

Inside:

P1 + P5 Solar Power Through You

P2 Who We Are

P2 Board of Directors

P2 Spiritual Directions Committee

P3 to P4 Sunday Service Schedule, Description of Services + Speakers Bio

P4 Oneness Wednesdays in August

P5 Happy Birthday

P6 to P7 Letter from Greg Scala

P8 to P10 Community Name Discussion Re-Visited

P11 Community Services Directory

Contact:

SOLAR POWER THROUGH YOU

The main astrological sign for August is Leo the lion, who is associated with the sun. August is the month the sun's power is most present, and most hoped for by the farmers who wish to bring in their grain in a dry condition. The sun symbolizes the power of light and directness, just as Leo personalities are known for speaking their minds, and it thus becomes also a symbol for full expression. This is the month when it's time to be who you are and express that in the external world, and this expression should convey the gifts of harvest to you and the world. Behind the joy of expression and harvest is also a little melancholy. August will not last forever, the summer will not last forever, and extroversion will eventually be followed by introversion. - Chris Bullock

Pursuant to what Chris has proposed for August re the Sun in Leo, I would like to add that since 2016 is the year of self-mastery, we deal with this theme in terms of the following: week one could be physical self-mastery; followed by emotional mastery, mental mastery and spiritual self-mastery. Leo represents the self's ability to aggressively pursue and get what it wants, to be seen, known and to shine in the world, very outgoing, but August ends in the last week with Virgo, a much more humble expression, devoted to service. They are not incompatible, but represent our desire and need to express ourselves in the world on all levels, in a positive yet balanced way, develop a strong positive ego and use that to serve others and the world-- -true self-mastery, me thinks..

When I think of the sun, as a meta-physician and Light Worker, I think of its spiritual nature and the god and goddess of the Sun, Helios and Vesta, whom I connect with daily. The sun, we know, is not just a flaming hot series of hydrogen explosions going off constantly; it is actually a Cosmic Being in service to the life of our solar system and beyond.. Around the sun, radiating out for millions of miles exists what is called the electronic belt, within which are numerous temples of light, governed by the Great Solar Lords and used by great masters and angels to beam frequencies of light and energy throughout the system. For example, there are

(Continued on page 5)

The Lighthouse June 2016
A Newsletter for Friends of the Church

We are a spiritual community supporting each other in exploring our personal journeys regardless of spiritual path or belief. Our community is comprised of a rich field of individual and collective energies that is ever changing and evolving.

While we are accepting of diverse expressions of belief, we recognize the interconnectedness of all things and the power of love and appreciation. We hold reverence for all life.

We welcome those who wish to share their journey with us through their insights, reflections, experience and creative self-expression.

We are open to inspiration and recognize that our openness to others' ideas enhance our own awareness and expansion.

We meet our basic human need to socialize, bond, cooperate, celebrate and have fun, in a warm-hearted way, through a variety of events and activities.

We acknowledge our opportunity to be agents of change in the world and we encourage and support service to others through individual and group activity.

We share our sacred space with the larger community.

With gratitude, we live thoughtfully on the Earth with kindness and compassion for all.

We welcome you.

Church of Truth – Community of Conscious Living
Sunday Service – 11:00 am

Working for You
Your Board of Directors

President	Brian Martin	778-430-1872
Past President	Sanjara Omoniyi	250-900-0281
Vice President	Troi Leonard	250-532-3442
Inside Maintenance	Marvelous Trudeau	250-384-2563
Secretary	Michelle Pederson	778-350-7999
Treasurer	Ron Rayner	250-474-2715
Outside Maintenance	Deborah Hawkey	250-813-1747
SDC Liaison	Bill Israel	250-744-0590

Your Spiritual Directions Committee

Laurence Beal	250-380-6429
Chris Bullock	250-384-8241
Linda Chan	250-380-6383
Jennifer Sagar	778-440-5234
D. Joan Thomas	250-721-4054
Leonard Thornton	250-598-4303

Rentals Esther Hart 250-896-5933
Newsletter dbhawkey@gmail.com

SUNDAY SERVICE SCHEDULE

Theme: Solar Power through You

AUGUST 7: From Sport: Ego vs. Egotism, Egocentrism

From tracks of symbol use in the past, representations of the sun have been used to refer to the egoic monad of the individual. In old Greece, Hercules was a solar hero. In these hot summer months, sport heroes are born out of the competitive arenas, each having the challenge of maintaining balance with new scopes of social interchange, hero worship. What balance can be found in such heat? What is identity, what is character, what is personality, what is social integrity?

