



THE BULLETIN

THE UNITARIAN CHURCH OF VANCOUVER MARCH, 2007

949 West 49th Ave, Vancouver, BC, V5Z 2T1 Tel: 604-261-7204 Fax: 604-261-7205

Editor: Gerry Hayle Unitarian Church Website: <http://vancouver.unitarians.ca> E-mail: ucv@telus.net

CHURCH SERVICES IN MARCH

Between Two Worlds: Unitarianism in Transylvania and Beyond

Sunday, March 4, 11 AM
Rev. Dr. Steven Epperson
Rev. Phillip Hewett

Why did Unitarianism arise in what is now Romania and Hungary in the 16th century (and Poland as well) and not in the “centre” of Europe? What is it about Unitarianism that it seems to exist and thrive in landscapes between “grand” political and cultural landscapes? Join the Revs. Steven Epperson and Phillip Hewett for an exploration into our past and present. This is our annual Partner Church worship service.

Wilderness Camp

A Unitarian Thing
Sunday, March 11, 11 AM
Garry Lees and the Worship
Services Committee

From 1998 to 2005 Garry and Carol Lees spent 10 weeks each summer as camp directors at the Unitarian Fry Creek Wilderness Camp on the eastern shore of Kootenay Lake. Now follow Garry as he takes you on a journey to the camp describing the experience of getting to this remote area, and living in a place where the only amenities available are potable creek water and biffies. He describes the grandeur and beauty of a place founded by Unitarian visionaries to promote Unitarian values, and

shares the reasons why many who go there find Wilderness to be a spiritual experience in a sharing community and keep returning – some since the camp’s beginnings over 40 years ago.

Ostara: Celebrating Spring

Sunday, March 18, 11 am
UCV Pagan Committee

We invite you to share in Ostara, the Pagan celebration of the Equinox of Spring. This is an intergenerational service for adults and children about the Myth of Persephone and Demeter. The children will be invited to participate in the re-awakening of the Earth and our own spirits, following the long cold sleep of winter. Homily by Fritz Muntean: “Mythology and the Environment”.

Vision, Risk and Reality: The Courage to Be

Sunday, March 25, 11 AM
Rev. Dr. Steven Epperson

“To be or not to be.” Hamlet was right: that is the question. But what follows from the decision “to be”? UCV members approach a Hamlet-like moment that will call upon our vision, our capacity for risk and a healthy dose of reality as we engage in a crucial exercise in self-government. Be courageous! It’s what being a Unitarian is all about. Attend this service and find out why!

Come to the Services Auction!

The Wally Cottle Memorial Services Auction

Saturday, March 3, 5:30 pm
Hewett Centre

Silent Auction
Live Auction 7 pm

Tix: single \$5, family \$10
(at the door, \$8 & \$15)

Ticket gives you dinner,
door prizes, child care,
and a fun night!

Chalice Choir Spring Concert

*Love Songs and
Lamentations*

UCV Sanctuary
Sunday, April 29, 7:30 pm

with
Harold Douglas Brown
and the
Vancouver Chamber Players
Works by Brahms and others

Tix: \$15 (Students/Seniors \$10)
From choir members or at the door

Childcare available
Reception to follow

From the Minister's Workshop

“Religious Education’ at UCV: Some Good News and Numbers”

Last January 13th, UCV members participated in a day long “Building Community” workshop; an occasion to take stock of our strengths and challenges as a congregation on issues like welcoming and engaging visitors and new members, how we can better communicate the good things we believe and do; and how we can be effective stewards of our building and grounds and other resources. Discussions were frank; suggestions for improvement were constructive and visionary. We even had some good laughs. Thanks to all who attended and for contributing so thoughtfully to the workshop.

There was one comment that came from a “SWOT” exercise (that’s “Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats”) that I want to comment on; some information I want to share with you. One participant remarked that: “few people are involved in Religious Education” at UCV. Well, I was talking with Caroline Farley, our RE Director, about this assertion, and between the two of us, we came up with some interesting information. Hang in there with me while I lay it out:

Our Lifespan Religious Exploration Program consists of three areas: Children and Youth RE (CYRE), “Our Whole Lives” Sexuality education program (OWL), and Adult RE (ARE).

CYRE has:

- 1. 9 Committee members
2. 10 Lifespan Host Committee members
3. 10 volunteer teachers this term; 9 teachers last term
4. 5 youth advisors
5. 5 new toddlers in the baby room since last September
6. 9 new children in our CYRE program
7. 8 new youth group members since last year

Parent volunteers (depending on events) for the youth group. We average 30-35 participants each weekend in Children’s and Youth RE.

OWL has:

- 1. 10 trained OWL teachers
2. 8 OWL Committee members

ARE has 6 members on the Committee In Fall 2006 we had six instructors for 5 programs:

- 1. Building Your Own Theology—11 participants
2. Exploring the Living Tradition—10 participants
3. Dream Workshop—10 participants
4. Joy of Life—8
5. Conflict Resolution for Parents—8
=52 total participants

Winter 2007 we have 6 instructors for 8 programs

- 1. A Deepening Path: 1st workshop—12 participants; 2nd workshop 12; and a waiting list
2. Golden Dreams—7 participants
3. Practising Compassionate Communication A.M.—4; P.M.—3
4. Women Mystics—1
5. Exploring the Living Tradition—7
6. I AM Choir—12 =64 people altogether

In a congregation this size, we just don’t always know what’s going on, and how many members and friends of UCV are involved in our programs. It’s good that we ask. It’s important that we are informed and communicate what’s healthy, where we face particular challenges, and where we have opportunities for growth and change. Right now, the Lifespan Religious Exploration program at UCV is staffed with excellent professionals and volunteers, great participants/students/learners.

I just want you to know the good news, and to encourage you to volunteer to teach a class and/or register as a student in our growing and substantial educational programs.

