



THE BULLETIN

THE UNITARIAN CHURCH OF VANCOUVER APRIL, 2007

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CHURCH SERVICES IN APRIL

“Name Three Things...”

Sunday, April 1, 11 AM
Rev. Dr. Steven Epperson

Before becoming Unitarians, many of us were members of other religious faiths. We became Unitarians for good reasons. In this service, I will talk about some of the good about having been a Mormon that I bring into Unitarian ministry, and about some of the reasons why I left the faith of my upbringing. This sermon is in response to a Service Auction request. Hopefully, it will be illuminating and provocative.

Our Sanctuary and Its Symbols: A Passover/Easter Exploration

Sunday, April 8, 11 AM
Rev. Dr. Steven Epperson

The UCV Sanctuary has been cited by architects as one of the finest public sites of worship in Vancouver.

In honour of this Passover/Easter weekend, we will explore its beauty and celebrate its symbolic meaning. A service for all ages.

The Mystery and Persistence of Evil

Sunday, April 15, 11 AM
Rev. Dr. Steven Epperson

Our Unitarian theology and outlook have not always served us well in confronting and trying to make sense of the reality of evil. Today is Yom HaShoah, a day of memory of Jews who died as victims of genocide during

the Second World War. It is fitting on this day for us to look at the persistence and tragedy of human evil and of our confrontation with it.

“Ordinary Courage”

Earth Day Service

Sunday, April 22, 11 AM

Rex Weyler, author of

“Greenpeace, the Inside Story”

Inspired by the effects of global warming, humanity is recognizing the urgent environmental challenges we face. Spiritual teachers in all traditions have taught that nature is sacred. What can we do as individuals and as communities to renew a respectful, sanctified relationship with the earth? Throughout history, ordinary people have led social transformation by demonstrating vision and courage. Rex Weyler will talk about how citizens can lead the ecological renaissance and he will share experiences from 30 years on the front lines of the environmental movement.

Join us in the Fireside Room at 12:30 for book sales and signing, and an informal Forum discussion with Rex.

The Principles of Shared Ministry

Sunday, April 29, 11 AM

Rev. Dr. Steven Epperson

A Unitarian reading states: “This is our great covenant: to dwell together in peace, to seek the truth in love, and to help one another.” It is a statement of a bed-rock Unitarian experience: *shared ministry*. On this “bring a friend Sunday,” we’ll take a look and celebrate this essential practice.

Welcoming Newcomers

The Foyer Welcoming Committee is looking for volunteers to assist in the new project of warmly welcoming visitors when they first enter our church on Sunday morning. Many hands will make the task a small commitment. So, if you would like to make newcomers feel welcome, leave your name and your phone number with Michael Scales or Judy Villett at the Foyer Welcoming Table, or phone us at 604-215-8537, or send us an e-mail at jvillett@hotmail.com

—Michael Scales

Wally Cottle Memorial Services Auction 2007

Music, food, year-long enjoyment are the rewards for those who participated in this year’s auction. Thank you to everyone who bid for or donated an item, and to our 45+ volunteers - especially to Arthur Hughes, auctioneer; Gary Smook and Hilda Wiebe, Silent Auction; Dale Norman and Marcia Braundy, food; Don Slade and Dave Marmorek, bar; and Gerry Hayle, ticket production.

Our profit exceeds \$13,500!

—Deb Henry, Rae & John Smith
604-732-0100

From the Minister's Workshop

Shared Leadership at UCV and My Coming Sabbatical

One of the most striking characteristics of the Unitarian Church of Vancouver is the depth and breadth of the talent, experience, goodness and wisdom of its members. This is not flattery or false praise. You're not saints, but I have seen many of you in action, learned about your professional, domestic and personal achievements, your triumphs over adversity; and I have benefitted from your insights, knowledge and good will. *There's* a good reason to get involved in the committees, the Board, and the working groups of this congregation: continuing education, spiritual enrichment, and experience in community building in a mutually supportive environment.

