



The Bulletin

Unitarian Church of Vancouver

949 West 49th Ave., Vancouver, BC V5Z 2T1
www.vancouverunitarians.ca

604-261-7204
Fax 604-261-7205



SEPTEMBER 2009

Sunday Services in September

All services begin at 11 A.M.

Sept. 6

Justice, Truth & Reconciliation
Bob Woodham

Our principles speak of justice. Justice is hard to define and even harder to attain. “The Rule of Law” is the foundation, but not a guarantee, of justice in a democracy.

This service explores the positive role law can play in affirming and promoting justice, truth and reconciliation in human relations.

Sept. 13

Well Up Like Water:
UCV’s Water Ceremony
Rev. Dr. Steven Epperson

Today marks the first Sunday of the 2009–10 “New Year” at UCV. We celebrate the event with our annual Water Ceremony where we bring and merge water gathered from our summer journeys.

Please bring some water from travels near or far as we gather our community once again.

Sept. 20

The War for Children’s Minds
Rev. Dr. Steven Epperson

How do we convey values to our children at home, in school, in the community? Have we lost our way? Are there good reasons behind critiques of “progressive, liberal” approaches to education? Does education grounded in Unitarian values have a leg to stand on? The school year has begun and this is very much on my mind.

Sept. 27

Final Wishes: A Gift to the Living
Rev. Dr. Steven Epperson

We can truly empower and bless our loved ones, friends, community, and ourselves by expressing our final wishes well before the inevitable event of death. How do we go about doing it in a thoughtful, life-affirming way that conveys meaning and a sense of the sacred? This is an important service for adults of all ages—appropriate for the coming of autumn. ■

Inside

President’s Message	2
Religious Education	2
Minister’s Workshop	3
Covenant Groups	3
Sunday Lunches.....	3
Refugee Committee	4
Thrift Sale.....	4
Environment Committee.....	5
Fostering Community	6
Daytimers	6
Cooking Classes	7
Music Club.....	7
Book Club.....	8
Centenary News.....	9
Event Schedule, Forums	10



Come meet our new CUC Executive Director **Jennifer Dickson** when she visits Vancouver.

Join the UCV Board and members at 6 P.M. on Tuesday, October 6, at Hewett Centre. We’ll have a potluck dinner and hear Jennifer speak about her plans for CUC. Please bring a potluck dish to share.

UCV Memorial Gardens dedicated

In early June, our new Memorial Gardens officially opened at the east and west of the Sanctuary. This Centennial project was made possible through the efforts and generosity of a number of our members. The stonemason even donated one of the two logo plaques.

Two plaques, for Julian and Mavis Fears and for Muriel Cunliffe, are already in place, and are examples of the plaque sizes available for purchase. Noel Armstrong crafted a stand on which rests the official memorial registry. Please take the time to see it when you visit the Gardens.

Families or groups who wish to erect plaques for former UCV members may contact the Memorial Gardens Advisory Group through the church office. Our minister and chaplains are also on hand to create meaningful memorial ceremonies. Plaque purchases will ensure proper maintenance of the Gardens in the years to come. ■



Vancouver Unitarians celebrate the opening of the new Memorial Gardens at the northwest corner of the Sanctuary.

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

Submissions: By the 14th 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

Parish Minister

Rev. Dr. Steven F. Epperson

Minister Emeritus

Rev. Dr. Phillip Hewett

Community Minister

Rev. Laura Friedman

Lay Chaplains

Phyllis Bassett, Dan Enright,
Sherry King, Katherine Roback,
Wayne Ulian

Board of Trustees 2008-2009

President

Elisabeth Geller

Vice-President

Kathryn Aberle

Secretary

Tim McCormick

Treasurer—TBA

Past President

Leslie Kemp

Members-At-Large

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

Staff

Administrative Manager

Tamara Shoup

Office Administrator

Samantha Taylor

Accounting

Ravina Sangara

Campus Ministry Coordinator

Zosia Brown

Sunday Reception

Virginia Crabill, Patti Turner,

Lindsay Udem

Director of Music Emeritus

Harold Douglas Brown

Choir Director

Donna Brown

Lifespan Religious Exploration

Caroline Farley

Music Assistant

Elliott Dainow

Custodians

Stan Clarke, Gerald Hernesmaa,
Wenta Tu'ume, Christie Maxson,
Jeff Taylor



President's message

Elisabeth Geller (president@vancouverunitarians.ca)

Welcome back! The fall has always been my favourite season. The long hot days of summer and lazy read-a-book-on-the-beach times give way to the crisp morning air of autumn with the flourish of changing leaves and a (hopefully) bountiful harvest. School starts, music lessons resume and sports teams are back in session.

And our church year begins again as well. Our RE classes for both young and old start up; circle dinners, Covenant groups, weekly forums, evening lectures, committee meetings and a host of other activities resume; and the whole season feels like a beginning to me.

