



THE BULLETIN

THE UNITARIAN CHURCH OF VANCOUVER JANUARY 2008

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CHURCH SERVICES IN JANUARY

A Secular Epiphany?

Sunday, January 6, 11 AM

Rev. Dr. Steven Epperson

Can an imaginative, affective encounter with "Nature" be a source of moral and aesthetic value? On this "Epiphany" Sunday, which commemorates the incarnation of the divine in nature and history, we will look for signs of the sublime in the near, the ordinary, the gradual—the world in which most of us live our lives.

Strong Roots, Strong Women

Sunday, January 13, 11 AM

Diana Ellis

From behind, on the side, and up front, women have, and do, play a strong role in our church's life and history. The Archives Committee has uncovered some of the early roots of women's work at UCV. Join us at this service as we tell some of their stories and honour their work. Consider it a 'prequel' to the UCV's 2009 centenary.

Blue Monday

Sunday, January 20, 11 AM

Rev. Dr. Steven Epperson

If the reports are to be believed, tomorrow is the unhappiest day of the year. Failed New Year's resolutions, Christmas season bills coming due, and winter weather add up to a grim cocktail that send many into a downward spiral. That being the case,

let's gather for some mutual support through music, story, and fellowship. Perhaps we can share and enjoy some light, warmth, and solidarity, and thus help carry us safely through Blue Monday and beyond.

A Unitarian in Japan

Sunday, January 27, 11 AM

Rev. Dr. Steven Epperson

Ritual in a waterfall, striding through a towering gate at the summit of a sacred mountain, ringing a bell and clapping hands to announce your presence before the gods: these experiences name but a handful of the deep impressions left after a Shinto-oriented sojourn in Japan. Join us for an interim sabbatical report of Rev. Steven Epperson's encounter with religion, ritual and culture in Japan.



Say 'Hello' to Sarah

See story on page 6.

Seasonal Greetings

Please accept with no obligation, implied or implicit, our best wishes for an environmentally conscious, socially responsible, low-stress, non-addictive, gender-neutral celebration of the Winter Solstice holiday, practised within the most enjoyable traditions of the religious persuasion, or the secular practices of your choice, with respect for the religious/secular persuasions and/or traditions of others, or their choice not to practice religious or secular traditions at all...and a fiscally successful, personally fulfilling, and medically uncomplicated recognition of the onset of the generally accepted calendar year 2008, but not without due respect for the calendars of choice of other cultures whose contributions to society have helped make Canada great (not to imply that Canada is necessarily greater than any other countries), and without regard to the race, creed, colour, age, sexual preference, physical ability, religious faith, or choice of computer platform of the wishee.

(By accepting this greeting, you are accepting these terms. This greeting is subject to clarification or withdrawal. It is freely transferable with no alteration to the original greeting. It implies no promise by the wisher to actually implement any of the wishes for her/himself or others, is void where prohibited by law, and is revocable at the sole discretion of the wisher. This wish is warranted to perform as expected within the usual application of good tidings for a period of one year, or until the issuance of a subsequent holiday greeting, whichever comes first, and the warranty is limited to replacement of this wish or issuance of a new wish, at the sole discretion of the wisher.)

From the Minister's Workshop

Less than half built...

I am about half way through the new Pevear/Volokhonsky translation of Tolstoy's *War and Peace*: a deeply satisfying revisit to an epic novel I last read a couple of decades ago. Last summer, and for the first time, I read George Eliot's *Daniel Deronda*, another mammoth-size piece of nineteenth century fiction. Of the throngs of major and minor characters in these books, I want to mention two.

Pierre Bezukhov and Daniel Deronda are young men of privilege, both in their early twenties, bright, well-educated, and *seriously adrift*. Both labour with problematic family identity "issues." Both are in search of a worthy "cause," the absence of which, for great swaths of the stories (set in early 19th century Russia and the middle Victorian era in England respectively), result in a lot of floundering about, a lot of confusion. Both are also surrounded by a lot of adults primarily consumed by corrosive, narrow materialistic values and behaviour. And yet Pierre and Daniel, because they are basically decent young people, are profoundly vexed with the questions about who they really are or should become, what do they believe in, and what they should be doing with their lives.

