



The Bulletin

Unitarian Church of Vancouver

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MARCH 2010

Sunday Services

All services begin 11 a.m.

March 7

**Partner Church Sunday:
A Life-Changing Experience
Rev. Phillip Hewett**

Margaret Laurence (a one-time member of our congregation) once wrote: "My experience of other countries probably taught me more about myself and even my own land than it did about anything else." Those of us who have visited our fellow Unitarians in Transylvania could endorse this. I certainly could, and will share my reflections on that process. There will be a retiring collection to help support our partnership.
Music with Elliott Dainow, piano, and the Chalice Choir

March 14

Ostara/Spring Equinox

Pagan Group led by Mary Bennett

We will honour the turning of the season from winter to spring by waking up the directions (represented by members of the Pagan Committee) and Spring herself! This worship service includes a seed communion and guided meditation. Mary Bennett will share a homily on *Radish Acts of Kindness and Sweet Pea Acts of Beauty*.

The young children will attend for two-thirds of the service, and then do some spring dancing with Nan Gregory in Hewett Centre.

The UCV Environment Committee invites you to bring seeds or plants for exchanging or giving. Watch ucvenvironment.wordpress.com for more details or to post what you have or what you want!

Music by Elliott Dainow, Russell Shumsky (percussion), Dwight Ivany (chant leader)

March 21

Sustaining UCV in our 2nd Century

Rev. Dr. Steven Epperson

Environmental stewardship means that we act in many ways to sustain the flourishing of biodiversity. Community stewardship at UCV also entails a commitment to act in ways that sustain the flourishing of our congregation. This service launches our Annual Pledge Drive; it will celebrate our dynamic stewardship in this, our beloved community; and it will explore how this is one of the great gifts and challenges of being Unitarians.
Music with Elliott Dainow, piano, and the Chalice Choir

March 28

**Epiphanies and Conundrums:
a Feminist Journey**

Diana Ellis, Rev. Steven Epperson

The August 09 issue of the *New York Times Magazine* was headlined *Why Women's Rights are the Cause of Our Time*. This service, a delayed salute to International Women's Day, will speak to that point from a personal, national and international perspective.
Music with Joyce Poley, with in-

Sustaining UCV in Our Second Century

Canvass Launch on March 21

Anne Niklewicz (604-221-6631) or David Marmorek (604-874-1153)

Come and join us on March 21, after the Sunday service, to launch our best ever pledge drive! Thanks to the deep commitment of the UCV community over the last few years, we are very close to being a financially stable church. Our goal this year is to raise \$400,000 in pledges, and (finally) eliminate our deficit. This would be possible with just a 10% increase in pledges. What a wonderful way to set a sustainable foundation for our second century!

Make your contribution to this great congregation on March 21, and join us for warm strudel, with cold ice cream, to celebrate our progress to financial sustainability. Canvassers will also accept your pledge on March 28 and April 4. Every dedicated pledge and personal effort makes a difference. ■

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Save trees—

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www.vancouverunitarians.ca

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

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President's Message

A financially stable future for our church

Kathryn Aberle (president@vancouverunitarians.ca)



We have an opportunity in the next couple of months to make a kind of history at the Unitarian Church of Vancouver. Not for many years, decades perhaps, have we been so close to being able to balance our budget. This year, during our March/April pledge drive, we can do that and set ourselves up for a financially stable future.

How wonderful it would be to begin our second century with no operating deficit. This is a gift we can give to future generations of our beloved UCV community in support of our mission of spiritual growth, social justice and environmental sustainability. It is time for each of us to look at what we want our faith community to be and ask, "What am I willing to give to sustain this community that does so much to sustain me?"

Over the last four years, through increased pledges and reduced operating expenses, we have lowered our operating budget deficit by 80%. Our goal this year is to raise \$400,000 in pledges, and finally eliminate our deficit. UCV thrives on each person's contributions of money and time and to reach this remarkable goal, the Board and the Canvass Committee are asking you to consider a 10% increase in your pledge for 2010—2011. Now, as always, it is important for members to commit to the financial success of the Church, and to appreciate the critical role our pledges play in that success. This community thrives because of what we give with our hearts, our minds, our hands and our pledges. ■

Child and Youth RE Update

The approach of spring

Jennifer Fell, Acting Director, Religious Exploration
(jennifer@vancouverunitarians.ca)



Spring officially arrives this month, and in anticipation of the beginning of growing season, the children and youth are planning to do some activities involving gardening.