We are blessed to have this physical space within which we can create the spiritual, artistic and metaphysical space we desire to enrich our lives.

As we come back together this fall, I invite you to take a look at our website, orders of service, and various posters and announcements around the Church to see what might interest you during this upcoming year. I am always struck by the amazing variety and sheer number of activities and events happening at UCV—from book clubs to walking groups to theological explorations.

So I hope you'll avail yourself of some of this richness this fall and winter. Learn more about what is happening here and choose to participate, organize or volunteer as you're willing and able. ■

Religious Education update

Caroline Farley

Director, Lifespan Religious Education

(caroline@vancouverunitarians.ca)



Hi all and welcome back this fall. Me and mine have spent a very busy summer of music festivals, concerts, theatre, soapmaking, selling at our store, working, birthday parties (all of us have our birthdays in the summer), softball, Pride, and even some down time. Whew!

Since my return from holidays, I have been busily getting things ready for the startup of fall programs. We have a very exciting year planned for all of you.

Our younger class of children's RE will continue with Spirit Play this fall. We welcome on board a few newly-trained teachers to deliver the program: Theresa Marion, Jennifer Fell, Dianne King and Catherine Hembling. They took the Spirit Play training UCV hosted in June and are raring to go. Nan Gregory, renowned storyteller and author, will direct our Spirit Play program again this fall.

Our older class of children's RE will be working through a curriculum called Windows and Mirrors, which looks at the self and the world around us. It asks our kids to examine their world and decide how they want to be a part of it—an excellent self-exploration curriculum put out by the UUA.

Youth will again be meeting on Sunday mornings during church service. Nancy Woodham, Sheldon Reddekopp, and our own youth will lead this vibrant group. They will use their gatherings in September to work out priorities and plans for the year.

Our new Adult Religious Education (ARE) brochure is available and being distributed. Check it out for a wonderful slate of exciting offerings, including one by our own Reverend Epperson. Registrations are being taken at the Church office.

There are many wonderful things on the horizon and I look forward to working with you to make them happen. Happy Fall! ■

From the Minister's Workshop
**Thoughts as we begin
 a new church year**

Steven Epperson
 (minister@vancouverunitarians.ca)

Who We Are:

Greetings and welcome to all as we embark on another year in the life of the Unitarian Church of Vancouver! With good cause, we have been celebrating our congregation's Centenary (1909-2009). UCV has endured and thrived in response to this city's ongoing need for a non-dogmatic, spiritually-serious, justice-seeking religious community. Members and friends of UCV embrace diversity in thought, outlook, and orientation. We come from a variety of religious and secular backgrounds, and from all walks of life. We have and will continue to welcome all who want to explore and deepen their spiritual, aesthetic and ethical lives. We cherish this heritage and commitment as a distinctive attribute and strength that we celebrate within our congregation and that we offer to the community at large.

End-of-Summer Thanks: I want to thank the Worship Committee, our RE Director, Caroline Farley, and RE volunteers for providing excellent Sunday worship services and activities during



the summer months. As well, thanks to Staff, the Board of Trustees, our Chaplains and our many, many UCV volunteers for the support and continuity they have provided. I launched out on vacation in Berlin and study leave knowing that our congregation and its work were in excellent hands.

Autumn 2009—for when you ask, “Where is Epperson?”: As you well know, the primary focus of my work is to serve with the members of UCV as Parish Minister. That service includes directing worship services; sermon writing; officiating at rites of passage for UCV members; providing pastoral support; attending numerous staff, Board, and committee meetings; and representing UCV and the Unitarian movement in a variety of settings in the wider community.

Some may not know that my duties as a professional minister within the UU movement entail commitments that require me, at times, to be away from Vancouver. Because I have heard that some are wondering, “Where is Epperson, anyway?”, let me give you a glimpse at my professional commitments beyond UCV this autumn. (Note: By contractual agreement with UCV, I am relieved of professional Sunday duties at least once each month.)

In October, I will be preaching to the Nanaimo Fellowship (Oct. 4) and attending the annual work meetings of the Western Regional Subcommittee on Candidacy (Oct. 15–18). This is one of four Regional Subcommittees in

North America, and I am the only Canadian minister currently serving. Our work supports the Ministerial Fellowship Committee. We make early decisions on Candidacy Status for people seeking to pursue professional UU ministry, and we support pre-candidates in ministerial discernment and formation. Important work.

On November 22, Rev. Katie Steinsather (Beacon Unitarian) and I will be exchanging pulpits. As well, I will be attending “Convocation” (Nov. 11–16) in Ottawa—a once-every-seven-years event for all UU ministers. The intent of this week of conferences, workshops, and worship is to enhance excellence in ministry and to strengthen the UU movement in North America. It's quite a coup to be hosting “Convo” on Canadian soil.