It would be unfair to give it away and spoil the plots by telling you what happens to these two characters. What I can say is that I am struck by the similarity between their "plight," and that of so many of the fine young people we know and see all around us; young women and men relatively well-born, well-educated, in the midst of post secondary education, or who are just starting out with trades and careers, and who, like Pierre and Daniel, are asking those crucial, momentous, age-appropriate questions: "Who am I really?" "What do I believe?" "What should I be doing with my life?"

We stand at the beginning of a new year. We live in a nation of embarrassing riches and potential; a nation that is also profoundly in search of itself, and its soul.

Roy Romanow called us, our country, "half built." Sometimes I think it's less than half. We possess bountiful resources, and yet there is great, systemic poverty, and growing disparity between have and have nots. We see gazillion dollar houses, glitzy cars and life styles *and* a housing affordability crisis, homelessness, people falling through the cracks, inadequate infrastructure, our sons and daughters sent off to an ill-conceived military role a half a world away, a nation addicted to polluting resource extraction and the wanton consumption of fossil fuels.

"Who are we really?" "What do we believe?" "What should we be doing with our lives?" Do we, individually and collectively, as just folk, as Unitarians, as grown up citizens and residents of Canada, do we know the answers to these questions? And do we really, sincerely, 'model' them to the Pierres, the Daniels, the young people in our midst? If not, then when? If we're trying, are we getting our message across? Are we making a difference, and thus acting not as obstructions but as guides and examples to those who need deeply to hope and sincerely need to find reasons to believe...?

If in the future someone writes a *War and Peace*, or a *Daniel Deronda* about our era, may it turn out that we did our part to enable a new generation to find themselves in a better land *more than half built*, with room, peace, and dignity for all.

Steven Epperson
-Rev. Dr. Steven Epperson



The Bulletin

is the monthly newsletter of the Unitarian Church of Vancouver

Submission deadline is:

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

Gerry Hayle, Editor

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MINISTERS AND LAY CHAPLAINS:

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

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Wenta Tu'ume

LAY CHAPLAINS**Lay Chaplaincy
Opening in 2008**

The UCV Lay Chaplaincy Committee invites applications for a Lay Chaplaincy opening coming in the late summer of 2008. Application forms and information kit are available for pick-up at the church office reception desk, or call 604-261-7204 and we'll mail one to you. The application deadline is mid-March and interviews will take place in April.

To qualify, you need to be a *member of our congregation* with the time to share, on a rotation basis with three other Lay Chaplains, the delivery of approximately 65 services (weddings, memorials, child dedications) a year to non-members of UCV and the general public. A small fee is paid for each service completed. We ask for your commitment to contract as a self-employed Lay Chaplain for a year at a time, up to a maximum of six years. A mature outlook is useful, and the ability to communicate in a spirit of empathy, respect and care.

If you are interested, or want to discern if Lay Chaplaincy is for you, we *strongly encourage* you to register for the next Lay Chaplaincy Basic Training which takes place February 22-24 at the North Shore Church. Contact Diana Ellis (604-733-1058) for registration information.

This is an opportunity to deepen your spiritual development while being of service to UCV and the larger community. It is wonderful work!

Questions? Talk to our present Lay Chaplains, Dan Enright, Wayne Ulian, retiring Lay Chaplain Katherine Roback, or contact the Committee

How Many Are We?

As of December 2, 2007, our records show that we have: 439 Members and 116 Adherents

—Patience Towler, Records,
Membership Committee

SERVICES AUCTION**<< HEADS-UP! >>**

Mark **Saturday, May 3rd** on your calendar. Why? Our next **Wally Cottle Memorial Services Auction** occurs on the above-mentioned date! It is our premier annual fun-raising and fund-raising event.