Moderator: Don Morris
Meditation: Linda Chan
Speaker: Laurence Beal
Greeter: TBA
Coordinator: Laurence Beal

AUGUST 14

Moderator: D. Joan Thomas
Meditation: Norm Smookler with various flutes
Speaker: Maria Escude
Greeter: Bob Winkenhower
Coordinator: D. Joan Thomas

About Maria Escude: A singer, composer, and long-time member of CoT, Maria was a member of our first choir and later choir director. She was also a writer of the early history of the Church, Producer with DJoan of A Night in Spain in 1993 with comedy routines involving members - Marie Logan, Bob Winkenhower, Brian Martin and a host of others no longer with us. She also collaborated with DJoan on providing CoT services for a period of five years with a wide range of speakers, including Rev. Greg Skala, Rev. Joan Hopper and the Rev. Gordon Thurston as well as speakers from other faiths and ideologies. The success of those services enabled the CoT to remain in situ and membership rose from less than a dozen to a healthy number.

AUGUST 21: Solar Power and the Mind

This week we will focus on the power of the sun as it manifests on the mental plane and influences our minds, individually and collectively. Clearly the sun is a great physical center of light and power; it is also a powerful luminary on the mental plane. Mighty Helios, the God of the Sun and the great solar lords, radiate great waves of illumination and wisdom through great temples in the electronic belt (spiritual aura) around the sun, which extends for many millions of miles into space. Light strikes our retinas and has many physical effects in the body; light also floods our mental bodies and all our chakras with many different frequencies of prana at different times during the day which effect each of us in different ways, depending on our openness and receptivity. As our minds expand and grow, we receive greater and greater

mental light, illumination, understanding and wisdom, which need to blend with the love-wisdom and knowing of the heart, governed by the Goddess of the Sun, Vesta. This week, let us endeavor to be truly open-minded so that we may receive more of the brilliance of our spiritual Sun and become even more shining bright, illumined and free!

Moderator: Jack Hyatt
Meditation: Leonard Thornton
Speaker: Peter Tongue
Greeter: Joanna Wilkinson
Coordinator: Leonard Thornton

About Peter Tongue: Having spent thirty years in two top ranking Independent schools in Canada and the UK, Peter uses his wealth of experience to gain a profound understanding of the complexities of the human condition. For the last ten years, Peter has been engaged in counseling individuals and groups in resolving their difficulties in life as well as assisting them in awakening to their own spiritual path. His heart-centered understanding of science and spirituality offer a vital and powerful pathway to successful living in this chaotic and confusing time. For five years, Peter hosted a weekly radio show, "Awakening to Conscious Co-Creation", on the 7th Wave Network of Voice America. He interviewed experts in their respective fields within the central theme of understanding higher consciousness. For the last two years, Peter has been helping people gain an understanding of the Gene Keys process through one on one counseling sessions and group workshops and this morning will provide us with an insight into this fascinating transmission providing us with a profound opportunity to reveal our inherent genius and deepest potential-to fulfill our life's purpose!

AUGUST 28: Community Service: "Father Sun: The Archetype of Father"

Members of the Men's Circle will offer all those present an opportunity to go deeper into the father experience, in whatever way it has been present in their lives. Expect a creative and participatory event!

Moderators (and Coordinators): Lynn Gordon
Meditation: Troi Leonard
Participation by members of the Men's Circle
Greeter: Marvelous Trudeau
Coordinator: Chris Bullock

Following our Community Service will be a Finger Food Potluck Lunch.