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

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

BOARD EXECUTIVE:

- Elisabeth Geller: President
Bob Woodham: VicePresident
Randall MacKinnon: Secretary
Jack Jefferson: Treasurer
Leslie Kemp: Past President

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE:

- Kathryn Aberle, Jeannie Corsi, Muriel Groves, Fritz Muntean, Robert Schultz

STAFF:

- Michael Aze: Administrative Director
Bridget Coll: Reception/Bookings
Ravina Sangara: Bookkeeper
Ruth McIntosh: Ministerial Secretary
Samantha Fletcher: Campus Ministry Coordinator
Virginia Crabill: Sunday Reception
Casey Stainsby: Sunday Reception
Caroline Farley: Director of Lifespan Religious Exploration
Harold Douglas Brown: Director of Music Emeritus
Donna Brown: Choir Director
Elliott Dainow: Music Assistant
Custodians: Stan Clarke
Gerald Hernesmaa, Robert Pennell

A New Growth Resource

For congregations looking to provide a new way for their newcomers to make connections with other Unitarian Universalists, we're piloting an email list specifically designed to meet the needs of new people.

Newcomers, after joining the list, will be encouraged to introduce themselves and to participate in discussions on topics of interest to new people. This is a good way to help new people in your congregation feel like a part of the UU community and give them a chance to explore what UUism means to them. As an added bonus, it doesn't add any tasks to the plate of the Membership Committee!

New people can be added to the list by sending a blank email to: cuc-newcomers-subscribe@yahoogroups.com.

Feel free to put an ad for the group in your newsletter or visitor's materials. Contact Liz James at lizjames@shaw.ca for more information.

—*Mary Bennett, CUC*

CUC Seven Principles Task Force

Attention! People of Principle!

Do our Seven Unitarian Principles truly and fully represent your values and beliefs? Do you agree with these principles and sources as they are currently stated? Are there changes or additions you would like to see? The Canadian Unitarian Council's Statement of Principles Task Force, chaired by Rev. Wendy McNiven, is reviewing our principles and is seeking input from all congregations across Canada by the end of March.

Jeannie Corsi and Leslie Kemp will co-facilitate a session after the service on March 11 designed to seek your input. We'll work through our current principles and sources considering their relevance and meaning. Join Leslie and Jeannie and other Board and congregation members as we craft UCV's response to the Task Force.

—*Jeannie Corsi and Leslie Kemp*

Miss Beatrice, the church organist, was in her eighties and had never been married. She was admired for her sweetness and kindness to all.

One afternoon the minister came to call on her and she showed him into her quaint sitting room. She invited him to have a seat while she prepared tea.

As he sat facing her old Hammond organ, the young minister noticed a cut-glass bowl sitting on top of it. The bowl was filled with water, and in the water floated, of all things, a condom!

When she returned with tea and scones, they began to chat. The minister tried to stifle his curiosity about the bowl of water and its strange floater, but soon it got the better of him and he could no longer resist.

"Miss Beatrice" he said, "I wonder if you would tell me about this?" pointing to the bowl.

"Oh, yes," she replied, "Isn't it wonderful? I was walking through the park a few months ago and I found this little package on the ground. The directions said to place it on the organ, keep it wet and that it would prevent the spread of disease. Do you know I haven't had the flu all winter?"

Building Community at UCV

Sharing the Responsibilities and Joys of Community Life

About 25 of us gathered on January 13 to explore with facilitator **Art Brewer**, from First Unitarian Congregation of Toronto, two key questions:

1. What can we learn about welcoming new members to UCV?
2. How can we be more effective in engaging members (new and established) in the life of our community?

Art guided us through a series of exercises including a SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats) analysis on how we are currently doing with respect to "welcoming visitors" and "engaging members." We generated ideas for attracting and welcoming visitors, and for engaging and retaining members. We also developed our own "elevator speeches" on Unitarianism and explored our own personal ministry.

Some common themes from these sessions emerged. Wearing name tags is important, even if we think everyone knows us! We have a lot of active programs but not all of us know how to get involved. We discussed actions that we can take on a number of levels: actions that we can take as individuals, what we can do collectively and what organizational actions we can take to be more effective in the four areas of attracting, welcoming, engaging and retaining.

I leave you with a small sampling of the many ideas we generated about actions each of us can take to welcome guests to our church:

1. Make it a point to always talk to at least one person you don't know during coffee hour.
2. Tell a visitor you're glad they came and that you hope they'll come back.
3. Introduce a visitor to another member.
4. Ask a visitor what they're especially interested in. Then introduce them to someone knowledgeable in that area (e.g., a member of the choir, someone who leads a social justice program, the Director of Religious Education, etc.)
5. Practice your response to the question "What is Unitarianism?"

—*Leslie Kemp*

How Would You Like to Get to Know More of Your Fellow Members?

Under the newly constituted Membership Committee we are looking for volunteers to help engage members in the work of the church. The areas of activity include: interviewing new members, acting as a clearinghouse for new ideas, placing members according to their interests and encouraging the involvement of elders and youth. This is a really worthwhile task for anyone who enjoys people.

If you are interested, please call Michael Aze, 604-261-7204 ext. 225, or email michaelaze@telus.net

BOOK CLUB

Guns, Germs, and Steel: The Fates of Human Societies

Why is history so dramatically different for peoples around the world? Why did some groups become literate industrial societies with metal tools while others remained illiterate farming societies, and still others remained hunter-gatherers with stone tools? The resultant inequalities have led historically to the extermination or conquest of some groups by more advanced literate societies. In this “artful, informative, and delightful” book, Jared Diamond convincingly argues that geographical and environmental factors shaped the modern world and stunningly dismantles racially based theories of human history. His starting point is 11,000 BC, when large differences began to appear in the rates at which human societies evolved.