The concept is simple. Donate a service, like a meal, a music lesson, a drive to the airport, or lead a hike, offer a home-baked cake, create a quilt, host an evening of bridge, mow a lawn: use your imagination! Whether you offer a service or successfully bid on one, be assured of an enjoyable time meeting new people or spending time with those you already know.

Come on May 3. After a free supper and free music, enjoy the action. There are two sections: a silent auction and a live auction with a very charming and talented auctioneer.

More information will be available in the near future.

— Deb Henry, Rae Smith
and John Smith

Campus Ministry Update

The Campus Ministry program is seeking guest speakers for the winter semester. Do you have an area of expertise that you are passionate about and would like to share with UBC students? We are interested in a multitude of topics from politics to the environment, spirituality to education. We meet on the second Monday and the fourth Tuesday of each month. Please contact Samantha Taylor at 250-539-3580 sambreanne@yahoo.ca if you are interested.

We were very pleased to prepare and serve lunch after church this past November, as it was a way to connect with UCV members. In the coming months we will be organizing other opportunities to dialogue and interact with the church community. Stay tuned next month for more information!

—Samantha Taylor,
Campus Ministry Coordinator
250-539-3580

COORDINATING COUNCIL**Gathering Info**

The Coordinating Council held its semi-annual meetings in November, 2007. It was found practical once again to offer two days with identical agendas. These were held Thursday evening November 22, and Saturday morning November 24.

In addition to the Chair of the Council and its three Representatives (the Council Executive), there were 23 others in attendance, representing a total of 32 committees. A resounding thank you to all who came. Your attendance provides valuable information for the entire work of the church.

Diana Ellis and Patience Towler took the minutes on those two days. Their minutes have been combined and will be e-mailed out to all committees.

The Council Executive met on December 5 to take action on the information gathered at those meetings. Their work will appear in the following days and months.

—Dorothy Goresky

**How many UUs does it take
to change a light bulb?**

An undetermined number. We choose not to make a statement either in favour of, or against, the need for a light bulb. However, if on your own journey you have found that light bulbs work for you, that's fine.

You are invited to form a committee, write a poem or compose a modern dance about your bulb for next Sunday's service, during which we will explore a number of light bulb traditions, including incandescent, fluorescent, three-way, long-life, and tinted, all of which are equally valid paths to luminescence.

Eliot Party!

If you've ever been to Eliot, or were wondering about going, why don't you come to the Eliot Party, at Donna and David Hamilton's in Coquitlam, on Saturday, January 26. Potluck supper, and lots of music! To RSVP and get the address, phone 604-944-3113.

—Donna Hamilton

Jews for a Just Peace and the
Social Justice Committee of the
Unitarian Church of Vancouver
present

Two Reports from the West Bank

Both at the Unitarian Church of Vancouver,
949 West 49th Avenue (at Oak)
Suggested donation for each event: \$10 – \$5

Friday, January 11th, 7:30 PM:
Tea Amid the Rubble

Stephen Aberle will report about helping to rebuild demolished Palestinian homes as part of the Israeli Committee Against House Demolitions' 2007 Summer Rebuilding Experience.

Saturday, January 12th, 7:30 PM:
I Met a Man in Jenin
solo performance by Noah Lepawsky

Noah Lepawsky is a graduate of Studio 58 acting program at Langara College. In the summer of 2005 he spent seven weeks working in the West Bank with the International Solidarity Movement. Over the past two years he has been developing a solo performance about his experience as a Jewish Canadian working in solidarity with Palestinians. *I Met a Man in Jenin*, which was created with the generous support of Origins Theatre Projects (www.originstheatreprojects.ca), is the culmination of this work.

Community Singing Class Starts January

Samantha Taylor (née Fletcher), a UCV member, singer, ethnomusic-ologist, and member of Vancouver's a cappella singing group "The No Sh*t Shirleys", will be offering an exciting course this winter, exploring community singing and rhythm. Learn sacred chants, rounds, and songs from African, Afro-Cuban and European musical traditions. Develop your personal singing voice, while building ensemble skills such as improvisation, harmony, and call and response. No experience is necessary, only a desire to sing with others, and explore your voice's possibilities! Repertoire will be taught orally.