The Spirit Play class already spent some time in the garden at the end of January with their teachers and with Karl Perrin, head of the Environment Committee. Given the warm winter weather, they were able to find several early signs of spring already. This class anticipates returning to the garden on March 21, to do some digging in the earth and some planting of seeds.

Also, coming up in March, the Grade 4 – 7 class and the Youth Group are anticipating a field trip to a micro-farm at 57th and Cambie. This micro-farm was started by a member of our congregation, Jen Rashleigh, who noticed a large, unused field of grass outside of George Pearson Hospital. She approached the hospital about putting that land to use for growing food, and it is now a thriving, community integrated garden. Jen will give our young people a tour and invite them to plant some seeds there.

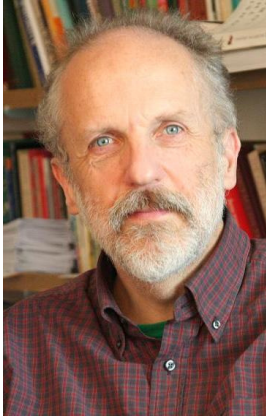
Also coming up on Wednesday, March 17, there will be a family night spaghetti dinner. This communally prepared meal with potluck salad and dessert is a lovely multi-age event, and all are welcome. Please come at 5:00 if you are able to help with preparations, and at 6:00 for the dinner. There is a suggested donation of \$5.00 per person and \$10.00 per family. Hope to see you there! ■

From the Minister's Workshop

A decade in professional ministry—Part 2

Rev. Dr. Steven Epperson

(minister@vancouverunitarians.ca)



In this month's column, I finish highlighting some of the key features and events of my first decade in professional ministry.

"Freedom of the pulpit" extended by Unitarian congregations to their ministers usually refers to the calling of the minister to "afflict the comfortable and to comfort the afflicted." Hopefully, my sermons, writing, and service to UCV and the wider community have both "afflicted" and "comforted" as needed. I have also used this "freedom" to share what Thomas Berry called "The New Story"—the account of how the world came to be and how we fit into it from a perspective informed by the sciences. I agree with science writer, Chet Raymo, where he observes, "Our diminished sense of the sacred has resulted not from the growth of knowledge, but from the failure of religions to meaningfully incorporate scientific discovery into the framework of spirituality and religious worship." And so, for nearly eight years now, we have been celebrating the "The New Story" on First Advent Sundays—we have journeyed from the atom to cells, from photosynthesis to plate tectonics, from the rise of life from primordial seas, the birth of the moon, natural selection to the wonders of bird migrations and the size of the

universe. Separately and together, these "chapters" of the "The New Story" fill me with a sense of awe, reverence and gratitude for the grandeur and complexity of Nature. For someone with a very limited education in the sciences, it has been an enlightening, moving experience.

"Freedom of the pulpit" has also meant pageants, and "Encountering Our Ancestors". I deeply appreciate your support and participation in these lively, creative ways of worshipping together. I have learned so much about our Unitarian heritage by researching and writing the scripts for "Encountering our Ancestors," where UCV members, in costume and "in character," bring chapters of our history to life. UCV has been visited each Samhain/Halloween, by the likes of Rod Serling, Beatrix Potter, Dorothy Livesay, and Bela Bartok. Our holiday pageants draw on scores of UCV adults, youth, and children; again, these have been creative ways for me (and us) to celebrate holidays in non-traditional ways. We've given thanks, for example, by learning about the building of Vancouver's own Seawall and The Epic 65 Million Year Natural History of North America (in Five Acts). As well, we've celebrated stories and cycles of rebirth in the spring through pageants about the life cycle of salmon and the story of Emily Carr. In these and many other services, "freedom of the pulpit," for me, has meant "joy in the pulpit." And I thank you for that.

During the past decade, my professional ministry has also been dedicated to service in our denomination. This is a significant part of my work of which UCV members are sometimes unaware. For years now, I have served on the Western Regional Subcommittee on Candidacy (RSCC) as a member, and on the Executive of the UU Ministers of Canada (UUMOC) as President and Past-President. The work of the RSCC is to ensure that candidates for UU ministry are well-prepared and fit for the demands and responsibilities of ministry in our movement. UUMOC is the national chapter of UU ministers in Canada,

and I have worked a great deal, as a member of its Executive, to enable this dedicated group of ministers to work more productively with the CUC Staff and Board, and to realize its potential as an important voice throughout our denomination and for liberal religion in Canada. Within the past five years, UUMOC has been transformed from an in-group, loosely knit collegial club to a twelve month a year professional organization with representation on the CUC Board. It exercises a leading role in the development of Unitarianism in Canada.