“No scientist brings more experience from the laboratory and field, none thinks more deeply about social issues or addresses them with greater clarity, than Jared Diamond, as illustrated by *Guns, Germs, and Steel*. In this remarkably readable book he shows how history and biology can enrich one another to produce a deeper understanding of the human condition” (Edward O. Wilson, Harvard University).

“[Diamond] is broadly erudite, writes in a style that pleasantly expresses scientific concepts in vernacular American English, and deals almost exclusively in questions that should interest everyone concerned about how humanity has developed... Reading Diamond is like watching someone riding a unicycle, balancing an eel on his nose and juggling five squealing piglets. You may or may not agree with him (I usually do), but he rivets your attention.” (Alfred W. Crosby, Los Angeles Times).

Join us in Budny on March 4 from 1 – 2 pm to discuss this illuminating book.

Campus Ministry Update

UU Campus Ministry UBC got off to a good start this term. We continue to meet on the second and fourth Monday of each month, and have begun to grow in numbers! An integration of worship, discussion and food, our time together always proves inspiring and engaging.

We are currently in the process of applying to become a part of the established multi-faith UBC Chaplains Association. Should our application be successful, we would have two representatives on the Committee, and thus an opportunity to have a UU voice represented in the religious community on campus. Hopefully this would create more exposure for our group, allowing interested students who might not have previously known about us to find us and get involved.

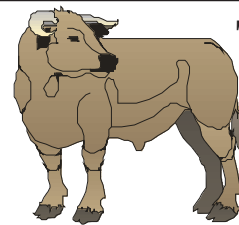
We are also currently seeking out individuals who are interested in attending an upcoming meeting as a guest speaker and discussion facilitator. If you have an interest in a particular theological, religious or spiritual issue, or knowledge in an area pertaining to the environment, education, vocational development, or creative practices (to name a few areas of interest to us, though suggestions are welcome!), please contact me to discuss this possibility further. I believe that creating this opportunity for sharing between the congregation and the campus group would be worthwhile for all involved. Interested in attending? Interested in the Campus Ministry Committee? Please feel free to contact me.

—Samantha Fletcher, 778-329-7651
Campus Ministry Coordinator
sambreanne@yahoo.ca

Our book for April 1 is *Monkey Beach*, by Eden Robinson, and copies will be available at the March meeting.

—Rob Dainow, 604-523-0123

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE



The Waste of Food

Cartoons and the PNE present animals as God’s gift: so cute they almost want to be eaten. “Where’s the beef?” vs. “Thou shalt not kill!”. Hmmm. What bothers me is not the killing—it’s the waste, the wasted killing. That’s our fall from grace.

Factory farm food, is pilloried in *The Way We Eat: Why Our Food Choices Matter* by Princeton philosopher Peter Singer and farmer/writer Jim Mason. They studied the diets of 3 American families: one Walmart, one ethical omnivore, and one vegan. They traced their meat and tofu back to their production, and believe me, industrial meat (and dairy) is torture. And then comes the waste.

The waste disgusts me. At every stage of production, cheap oil, water, labour, and waste disposal are converted into fertilizer, feed, meat, and convenience. Fertilizer flowing off the abused land creates a huge dead zone in the Gulf of Mexico, to say nothing of the CO₂. Children are enslaved for cocoa. Land is enslaved for cotton. Planes are flown for flowers.

How much food is wasted? Guess. “According to Dr. Timothy Jones, an archeologist, who led a US Government study of food waste, more than 40% of the food grown in the US is lost or thrown away—that’s about \$100 billion of wasted food a year. At least half of the food, Jones says, could have been safely consumed.” (pg. 268)

How much do we waste? In Vancouver, eating local, seasonal food and reducing meat and waste will reduce our footprint.

The Environment Committee will meet on Sunday, March 11, at 12:30 in the Board Room. All welcome.

—Karl Perrin, Chair,
604-872-7326

DAYTIMERS

Smorgasbord of Knowledge

You'd never guess how wide is the range of passions in the hearts of Daytimers and friends. We have shared a succession of passions from social action and justice through Joan Baez's music, music in all its forms, travelling, independence, creating with needle and fabric, the Galapagos Islands, celebration and food, the history and creation of guitars, and the cello. In our exploration of Canadians who have made their mark in Canadian society, we have been fascinated by the diversity of characters researched and presented with panache and humour. We invite you to join us in the Fireside Room, Hewett Centre between 11 AM and 2 PM on any of the days designated. Don't forget to bring your lunch. For a modest fee, tea or coffee will be provided.

Thursday, 1st March:

11 AM: Wanda Justice will present "Old Square Toes" James Douglas

1 PM: Shirley Church will share her passion for the poetry of the first World War.

Thursday, 15th March:

11 AM: Noel Armstrong will present on Tommy Douglas (part II)

1 PM: Jan Wallace will share her passion for children's books.

Thursday, 29th March:

11 AM: Alice James will present on Iona Campagnola .

1 PM: Dorothy Goresky will share her passion for peace.

—Wanda Justice, 604-327-1851, clj@sfu.ca

In all history there is no war which was not hatched by the governments, the governments alone, independent of the interests of the people, to whom war is always pernicious even when successful.

Leo Tolstoy, 1828-1910

Art Displays in the Sanctuary

February 4 - March 4:

"Life Changes" collaborative mixed media by Vancouver Coastal Health.

http://www.vch.ca/programs/art_studios.htm

Meet the artists in the sanctuary on Sunday, February 18, 12:30 - 1:45 pm

March 4 - April 1: Photography exhibit "Cultural Connections" by Tallulah, www.tallulahphotography.com . Meet the artist in the sanctuary Sunday, March 25th 12:30 - 1:45 pm

Any other viewings by appointment by calling the Unitarian Church of Vancouver, 604-261-7204.

—Chris Pearce, 604-733-8065, Co-curator, Arts Committee

—Caede Pungente, 604-737-1825, Co-curator, Arts Committee

MUSIC CLUB

Play Me a Tune...