This ten-week course will commence Monday, January 14, from 7 – 8:30 PM, at the church. Cost for the ten sessions is \$150. For those who attended the previous class and are interested in continuing on, new repertoire will be covered.

For more information, please contact Samantha at sambreanne@yahoo.ca or call 1-250-539-3580.

Circle Dinner—What's That?

Well, I'm glad you asked! The Membership Committee is exploring different ways to involve members and adherents in the activities at UCV. Circle Dinners are gatherings at private homes for good food, good conversation and fellowship. They will be held on the second or third Friday (or Saturday) of each month. You may sign up to be a **regular** member and thus receive a notice each month of host, location, date and dish to bring. We will mix and match to ensure you have a variety of dinner companions. You may elect to be a **substitute** member and will receive a notice of date, location and dish to bring. This is a good solution for those who do not wish to commit themselves to a monthly dinner.

In order to provide these dinners, we will need hosts and hostesses. It is not a requirement that you host a dinner to participate, but hosting is often the easiest role in that no cooking is involved and nobody expects elaborate service! So, please do email me (joanarm@shaw.ca) or phone me (604-731-8786) if you are interested in participating in this process. We will also have a sign-up table in Hewett Centre in January. I look forward to your response.

—Joan Armstrong, Chair
Membership Committee

"How I Met My Wife" by Jack Winter

Published 25 July 1994 - The New Yorker

It had been a rough day, so when I walked into the party I was very chaland, despite my efforts to appear grunted and consolate.

I was furling my wieldy umbrella for the coat check when I saw her standing alone in a corner. She was a descript person, a woman in a state of total array. Her hair was kempt, her clothing shevelled, and she moved in a gainly way. I wanted desperately to meet her, but I knew I'd have to make bones about it since I was travelling cognito. Beknownst to me, the hostess, whom I could see both hide and hair of, was very proper, so it would be skin off my nose if anything bad happened. And even though I had only swerving loyalty to her, my manners couldn't be peccable. Only toward and heard-of behavior would do.

Fortunately, the embarrassment that my maculate appearance might cause was evitable. There were two ways about it, but the chances that someoneas flappable as I would be ept enough to become persona grata or sung hero were slim. I was, after all, something to sneeze at, someone you could easily hold a candle to, someone who usually aroused bridled passion. So I decided not to risk it. But then, all at once, for some apparent reason, she looked in my direction and smiled in a way that I could make heads or tails of. I was plussed. It was concerting to see that she was communicado, and it nerved me that she was interested in a pareil like me, sight seen.

Normally, I had a domitable spirit, but, being corrigible, I felt capacitated -- as if this were something I was great shakes at -- and forgot that I had succeeded in situations like this only a told number of times. So, after a terminable delay, I acted with mitigated gall and made my way through the ruly crowd with strong givings. Nevertheless, since this was all new hat to me and I had no time to prepare a promptu speech, I was petuous. Wanting to make only called-for remarks, I started talking about the hors d'oeuvres, trying to abuse her of the notion that I was sipid, and perhaps even bunk a few myths about myself.

She responded well, and I was mayed that she considered me a savory character who was up to some good. She told me who she was. "What a perfect nomer," I said, advertently. The conversation become more and more choate, and we spoke at length to much avail. But I was defatigable, so I had to leave at a godly hour. I asked if she wanted to come with me. To my delight, she was committal. We left the party together and have been together ever since. I have given her my love, and she has required it.

DAYTIMERS

More on the Origin of Canadians

Five Thursdays in January give Daytimers three opportunities to meet and exchange views and opinions and enjoy getting better acquainted with newcomers to the group. Still on the subject of the variety and value of the immigrants who have trusted their lives and the future of their children to this country, we explore national origins, religions and individual family histories: all in the Fireside Room, Hewett Centre. You will be welcome, and don't forget to bring your own bag lunch.