Oneness Wednesdays in August:

Meditation Circle --- August 3, 10, 17, 24 + 31, 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Everyone Welcome to Drop-In!

Free or by Donation

Info: <http://cotvictoria.ca/oneness/> or Linda at [250-380-6383](tel:250-380-6383)

(Continued from page 1)

gigantic healing temples, music temples, temples of all the Great Rays like the golden Temple of Illumination, the Rose Temple of love, the Violet Temple of freedom, etc., etc.

We as human beings are receiving these energies, to the degree that we are open and allow, and expressing them in our own way on physical, emotional, mental and spiritual levels. On the physical level we receive, for example, the warmth and vitality of the sun which sustains all physical life and provides life sustenance for millions of species. It is said there are 33 types of prana that are beamed at different times during the day. On the

emotional level we receive the feeling energies of warmth, love and harmony. On the mental level we receive illumination, understanding and knowledge and on the spiritual, we receive the fiery energies of spirit which give us the will and energy to express our true natures. Many types of energy are beamed through the temples and, during sleep we may actually go to these temples for instruction, healing, etc.

I also understand that Aug. 8th is the Lion's gate opening to the star Sirius, creating the 888 portal (numerological year is 8+ 8th mo and day), which bring in a major influx of harmonic energies. Sirius had a strong connection to Isis for the ancient Egyptians, as well as the Aztecs. In the Christian tradition the 888 has a strong connection to the Christ, baptism, resurrection and redemption. So there it is; a powerful solar power month indeed. More power to each of you in all your endeavors, esp. for our services...
- Leonard Thornton

HAPPY BIRTHDAY
We Celebrate with YOU!



AUGUST

Don Morris Aug-15
Genevieve Eden Aug-16
Ron Rayner Aug-17
Linda Chan Aug-20
Elsie Mary Poliquin Aug-25
Leonard Thornton Aug-26
Jennifer Sager Aug 29
Patricia Huot Aug-30

Letter from Greg Scala:

Dear Friends,

I am aware that the suggestion that our Church of Truth Community of Conscious Living needs to change its name has recently been discussed, as has happened before. I've expressed my thoughts about this in years past, but I'd like to make a fresh try at laying out some points about the matter for your consideration:

1. As far as how we may be perceived by our community, by passersby on the street, and by newcomers who try one of our services, far more important than a changed name are what we do, the messages and attitudes we promote, word-of-mouth reportage about us, our community outreach, and our reputation.
2. Personally, I would be disappointed to see us lose "Church" as part of our name. A church has a certain broadly-acknowledged status. Churches are seldom hassled about freedom-of-speech issues, while I know that other groups designated differently sometimes are. I've been very sorry to witness that, even here in Canada, some groups have been prevented from scheduling the speakers they wanted to schedule.
3. Churches are granted a significant break when it comes to paying property taxes.
4. Many people who feel fed up with some type of restrictive or off-putting church that has failed to meet their needs still look for a church that they would love to attend instead. Many tired-of other-churches people have told me over the years that they were overjoyed to find our Church of Truth Community of Conscious Living. I sense that there is so much healing that the world needs in this regard. The ones needing healing most may not find us if they are looking at names of places that just seem to describe philosophical or charitable groups. Some of our members contend that prospective members might not even try attending our services because our name includes the word "Church." I suspect, though, that there are at least as many prospective members who would be attracted to our services precisely because they've heard we are just the sort of church they have long sought. I myself was attracted for the very reason that I was looking for something better than I'd found at previous churches I'd attended.
5. Our church was granted the first charter in Canada of the denomination known as The Church of Truth, which was founded by Dr. Albert Grier in 1912. This was a significant honour, one for which others in Canada wished they had been selected. I believe the charter came to us during the Board Presidency of Maria Escudé. She could perhaps be consulted about all that went into that honour and selection. The denomination is small and we have not made frequent contact with affiliated groups, though we could in the future. I am aware of at least six in Canada that sprang from the same roots. A similar number in the U.S.A. included a large congregation in New York City as well as the Pasadena, California, congregation where our long-time Minister Richard Di Castri received training. There is potential for strength-in-numbers and for future sharing of speakers and ideas that could be valuable for us.
6. Apart from some people not agreeing that the word "church" is worth retaining, some apparently don't care for the word "truth." I was not there back in the late 1800s and early 1900s when the kind of philosophy that gave rise to groups like ours came to be popularly known as "The Truth Movement" as well as "The New Thought Movement." I can't honestly say what other choices were proposed as names and whether or not I'd have voted for using "truth" in a name. I can tell you that it doesn't particularly bother me. I don't feel a need to drop the word from our