As a member of the UU Ministers of Canada (UUMOC), I have two annual away-from-Vancouver obligations. But they won't come 'round until late January and May 2010, so more about them later. (As a member of the UUMOC Executive, I am involved in monthly teleconferences. UU ministers from the Island and Lower Mainland also gather at UCV for collegial meetings the 2nd Thursday of every month.)

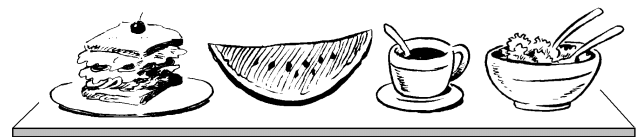
I hope this information is helpful. What I want to underline, though, is that the heart of my work is this congregation. I hope that what I do professionally beyond Vancouver is of mutual benefit to the congregation and to our Unitarian movement. ■

Covenant Group Program

This much-loved program helps UCV members and adherents get to know each other more deeply. Small groups meet once a month to share the ups and downs of each others' lives and join in interesting topic discussions.

In the past, Covenant Groups have begun each fall. However, some of last year's participants indicated they would like the groups to stay together for two years. With this in mind, we may start in January and go until June, 2011.

We need someone to help **facilitate the program** and at least two more **facilitators for monthly meetings**. If you would like to volunteer for these opportunities, or would like more information, please contact Marg Fletcher (604-734-4935, mfletcher508@gmail.com). ■



Sunday Lunches

Sept. 6: Refugee Committee (fundraiser for Farahnaz)

Sept. 13: Refugee Committee

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

Social Justice / Refugee Committee

Palestinian families seek help

Virginia Crabill

Our Karen family arrived safely and has been settling in with friends and family in East Van. The child, Remember, is 4 and will be needing appropriate winter clothes.

Our next undertaking involves working with the Vancouver Interfaith Refugee Council to sponsor five interrelated Palestinian families. Stateless, they are currently in a refugee camp, El Hol, on the Iraq-Syria border, in a situation beyond desperate. The United Nations High Commissioner of Refugees will be closing this camp (see article on the bulletin board in Hewett Centre).

We will work closely with the local Quaker community to sponsor one family. The Muslim community will sponsor the second, and First Baptist Church on Burrard will sponsor the third. Two more families await private sponsorship.

Although the Federal Citizenship and Immigration office approached the Canadian Centre for Refugees about finding full private sponsorships for 60 families from El Hol, the Canadian government will not be assisting financially in any way.

For more information about our Refugee Committee, contact co-chairs Virginia Crabill (604-731-1730 through September; 604-731-9393 thereafter) or Fiona Graham. Meetings are at 12:30 on the 4th Sunday of every month, in the Board Room. All are welcome.

To assist the Refugee Committee financially, please write “Sheilah Thompson Refugee Fund” on your cheque and leave it in the collection plate or at the UCV office.

We offer everyone this traditional Latin American grace: “Bless this food we are about to receive. To those who hunger, give bread. To those who have bread, give the hunger for justice.” ■

Pride 2009

A large contingent of Unitarians from the Lower Mainland, including Vancouver, marched in this year’s annual Vancouver Pride Parade.

Following the parade, we handed out information and answered questions at an information booth on Sunset Beach. Many of our Unitarian youth—over 50% of our presence at the event—came out to show their support for GLBT people and issues.

A big thank-you goes out to Debra Thorne for organizing our participation in the parade this year.



More than recycling—an adventure!

Our 41st annual **Thrift Sale** opens to the public on Friday, September 11, from 6–9 P.M. and Saturday, September 12, from 10 A.M.–1 P.M.

This is one of our Church’s big fundraisers, but it has other benefits, too: We reuse lots of good stuff you donate. Our church community is enhanced by the camaraderie of working together. And what we don’t sell, we give to charity.

No more donations after Sunday, August 23, please, as we lose our sorting space soon afterward.

We **need volunteers** for:

- Publicity—distributing flyers at UCV and around the neighbourhood; taking a lawn sign; telling friends
- Setting up sale items (clothing, sm. furnishings, etc.) at 1 P.M. on Tuesday, Sept. 6 through Thursday, Sept. 10
- Buying and preparing food for workers on Friday, Sept. 11 and Saturday, Sept. 12

- Traffic marshalling
- Selling on Friday evening (5:30–9:30 P.M.) and Saturday (9:30 A.M.–2 P.M.)
- Bagging, boxing, and loading remainders into truck
- Cleaning the hall

How many Unitarians does it take to make a thrift sale a success? All of us!

