

**No Forum**

## The Chalice Choir's Annual Advent Concert

### Singing the Season!

Sunday, November 28, 7:30 pm



Featuring

### Schubert's Mass #6 in Eb

With Peter Lang and the Vancouver Chamber Players

Including seasonal favourites and a singalong

Reception to follow  
Tickets \$15