There's a lot more that I could say, but I'm running out of column space. Thinking about the worship service and exhibit celebrating the 40th Anniversary of our buildings and grounds at 49th and Oak; running my mind back over the extraordinary experience of travelling to Romania and Japan during my 2007-08 sabbatical; reminiscing about the 2009 "Confluence" lecture I delivered on Transcendentalism as well as last autumn's ARE course on John Ralston Saul's *A Fair Country*; recalling last year's UCV centenary events, worship services and dinner/theatre celebration; and so much more! This has been quite a decade in my professional life—and what an unusual profession it is! I am provided space, time, resources and encouragement to bring who and what I am, all I believe, know and aspire, in service to exploring and trying to make concrete what I most deeply value with a beloved community of children, youth and adults.

In the coming years, may we truly "own" UCV through generous giving so that we can live beyond the shadow of budget deficits and scarcity and thus realize our dreams for our congregation.

There are a lot of people "out there" looking for an authentic, lively, progressive religious and ethical community to which they can belong; they keep showing up at our doors and looking in every week. Let's be worthy of them, their search, and let's welcome them in (and each other!) with open hearts and minds. ■

Fostering Community

Ann Foster (afos72@vcn.bc.ca, 604-736-2117)



We're pleased to report that Charlotte Wilkinson, 25, daughter of **Keith Wilkinson** and **Diana Ellis**, has recovered well from her surgery.

We're also pleased to hear that **Arya Gharib** and his wife, **Dordaneh**, are able to celebrate the fact that Dordaneh is now cancer-free, following a long, slow recovery from surgery performed last

May. This couple, originally from Iran, live in West Vancouver and attend UCV services when they can.

Recently, we've lost some wonderful people who have played prominent roles in UCV's past.

Pat Duffy Hutcheon, 83, died February 4, following a long illness. Pat overcame a childhood of poverty, and later, gender discrimination and health challenges to achieve a distinguished career as a leading humanist thinker, teacher and author of many acclaimed books, several of which are in our library, including her most recent, a fascinating autobiography, *Lonely Trail*. In 2000, she was named Humanist of the Year by the Humanist Association of Canada, and in 2001, she received the Distinguished Service Award of the American Humanist Association. She and her late husband, Sandy, were very active in our church's humanist group until Sandy's death in 2001, and Pat's illness. Wendy Hutcheon, a UCV member, is Pat's daughter-in-law. Pat leaves behind one son, two stepsons, and seven grandchildren. A memorial service will be held in late March; watch for details.

Rita Lehmann, 93, died in January, in Prince George, where she had moved to be near her son. In the 60's and 70's, Rita was active in RE, serving for a time as RE Chair. Flowers from her beautiful garden frequently graced our sanctuary. She was later an active Daytimer, organizing their Christmas luncheons along with her husband, Peter, a distinguished neurosurgeon, once the Board Chair, who predeceased her in 2007. Rita is survived by two children and six grandchildren. Rita was also predeceased by her other son, Carl, who tragically drowned in English Bay

Chester Dobson was a retired police officer who had been living in Penticton for many years. In the 60's, he was very active and helpful, before and during our move to 49th and Oak.

Suzanne Meyer was an outstanding intern minister at UCV in 1981-82. She went on to a very successful career in ministry. Her life has sadly been cut short by cancer at the too-young age of fifty-six.

Two of our elders have had continuing challenges. **Carrie Grundy** has had to move to Holy Family for more extensive care. And **Lydia Sayle** broke both a wrist and a hip last month, and is undergoing rehab at UBC hospital at this time.

On a brighter note, kudos to **Leslie Hill**, **Aphrodite Harris** and their crew for an incredibly successful Book Bash on January 31, which raised more than \$1,400! The next one will be May 30; don't miss out!

Kudos also to the hard-working **Refugee Committee** and **Youth Group** members, who consistently provide us with such delicious and healthy lunches for only \$6, a bargain! If you enjoy these lunches and can afford it, why not tip them an extra loonie occasionally, since the money supports their worthy causes.