Thursday, January 3rd, 11 AM:

Kay Lannon will focus our attention on the Immigration of Scots to western Canada. Breaking for lunch and conversation, we will reconvene at **1 PM:** to hear Music in our Family presented by Joan and Noel Armstrong.

Thursday, January 17, 11 AM:

The contribution of Italy to the population and culture of Canada will be Carrie Grundy's subject. **1 to 2 PM,** our minister, Dr. Steven Epperson, will meet with Daytimers.

January 31, the fifth Thursday of the month, will give Daytimers a third meeting.

11 AM: Latin American immigrants in Canada will be the subject explored by John Church.

1 PM: Following lunch, Dorothy Goresky will speak about her own Family History.

—Wanda Justice, 604-327-1851

Lunch, Anyone?

Lunches being served in the month of January include:

- January 6th: No booking as yet
- January 13th: Refugee Committee
- January 20th: Youth Group
- January 27th: Men's Group

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

BOOK CLUB

Who Is Oskar Schell?

The precocious 9-year-old Oskar Schell is searching for answers about his father's death in the 9/11 World Trade Center attack. Oskar doesn't always sound like he's nine, but his first-person narration of his journey is arrestingly beautiful, and readers won't soon forget him. An inspired innocent, Oskar is alternately endearing, exasperating, and hilarious as he careens from Central Park to Coney Island to Harlem on his search. As he roams five boroughs, Oskar encounters a motley assortment of people who are all survivors in their own way. A subplot about Oskar's mute grandfather, who survived the bombing of Dresden, isn't as compelling as Oskar's quest, but when the stories finally come together, the result is an emotional climax of truth, beauty, and heartbreak.

In *Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close*, Jonathan Safran Foer once again demonstrates his "seemingly inexhaustible supply of verbal ingenuity" and his ability to evoke and unravel the most personal and complex matters of the heart.

Join us in **Budny on January 6 at 12:30** to discuss this unusual and interesting book.

We meet on the first Sunday of each month at 12:30 and all are welcome.

Our book for February is *An Equal Music*, by Vikram Seth, and in March we will read and discuss *Bloodletting & Miraculous Cures*, by Vincent Lam.

—Rob Dainow, 604-523-0123

MUSIC CLUB

A Varied Program

The first 2008 meeting of the Unitarian Music Club will be in the sanctuary on Monday, January 28, at 7:30 PM. The evening will consist of a short informal concert with performances by Noel Armstrong,

LIBRARY

Music and Philosophy

We hope you had time to get in some reading during the holiday season.

Two new books have been added to our library, both gifts from the congregation. Wyndy Knox Carr gave us *Death of Religion and the Rebirth of Spirit* by Joseph Pearce. This book deals with our relationship with spirit and the all-too-often toxic history and motivations of organized religions. We also received another Noam Chomsky book, *Imperial Ambitions: Conversations on the Post-9/11 World*.

We've ordered a copy of the hymnal supplement, *Singing The Journey*. It should be in our library sometime this month.

Remember to bring books in for the next Book Bash, February 17th. We welcome all your gently used books, but please, no text books.

—Lucy Stewart, Library Chair
604-739-7725

Jody Carpenter, Brandon Heung, Ken Kaneda, Fiona Lewis, and Masako St. James.

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. When you come, please bring a contribution to refreshments.

Because of the church's financial difficulties, we now put out a donation basket each month so people who do not make contributions to the church and are not low income can make a contribution.

Dates for the rest of the 2007-2008 season are: February 25, March 31, April 28, May 26, and June 23.

More information? Jeannie Corsi at nichorsi@interchange.ubc.ca or tel. 604-224-1040, or David Donaldson at 604-224-6010 or dvdd@telus.net.

Meet Sarah Pickstone, Our New Office Administrator

Sarah Pickstone has over 15 years experience as an administrative and organizational specialist and has worked in a number of industries including architecture, publishing, wellness, government and not-for-profit. Sarah brings her business background, organizational talents, entrepreneurial spirit and a genuine love of people to her new position as Office Administrator at the Unitarian Church of Vancouver.