The March meeting of the Unitarian Music Club will be held on Monday, March 26 at 7:30 in the sanctuary. The evening will consist of a short informal concert with performances by Stephen Aberle and friends, Sharon McIntee Birrell, Bergamasca (Hugh Brock, Michele Despons, David Donaldson and Tony Griffiths), Harold Douglas Brown, and Carol Cole.

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

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

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

SERVICES AUCTION

The Wally Cottle Memorial Services Auction Is Coming!

Remember, 3/3=1

Saturday 03/03

everyone has won at the auction. Mark your calendars (Saturday, March 3rd, 5:30pm) for an evening of fun, frivolity and action. On Sundays after the service, visit the Services Auction table in Hewett Centre and pick up forms to submit services you would like to donate. Reasonably priced tickets are available for the auction evening. Remember the ticket includes a supper as well as the right to participate in both the silent and live auctions.

The concept is simple. Donate a service like: making a meal, offer gardening with zeal, give a lesson on skis, teach how to make cheese. Or, donate an item of value like a gift basket or sweater. Come to Hewett Centre on auction night where there will be great company, a silent auction and a live auction with a very charming and talented auctioneer.

If you would like a form emailed to you, or would like more information, please contact Deb Henry at 604-877-1070, or John and Rae Smith at 604-732-0100.

US-GROUP

Have You Heard About the Unitarian Social Group (US-Group)?

We are a group of Unitarians and adherents who get together for various events and activities that are planned by the group members. We welcome everyone and there are no age limitations. There is no formal membership, just come as you please.

Our activities are listed on the bulletin board beside the library. This month's event includes the Fraser River Spring Party hosted by Juergen; and a dinner at Café Deux Soleils. For more information, call Eva at 604-873-0770 or email eper@telus.net .

Come share the fun with us!

—Eva Perjes

REFUGEE COMMITTEE**We Make Progress, but Sometimes It's Uphill**

We heartily thank all of you who donated so generously to the Karen refugees from Burma/Myanmar. We had to curtail the amount of donations due to scarcity of storage space. Rest assured everything got to the new arrivals.

Thanks for joining us for lunch in February—we plan to offer a lunch a month. The next one is March 11th. Kind souls have offered donations of furniture. It is needed, but once again, we have no storage space. Shima's family may possibly be here in a few months and will need furniture, if it is possible for you to hold onto such donations for a while longer.

We are close to hearing about the refugee status of Shima's daughter, Farahnaz Aryaiei, her husband Salim and their 2 children. Their latest interview in Tehran went well. If they are accepted, they must return to Tehran for medical and security checks. Salim has signed the form to request a CIC travel loan.

Shima and her family are in desperate need of housing. Shima is trying to support her family by selling jewellery. Many UCV members have seen these beautiful items at our craft fairs. Shima would like to find a small store, such as a co-op shop, where she could sell her jewellery. If anyone knows of such a place, or of suitable housing, please contact us.

We have been following the case of Amir Kazemian, the young Iranian in sanctuary at a Vancouver church. His is the longest period yet of living in church sanctuary, over 2 1/2 years. His hearing for refugee status was to be in February or March. We will keep you posted. One of Prime Minister Stephen Harper's oldest friends has just been named Chief of Staff to Citizenship and Immigration Minister Diane Finley. John Weissenberger is a Calgary geologist who assisted in Harper's leadership and election campaigns and in reward was quietly elected to this position recently. This absolutely belies the 2006 election

platform promises by the Conservatives to make only qualified government appointments. So much for pledges of accountability and transparency in the "New" Government.

Wente, our young friend from Eritrea, is now 19! And she finally has received her travel documents. She can now travel to anywhere in the world, except Eritrea. She has been working hard to pay off her travel loan and now only has \$400 left to repay. In addition, she is attending school, which is so important in order for her to have any kind of viable future. She missed many years of schooling by having to live in the refugee camp for so long.

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 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". Your support is deeply appreciated !!

Our meetings, open to all, are at 12:30 on the fourth Sunday of each month in the Board Room.

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

Escape the Ordinary for the Extraordinary at Naramata

What if there were a summer camp where children gathered under a tree to hear volunteers read aloud? Where live music around a campfire was a nightly activity? Where the afternoon choices included the beach, games and art for all ages, or simply relaxing in the sun? Where the children are engaged in fun morning programs while the adults discuss speakers' themes? Well, there is!

Visit www.eliotinstitute.org or call 206-374-2497 to learn more about these UU camps on Hood Canal (WA) and Lake Okanagan (BC).

You won't want to myth this for the world! Storyteller Will Hornyak takes you across a threshold from ordinary reality into a realm of timeless imagination and deep inspiration during Eliot at Naramata this summer, showing how the mythic world can give us fresh insights into daily living.

Held at the Naramata Centre in BC's beautiful Okanagan Valley—the heart of wine country—this seven-day camp for Unitarian Universalists, their families and friends takes place June 30-July 7.

Bonus: The Eliot Institute is offering ten \$200 discounts for new families. Discounts are first-come, first-served, so register now.

Contact registrar@EliotInstitute.org or call 206-374-2497. Check out www.eliotinstitute.org for more information.

—Donna Hamilton

**“America: Freedom to Fascism”
Film and Discussion**

Friday, March 9, 7 pm, Fireside Room

As the Canadian government increasingly defers to the will of the Bush Administration, the Social Justice Committee of the UCV invites us to reflect on the wider implications of such policy by showing this documentary. From the Monetary System to Microchips, this documentary is one the neocons don't want you to see!



**Free Admission (Popcorn Available to Offset our Costs)
Sponsored by the Social Justice Committee of UCV**

FOSTERING COMMUNITY

Lots of News...

On December 10, **Anne and Carol Merrett-Hiley** and their 7-year-old son **Oliver** celebrated the first anniversary of “gotcha day”, that very special day a year earlier when then-6-year-old Oliver joined Anne and Carol to be part of their “Forever Family”. Not long afterwards, young Oliver informed his parents that he wished to attend church. This led all three to UCV.