Contact Pat MacBain (604-266-4225), Dianne Crosbie (604-876-6543, dcrosbie@univers.com) or Julie Cowie (604-267-1627, gibson120@shaw.ca). ■



Environment Committee

Our last chance

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

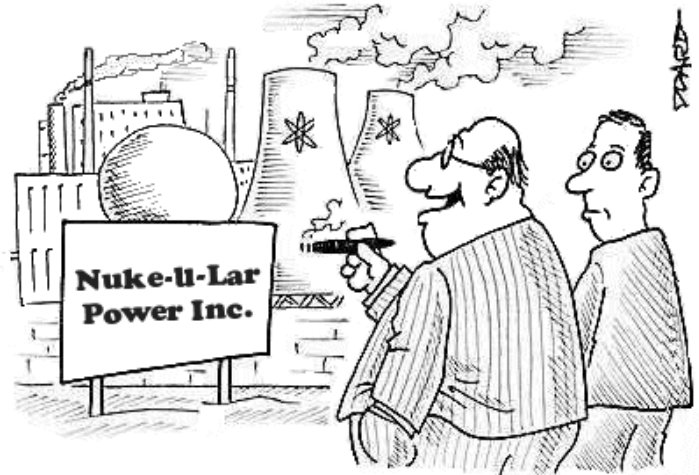
The meeting of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change at Copenhagen in December 2009—the parties' 15th conference, known as COP15—is the most important international gathering since the Second World War. – From The Global Deal by Nicholas Stern (Grantham Research Institute on Climate Change, London School of Economics)

David Suzuki was wrong about some economists. Nicholas Stern understands the climate crisis, and is doing his best to prevent it. *The Global Deal* by Professor Lord Stern tells us what it will cost to get out of this mess: “2% of world GNP per annum over the next half-century.”

This book is intended to guide world leaders attending the UN's COP15 meeting in December. Stern agrees this will be our last chance to prevent a climate meltdown. We have already passed some tipping points—Arctic ice, ocean acidification, Asian glacier melt—but we haven't yet passed the “point of no return”. Maybe.

Stern describes the choices before us: “Limiting temperature increases, with high probability, to 2° C.—often advocated on the grounds that anything higher would be dangerous—is a goal unlikely to be achievable, unless we discover and implement ways of extracting greenhouse gases from the atmosphere on a large scale.” A political realist, Stern recommends aiming to limit the world's average surface temperature to 3° C. above the 1850 average. By limiting atmospheric CO² to 450 parts per million (ppm), he figures we would have a 56% chance of remaining below 3° C.

Since we are now at 389 ppm CO² and accelerating, and as carbon sources grow and carbon sinks shrink, it will be bloody hard to plateau at 450 ppm before 2050. In a list of “key elements” of a “global deal”, Stern proposes “an agreement by developed countries to take on immediate and bind-



Risky? Are you kidding? We'll make a fortune!

ing targets of 20% to 40% [of greenhouse-gas reduction below 1990 levels] by 2020, and to commit to a reduction of at least 80% by 2050”. By comparison, BC Premier Campbell has proposed a 33% reduction below 2007 levels by 2020. Campbell's goal sounds impressive—but since BC's 2007 levels are so much higher than its 1990 levels, even a 33% reduction doesn't achieve Stern's minimum.

Canada could achieve 40% below 1990 levels by 2020. Either we make the sacrifice or, like late-night drunks, we crash. A 40% reduction would mean the end of Gateway, the Tar Sands, cheap beef, gas guzzlers, and other disruptions. But we fought nuclear weapons, and when we thought all was lost, the sun rose on a much safer world. So there is reason to hope. This is our last chance. We must try. We can wait and see, or we can lead. Let's lead.

The Environment Committee will meet at the *solar* home of Joan and Noel Armstrong at 1 P.M. on Sunday, Sept. 13. Carpool in UCV's parking lot at 12:30. Potluck lunch and meeting. All are welcome. ■

Remembering Peg Woods

Wanda Justice

Peggy joined the Unitarian Church on 10th Avenue in June, 1954. There she found a compatible community with whom she could talk, discuss issues, laugh, argue and share ideas. She enrolled her children in the Church's school and volunteered on a committee to raise awareness of this marvelous church and its intellectually-lively minister, Rev. Lex Crane.

In May of 1955, Peggy was elected Secretary to the Board of Trustees. The congregation grew. The Minister moved to another city and Rev. Phillip

Hewett was called to the Church. As the congregation continued to grow, the decision was made to make Church Secretary a professional position—and in 1959 Peg was hired.

After her retirement in 1984, 25 years later, Peggy joined in with the Church's activities and committees, including our new buildings at 49th and Oak, our monthly newsletter, our outreach programs, and the Church's internal organization.

Her children grew, made new friends, and attended school. When her husband passed away, Peg became more involved in the Church and in the

Wilderness Society, where she helped purchase a block of wilderness where Fry Creek delivers its icy glacial water to Kootenay Lake.

As Peg's children became adults, she continued to serve and enjoy our Unitarian community in the company of other lovers of jazz, literature, philosophy and theatre. She fell in love once more and formed an alliance with a bright and good man with whom she lived and loved until his death.