Finally, this scribe recently learned that our minister, **Steven Epperson**, and his wife, **Diana**, moved last August and are now living near 45th and Fraser in a larger space with room for their two talented younger children, Nick and Hannah, who surely must fill their home with beautiful music. Both Diana and Steven just love their new 'hood, with its friendly neighbours, excellent markets and ethnic diversity. Steven enjoys being closer to church, and being able to walk, cycle or use transit. As you may know, Steven is a voracious reader who also loves to walk. But I bet you didn't know that he has a special talent: he can walk and read at the same time! Hopefully not with a coffee table book!

Why don't you walk on over, now, to your computer or phone, and Foster some Community by sharing with us your latest "move". ■

Original music as well as art to be shared at A.R.E. course

Jeannie Corsi (nichorsi@interchange.ubc.ca)

What is it that encourages you to be creative?

UCV members, adherents and friends are invited to join this conversation on five Tuesday evenings this spring, from 7—9 p.m. in the Fireside Room. Creativity and its spiritual connection in the visual arts will be the subject of the first two sessions, March 23 and March 30, of the course, called Sharing What We Make and Do.

The third meeting of the course, April 6, makes the shift to music as creative expression. Jeannie Corsi will speak about creating music for biblical characters, illustrating with examples from her newly completed two-act opera "Moses and the Pharaoh", libretto by the late Rabbi Maurice Myerowitz. Music in this work has been created to be sung by biblical characters from the Book of Exodus in the *Old Testament*, Moses, Miriam, Pharaoh and even G-d.

The following week, April 13, "Moses and the Pharaoh" will be heard in its entirety on CD, while course participants are invited to listen and follow the libretto and/or the score, discussing the work, scene by scene with the composer.

On April 27, the final evening of Sharing What We Make and Do will take place. The subject will be "Honouring the Written Word". Excerpts from published and unpublished writings by UCV members will be shared. ■

UCV's food & education agency pilot program

Our Children's Table (OCT)

Lauren Griffin (604-688-0179)

Diana Girsdanský (Epperson) (604-569-3944)

oct@vancouverunitarians.ca

As we submit this column to the Bulletin on Valentine's Day, we confess to have found an unexpected gift in the affection and trust we feel for the people with whom we are working: UCV staff members; gentleman Cam at Famous Foods, a most generous supplier; our innovative, compassionate and wonderfully-humoured fellow volunteers; and the families who are struggling to raise healthy children. We also owe an apology for the aging garlic in the fridge. We will work on improving our kitchen manners. Please let us know how we can improve.

There is much to report and we'll begin by chipping away at our backlog of thank-you's. OCT bought a CSA (community supported agriculture) share from Farmers on 57th with a donation from the Bronson/Marmorek family. This new neighbourhood project of agriculture and therapeutic gardens is on the grounds of the George Pearson Centre, a home for adults with severe disabilities. The gardens are the brainchild of UCV's Jennifer Rashleigh. She and a handful of urban women farmers and volunteers produced a cornucopia of organic vegetables and flowers in 2009, which were sold at the Main Street Station Farmer's Market. The produce was delivered by UBC's bicycle co-op. We are so honoured to participate in this project. A share of the 2010 bounty will be enjoyed by families in both UCV's pilot and religious education programs. Jennifer Rashleigh, volunteer Catherine Hembling and Jennifer Fell, UCV's current DRE, helped design this flexible farm share. As a result, Our Children's Table has organic salads of mixed greens on the menu for June; chard, kale, heirloom tomatoes and potatoes are scheduled to go home with the families in our program this year. The UCV youth and children are invited to help plant, harvest, weed and munch some garden snacks during their growing season.

Diana Ellis' offer to help evaluate the OCT pilot is making true Steven's promise to the congregation in his food bank sermon (Dec.'09) to evaluate the program and report. This process is turning out to be an essential step in defining, reviewing, and considering what it is we are doing. Diana is insightfully coaxing us to look and speak intelligibly about the program. In a few months, with her help, we may be able to explain what this six-month experiment means and whether our efforts are sustainable. In the meantime, we collect our Spanish/English evaluations weekly and consider the comments:



"I like the new song I learned for my baby; the information about healthy food is good; how can I get a driver's license; the soup and salad was good; can you bring highchairs for the babies; please let us help you clean up..."