But that’s not all. A fourth family member arrived in January to be closer to his family: Grandpa **Steve Merrett** from the Winnipeg church! A big “thank you” to Oliver for bringing four people to UCV, and welcome to all of you. We’re delighted to have you aboard!

Congratulations to **Bruce Krayerhoff** and his Chinese sweetheart **Floss**, who were married December 28. Bruce, a UBC graduate student in physics, has been coming to UCV since September.

The young couple met in China when both were students at the same university: he in Mandarin and she in computer science. Although Floss’s parents could not make the long trip to be at their daughter’s wedding, the ceremony was videotaped and the vows repeated in both languages. The young bilingual couple still have a hurdle to overcome however: Floss must return to China to apply for permanent resident status. We hope that that won’t take long. In the meantime, you just may notice Bruce, a versatile fellow, singing in the Chalice Choir.

Helen Osoba, long-time Choir member and newcomer greeter, helped her father, **Stephen Mysak**, celebrate his 100th birthday on December 28. They were joined by Helen’s brother, sister-in-law and all the grandchildren for a memorable celebration at the Sylvia Hotel, complete with congratulations from the Queen.

You probably know that **Rae and John Smith** are very active UCV members. But did you know that Rae is also a BADD girl? She has devoted thousands of hours “through thick and thin” as treasurer of the BC Balance and Dizziness Society since its inception in

— **FORUM** —

An exchange of ideas and opinions on issues relevant to Unitarians, in the Fireside Room after Sunday service.

March 4: We celebrate our seventeenth year as a partner of the Second Unitarian Congregation of Brassó, Romania. There will be a special service, a lunch featuring Hungarian desserts, and a special Forum about our relationship with our partner.

March 11: Board Forum - Jeannie Corsi and Leslie Kemp will facilitate this session designed to seek our congregation’s input on the Canadian Unitarian Council’s current Statement of Principles and Sources. This input will be forwarded to the CUC’s Statement of Principles Task Force.

March 18: Town Hall Meeting: Please plan to attend this important meeting regarding UCV’s financial situation. The Board is strongly encouraging all members to provide input on the church’s finances and future plans. This critical meeting will help inform the 2007-08 budgeting and planning process. It’s your church community: please come out and provide your feedback.

March 25: Social Justice to be announced.

1999. In recognition of her service, she was honoured with a beautiful plaque at the Society’s meeting January 24.

Deb Henry appreciates the wonderful support she received from UCV friends following her accident January 8, resulting in a broken arm and shoulder. She has been improving rapidly, we’re glad to hear.

Once again, we regret the passing of some dear friends. **Daphne Naegele** left this world January 14 after a long illness. A talented artist and a warm, caring person, she persevered despite many setbacks.

We also lost **Helen Helgason**, active in the Daytimers for many years. And two long-lived former custodians left us: **Annie Nixon**, age 100, in Hamilton, ON, where she had moved at age 98 to be near her daughter. Also, **Lily MacIlwraith**, 105, died January 14 in Victoria. And **Phil Thomas**, BC Folksong icon and UCV member also died. A sad adieu to all these friends, whom we are grateful to have had in our lives.

Eva and Gavin Grancish would like to remind everyone that the social group they’ve started, “US” (Unitarian Social), is open to all ages. They are extending an invitation to everybody to join the group and attend one of their events.

—**Ann Foster, 736-2117,**
afos72@vcn.bc.ca

“Pneumonoultramicroscopic-silicovolcanoconiosis” is the longest word in the English dictionary.

Building Your Own Theology

I have had the privilege of co-leading with Bennett Mitten a very stimulating and enjoyable Adult Religious Education class called “Building Your Own Theology”. We were challenged to think about our belief system and how best to express it and we were encouraged to share our ideas with the class. This is what Alex Winstanley shared:

“I arrived to my first Build Your Own Theology meeting quite nervous. I was nervous I had nothing to say; nervous I was not up to the challenge. Having just come through a very hard time in my life, the warmth I encountered at the meeting was both surprising and wonderful. Over the next two months I was confronted with complex and intriguing readings on theology. But for me the most precious thing I learned was the open-minded, liberal and warm-hearted manner of my fellow Unitarians. My own heart swelled at the compassion each member displayed. It really revealed the

Continued on page 8

Memorial Service for Organ Donors

The Organ Donor Memorial Service is hosted jointly by the Spiritual Care Chaplains of the Vancouver and UBC Hospitals, the BC Transplant Society, and our Unitarian Church of Vancouver. This beautiful service will be held at on March 11, at 7 pm, in the Sanctuary of the Unitarian Church.

This is the eleventh year of our involvement in this very important pastoral care outreach. The Memorial Service is open to all individuals and families in British Columbia who have lost an organ donor in the past year. It honours their loved ones who donated their bodies, so that others might live. We'll need five volunteers to help set up refreshments before the service, serve, and clean up afterwards (from 6:00-9:30 pm). If you can help by bringing snacks, helping serve or cleaning up, please contact Lay Chaplain Wayne Ulian through the church office (604-261-7204) or directly by email: wulian@vsb.bc.ca

Continued from page 7

values of Unitarianism, that I was able to explore theology in the safe haven of everyone's presence. Thank you.

Everyone came in looking for a newly defined God. What we came across was each other's smiling, often tear-strewn faces; a delicate, divine humanness we all share.

We went in search of an ultimate meaning and we found our neighbour, also searching through the snowy dark—a neighbour with the same eyes to search, but different ideas to look with.

This life, this human experience, is the divine. Here we find all the tragedy and elation that goes with being mortal. This is my credo: the delicate divine sensitivity of the human soul. Our lives like little snatches of light in the night. And it is for this life that I am grateful, for this voice I use to speak, these eyes to see, and this mind I use to think. And especially this soul I use to feel."