What I wrote in the preceding paragraph is important for the 2007-08 church year. As most of you know, I will be taking a sabbatical next year. Sabbatical leave is provided to ministers to more fully develop as professionals and to nourish their minds, bodies and souls. The intention of a sabbatical is that it will benefit the congregation: if I engage in "pro-fessional development," the outcome should be real and mutual progress for all of us.

I have two principal goals for the sabbatical that will take place October–November, 2007 and March–June, 2008. First, I want to learn, as a minister and representative of a "values" based religious community, how to more effectively "work" City Hall and the Provincial Legislature. A frustration in my ministry has been not really knowing how this congregation can

"translate" its values into influencing "political" outcomes (on a non-partisan basis) on a municipal and provincial level. I look forward to conversations, learning and outcomes that will flow from time spent meeting with politicians, political staff, representatives of NGO's, citizens, and you(!). My second sabbatical goal is to learn how I can more authentically express our values through ritual. I will be exploring Unitarian liturgical practices and studying at the Tsubaki Shinto shrine in Washington State and possibly in Japan. I think I have a lot to learn from both of these sources and their deep roots in history, aesthetics, science and earth-based spirituality.

Which brings me, in the end, back to the beginning of this article. In my bones, I believe and am committed to the principle and practice of shared ministry; to co-leadership in Unitarian congregations. I will be on hand (August–September) to help us launch out on a new church year and to celebrate and work with you through the holiday season and into the newcalendar year (December–February). But let me underline this: I believe the months that I am on sabbatical will turn out to be exciting, meaningful, and full of growth for UCV because UCV members will be ministering, leading, and serving in my absence. *Think about it!!* Think about the individual and collective strength of our shared ministry and the depth of experience and leadership possessed by UCV lay members!!

Next year, we don't have to "drop the ball," nor lose stride or momentum just because the minister is "on sabbatical." To the contrary; we have excellent staff and programs, beautiful buildings and grounds, and the most important resource of all in building community and "doing church": our extraordinary human capital. Our lay members. *YOU.*

I look forward to what we are going to achieve from now, through next year and beyond. I plan on coming back from a sabbatical a better professional minister and to a congregation even stronger and surer of itself in vision, resources and practice.

Steven Epperson
Rev. Dr. Steven Epperson

Second Fridays Are



Al Gore's Must-see Prize-winning Documentary on Climate Change

"An Inconvenient Truth"

Friday, April 13, 7 pm

Fireside Room

Free Admission

(Popcorn sales to offset expenses)

Sponsored by the Social Justice Committee of UCV

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

Ph. & Fax: 604-322-1644

E-mail: ghayle@telus.net

MINISTERS AND LAY CHAPLAINS:

- Rev. Dr. Steven F. Epperson: Parish Minister
- Rev. Dr. Phillip Hewett: Minister Emeritus
- Laura Friedman: Ministerial Candidate
- Lay Chaplains: Dan Enright, Katherine Roback, Shoshanna Wiley Solest, Wayne Ulian

BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2006-2007

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CAMPUS MINISTRY

Update on Ministry at UBC

How amazing to find ourselves heading into the final month of the school year! We have taken many positive steps this year, and have begun to cultivate a real presence on the UBC campus. After completing our application to the UBC Chaplains' Association in late February, we were invited to join the Committee. Twice a month, I and another member of the Campus Ministry group will be attending the chaplain meetings as representatives of UUs on campus. Information about our religious tradition, the Campus Ministry group, and our contact information will be posted on the Association's website. We believe this will help us become more actively involved in the interfaith campus community.

Campus Ministry is also interested in connecting further with our congregation. If you are interested in helping create opportunities for the Campus Ministry group to get involved in the church community, please get in touch with me. This might include: helping us organize a lunch after the service, plan a worship service, host a potluck at the church, or plan an evening of discussion. It is often difficult for students to stay involved in church events due to the nature of their schedules; however, I think with some assistance and encouragement, this could be changed. And I believe this would be a very positive thing!

—*Samantha Fletcher,*
Campus Ministry Coordinator,
778-329-7651

ACM Delegates Needed

The UCV will send nine delegates to the Annual Meeting of the CUC this year. The Annual Conference and Meeting is in Vancouver and will take place on the Victoria Day long weekend from May 18-21 at UBC.