name. I can also tell you that, based on reading and studying I have done, the early New Thought organizers definitely were not making any sort of conceited claim. They seem to have been, rather, taking a stand for the notion that individuals could discover their own personal truth. Dr. Albert Grier, the Church of Truth founder and one of my personal favourites among the early New Thought writers, promoted “a vision of the Truth as it is revealed . . . but not as a finality.” This was a bold and wonderful vision, encouraging people to think that they actually could accept what was personally revealed to themselves, what made sense to themselves individually, that they need not be afraid to revise spiritual understanding and practices as their thinking matured, and that the final word on religious or philosophical truth had not been set down unalterably thousands of years ago. Some New Thought organizers also have made much of the ancient Aramaic word for truth, translated as “that which opens possibilities; that which is strong and vigorous and that which acts in keeping with universal harmony.” Those last nineteen quoted words would be too much to put on the sign over our door, but they aren't a bad slogan for what we encourage people to understand, in my opinion.

7. I once was active, along with my wife Beth, in the Le Leche League, which was an organization founded to promote “Good Mothering Through Breastfeeding.” I mention this because I witnessed over the years how an organization's strong and well-regarded message seemed, in my opinion, to get somewhat diluted when there was a growing attempt to “please all of the people all of the time.” The organization started to promote parenting styles, disposable diapers, etc., and I felt clarity of focus got sacrificed. It is possible that our Church of Truth Community of Conscious Living could benefit from pondering that sort of cautionary tale. I doubt that we can ever be “all things to all people.” Changing our name because a new “hook” might be supposed to capture new attendees may lose us other new attendees and lead to frustration. I would rather see us move toward clarity of what we do and the message we promote, and leave our name alone.

8. One additional point is that I don't think it is fiscally prudent at this time to take on the expense of a name change.

9. When our group changed its name years ago to the present one, Church of Truth Community of Conscious Living, that was carefully chosen as a sort of two-part name that many of us thought was a wonderful compromise, giving members a “choice of handles,” in effect. I believe there was a sincere hope that that change would settle the matter and that all members would, going forward, feel able to respect the non-identical feelings of all members about our name and even about our history.

Thank you for your kind attention to my viewpoints. I do wish to conclude by emphasizing that it is the people I've met at The Church of Truth Community of Conscious Living who mean the most to me; but I do have an opinion about our name and I like the current one.

With much love,
Submitted by Greg Skala

Community Name Discussion Re-Visited:

By Linda Chan

A few months have transpired since we had a series of discussions during Oneness Wednesdays in March and April, at our community's retreat and also at our Community Sunday Service to explore the potential that our COT, Community of Conscious Living holds for us as a church. Members of our church community explored: What works well? What can be improved? How can we serve your needs better? How can you bring in your gifts and talents? What are your questions and insights? As one of the organizers, attendee and the transcriber of these sessions, it was a joy to be a part of this deep sharing of views and opinions expressed by members of our community as we move forward as a church.

Our Community Name "Church of Truth - Community of Conscious Living" was something that several members of our Community felt did not work well - i.e. "COT sounds like hard core Christian church"; "Truth is a dogmatic word in my view" and this discussion of the Community Name generated a lot of differing views and opinions ... In re-reading over the transcriptions of the notes regarding our Community Name discussion, one of our member's views and opinions has really resonated with me. I have also done my research and I agree with what he has to share.