—Joan Armstrong, 604-731-8786

Homelessness and Affordable Housing: Unitarians Address City Council

By LESLIE KEMP

On January 25, 2007, Vancouver City Council heard from several speakers on the matter of a moratorium on Single Room Accommodation conversions. Concern has been mounting in the Downtown Eastside (DTES) about a sharp increase in the number of SRAs being converted to condos and the resulting dislocation of long-time residents and low-income folks. The Carnegie Community Action Project has mobilized the local community and is seeking support on this issue from organizations beyond the DTES, including the Unitarian Church of Vancouver. City Council has deferred its decision on this matter to February 13th.

Included in those who gave presentations to City Council was UCV member, Michael Clague, who spoke as a resident of Point Grey and as a former Director of the Carnegie Community Centre. I also presented on behalf of UCV's Social Justice Committee and Vancouver Faithful Fools Street Ministry.

Michael Clague drew Council's attention to Vancouver's pledge to the world in applying to host the 2010 Olympics to be an inclusive city. Michael reminded Council that the centrepiece of this commitment is safe, affordable housing for vulnerable populations, especially for the community that is most at risk if this pledge is not honoured, the Downtown Eastside. He suggested that the record to date – including the continued loss of affordable housing each year without replacement, the Civil City strategy that focuses on street disorder, locking down of garbage bins, the lack of strategy to achieve the pledge of reducing homelessness by 50% by the time the Olympics take place – all make the City appear foolish.

In my presentation, I referred to the deep concern of Unitarians about homelessness and lack of affordable housing and to the support of the Social Justice Committee for the moratorium on SRA conversions. And then, at the risk of appearing foolish, I put on my Fool's Hat and presented the following to Council:

"Faithful Fools is an interfaith street ministry dedicated to witnessing the spirituality and humanity of the Downtown Eastside of Vancouver. We are a patient presence to absurdity, despair and hope.

"As a fool, I'm obliged to poke fun at beliefs
And policies that cause great grief.

I'm here today to ask this Council to do what you can
Use our Property Endowment Fund to achieve a plan
Of providing housing to those in desperate need
Those who are victims of development greed.

We live in a society that is wealthy, but unwise
Let's not squander our morals and civic pride
A city that ignores those at the bottom of the heap
Deserves the consequences that these policies will reap

Increased hopelessness, grief and despair
With the SRO housing in such need of repair
Those who depend on the goodwill of this city
Want some real action, not just some pity.

Let's be generous, big-hearted and share
Let's show our humanity, compassion and care
I urge you to show vision, insight and dare
Let's foster a city that is safe, just and fair.

In conclusion, thank you for your time
To ignore this issue is but a crime
So I appeal to you, to take the high ground
And trust that a solution will soon be found."



*Faithful Fools
Street Ministry*

—Leslie Kemp

*Social Justice Committee and
Vancouver Faithful Fool*

CUC Annual Conference & Meeting, May 18- 21, 2007

Let's Show Some West Coast Hospitality!

When Unitarians converge at UBC from across the country this May, we will be the hosts. And we need your help. The Hospitality Team of the Host Committee is responsible for a number of hospitality functions including organizing greeters, signage at UBC, transportation at UBC for those with mobility challenges, organizing the Ingathering and Banner Parade, coordinating the entertainment on Sunday evening, and organizing Post-Conference Tours. Our Hospitality Planning Team is comprised of Elaine Spilos, Michael Bradshaw, Muriel Groves, Jeannie Corsi and Leslie Kemp.

We are requesting your assistance with two specific functions:

1. We need a team of **greeters** and information volunteers that can be on hand throughout the event to greet guests and provide information.
2. We need a pool of **drivers** who would be willing to transport people with mobility challenges between venues at UBC during the weekend. We also need a transportation coordinator who can map out the best routes between venues ahead of time and coordinate the pool of drivers.

While these are not large commitments, they are important jobs. Help us show some west coast hospitality this May!

Please **contact Elaine Spilos** at 604-708-8227 if you are willing to be a welcoming host during this weekend or can provide transportation assistance.

—Leslie Kemp



Learn How to Desktop

Desktop publishing can be done using several different programs, including your word processor, a vector art program (CorelDraw) or any of several publishing programs (PageMaker, InDesign and others). Editorship requires excellent English language skills, and practising editorship will hone your skills faster than any other form of study.

Interested? Call me.

—Gerry Hayle, 604-322-1644
ghayle@telus.net

CANVASS 2007

Welcome to the Good Ship UCV

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 will be asking you to seriously consider increasing your annual financial contribution to the UCV.

This year, everyone's canvass year will be from July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008. The focus of the canvass will be pledges following the Sunday services on March 18th, March 25th, and April 1st.

Be sure also to mark Friday March 30th at 5:30 pm on your calendar, when we will hold an exciting **Canvass Party**.

Help us trim the sails, ride the waves, and enjoy the voyage! This will be your chance to contribute to your Spiritual Health Insurance Plan.

For further information, please contact Eleanore Dunn, Canvass Committee, (604-524-1943; dunne@douglas.bc.ca).

—Anne Niklewicz

Opening for Lay Chaplain

The UCV Lay Chaplaincy Committee invites applications for a Lay Chaplaincy opening coming in the late summer of 2007. 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 the end of March and interviews will take place in April.

You should be available to take the next basic training session offered or have already completed the basic Lay Chaplaincy training. We also provide lots of mentoring! 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 caring.

If you are a UCV member and interested in talking about this, contact Committee Chair Diana Ellis (604-733-1058, di@intergate.ca).

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

Questions? Contact present Lay Chaplains, Katherine Roback (604-872-0426), Dan Enright (778-836-1882), Wayne Ulian (778-218-9849), or retiring Lay Chaplain Shoshanna Wiley (604-685-0551).