Members of UCV who are interested in attending as delegates are invited to submit a letter to the Board at the office or by email to ucv@ucv.org by April 10. Your letter should detail your interest in attending as a delegate, and any specific reasons why you feel you would make a strong representative. The decision on selecting delegates will be made by the Board of Trustees. As there may be more applicants than positions, please note that the Board will give preference to representing the diversity of our congregation, as well as seeking applicants who may not have been able to attend an ACM in the past.

Please note that if you are selected as a delegate, you will be required to attend the business portions of the ACM and may not be available for all workshop sessions. Your delegate fees will also be covered by the UCV.

For more information on the CUC and ACM, please refer to their website at www.cuc.ca

CHILDREN'S RELIGIOUS EDUC.

RE Update:

Welcome to Fraser Kent who has graduated into our preschool class! Our kids took on action this month with our annual "Action Sunday" on February 26th. They rotated amongst stations making Aids awareness ribbons, writing letters to the Prime Minister on topics that concern them and making fleece scarves for street youth on the Downtown East Side.

UCV was the location of the first Canadian "Groundworks" Anti-Racism/Anti-Oppression training. 17 youth were taken through the training on becoming an ally/advocate in racial/oppressive situations. They have also been doing a bunch of fundraising to pay off a debt incurred for their trip to New York last April to attend the UU-UNO conference.

While some of our ARE programs are winding up for the term, others are

The New Opportunities Seed Fund!

Would you like to help your community? The New Opportunity Seed Fund has funds available so it's time to think about projects you would like to initiate or support. The Fund was established to involve the congregation in active outreach and to support community projects, both those that are independent of the church as well as those that have some connection to the work of church committees. We want to

getting ready to begin. Included are: "Compassionate Communication" with Wayne Ulian April 14, "Women Mystics" with Harold Rosen April 10, and a second offering of Debra Thorne's "A Deepening Path". Registrations at the church office. Descriptions of courses are on UCV's website: www.vancouver.unitarians.ca



Caroline Farley
Director, Lifespan Religious Exploration

foster a spirit of generosity within the congregation so put on your thinking caps! The money for the fund comes from our weekly open collection. Fifty percent of the money that is not delegated for a specific purpose goes into this fund for community causes.

If you have an idea, please pick up an application form in the church office. That application will go to the Committee and the successful applicants will be announced at the congregational budget meeting in June. The New Opportunities Seed Fund Committee consists of Muriel Groves, Chair, Charlene Gram, Jennifer Wade, Jennifer Podlecki and two others yet to be appointed by the Board. We are all available to answer any questions you may have.

Here is a great opportunity for you and UCV to help our community so start thinking up those ideas!

—*Gordon Gram*

An Introduction to the UCV Archives Committee

Since the fall of 2005, a small group of UCV members has been meeting to discuss the organization, use, and promotion of the UCV archives. Chair Diana Ellis and long-time archives enthusiast Patience Towler in particular have shown remarkable dedication in sorting and reorganizing materials, as well as impressive physical prowess in heaving and shifting boxes.

In a nutshell, the UCV archives collection consists of committee minutes and publications, orders of service, sermons, correspondence, and photographs, among other things. Together these materials provide a fascinating compilation of UCV's history from the inception of our church in 1909 to the present.

The work we face is both exciting and challenging. One of our most perplexing problems at the moment is how to identify historical photographs that are not labeled in any way. We are also working on a "finding aid" for the archives, on developing a role for the archives for the UCV Centenary, and on developing an archives education plan for the congregation (watch our bulletin board space). In addition, plans are afoot to move the archives into special shelving on the south wall of Biddle, where we will share the space with the Children's Library. Once the archives are moved to Biddle and a system for accessing the materials is in place we will look forward to your requests to search for items of interest.

Committee members include Diana Ellis (Chair), Patience Towler, Phillip Hewett, John Smith, Thora Gislason, Wyndy Knox Carr, and John Taylor. For more information, contact Diana Ellis, 604-733-1058, di@intergate.ca or any committee member.