" I am one of the people who questions the name - I've done my research - From what I gather, we have no connection any longer to the Church of Truth movement in North America. We don't have a minister, we have no connection, we have no franchise fee to the Church of Truth Community in North America. We are a stand-alone community - correct me if I'm wrong. The connotation of the Church of Truth would be like "Church of the Redeemer" or "Church of St. Mary's". Connected to churches all my life -- The connotation when people come by is "Church of Truth" - These are people who know all the truth. I know that there is more depth than that but the connotation is, "People in there hold the truth" as if every religion holds the truth. We don't hold the truth - The truth is out there for each individual to discover for him or herself , that is my feeling. The perception out there is "this community holds the truth" and I've had friends who have said "no - no , I'm not going there." I say," let me give you the brochure"..... There is a barrier that needs to be crossed if we want to reach out further into the community and to draw people in, then we need to have a talk about this. We need to have a mission statement that is really clear - mounted on the wall. We have to do our PR work out in the community. We have to look at what the name "Church of Truth" is doing to our community regardless of what it means to you individually."

I am particularly drawn to explore the last statement " We have to look at what the name 'Church of Truth' is doing to our community regardless of it means to you individually." and I would like to address this in my article.

I am of the belief that what we call ourselves as a community is extremely important. It is our identity While our future survival as a church is dependent on continuing to attract or retain members and while one of our missions, I feel, is to connect with other churches and spiritual communities as part of our wider outreach, we seriously need to consider a community name that people can easily relate to and which clearly tells people who we are and what we are about. We need a Community Name which is aligned to our Declaration of Principles (Purpose and Mission), our Constitution, where we are headed as a church community, our belief and values, what we collectively

aspire to and is reflective of what we do in our Sunday Service Program and at Oneness Wednesdays.

We need a Community Name which people can react to positively to or are, at least, curious about. We currently have the name 'Church of Truth' which does turn people off and which elicits responses such as "You think you know what's best for the world" or "Who do you think you are?..." , as many of our members have told us and this is /could be a barrier for people to fully engage or participate with us; The use of the word 'Church' in our Community Name conjures up the following expectations: religious activities, dogma, hymns, Christianity, minister standing at pulpit, Jesus/God, etc. and people attending our Sunday Services for the first time may be confused or possibly disappointed because it is so different from what happens at a conventional church; What we offer in our Sunday Services is a very unique collective expression of Spirit and the word 'Church' in our name does not do a good PR job in setting us apart from other church services in this regard or highlighting our assets. Consequently, we may have to spend considerable time and effort to correct any misconceptions people may hold or we may simply not have the opportunity to do so.

Oneness Wednesdays, a free or by donation weekly meditative or reflective COT-CCL offering which Pat Miller and I started in January 2008 has been successful in securing a wide selection of facilitators from our own church community as well as a rich diversity of Victoria's spiritual groups or individuals. Our Oneness Wednesday team has hosted about 40 evenings a year for 8+ years and our offerings were varied and eclectic. We are very grateful for the name 'Oneness Wednesdays' a name suggested by our current COT-CCL President Brian Martin and embraced by both Pat and me. The name 'Oneness Wednesday' has served us very well, both in keeping us on track in the selection of our facilitators and the choice of topic areas to explore and more importantly, in inspiring our facilitators and attendees to take part in our free or by donation Oneness Wednesdays weekly offerings. Oneness Wednesday has also served as an entry point to our church community - Some of our members first attended Oneness Wednesday prior to attending a Sunday Service and becoming members at our church.