In the years that followed, we gradually lost Peggy to the effects of Alzheimer's Disease. Finally, this year, she left us. – *Continued, next page*

Peg Woods – from page 5

For many years our congregation was the beneficiary of Peggy Woods' ebullient personality, her prodigious organizational skills, and her memory for events, accounts, materials and equipment. We enjoyed her delightful sense of humour, constant curiosity about life, and interest in people. In the office, doing a reading, hiking with a group of teenagers, showing her appreciation of others' skills, camping at Wilderness, or just sharing a memory, she was a treasure.

I am grateful to have known this blithe spirit and to have been her friend. ■

Ashana and Thomas Barquee—Live in Concert

Sacred song, chant and poetry... Music that takes you places you've always dreamed of going...

Join Ashana and Thomas for a magical evening of sacred song, chant and mystical poetry from world traditions. Passionate, soaring vocals, singing crystal bowls, exquisite harmonies and stunning keyboard artistry—joyous, energizing music that reaches across boundaries and invites you into a breathtakingly beautiful world where the heart shines brightly and overflows with love.

Friday, September 18, 7:30 P.M. in the UCV Sanctuary.

Fostering Community

Ann Foster (afos72@vcn.bc.ca)



Sadly, we must report the untimely death of **Susanne McCormick** on July 29, her 54th birthday, following a courageous struggle with breast cancer. A very active UCV member, she was on the search committee that found **Steven** and also involved in RE. A skilled quilter who had made quilts for her two older children, **Tim** and

Elise, she was unable to complete one for younger daughter **Claire**—a task willingly assumed by her quilting group, including several UCV members. Son **Tim** is currently Board Secretary. Condolences to all three children and to husband **Tom**. A memorial service was held August 16. She will be deeply missed.

On June 9, **Peg Woods** passed away after a long illness, shortly before her 90th birthday. Peg “did everything” at our church from the early 1950's until her retirement in 1984. Look for the special tribute to Peg elsewhere in this issue.

We also lost **Don Milligan** on July 13, two months shy of his 80th birthday. An ESL teacher at Winston Churchill for many years, Don was on UCV's Finance, Buildings, and Grounds Committees in the 70's, having planted some of the trees on our property. He leaves behind three sons, Bruce, Mark and John, and eight grandchildren. He was predeceased by his wife **Lucille**, whom he met at our church; son David; and beloved toy poodle Peppi. A kind, compassionate man with wide-ranging interests, he will be missed. A memorial service was held August 9.

Long-time UCV member **Norm Hoye** recently moved into South Granville Park Lodge at 1645 W. 14th. His phone number there is 604-737-7072 and he would enjoy phone calls and visits from his friends.

Board member **Corina Bye** and her family woke up to a frightening scene one morning in early July. Daughter **Jaden**, 7, had a 40° fever and couldn't walk. Following a worrisome three week hospital stay, Jaden has been gradually improving at home. A strange bone infection caused all this havoc. Corina would like to thank all those who have cheered Jaden up with their get-well wishes.

Wedding bells rang on August 15 for **Gary and Dierdre Hetherington's** older daughter Judith, a singer/songwriter and counselor, and her new husband, Rob Bruner, an actor, filmmaker, musician and counselor, in a ceremony in our Sanctuary. Judith follows in the footsteps of sister Erin, married just 11 months ago in Ottawa. Congratulations to all!

Kudos also to **Diana Ellis** and **Greg Grant** who recently received UCV “Unsung Hero” awards for many years of service. **Arthur Hughes** and **Kelly Kent** were last year's recipients.

We'll miss **Marcia Braundy** and **Dale Norman**, now living permanently on their Slocan Valley property. They formerly lived with **Mavis Jemielita**, who now has another fine young person sharing her house and lending a hand. Best wishes, all—and Marcia and Dale, please come visit us!

From Departures to Arrivals, we welcome little newcomer **Levi Crowther**, born April 26 to proud parents **Krista and Chris Crowther**, who are fairly new at our church.

Whether you're departing, arriving, or staying put, Fostering Community wants your news! ■

Daytimers

Daytimers has a new format: Programs initiated by members and friends will take place from 11 A.M. to 12 P.M. We'll then have a break for conversation and a bring-your-own bagged lunch, followed by discussion from 1 to 2 P.M. Our meetings will be in the Fireside Room on 2nd and 4th Thursdays through the fall and spring, with only one meeting planned for each of September, December and June.

Old and new Daytimers will be pleased to have you join us for our first meeting this fall at 11 A.M. on Thursday, September 22. Alice James presents a program on the History of Universal Human Rights. On October 8, Joan Armstrong reviews Judy Rebick's *Transforming Power*. On October 22, Martin Toren speaks on the Politics of Inequality. Following the meetings, lunchtime tea and coffee will be available for a small fee. Don't forget your lunches—you'll need fuel to add your point of view to the discussion. ■

Cooking classes at UCV

Eating ethically—and deliciously

Denise Swanson (604-872-5343, dcswanon@shaw.ca)

Last year the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations chose *Ethical Eating* as its 2008–2012 Congregational Study/Action Issue. A comprehensive online Study Guide, brimming with ideas on this issue, is available here:

www.uua.org/socialjustice/issuesprocess/currentissues/ethicaleating

A Power Point presentation was given on this subject at UCV in the spring and will be offered again this fall.