BOOK CLUB

'Monkey Beach'

The Book Club meets the first Sunday of each month at 1 PM in Budny. All are welcome.

On April 1st the book for discussion is *Monkey Beach*, fiction, by thirty-something award-winning author, Eden Robinson, born to a Haisla father and Heiltsuk mother, and who grew up in Haisla territory near Kitamaat Village, BC, near the town of Kitimat.

A Peek at the Plot: Tragedy strikes a Native community when the Hill family's handsome 17-year-old son, Jimmy, mysteriously vanishes at sea. Left behind to cope during the search-and-rescue effort is his 19-year-old sister, Lisamarie, who sets off alone in search of Jimmy through the Douglas Channel and heads for Monkey Beach, a shore famed for its sasquatch sightings. *B'gwus*, the Haisla name for the mythical sasquatch that resembles a "large hairy monkey", leads us into the life of Lisamarie and of her family and friends. Infused in turn with darkness and humour, *Monkey Beach* is a voyage into the long, cool shadows of BC's Coast Mountains, Haisla lore, nature spirits.

and human tenderness

From the Reviews: Author Anita Rau Badami says: "*Monkey Beach* is a moody, powerful novel full of memorable characters. Reading it was like entering a pool of emerald water to discover a haunted world shivering with loss and love, regret and sorrow, where the spirit world is as real as the human. I was sucked into it with the very first sentence and when I left, it was with a feeling of immense reluctance". And Thomas King, author of *Truth and Bright Water*, says: "*Monkey Beach* creates a vivid contemporary landscape that draws the reader deep into a traditional world, a hidden universe of premonition... and power"

Note: Would all persons who have borrowed copies of *Monkey Beach* from the Vancouver Public Library Book Club Set please be sure to return them to Gail Thomson or Roberta Kirby at the April 1st meeting (or before then if you find you are unable to attend).

—Roberta Kirby, 604-271-1270

Songs, Words, Fun, Money

UCV put its mark on the community this year with a terrific **International Women's Day Concert** on March 7. 240 people, over half of whom are *not* involved with UCV, attended the rousing event, raising \$2800 in all for the Grandmother's Campaign of the Stephen Lewis Foundation and the Canadian Women for Women in Afghanistan group. (Check their websites for ways to get involved:, and) UCV's Chalice Choir's repertoire opened with a moving rendition of the traditional women's song *Bread and Roses*, then the Shirleys picked up the pace, singing in their usual vital lively fashion, ending with a fabulous Cuban song that brought the house to their feet. The brilliant Elektra Women's Choir sang five songs included a stunning new Ave Maria. And the readings! A Canadian first with Joy Coghill-Thorne joining her daughter Debra Thorne and gorgeous granddaughter Casey Thorne Stainsby in a piece from Joy's play *Song Of This Place* along with a dramatic rendering of P.K. Page's poem *Planet Earth*. Jennifer Gray-Grant and her dancing daughter Larissa Duff-Grant prepared and read a moving excerpt from Deborah Ellis' book, *The Breadwinners*, a story about a young Afghani girl and her family. Great to have such talented young women sharing the stage with their mothers and grandmother. The celebratory, warm and inspiring tone of the evening was empowering for all. Thanks to all who helped put on a 'no hitch' production!

—Diana Ellis, Concert Coordinator

DAYTIMERS

Wildly Varying Interests

Do you remember the song that started, "If you've got the money, honey, I've got the time?" (I'm older than you are). Daytimers only want you if you have the time. Money isn't an issue unless you want some coffee or tea with the lunch you've brought, and even then, fifty cents seems a modest enough sum for as many cups as you want. If you forget to pack a lunch, there might be someone at the meeting willing to share a sandwich and piece of fruit. Now, having tended to time, finances and hunger, let us tempt you with our welcoming company and wildly varying interests in the Fireside Room, Hewett Centre on the following days:

Thursday, April 5th: 11 AM, **Politician Kim Campbell** will be the subject of Jan Wallace's presentation. After lunch and conversation, at 1 PM, Alice James will share her passion for **Demography** (told you our interests were varied).