There are more food stories to tell. Over these weeks of collecting your donations in the OCT sanctuary basket, we found three bicycle-basket sized deliveries of ten jars of tahini with accompanying recipes. This was a lovely surprise for the kitchen and families. Yes, humus is on our menu! On February 2, there was the delicious berry dessert soup, topped with dollops of ice-cream, a topsy-turvy food-safe version of the New Members' Bumbleberry Sundaes. Thank you new members for sharing your bounty with Our Children's Table!

Please keep the cheese coming! It's greatly appreciated. And please, send us your very healthy cookie recipes. This request comes as a rather urgent plea from one of our Moms. Send healthy cookie recipes to oct@vancouverunitarians.ca and we'll make sure to pass them on.

With many thanks, Diana & Lauren ■

Legacy Committee

Formerly the Planned Giving Committee



A member of our Church recently wanted to honor her parents by leaving an endowment.

"Even though they weren't actually Unitarians ... they were so, in spirit, philosophy and action." Our Church facilitated the process, encouraging others of her family to donate in honor of their parents. This is a novel approach that you may want to consider. How many of our (secular) families may be Unitarians at heart?

For more information, contact Rainer Borkenhagen (604-221-6631, rozya@interchange.ubc.ca)

Social Justice/Refugee Committees

Refugee family updates

Virginia Crabill (604-731-9393)

We continue to be busy with our lunches twice a month. We are still selling our cookbooks which contain recipes contributed by UCV members and some of our refugees. Our meetings are on the fourth Sunday of every month, in Castello at 12:30 p.m. All are welcome.

Our refugee families have been busy too! Our Karens are expecting a baby in May. This is their second child and he/she will automatically become a Canadian.

Our musician friend sang for Canada at the Olympics, has been invited onto the Board at CNIB, is student representative for blind and partially-sighted students at Vancouver Community College, has twice taken teaching materials for the blind to Africa, and is now raising funds for AIDS victims in his country of origin.

We may be sponsoring both another Palestinian family and another Afghan family, an extension of the one already here. In both cases, the funds will be raised elsewhere and we will provide the sponsoring umbrella.

If you would like more information about the Refugee Committee, contact either of the Co-Chairs: Fiona Graham (fiona.graham@sd41.bc.ca) or Virginia Crabill. If you wish to assist us financially, you can put your donation into an envelope and place in the offering basket, or bring it to the UCV office. Please write on the cheque memo, "For Sheilah Thompson Refugee Fund". ■



the Unitarians, and many of their ministers were jailed on one pretext or another. So the reopening of the doors twenty years ago provided a new opportunity for support and help. The group of Canadians, including a number from this congregation, who visited there in the summer of 1990, had a wonderfully warm welcome from our fellow Unitarians.

Our partnership with the Second Congregation in Brasov dates from that time. Since then, a number of us have made visits there, including Steven Epperson on his recent sabbatical, while their minister, Ferenc Szasz, and his wife came here ten years ago. Communications have been limited by the language barrier, but we have been able to give them substantial help, and those of us who have been there have had our lives deepened in ways that we will attempt to describe at the service on March 7. ■

Partnership Committee

Two decades of partnership

Phillip Hewett (604-733-1857)

This year, we mark the 20th anniversary of our partnership with the Transylvanian Unitarian congregation in Brasov, Romania, which makes this a good time to look back and take stock. The opportunity to build such a relationship came with the downfall of the tyrannous Ceausescu regime at the end of 1989, and within a few months a system was set up to link churches there with partners in North America.

This was, in fact, a revival of an earlier arrangement of the same kind that was set up in the 1920s, after Transylvania was transferred from Hungary to Romania, and its Hungarian inhabitants, including the Unitarians, were subjected to ferocious persecution. Apart from material help that went from here to there, it served notice to the authorities that the world was watching.

Such a partnership could not operate during the Second World War and the Communist rule which succeeded it. During the latter period, there was renewed repression of



Tulip Fields, by Judy Villett

New member profile: Dwight Ivany

by Mary Bennett (unitarianmary@telus.net)

Dwight Ivany joined the Church last year, after he and his family “dabbled in the church for years.”

Dwight was baptized by the Salvation Army, attended United Church Sunday School and then Catholic School. He first heard about Unitarianism through lay chaplain, Danny Enright, about ten years ago.