A plant-based diet addresses many aspects of Ethical Eating: ameliorating global hunger, improving health, preserving the environment, and sparing food animals miserable lives and deaths.

This year I have offered organic vegan cooking workshops, open to everyone from omnivore to “flexitarian”. Our first six workshops, held this summer, covered Indian, Chinese, Ethiopian, Phyllo, Calzones, and “Shoestring” cuisine. In this season of great abundance, we have used all organic, locally-grown (and even some home-grown) produce: onions, shallots, tomatoes, potatoes, cabbage, kale, collards, spinach, mushroom, eggplant, garlic, green beans, carrots,



broccoli, bell peppers, cilantro, parsley, scallions, dill, blueberries, cherries, peaches, apricots, day lilies and more!

Upcoming classes include Wheat-Free, Easy Vegan, Cooking with Gluten/Seitan, Harvest, and Yuletide. Classes are usually on Saturday or Sunday afternoons and last 3 to 5 hours. The cost is \$5 to \$25, including recipes, meal, and usually extra food to take home. For more info, please contact me at my phone or email address above. ■

Help shape our Unitarian future

Locally—Future Development Plans Committee

How can UCV help you bloom? How can it best live out its mission to seek “spiritual growth, social justice and environmental sustainability” through future development, expansion and/or sharing our physical space?

These questions, among others, will be the focus of an inquiry into Future Development of UCV that will take place over the next few months. UCV’s Board has established a Future Development Plans Committee which will invite members of our church community into dialogue around these important questions.

We will be launching the process immediately following the service on September 20. We invite all members of the congregation to attend a one-hour session in the Sanctuary from 12:15 to 1:15 P.M. We will introduce the inquiry’s pur-

pose and process, and invite congregants to discuss these issues. We will also provide ways for groups within the Church to share and discuss their perspectives. We will report the results of the inquiry at the AGM in late November.

For more information, please contact Jeannie Corsi (604-224-1040), Margo Elfert (604-875-1414) or Leslie Kemp (604-877-1720).

Nationally—CUC Online Survey

The Canadian Unitarian Council (CUC) is actively considering the Council’s evolving organization, service delivery, support, budget, and priorities.

UCV members are encouraged to engage in this conversation in whatever creative and practical ways work best for us and our congregation. One way you can participate is to take CUC’s current online survey. For more information and links to the survey, visit www.cuc.ca/whats_new/new.htm ■

Unitarian Music Club

The Unitarian Music Club’s first meeting of the new church season will be at 7:30 P.M. on Monday, September 28, in the Sanctuary. The evening will consist of a short informal concert including performances by Peter Haskell, Gerard Sata-mian, Pamela Jeffery and Stu James, and Dwight Ivany.

The Music Club welcomes all styles of acoustic music. Performances are arranged in advance. If you would like to perform, come and we’ll set a date for you.

Everyone is welcome. If you’re new to the Church or look-

ing for something new, try us. When you come, please bring a contribution to refreshments.

Because of the Church’s financial difficulties, we now put out a donation basket so people who do not contribute to the Church (and are not low-income) can do so.

Our meeting dates for the Fall 2009 season are September 28, October 26, and November 23 (in the Sanctuary) and December 21 (in the Fireside Room).

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

Scenes from Villa Elisa

Franci Louann (flouann@telus.net)

those birds sing
so earnestly
at 4 A.M.

guests for lunch
sisters long separate
peace lilies in the vase

this long green beak
piercing eyes of indigo
orange crown flashing
this bird-
of-paradise
this bloom