Thursday, April 19th: 11:00 AM, John Church will fill us in on **The Local Score: Councillors**. A break for lunch and coffee/tea will be time enough to settle arguments arising before 1 PM, when Kay Lannon will describe **A Generation of Passions**.

—Wanda Justice, 604-327-1851

PARTNER CHURCH

Thanks from the Partner Church Committee

The Partner Church Committee would like to thank everyone who donated last weekend to the Brassó fund. We raised nearly \$1350. Our Partner Church in Brassó, Romania has a building fund for a new wing to their church. Building progresses as funds become available and we shall be sending a cheque to them in the immediate future.

—Alison Pearson

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

Help Needed in July

This is the year that we are focussing on improvements to the Sanctuary. The biggest job is refinishing the floor. This will be done by BC Hardwood Floor Co. at the beginning of July. Our main job will be to remove the pews on July 4th and replace them on July 20th (they will be stored outside). For this we need a team of at least six volunteers for 6-plus hours each day. It is time to plan ahead. I am going to come down from Cortes Is. If you can commit now, please call me, or Michael Aze at the Church.

We will also need a team of 2 or 3 to cover the chandeliers and the tapestries and screen the balcony from dust. The piano will be moved by professionals and we are going to find someone to take up and relay the carpets.

Believe me: this will be fun! The Sanctuary is going to look great!

—Gordon Gram, 604-707-0020
Building and Grounds Committee



MUSIC CLUB

Classical Classics

The April meeting of the Unitarian Music Club will be held Monday, April 30 at 7:30 in the sanctuary. The evening will consist of a short informal concert with performances by Noel Armstrong, Harold Douglas Brown, Richard Crawford, Brandon Heung, Fiona Lewis, and Carter Maitland.

Everyone is welcome and there is no fee. When you come, please bring a contribution to refreshments.

More information: Jeannie Corsi at 604-224-1040 or David Donaldson at 604-224-6010

LIBRARY

Hard Work... and Worth It!

Report on the February 18th Book Bash: The library has profited \$548 from the efforts of our staff: Mary McDonald, Barbara Schaefer, Lucy Stewart and Nancy Lagey, and from the generous donations of church members for giving books and buying books. There will be another Book Bash in May on the second Sunday (May 13th, Mothers' Day). Please, no text books as they don't sell.

New books added to the library this month are:

The Battle for God, a History of Fundamentalism, by Karen Armstrong.
Scattered Minds by Mate Gabor.
Zen Shorts by John J. Muth, a children's book given by Nancy Woodham.
Olivia, by Ian Falconer, also a children's book.

I have been asked for a list of magazines that can be checked out. These can go out for three weeks and can be renewed:

Weekly magazines: *The Economist*, *The Guardian*, and *The New Yorker*.
Monthly magazines: *The Wellness Newsletter*, *Consumer Reports*, *The Humanist (USA)*, *The Humanist in Canada*.

Quarterly Magazines: *UU World USA*, *Yes! Geist (Canadian)*, *Herizons*.

Come in and browse in the library. It's a quiet place to read and chat about books.

Nancy Lagey, Librarian,
604-669-4455

Human Resources

If you have a small amount of time to spare, the Human Resources Committee could use your help. We are looking for one more person to serve on the HR Committee. If you are interested, please contact Michael Aze, 604-261-7204 extension 225, for more details.

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

FLIGHT

"...give thanks for the journey inward..."

Joyce Griffiths gave up flying years ago. Why? Climate change.

For years I resisted this inconvenient truth: flying is worse than driving for global warming. In *Heat: How to Stop the Planet from Burning*, George Monbiot finds ways in which our lifestyle can be salvaged, if we act now to save civilization. Except for flying. You can ignore him. I ignored Joyce for years, thinking "What does she know?" But the score card for the last 20 years shows that the pessimists were too cautious. Things are worse than expected.