—Diana Ellis, 604-733-1058,
Chair, Lay Chaplaincy Committee

Celebrating Our Partner Church in Brassó: Outreach Around the World

On Sunday, March 4, we celebrate our seventeenth year as a partner of the Second Unitarian Congregation of Brassó, Romania. There will be a special service, a lunch featuring Hungarian desserts, and a special Forum about our relationship with our partner.

What is the Partner Church program? Initiated by the UUA in 1990, it was designed to provide links between churches in North America and ones in Hungary and Romania. Since then, links have been expanded to include churches in India and the Philippines. Partnerships have also been arranged between British Unitarian churches and those in other parts of the world.

The purpose is to personalize a relationship between two churches, gain appreciation and understanding between Unitarians in disparate parts of the world whose circumstances and cultures are very different, and thus provide enrichment for both

Our own relationship is with a church in an ethnic Hungarian part of Romania called Transylvania. This area was part of the Austro-Hungarian empire. Since its transfer to Romania after WWI, and especially under the dictator, Nicolae Ceausescu, ethnic Hungarians were persecuted, imprisoned, property confiscated, executed, etc. for simply having a different culture from their Romanian neighbours. With the overthrow of Ceausescu in 1989, there was enough easing of the persecution to allow some western access to Romania, and in 1990 the Unitarian Church of Vancouver applied for and received a partner church

in the city of Brassó (Brasov in Romanian).

The past seventeen years have involved visits by ministers of both congregations to their respective partner churches. Rev. Phillip Hewett, our minister emeritus, has been to Romania eight



BRASSÓ CHURCH

times during our partnership, and we have had two visits of ministers from Brassó. We have helped the Brassó church financially with items like a Gestetner machine in 1992 (the cost of which was double their annual budget), and repairing a bathroom that had collapsed through the second floor to the basement of their church.

Our current project is providing funds to help them build a new wing to their church so they have room for their youth and children's programs and a place to serve meals to the poor in Brassó, who must decide between paying rent for their apartment, or eating—they cannot do both. In many cases, heating is out of the question.

We are attempting to provide links between the youth of both churches. Culture, and especially language, has proved a challenge to bridge, but we are working on it. Please join us on Partner Church Sunday, March 4.

—G. John Taylor

Multifaith and Diversity in Spirituality

March 11 is the next meeting of the Multi faith spiritual diversity committee, 9:30 am at the church. Come and let us know your interests in this wide world of spiritual experience.

Upcoming events

Women and Spirituality Celebration - 15th anniversary. Theme: Womentoring: Cultivating Sacred Mentorship. Friday evening, March 2 and Saturday March 3 at the Vancouver School of Theology. Mary Bennett is on the organizing committee.

“In an atmosphere of acceptance, compassion, and respect for the whole human being, and the wide spectrum of spiritual and religious paths, the Women and Spirituality Celebration has grown from its Christian origins into a multi-faith Celebration.”

Brochure online at:

www.awakeningbodywisdom.com or www.medwyn.ca

The Labyrinth is at St. Paul's Anglican Church in the West End on Jarvis off Davie Street. People of all faiths are very welcome. The Labyrinth is painted on the floor of the gym of the church. Evening walks are lit by candlelight.

Monday to Thursday, 8:30-9:30 A.M., Saturday 10:00-12:00 noon, Sunday 9:30-12:30.

The 2nd Friday of each month - Walk for Peace 7:00-9:00 P.M.

The last Friday of each month - Walk with live music 7:00-9:00 P.M.

Contact 604 - 685 - 6832, local 17 for the Labyrinth line.

Chantfest 2007 is being held March 31 at the Canadian Memorial Centre for Peace. Join us for a day and evening of chanting that involves lively leaders and songs that are energizing and soulful. This is singing as a spiritual practice. www.vancouverchants.org

Tickets at Banyen Books 604-737-8858.

LIFESPAN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
RE Update

Our Youth group is still going strong with new members joining all the time. Did you know that we have over 25 youth involved in the program? Our youth are preparing to attend the "Groundworks" Anti-Racism/Anti-Oppression training March 2 to 4 at the church. They will be joined by youth and allies from all over the area. They are also planning to attend the Spring conference for the PNWD (Pacific Northwest District of the Unitarian Universalist Association) and our own CUC youth conference "CanUUdle" which will be held at our church. Lots of exciting things in the works!

Our newest slate of ARE programs is underway with an excellent response. Debra Thorne's class "A Deepening Path" has been so popular that we already have two offerings of the eight week program and are taking names for anyone interested in a third. Our Rev. Phillip Hewett is back with his "Living Tradition" series and so is Wayne Ulian with workshops on Compassionate Communication. Dolores Bate is also returning with a second group of her Dream Group program. We also have a very exciting offering entitled "Women Mystics" that will begin in April with former Unitarian minister Harold Rosen. A special thank you to last term's "Building Your Own Theology" class for a wonderful service on January 28. Thank you for sharing from your hearts with us.

As many of you may have noticed, there are not as many little bodies up at the front for story time on Sunday mornings. This school year is the first year that we have been majorly affected by recreation/sports programming that is held on Sunday mornings. We have temporarily "lost" our kids to swimming, hockey, soccer, ballet, basketball and a whole host of other programs. Their parents assure me that they will be back with

*CHOIR CONCERT FOR
 ENDURANCE, HOPE AND JOY*

**International
 Women's Day**

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 7, 7:30 PM
SANCTUARY, UNITARIAN CHURCH OF VANCOUVER
949 WEST 49 AVENUE, VANCOUVER (AT OAK STREET)

*LEAVE THE DISHES IN THE SINK AND COME OUT FOR AN EVENING OF
 SONG AND SPOKEN WORD, CELEBRATING THE STRENGTH, CHALLENGES
 AND JOY OF BEING A WOMAN, ALONG WITH READINGS BY GIRLS AND
 WOMEN, THE EVENT WILL FEATURE PERFORMANCES BY:*