Now he's involved with the Music Club, a Men's group, and recently, the Worship Committee.

Dwight says he lives “an incredibly blessed life, with a wonderful wife (Jenny Young), the most adorable son (Tully), with another child on the way, surrounded by beautiful people and music.” A desire to be of service to others in a broader sense, and to share those blessings, is what brought him to the church.

His family reads a chalice prayer every day. Dwight, the producer, is incubating an idea of “going wild with a red pen”. He hopes to create, with others, Unitarian prayers with “concrete and colourful words to engage our imaginations and to make the prayers memorable; abstract words like peace and love need to be peppered with words like ‘cherry blossoms’...”

He feels the church can raise the spirits of those in and near it. Hugs, smiles and ideas may help self-actualize anybody interested in making the world a more beautiful place. For himself, he says, “I'm an action-oriented person who believes that the only person I can change is me. It is my goal to make the world more beautiful than it was given to me. My environmental activism is all my own: I bike to work, eat less meat, and consider the cost of everything. Widgets and trinkets take time to build, and send carbon the wrong way. I strive for material detachment, and teach that to my son. But if we're talking about a microphone or a guitar, well, that's worth every penny and minute spent with it.”

Read more about Dwight and his passion for music at: <http://www.themelodydream.com> ■



Gardening workshops with Grant Watson

Grant Watson (www.nowbc.ca, 604-872-4060)

Grant runs an edible landscaping business and is a member of the UCV environment committee. He is leading the following workshops on food gardening in Hewett Centre and the UCV food garden. They are co-sponsored by UCV and Village Vancouver (villagevancouver.ning.com).

Suggested donation is \$35, pay what you can.

Food Crops: Selection and Care

Sunday, April 18, 2-5 p.m.

Soil Fertility and Plant Health Management

Sunday, May 16, 2-5 p.m.

To register, contact Ross at rmoster@flash.net. For details, see gourmetgardens.ca ■

UCV Book Club

UCV Book Club meets at 12:30 p.m. the first Sunday of each month, except for July and August. To find out where we meet, please consult the paper taped to the window near both doorways in Hewett Centre. All are welcome.

Book Titles and Authors:

March 7, *The Realm of the Hungry Ghosts*, non-fiction, author Gabor Maté

April 4, *The Golden Mean*, fiction, author Annabel Lyon

May 2, *A Fair Country: Telling Truths about Canada*, non-fiction, author John Ralston Saul

June 6, *The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society*, fiction, authors Mary Ann Shaffer, Annie Barrows. ■

Daytimers

Wanda Justice (cljlah@shaw.ca)

Chinese characters, health and the future are subjects to stir the little grey cells of participants in Daytimer programs in March of this year of the Tiger. Bring your own bag lunch for later; programs begin at 11:00 a.m. and discussions conclude by 2:00 p.m. on the following Thursdays.

March 11: The Future Health of Canadians is the subject of Alice James's talk.

March 25: Ursula Litecke will provide Daytimers with an Introduction to Chinese Characters.

P.S. Your help is needed for an experiment in political action: please note, with name of politician, date and venue (provincial legislature, or city hall), any action or vote which you consider to be positive or useful. Leave information, addressed to DAYTIMERS, at the church office. It will be collected and used for an experiment in political action by Daytimers May 22. Details to follow. ■

UCV Library Report

Library Book Bashes

Leslie Hill

The financial success of the most recent book bash left even the church librarians astonished. Perhaps it shouldn't have. We receive generous donations all year long from the members of the congregation. We advertise the sale well in advance. The weekend of the bash, six to ten people work fourteen to sixteen hours each, sorting, weeding, organizing, arranging.



But there are factors outside our control. The sale depends on how many people attend church that Sunday, which varies with weather, the availability of lunch, even whether the choir is singing. At the end of January Book Bash, everything came together, and we raised a net profit of \$1433.00 for the Church.

The work of the Bash starts with librarians sorting through donations every Sunday.

On the Friday before the Bash, we

ask the custodian to bring up all of the bins, boxes and bags of books from the cupboard in Hirschmanova, where they are stored between sales, and to set up tables in the alcove. We arrive at 1 p.m. Friday, and work until 4 p.m., establishing the basic subject categories and their locations.