So I've sworn off flying. I began to feel guilty about flying a few years ago. Still, every year I flew to see my aging mother: "love miles". But at the same time, I found I was happy to stay in Vancouver all summer. It took time to swear off flying, and I still feel like I'll cave in to peer pressure any minute.

Travelling is a state of mind. Slowing down to examine a garden is better than speeding up to get somewhere just like here. Gertrude Stein said of Oakland, "When you get there, there's no there there." The same could be said of a million airports and hotels, where vacationers spend half their time. It's coming home that makes a trip, whether from the macrocosm of the world, or the microcosm of the garden.

February daffs in Victoria, the smell of spring, these sensations are subtle, but strong. In some ways, they stand up to the sight of giraffe in Masai Maru. Almost. A part of me wants to experience everywhere, to pig out on travel. But the non-conformist part of me says, "Think it through." Staying here teaches me to listen, look, and smell: a hawk outside while I munch my oatmeal, eagles soaring on spring updrafts, seeing a friend on the bus or seawall, kayaking among seal in False Creek, the way dragonflies guard their

REFUGEE COMMITTEE

We're Making Progress

Thanks for having lunch with us March 11th. Our next lunch is on Easter Sunday, April 8th. We are looking for volunteers to help out with this lunch and will have a sign-up sheet. We are selling raffle tickets for Pat Meyer's "Must-Have" quilt: \$5 each or 5 for \$20. Tickets are available before and after church every Sunday until the draw date on Mothers' Day, May 13th. See our bulletin board for a picture of this incredible queen-sized quilt, and thanks again to Pat Meyer!

Your generous donations for the Karen refugees have been collected and distributed.

Amir Kazemian, the young Iranian who had been living in sanctuary for almost 3 years in St. Michael's Church in East Vancouver, has been granted refugee status!

We realize we always seem to be asking our UCV congregation for money—there are a myriad of reasons why. One of our biggest expenses is for legal fees, due to extremely complex forms being filled out incorrectly, or consulate-level interviews going awry. Also, there are overseas phone calls with interpreters, who need to be paid. The list could fill the column But there are so many other ways you can help refugees. After all, "disposable income" is an oxymoron.

wives, the kindness of strangers. It's all here.

With sadness I say "Bye, bye Big Bird". With gratitude and determination, I embrace a brave, new world of discovering BC: hike to hot springs, anyone?

The Environment Committee will meet Easter Sunday, April 8, at 12:30 in the Board Room. All welcome.

—Karl Perrin, Chair,
604-872-7326

You can educate yourself, as to what is going on in the world to cause refugees' plights, and what they endure before and after they get to a safe country. You can advocate on their behalf, by contacting MP's and others.

You can offer rebuttal to vicious racist myths, such as that of the "Refugee Welfare Queens" or the equally ugly and untrue "Refugees are taking Canadians' jobs". On a local level, you can get to know refugees, visit, share outings and skills like cooking, English (or French) and computers. You can keep an eye out for jobs and housing.

Shima's daughter's family may be joining her soon, and both families need affordable housing, and jobs.

Wenta's Federal funding has ended as she's been here 2 years. She doesn't want to quit school (she attends Mondays-Thursdays) because she needs her Basic Ed and GED. She's looking for evening and weekend work: babysitting, yard work, house cleaning. Her number is 778-899-2284

For more information on the Refugee Committee, contact Co-Chairs Fiona Graham, 604-886-4810, or Virginia Crabill, 604-731-9393. If you wish to financially assist the Refugee Committee, you can donate by writing your name, address and "For Sheilah Thompson Refugee Fund" on the envelope containing your gift. Cheques payable to "Unitarian Church of Vancouver" should have the memo "For Sheilah Thompson Refugee Fund".

Our meetings are at 12:30 on the fourth Sunday of each month, in the Board Room. We greatly appreciate the support we receive on so many levels from this congregation!

—Virginia Crabill, 604-731-9393,
Refugee/Social Justice Liaison

FOSTERING COMMUNITY**Upsizing and Downsizing**

Charlene and Gordon Gram have recently moved just 4 blocks, from a townhouse to a small house with a yard. Their grandchild population explosion prompted the move, fueled by a need for more outdoor play space. They're expecting number 6 in June. Their new address is 818 W. 19 Ave, V5Z 3N8. They occasionally walk to church and have even done so with 4-year-old Adam in tow. Their phone number is unchanged.