Sarah has volunteered at a number of organizations including The Vancouver Folk Music Festival (since 1991), The Rogue Folk Club, Winter

Roots Music Festival (as volunteer coordinator), Acoustic Connection Music and Cultural Society, and Greenpeace. She is an avid reader of both fiction and non-fiction, enjoys cooking, wine appreciation, gardening, running, walking, tennis, meditation, travelling and music.

She tells me she is very excited to join the church in her new role, and we are delighted she is joining us. One of the future consequences of her presence at UCV will be fewer hours for me, and an expansion of UCV office hours, which we should be able

to announce later in January.



Happy Holidays everyone!

—Michael Aze

REFUGEE COMMITTEE

Afghani Family Arrived!

Thanks so much for coming to our lunches and buying raffle tickets. As yet, we don't know who won the prizes. The turquoise pashmina shawl was donated by Soonoo Engineer, the handwoven bag by Eva Kief and the first-edition print by Huguette Sansonnet. Our next lunch is January 13th. Our next meeting is, as always, the 4th Sunday in the month: January 27th at 12:30 in the Board Room. All are welcome!

Our Afghan family arrived safely! They are now being assisted by the Refugee Committee through paperwork hurdles to obtain SIN cards, and all the other items for which new arrivals to Canada are eligible. Look for the family's pictures on our Bulletin Board in Hewett!

House of Commons Immigration Committee asks to let conscientious objectors stay!

In early December, the Citizenship and Immigration Committee of the House of Commons passed a motion that calls on the Canadian government to let US war resisters stay in Canada. This motion passed by a vote of 7 to 4. The Liberals, Bloc, and NDP joined together to override the opposition of Conservative committee members.

The wording of the motion was: "The

Committee recommends that the Government implement a program to allow conscientious objectors and their immediate family members who have refused or left military service related to a war not sanctioned by the United Nations, and who do not have a criminal record, to apply for permanent resident status and remain in Canada and that the Government should immediately cease any removal or deportation actions that may have already commenced against such members."

The next step is to bring this motion to the full House of Commons. If you support this motion, please contact your Member of Parliament. If you wish to help the Refugee Committee financially, you can donate by writing your name, address and "For Sheilah Thompson Refugee Fund" on the envelope containing your gift. Make cheques payable to "Unitarian Church of Vancouver" with the memo "For Sheilah Thompson Refugee Fund".

For more information about the Refugee Committee, contact either Fiona Graham, 604-886-4810, or Virginia Crabill, 604-731-9393.

—VirginiaCrabill,
Refugee/Social Justice Liaison

PARTNER CHURCH

Building a Church

Take a look at the new display on the Partner Church board in Hewett Centre. Pictures have arrived recently from our Partner Church in Brassó, Romania, showing how far the construction project of a new building on their site has progressed.

Our first pictures are from April, 2003. We are tremendously pleased to see the current status of the project which has been going up in fits and starts as money and time became available. The building houses meeting rooms, a kitchen and an area for the youth. The Brassó congregation has been funding the project mainly through their own efforts and using their own expertise.

Please join us for lunch on February 3rd to raise funds to continue to support this worthwhile project.

—Alison Pearson, Chair,
Partner Church Committee

Fostering Community

Congratulations to **Joy Coghill Thorne**, distinguished actress and longtime UCV member, who was featured, along with her neighbours, in a *Courier* article, August 31, about PAL, the Performing Arts Lodge, which opened its doors in the summer of 2006. Joy was co-founder of this wonderful "anti-retirement" community which boasts 120 talented residents and a waiting list. PAL is patterned after a similar community in Toronto, with more cities in the planning stages. Located in the West End near Coal Harbour, it features a green roof with a theatre. Performances are given from time to time, open to the public, which help to meet ongoing fundraising needs. Check their website for more information. Joy and her husband Jack love living at PAL and especially enjoy the common bonds which build community.