We also need a Community Name that our members can readily resonate with or aspire to. Many of our members don't appreciate or resonate with the word 'Church' as part of our Community's Name ... Over the last few months, many of our members expressed that they previously attended traditional churches and for them, it was not a positive or enriching experience. Some people even expressed that the word "Church" represents to them patriarchy, Christianity and oppression, things that they do not identify with. The use of the word 'Truth' in our Community Names may also be somewhat puzzling to people since within our COT-CCL Community, we rarely spend time reflecting on truth. In my previous article, I pointed out that on the front of our "Who We Are" brochure is the following, " We are a spiritual community supporting each other in exploring our personal journeys regardless of spiritual path or belief. " Nowhere on this brochure or on our web site under "Who We Are" do we talk about Truth; On our revised constitution (dated April 6, 2014) the word 'Truth' does not come up in either the purpose of the Society (in Article 2) or The Declaration of Principles (in Article 3). In our Sunday Service Program or at Oneness Wednesday, the focus is not on Truth.... However, our past association with the Church of Truth International, the

word "truth" is reflected in the past constitution of our community as "The spiritual authority for the church is "is John 8:32: "You shall know the Truth, and the Truth shall make you free." I don't feel this community believed this statement and that was the reason it was struck off of our revised constitution. Our Community's beliefs around truth is that Truth is individual and each person is responsible for finding his or her own truth.

We live in the day of computers, and internet research is at our finger tips. If members of our community or a prospective member did a thorough google search on Churches with Truth as part of their name, visited web sites and viewed YouTubes and Facebook pages , I think that they would discover that we are a very unique church, very different from the 20 + churches under the umbrella of the Church of Truth International whose vision is to support Christ centred ministries to awaken the Christ within. As a church community, we pride ourselves on being accepting of all spirituality and religions. We embrace diversity and love it when people share their spiritual journeys which are very different from our own journey - their struggles, their triumphs, etc. Many of our members draw spiritual inspiration from various sources (Buddhism, Native American Spirituality, Eastern Spirituality, Tao, Hindu, Yoga, Amma, Krishnamurti, Eckhart Tolle, Astrology....).

In order to successfully move forward in the future, we need to attract younger people to our church community. An update to the 'Church of Truth, Community of Conscious Living' name represents a good start for this purpose. One of our younger members has revealed in an email that " From what I have seen, the younger generation is ALL About Community and not about Church and 'Religion'. She added that she feels a strong sense of community that is supportive and uplifting is what is important and this is what she experiences in being part of our community.

As we move forward in our exploration of a new Community Name, I feel that a committee needs to be struck to explore and delve into the ramifications of any name change (legal, financial, other). In my previous articles, I have proposed that the building name 'Church of Truth' remain the same while our Community Name "Church of Truth, Community of Conscious Living' changes to 'Community of Conscious Living' or something else to more accurately reflect who we are and what we aspire to as a church community. Re: legal ramification - I don't feel that 'Church' needs to be part of our 'Community Name' (i.e. Truth Centre) in order to retain our church status re: property taxes, charitable donations, etc. however there may be other legal requirement that need to be met which we need to be aware of (i.e. 75% Approval of Name Change) . Re: financial costs - if we retained our 'building name' Church of Truth and chose Community of Conscious Living as our Community Names, I envision the cost would be well under \$500.00. However, If we chose a different Community Name then costs would be higher. Re: Other - The change in the Community Name would need to be reflected in our Constitution, and our Word Press Site, ENews, Sunday Service Programs, Invoices, and any other documents and communication amongst ourselves and to the wider community.

COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTORY FOR CHURCH of TRUTH MEMBERS

For information only. These events and services are not endorsed by the Church of Truth, Community of Conscious Living.

Deborah Hawkey Technical Writing 250-813-1747 writeitright@shaw.ca

Sales & Marketing, Career Coaching, Websites, Desktop Publishing, Resumes & Cover Letters

Laura Lane Celebration Pianist 250-893-9656

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Michelle Pedersen Make-up Artist

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Marvelous Trudeau, Escort 250-384-2563

Will take people to 1st A.A. meeting

Linda Chan, Coordinator, Spring Ridge Commons 250-380-6383

<http://springridgecommons.ca> lindainvic@gmail.com

Visit Spring Ridge Commons, our community urban food forest/permaculture garden – corner of Chambers Street and Gladstone Avenue (in Fernwood)

Volunteer or join us for tea and conversation in the garden at Bee in the Garden – Every Sunday afternoon from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