Shelagh and Casimir Lindsey have also made a recent move. They've left behind their Dunbar home of 26 years and are now living at Cavell Gardens, an independent living full-service retirement community at Sophia and 12th Avenue. Downsizing hasn't been easy, but they've had wonderful help from friends and especially from a professional company called "Good Riddance". Downsizing, they find, has been a "liberating experience" which they recommend to all, even those not planning a move. Many of Cas's paintings have found suitable new homes, too, including a hospice. Another organization, "Forgotten Felines", found new digs for beloved cats "Poipu" and "Fujit". Shelagh and Casimir are welcoming this "turn in the road" in their lives, despite being temporarily in separate suites and on a wait list for one larger suite. But they like Cavell Gardens, which is well designed and reasonably priced, with excellent food. They're making new friends there, while continuing in their on-going activities, including church. Please make a note of their new phone number: 604-873-3141, and their address: 2835 Sophia St., V5T 4V2.

By now, most of you have heard about Harold Brown's fall at church (Sunday, February 4), after a Forum. Luckily, no bones were broken, but he has required rehab care. As of this writing (early

—FORUM—

April 1: Philosophers' Midday Café, Randall MacKinnon, Moderator. **On the Importance of Being Foolish.** How can occasionally being a fool and acting foolishly be a wise thing to do?

April 8: Karen Hobbs on a program for empowerment of MPA.

April 15: Board Forum: "Our Minister's Sabbatical".

April 22: "Ordinary Courage". The Environment Committee has invited Greenpeace's Rex Weyler to deliver today's Earth Day sermon. Afterward, Rex will stay for a book-signing and sales of *Greenpeace, the Inside Story*, via People's Co-op Bookstore. This will be in the Fireside Room before 12:30. The Forum will then begin with an informal discussion with Rex about his sermon, his Greenpeace book and activities, and his future book on 1st century Christians.

April 29: Bruce Krayehoff: The BC Citizens Assembly on Electoral Reform is an excellent example of a growing deliberative democracy movement which aims to engage ordinary people in politics in an informed way. Bruce will discuss the results of various practices of deliberative democracy that used randomly selected citizens, and draw conclusions from them. Then he will discuss how citizens' assemblies and other randomly selected groups that deliberate can be used to improve democratic systems at the government level and in other organizations.

Looking for Wheelchair-accessible Rental:

My 64-yr. old friend, a Unitarian Church member in Hamilton, Ontario, is planning to move to Vancouver to be closer to her family. She has MS and now must get around by wheelchair or scooter. She needs accommodation in Vancouver and perhaps one of your parishioners have a wheelchair-accessible suite in their home, or know of any such rental.

(March), Harold can use a walker and can stand on two feet without pain, and hopefully he will be back at church by the time you read this. He would like to thank everyone who has supported him with letters, cards, visits and phone calls, and is grateful to his wife Tonny for her loving care. Harold, who will be 90 in October, confesses that he has been living a "presto" life, and plans to cut back to "lento" in the future.

You, too, have been living your lives! Let's hear about those "turns in the road!" —Ann Foster, 604-736-2117

She is coming out here to visit me between May 22 and June 12. She wants to look around for something while she is here that will not be too far from the Unitarian Church. I live in the Kitsilano area and she is interested in anything from Kits or False Creek over to the vicinity of the Church. She would like to be independent, do her own cooking, etc., but at the same time not be in a vulnerable situation on her own.

If you can help us, both my friend and I would be so appreciative. I have made many inquiries regarding wheelchair and senior housing, and it seems that very little is available in the city. There are very expensive "retirement" homes on the one hand, and subsidized housing and co-ops with very long waiting lists on the other. She would like to pay her own way, but cannot afford anything over \$900 per month. If there is anything you can suggest or anyone suitable for me to contact on her behalf, I would be most grateful to hear from you.