Congratulations as well to **John and Rae Smith** who have been to Calgary to meet their newest family member, Marissa Sadie, born September 27 to their **daughter Marlene and her husband, Jeff Rose**. Marissa joins **Juliette Ann**, now two. It seems just yesterday that Marlene was active in our youth group, and now she, like Jeff, is a busy chemical engineer as well as parent. Not surprisingly, **Arthur Hughes**, our "prince of poppies", has done it again, Big Time! In the week prior to Remembrance Day, he took his post at Robson and Hornby wearing his 1950 battledress uniform, and began his one-man Poppy Campaign. By November 10, he had raised an astounding total of \$22,721! It has been confirmed that this was by far the largest individual collection in Canada. Arthur reminds us that the funds now benefit seven different social services. Congratulations, Arthur!

Some of us think Arthur should take up his post at 49th and Oak near the bright and beautiful new church sign and work his magic! Kudos, by the way, to **Hans Elfert** and **Michael Aze** for their much-admired and welcome contribution toward the signs.

We're also pleased to learn that **Leslie Hill**, who bought the two bedroom condo of her dreams earlier in the fall, is relieved and pleased to have recently finalized the sale of her former condo in the same cute complex. She received payment on November 30, her birthday!

Speaking of sale, **Lydia Sayle** has been vertically challenged of late. She lives on the 6th floor of her West First condo but has been without the use of the elevator for about two months! She has met the challenge with grace and humour and a little help from her son and daughter-in-law. Lydia has been very active at UCV, especially in social justice.

Now, more about **Paula Seaton**, whose passing was briefly mentioned in the December *Bulletin*. Paula, who died suddenly on October 28 at the age of 80, came to

—FORUM—

January 6: The Year in Review. 2007 is over. Thank heaven you say? To take one last look at it, come "Dine and Dialogue" in the Fireside Room after church. Limited tables available, so come early. We may debate or decide the major: story, issue and person of the year 2007.

—Randall MacKinnon

January 13: UCV Archives Open House. Join us in the Fireside Room with members of the Archives Committee who will tell you about some of UCV's fascinating past, and guide you through the newly updated archives. Come along and get ready for the 2009 centenary.

January 20: Board Forum: Come discuss memorial and donor recognition with the Legacy Committee.

January 27: Social Justice Committee on "Health care concerns us all." Come and hear about the realities of health care's lowest paid workers who provide cleaning and food services in the Lower Mainland and Vancouver Island health facilities. The workers themselves will talk about the impact of contracting out and what they are doing to improve wages and working conditions. There will be opportunities for discussion, and a petition for those who wish to sign.

Vancouver with her family from San Francisco in 1970. She was an accomplished artist who taught in both California and Vancouver. She was serving on our Social Justice Committee, and felt passionately about those issues. After her **husband Dick**, a professor of architecture at UBC, died in 1995, she started coming to UCV, thanks to their good friends **Wolfgang and Hilde Gerson**, also an architect/artist couple. Paula leaves behind three children and three grandchildren. Memorial donations to either Western Canada Wilderness Society or the Downtown Eastside Women's Centre would be appreciated.

On November 16, we lost **Betty Cate**, 87, another longtime UCV member, originally from Montreal. Betty was active in the Food Bank and attended Daytimers. Perhaps she was best known for her dedicated service in Care and Concern. She visited countless sick and shut-in people, travelling by bus. She is remembered as being a "quiet but strong" person. She leaves behind several children and grandchildren. Her memorial service was held December 14.

Sadly, we also lost a friend in **Anne Mcnaughton**, on November 27 from cancer. Though not a member, this friendly lady came to UCV frequently, spending countless hours working behind the scenes in our kitchen.

Condolences to **Greg Grant** on the passing of his father, **James Barber**. Greg, like his mother **Jean Barber-Grant**
cont. on page 8

Legacy Advisory



We erroneously noted a donation from the estate of Paula Grasdal last month. It was actually June Grasdal. Our apologies to the family.