THE ELEKTRA WOMEN'S CHOIR
THE NO SHIT SHIRLEYS
THE CHALICE CHOIR

*ADMISSION IS BY DONATION. FUNDS RAISED WILL BE DONATED TO
 CANADIAN WOMEN FOR WOMEN IN AFGHANISTAN AND THE STEPHAN
 LEWIS FOUNDATION'S GRANDMOTHERS TO GRANDMOTHERS CAMPAIGN.*

**Bring your Mom, Sister,
 Daughter or Friend!**

CONTACT: DIANA ELLIS, 604-733-1058

their kids when the programs finish for the season. Kids from grades 3 to 7 seem to be the most affected. We have, in the meantime, compacted some of our classes and now offer our groupings as Preschool, Kindergarten to grade 3, grade 4 to 7 and our youth group for the rest. I am certain that our attendance in these ages will bounce back in the near future. We have been seeing lots of growth in our younger groups with lots of new babies, toddlers and preschoolers—a good sign for the future!

*—Caroline Farley, Director,
 Lifespan Religious Exploration*

Pillow Hunt!

The pillows are disappearing from the Meditation Room. Please help bring them back: big ones and small ones. They are khaki green or purple.

We need spoons! Glorious spoons! Big ones and little ones, soup spoons, dessert spoons, teaspoons and serving spoons. Bring one. Bring a lot.

*—Elizabeth Murdoch
 604-254-1686*

PLANNED GIVING

The Legacy Committee

The Board has approved a name change and expanded terms of reference for the Planned Giving Committee: it will henceforth be called the **Legacy Committee**, more in line with a broader framework. Key to our work is “*building relationships with people who have an abiding interest in the Church’s mission and welfare,... and to assist members in their financial planning*”. It doesn’t only have to be in the form of bequests. The Church recently received a generous donation from Pat Startin, that we are grateful for, in her devotion and foresight.

—*Rainer Borkenhagen, 604-221-6631
Chair, Legacy Committee*

Bush explaining his plan to save Social Security, February 4, 2005:

“Because the—all which is on the table begins to address the big cost drivers. For example, how benefits are calculate, for example, is on the table; whether or not benefits rise based upon wage increases or price increases. There’s a series of parts of the formula that are being considered. And when you couple that, those different cost drivers, affecting those—changing those with personal accounts, the idea is to get what has been promised more likely to be—or closer delivered to what has been promised. Does that make any sense to you? It’s kind of muddled. Look, there’s a series of things that cause the—like, for example, benefits are calculated based upon the increase of wages, as opposed to the increase of prices. Some have suggested that we calculate—the benefits will rise based upon inflation, as opposed to wage increases. There is a reform that would help solve the red if that were put into effect. In other words, how fast benefits grow, how fast the promised benefits grow, if those—if that growth is affected, it will help on the red.”

FIRST FRIDAY AT THE JAVANET

3436 W Broadway
March 2 at 7:30

Open Mic will be followed by a **Workshop by Ariadne Sawyer:**

Use Your Dream World to Enrich Your Writing! (30 minutes)

Learn how to: create a dream poetry/writing journal, remember your dreams, use daydreams as a bridge to the unconscious, do a day dreaming poetic/writing exercise. Free. (Donations accepted for World Poetry.) Ariadne Sawyer, MA, CP, has spent 12 years studying the brain and human behavior. She specializes in creativity and has worked as a consultant to musicians, writers, painters, poets, dancers and even photographers. She is the host and producer of the popular short radio program Creativity Rocks on the World Poetry Café, CFRO. 102.7 FM which is heard around the world by internet and satellite. Her new book is *The Best Of Creativity Rocks! Answers to Your Creative Questions* by World Poetry Publishing. For more information:

ariadnes@uniserve.com or
www.ariadnescoaching.com

Our music feature will be **The Rolling Rocks**, our Simon Marmorek and his “twin” friend Christian, who recently performed their popular adaptations (rock to classical) in a Sunday service.

Light suppers/snacks available. \$5 for features is suggested. Co-hosts: Franci Louann, Suad, Futuwi.

Sunday, March 11 will be special. As a celebration of **International Women’s Day** (March 8th), we will have “international” poets (and maybe musicians) performing in both of their languages. 2 pm at the Javanet at 3436 W Broadway...Open Mic at 2 pm for 1/2 hour. This event is co-sponsored with the Arts Committee of the Unitarian Church of Vancouver.

—*Franci Louann,
ph/fx 604-731-0228*

COME!

**Inspire your voice!
Gospel Singing Workshop
with Brian Tate**

**Saturday, March 3, 9am-3:30pm
Mount Seymour United Church
1200 Parkgate Ave, North Van
For more information on Brian Tate, www.briantatemusic.com**

**Cost: \$45 early bird fee,
After February 14 - \$55**

**Lunch Included Tel: 604-929-1336 to register, or
www.mtseymourunited.com**

For more information on Brian Tate, www.briantatemusic.com

**Philosophers’
Fireside Café**

7–9 pm

**Third Friday of each month
Fireside Room, Hewett Centre
949 West 49th Ave (at Oak St)**

The evenings are as warm as our fire-side, as welcoming as our carpet, as comfortable as our new chairs and as interesting as the diverse, intelligent people we attract. There is a supportive, friendly atmosphere to encourage you to participate actively and share your unique and interesting thoughts.

Friday, March 16:

Eyes on the Nobel Peace Prize It’s been 50 years since a young Canadian named Lester B. Pearson won the Prize. We will look at how the Prize is awarded and rank some of the past and potential recipients — and some of the reputed nominees.

Moderator: **Randall MacKinnon** has a Masters in Social Policy and Planning and is an “IDEASage” with MacKINNOVATION, a service consultancy. Blog: <http://oakridgephilocafe.blogspot.com>

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

“we dialogue therefore we are.....”