Ada Glustein, 604-733-0845
adag1@shaw.ca

LEGACY COMMITTEE



**Legacy
Advisory**

Have you protected your loved ones in your will? Please also remember the Unitarian Church of Vancouver through a bequest, or other planned giving incentive. Recent changes in the federal budget now allow people to donate publicly listed securities at full market value, and be fully exempt from capital gains tax. So if there are some stock issues hidden under your mattress that you've wondered what to do with, now it is opportune to give generously.

Contact: Rainer Borkenhagen, Legacy Committee Chair: 604-221-6631

**First Friday
at the
Javanet**

3436 W. Broadway
April 6 at 7:30 PM (Good Friday)

We are very fortunate to have our UCV members **Shoshanna Wiley Solest**, poet and lay chaplain, and **David Embrey Solest**, singer and director of the I AM Choir, entertain us at Javanet Coffee. Shoshanna and David were married last summer. They offer songs and poetry on a theme of transformation, and are sure to inspire.

We will begin with our usual Open Mic at 7:30. Snacks and light suppers are available. Donations are invited for the featured artists.

—Franci Louann 604-731-0228
(Co-hosting with Futuwi/Suad)



Youth Concert: June 9th!

The Youth Concert—that amazing display of spirit and talent we enjoyed last June—happens again this June 9th, at 7:30–9:30 (reception to follow). Once again, our young people are saying they are willing to stand up and open their hearts and mouths, don their picks and bows and lay out some fancy socks and wild hair dyes to show us, proudly and bravely, they are part of this congregation. Ours is the easy part because all they ask in return is our good audience.

Last year, I had the good fortune of conducting this all into place (thinking up, asking, writing, advertising), but on the night, I should not have been astonished to realize that all my jobs had been taken over by youth: on lighting, on stage management, on emceeing, on sound, on reception baking—as well as on stage. There was classical music, there was theatre, there were original songs, there was rock, there was a story and there were show tunes. There was even an absolutely enchanting (computer) laptop performance. Our fabulously talented (and down-right nice) youth have been given an extra challenge to work with one another musically—to do collaborative work, sometimes to conduct, to include on the stage with them people they have never worked with before. In the spirit of inclusivity, then, count on being in the audience.

The money we raise will allow the congregation to purchase its first set of the hymn book's supplement: *The Singing Journey*. (Heck, there's even a Bob Marley song in there!). The Choir will be able to use these 25 or so books to show us what's in it. Some day soon we hope to have one in everyone's hands.

—Jane Slemon, 604-873-2208

**Philosophers'
Fireside Café**

Unitarian Centre

949 West 49th Ave (at Oak Street)
7-9 pm, third Friday of each month

Come join us for some stimulating discussion, respectful debate and enlightened entertainment. You are most welcome and the Café is designed to provide opportunities for everyone to participate and exchange views. You may leave with some new ideas, or perhaps realizing that you had some thoughts that you previously hadn't verbalized.

Everyone welcome. Pre-registration is not required. Admission is \$5.

**Friday, April 20, 7 PM
The Role of Humour
in Life and Health**

What is funny? How has humour and what is funny changed over time?

Moderator: **Randall MacKinnon** has a Masters in Social Policy and Planning and is an "IDEASage" with MacKINNOVATION, a service consultancy. Phone 604-582-4651.

"we dialogue therefore we are...."

**Second Sundays
'Poets Anonymous'
at UCV**

Well, if you come and join us, just to listen, we won't be "anonymous" and that's just fine! The Second Sunday of each month we shall meet at 10 AM in Budny Room in Hewett Hall: April 8, May 13, June 10. This shall replace the Second Sunday afternoon event we've been having at Javanet Coffee. (First Friday events continue there at 7:30 PM until June.)

I pledge to be here with my collection. Bring something by yourself or another poet. We may read just to share. To workshop your poems, bring a few copies. We may just have a quiet table with time for focussing on our rewriting?

You may wish to be on my Javanet poetry email list, where I forward news of many poetry events around Vancouver.

—Franci Louann,
Phone/fax 604-731-0228