against the grey sky
the jacaranda purple
more royal than ever

as we say goodnight
on the sidewalk
two snails kiss

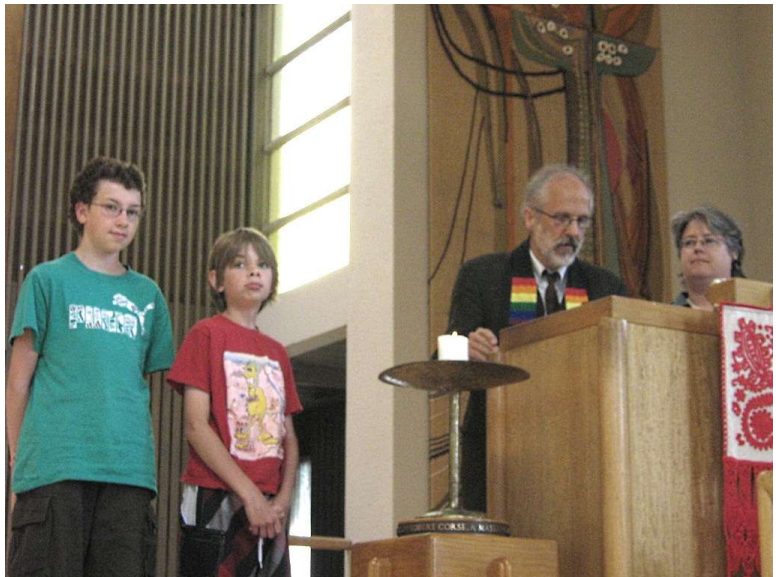
Book Club meets Sept. 6

The UCV Book Club meets in the Budny Room at 12:30 P.M. the 1st Sunday of each month. The books we read, fiction and non-fiction, are democratically selected from titles suggested by club members. We warmly welcome people of all ages who love books or who are simply interested in one we are discussing. Even if you haven't read the book, you are invited to come and listen to the discussion.



Our first fall meeting will be Sunday, September 6. Our topic is a brief memoir published in 1999, *Walter Benjamin at the Dairy Queen: Reflections at Sixty and Beyond* by Larry McMurtry. McMurtry is well-known as a prolific and successful novelist and screenwriter. He won a Pulitzer Prize for *Lonesome Dove* and Academy Awards for *The Last Picture Show* and *Brokeback Mountain*. He has also written a number of fine book-length personal essays.

In *Walter Benjamin at the Dairy Queen*, a German philosopher's ideas about storytelling inspire McMurtry to



Our annual **Bridging Ceremony**, held June 21, marked significant transitions for a number of young members of our congregation. Shown here with Parish Minister Steven Epperson and Director of Lifespan Religious Education Caroline Farley are (above) Tommy Fielding and Kevin Graham, as they bridged into the youth group (not shown: Olivia Hall); and (below) Marc Dainow, Kegan Graham and Owen Marmorek as they marked their graduation from high school and transition to adulthood (not shown: Casey Stainsby, Matt Madewan and Claire McCormick).



reflect on his life, which began on his pioneer grandfather's land on the Texas plains. With dashes of humour and insight, he combines such themes as his experiences as a reluctant cowboy; his passions for books and reading; his alternate career as an antiquarian

bookseller; his interest in the myths of the American West; and how a quadruple bypass affected his life. It is an absorbing and thought-provoking book.

For more Book Club info, contact Barbara McDaniel (604-298-3363). ■

UCV Centenary 1909–2009

Centenary Feast & Soiree

Get ready to celebrate this special occasion in our Church's history! Join us the evening of **Saturday, November 28** for a Feast in Hewett Centre hall, followed by a Soiree in the Sanctuary.

Time and ticket details to follow. Mark it on your calendars now!

Centenary Insight

From the UCV Archives

Books and words have always been important in the lives of UCV members. Our Book Clubs carry on this tradition, which began early in our Church's history with the formation of the Unitarian Literary Society.

According to Arthur Peacey's archived account, the Reverends Ada

and JB Tonkin helped organize a group of Church members and friends who were interested in literature. The Society's opening symposium, *My Favourite Poem and Why*, was a customary way to start a literary society, but the proceedings themselves were characterized by frank and penetrating discussion, Unitarian-style.

Meetings were held every two weeks during the winter months. In the early years, all papers were presented by members, but the aim was always to involve everyone. After each paper, everyone had an opportunity to comment or critique. The result was a lively and stimulating exchange of ideas. Minutes were kept of each meeting, providing a good summary of the papers and discussions.

The Literary Society was active from 1919 to 1947. ■



Introduction to SoulCollage®

Discover the fun and insights of this intuitive process. What images or objects represent the inner and outer you? Let your Soul out to play. No art experience necessary.

Sunday, Sept. 27, 1–6 P.M., Budny Room. \$65. Register here: www.sunshinecoastsoulcollage.ca ...or by calling facilitator Heather Conn at 1-800-601-5611.

FOR UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS EVERYWHERE—SPONSORED BY NEIGHBOURHOOD UU CONGREGATION, TORONTO

“Warm Up Your Soul”

February 6-13, 2010

Belize & Guatemala!

Experience the Rainforest & Mayan Culture

Our home for seven nights is in the heart of the Mayan world - San Ignacio in the Cayo District. Our hotel sits above the village, where we'll have spectacular panoramic views of the Belize River Valley and Maya Mountains. The hotel has pools and gardens for your relaxing pleasure. Forty per cent of this beautiful country is protected park and nature reserve. We'll experience enthralling Maya ruins and caves amid rainforest canopies.

- ◆ Glorious meditation spots to reflect and contemplate
- ◆ Mayan culture & ruins, including the famous site, Tikal, in Guatemala
- ◆ Mayan herbal healing with a traditional Mayan healer
- ◆ Rainforest birds and wildlife
- ◆ Waterfalls and rivers - Creek Cave canoeing



A certified naturalist guide will accompany us on all excursions, pointing out the intriguing flora and fauna. He will also impart his expert knowledge on Mayan architecture and culture.



What makes this journey special?