On Saturday, we arrive at 10 a.m. and work until 4 p.m. As the Bash Chairperson, I bring a healthy homemade lunch in to sustain us through the long shift. Our aim is to complete the preparation so that everything is ready for Sunday morning at 9. Old, dirty, torn, out of date and collapsing books are recycled. Ones that seem unlikely to sell are relegated to the twenty-five cent bin. Someone takes on the "special pricing" job, assigning higher or lower prices to books as we see fit.

On Sunday, we open at 9 a.m. and sell until 1 p.m. After the sale ends, we spend anywhere from two to four hours, repacking books into bins for the next sale, setting books aside to take to the Salvation Army or other service organizations, and generally tidying up. All of this is hard but interesting work in a convivial atmosphere.

The sale hours are posted ahead of

time throughout the church and in the order of service. As well, we invite book dealers because they contribute a sizeable amount to the profits. Often dealers buy large book sets or specialty items that might not be of interest to the congregation.

To people who would like to view the books before the book sellers come, we invite you to work with us on Friday and Saturday. We have a ten dollar limit per person for pre-sale purchases, but our prices are low and it is a good chance to view the collection. I would also point out that in the summer book sale, dealers are not invited in until the second or third week of sales, so that church members have first choice.

We're very grateful for the support of all who donate books, contribute time and energy, buy and encourage us in our work. ■



Unitarian Music Club

Say Good-bye to the Blues

The first meeting of the Unitarian Music Club in 2010 will be held on Monday, March 29 at 7:30 in the sanctuary. The evening will consist of a short informal concert with performances by Gerard Sata-mian, Jeffrey Wilkins and Carter Maitland, Bergamasca, and others. The music club welcomes all styles of acoustic music and performances are arranged in advance. If you would like to perform, come and we will set a date.

Everyone is welcome. When you come, please bring a contribution to refreshments.

Dates for the rest of the 2009-2010 season are: March 29, April 26, May 31, and June 21.

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

Sunday Lunches

Doris Lowe (604-435-6183)

Your group can have fun and serve the Church by serving lunch after Sunday service. For details, contact Doris.

This month's scheduled lunches:

Mar.7th - Refugee Committee (fundraising for Farahnaz)

Mar.14th - Refugee Committee

Mar.21st - Refugee Committee



New Visual Art Group: Come and Draw, Paint, Collage With Us! 2nd and 4th Saturdays, 1–3 p.m.

Where: Hewett Centre, look at the schedule to determine the room

Contact: Mary Bennett (UnitarianMary@telus.net); Laurie Damer (laurie.damer@hotmail.com);

Kathryn Gademus

We get together to do art, bring our own supplies and works in progress. We offer support, and critique if requested. This is an open studio for the novice to experienced, but it is not a course or workshop. No instruction is provided.

All UCV members and adherents are welcome.

First Friday Focus

Music: Play and Pontificate about Purpose



Randall James MacKinnon, moderator (604-582-4651)

Friday March 5th, 7–9 p.m.

Bring your favourite instruments, CDs and tapes that speak to you in a meaningful way. You'll have a chance to play some of the songs that move you. You are encouraged to speak to the rest of us in a meaningful way about a song and what it means to you. (So things don't get mis-laid, music will be clearly and carefully marked with its owner's name.)

(Note: If anyone has an iPod dock speaker system that we can use for the evening, please phone or email Randall.)

Friday Focus is generally about Play.Tonics, which means “entertaining ideas” through...

1. play—enjoying
2. tonics—refreshing
3. plato—philosophizing
4. platonic pastimes—being quite friendly in social activities for adults, consistent with Unitarian values.

Come for good discussion, and stimulating interaction. \$5.

Coffee, tea and popcorn provided ■

Thrift Sale

We are starting to plan for the 2010 Thrift Sale. After much discussion, we decided to limit the sale to the Summer Sunday Sales only. The Public Sale, usually held the weekend after Labour Day, will not take place this year. The tremendous amount of work involved brought in less money than the Summer Sundays and put a strain on our valiant, aging volunteers. These recommendations were approved by Board of Trustees.

Now we need to make our Summer Sunday Sales even more attractive to the congregation and thus even more financially productive than in 2009. A brainstorming meeting will be held on Sunday, March 7, at 12:30, in Costello. Please come with your ideas and enthusiasm!

For info, please contact Julie Cowie (604-267-1627) ■

Philosophers' Fireside Café

Bennett Mitten, moderator

(bennettmitten@shaw.ca)

Friday, March 19, 7–9 p.m., Fireside Room, and a bargain at only \$5!