As we approach tax time, have you considered a **Charitable Gift Annuity**? You can make an immediate gift to the Unitarian Church of Vancouver and receive tax-free income for the rest of your life. Example: Mrs. Donor, age 75 contributes \$10,000 to a Charitable Gift Annuity and receives for as long as she lives an income of \$635 annually. About 70% of the income is tax-free. For information call the Legacy Committee, Rainer Borkenhagen, 604-221-6631.

UUism? How is that a religion?

It's a question that most of us have been asked and more than likely have struggled to find an answer for. We want to help clear things up. Announcing a VERY exciting opportunity for adults and youth alike!

Spirituality Development Conference

Hosted by the BC Youth Advisory Counsel, North Shore Unitarian Church, February 1-3

An SDC is a place where time is spent exploring the religious aspects of Unitarian Universalism, including personal spirituality, as well as developing skills around worship planning. The youth:adult ratio for this conference is 1:1, so find a buddy! For registration information or for answers of any kind, contact Isobel at 604-714-4965 or at algorithmicalmanac@gmail.com.

cont. from page 7

before him, is a longtime member who often helps with ushering.

Margaret Murdoch, for many years a very active UCV member, has moved to Mission to be close to her oldest **daughter Elspeth** and teenaged grandson. Her new address is Grand Street Lodge, 7755 Grand Street, Mission, B.C. V2V 3T6. She'd love to receive your cards and letters!

Finally, **Bennett Mitten**, our new Vice President of the Board, is doing an "inside job" for longtime active UCV members **Noel and Joan Armstrong**. He has been repainting five of their rooms and has a great colour sense. "Thank goodness, they're getting rid of that builder's beige" quipped one of the Armstrongs' daughters!

Joan also reports that she'll soon be organizing **circle potluck dinners** for us. It matters not whether your place is large or small, consider getting to know other members and make new friends in smaller groups with good food and conversation.

Inside or out, beige or bright, large or small, let me hear your news for next time!

—Ann Foster, 604-736-2117

CANVASS COMMITTEE

WELCOME TO THE GOOD SHIP UCV CANVASS 2008

We are a community of diverse beliefs and shared values. We ask you to help this community continue to be a vital and unique organization in your life, in all our members' lives, and in the wider world.

We all support and nourish the church in many ways (in time, action, kindness), and this month, we are asking you to consider seriously an increase in your annual financial contribution to the UCV. This will be your chance to contribute to our beautiful **SHIP**, and to your **Spiritual Health Insurance Plan**.

Our canvass year will be from July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2009. Please provide your pledge following the Sunday services on February 10th, 17th, or 24th. And if you forget, then do it on March 2nd! Be sure also to mark Sunday, February 10 on your calendar, when we start our canvass with a special Lunch Launch, with great grub for all the hungry sailors.

Help us to load the ship's stores, trim the sails, ride the waves, and enjoy the voyage!

For information, please contact Eleanore Dunn of the Canvass Committee (604-524-1943; eleanoredunn@shaw.ca).

"A politician is a man who thinks of the next election; while a statesman thinks of the next generation."
-James Freeman Clarke, preacher and author, (1810-1888)

Philosophers Fireside Café

7-9 PM, Third Friday of the Month

Unitarian Centre, 949 West 49th Ave. (at Oak Street)

Everyone welcome. Pre-registration is not required. Admission \$5. The evenings are as warm as our fireside, as welcoming as our carpet, as comfortable as our chairs and as interesting as the people we attract. There is a supportive, friendly atmosphere to encourage you to participate actively and share your unique and interesting thoughts and perspectives.

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

Friday, January 18:

The Continuing Search for Intelligent life. If a superior life form from another galaxy has been monitoring human beings and animals since 1950, what conclusions could it reach? How might it define intelligent life? What evidence would it find of intelligent life on earth? Would it say that intelligent beings can be self-destructive?

Philosophers' Fireside Café
Moderator: Randall MacKinnon
604-582-4651

"we dialogue therefore we are....."