Rev. Wayne Walder will lead meditations every day. We'll have many locations to choose from in this beautiful country. Instead of going from one thing to another quickly, we'll pause and have time to soak up the atmosphere. At the end of the day we'll join together and reflect on what we have seen and experienced that day. Meditation and reflections are optional of course, but we have found that on other trips, they have provided profound experiences for many. Our journey was customized especially for us by Worldwide Quest. It goes without saying that travelling with Unitarians is always something very special. It'll warm your soul!

-Beverly Carr, bgcarr@rogers.com

For more information, visit www.nuuc.ca and click “Warm Up Your Soul”

September Events

Sun. 6, 12:30–1:30 P.M. Forum (details below), Fireside
Sun. 6, 12:30–2 P.M. Book Club: *Walter Benjamin at the Dairy Queen: Reflections at Sixty and Beyond*, Budny
Wed. 9, 7–9:30 P.M. Pagan Committee, Boardroom
Sun. 13, 12:30–1:30 P.M. Arts Committee, Boardroom; and Forum (details below), Fireside
Mon. 14, 7–9 P.M. Sacred Circle Dancing, Fireside
Sun. 20, 12:15–1:15 P.M. Forum (details below), Fireside
Mon. 21, 7–9 P.M. Sacred Circle Dancing, Fireside
Tues. 22, 7:15–9 P.M. ARE: How Did You Live Your Life Today? with Dolores Bate (cont. until Oct. 27), Budny
Wed. 23, 7–9:30 P.M. Pagan Committee, Fireside
Thurs. 24, 11:30 A.M.–2 P.M. Daytimers: History of Universal Human Rights, Fireside
Sun. 27, 12:30–1:30 P.M. Forum (details below), Fireside
Sun. 27, 12:30–2 P.M. UUA Study Action: Ethical Eating, Fireside
Mon. 28, 6:30–9 P.M. UCV Music Club, Sanctuary

Forums

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

Forums are **Sundays, 12:30-1:30 P.M.** in the Fireside Room, except where noted. All are welcome.

Sept. 6

Despair and Personal Power **Casey Stainsby/Karl Perrin**

Do you remember the Peace Walks against nuclear weapons? That was a scary time, and Joanna Macy took on the work of healing burned-out peace activists. Drawing on Buddhism and Systems Theory, she has continued helping activists live and work with difficult emotions. Last June, Casey went to Ontario for a workshop in the “Work that Reconnects” with Joanna herself. Karl and Casey present a summary of Joanna’s life’s work and a discussion of its place in our lives, with excerpts from her DVD.

Sept. 13

War Resister Support Campaign

(<http://ca.geocities.com/vanresisters>)

Why are young Americans once again coming to Canada to resist being sent to fight overseas? What is their situation once here, and what could—and does—happen to them if they’re deported back to the US? Should Unitarians help, and if so, how? Come meet and ask questions of members of the War Resister Support Campaign at this September 13 Forum.

Parliament has twice voted to allow conscientious objectors to illegal wars to stay in Canada. Yet some resisters have been deported already and many, some with children born in Canada, are desperately appealing their deportation orders.

Social Justice Committee Liaison:
Virginia Crabill

Sept. 20

Future Devel. Plans Committee

Share your ideas for UCV’s future (see pg. 7). In the Sanctuary.

Sept. 27

UUA Study Action Issue 2008–2112: **Ethical Eating**

(www.uua.org/socialjustice/issuesprocess/currentissues/ethicaleating)

Dave Steele & Denise Swanson

For those who missed it in June, a repeat of the Power Point presentation based on UUA’s “Ethical Eating” Study Guide. Our individual food choices go well beyond the personal, affecting many aspects of human rights, environmental justice and animal welfare. We hold the power to affect positive change! (See Denise’s article on Ethical Eating, pg. 7.)

Oct. 4

Environment Committee:

UN’s Intl. Day of Climate Action

The Kyoto Plus petition recommends Canada cut its greenhouse emissions to 25% below 1990 levels by 2020. So does Lord Nicholas Stern (see “Last Chance”, pg. 5). On Saturday, October

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 to learn what you can do on October 24.

Other groups

Environment Committee **Gratitude Group**

We meet from 10 to 10:30 A.M. on the 3rd Sunday of each month to share our gratitude, our successes at living sustainably, and the challenges for which we seek support. Mary Bennett facilitates. For more info, contact Mary (unitarianmary@telus.net).

Pagan Committee

All are welcome on the 4th Wednesday of each month, from 7:00–9:00 P.M., as we practise Pagan ritual and explore the tarot cards from a Jungian perspective. We are a small, informal group, and no previous knowledge or experience is required. Contact Virginia Crabill (604-731-1730) or Mary Bennett (unitarianmary@telus.net).

Beginning in October, committee chair Huguette Sansonet will coordinate additional Pagan meetings on the 2nd Wednesday of each month.



Carry the Flame