This year's first Philosophers' Cafe confirmed for me two small insights.

The first is the courageously generous and decent nature of the people I have met since moving from the States to Canada five years ago. Despite the very real similarities between Americans and Canadians, there is nonetheless a subtle yet distinctive quality of being and behaviour I have found here, which has proven enormously healing for me given the passionate angers I felt all about me before. As I used to tell my friends back in New York, "Canadians are so nice you'd think there was something wrong with them." The second insight springs somewhat from the first, and followed a Philosophers' Cafe I attended last year. Despite the depth and thoughtfulness of what was shared, perhaps the most important thing about such gatherings is the gift of attentive presence a diverse group of strangers is willing to offer one another on a cold wintery Friday evening. I always leave feeling better than I did before.

On March 19, we will be talking about alternative ways of imagining God or "god."

All are welcome. ■

UCV Calendar – March 2010

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|-----------------|---|-----------------|---|
| Fri. 5 | 7 – 10 p.m., First Friday Focus, Fireside Room | Mon. 15 | 7 – 9 p.m., Sacred Circle Dancing
Fireside Room |
| Sun. 7 | After Service , Green Market, Alcove | Wed. 17 | 5:30 –7:30 p.m., Spaghetti Dinner |
| Sun. 7 | 12:30 –1:30 p.m., Forum, Environment
Committee, Fireside Room | Fri. 19 | 7 – 9 p.m., Philosopher’s Café,
Fireside Room |
| Sun. 7 | 12:30 – 2 p.m., UCV Book Club, <i>The
Realm of the Hungry Ghosts</i> , in Budny | Sun. 21 | After Service, Green Market, Alcove |
| Sun. 7 | 1:30 –3:30 p.m., Be the Change with
Mary Etey, in Lindsey-Priestley | Sun. 21 | 12:30 –1:30 p.m., Forum, Fireside Room |
| Mon. 8 | 7 – 9 p.m., Sacred Circle Dancing,
Fireside Room | Mon. 22 | 6:30 – 9:30 p.m., Sacred Circle Dancing,
Fireside Room |
| Wed. 10 | 7– 9:30 p.m., Pagan Group, Fireside
Room | Tues. 23 | 7 – 9 p.m., ARE: Sharing What We Make and
Do, with Jeannie Corsi, Fireside Room |
| Thur. 11 | 11 a.m. – 2 p.m., Daytimers, Fireside
Room | Wed. 24 | 7 – 9:30 p.m., Pagan Group, Fireside Room |
| Fri. 12 | 7 – 10 p.m., Friday Friendship Group,
Fireside Room | Thur. 25 | 11 a.m. – 2 p.m., Daytimers, Fireside Room |
| Sun. 14 | 12:30 – 1:30 p.m., Forum, Fireside
Room | Sun. 28 | 12:30 – 1:30 p.m., Forum, Fireside Room |
| | | Sun. 28 | 3 – 5 p.m., West Coast Chamber Music
Concert and Reception, Sanctuary and Hall |
| | | Mon. 29 | 6:30 – 9 p.m., UCV Music Club, Sanctuary |
| | | Tues. 30 | 7 – 9 p.m., ARE: Sharing What We Make and
Do, with Jeannie Corsi, Fireside Room. |



Forums

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

Forums are **Sundays, 12:30 – 1:30 p.m.**, except where noted, in the **Fire-side Room**. All are welcome.

Sunday, March 7 *Partner Church*

Chris Poole, former Canadian ambassador to Romania, will recount some of his experiences there as part of Partnership Church Sunday celebrations. Chris was of great help in facilitating the visit of our Transylvanian partner church’s minister.

Phillip Hewett(604-733-1857)

Sunday, March 14 *Social Justice – TBA*

March 21

UCV and the Canadian Unitarian Council :Finding Our Identity Steven Epperson

In January, Steven preached on an “Immodest Proposal” for our Canadian Unitarian movement and how UCV can participate.

March 28

Social Justice Bazaar Noon – 2 p.m.

Several working groups and committees who promote social justice in the wider community will have a table inviting the congregation to get involved in the work all of us are doing to make this a better world. Come and meet some of the most passionate people in the church. ■



Pokai Sky by Judy Villett
Art Quilt