



THE GREAT SEA of TRUTH



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One day as I was sending out the updated Members List it struck me that I had you all listed on my computer under C of Truth. This led me to think about the Sea of Truth. Of the many truths we believe as a group and individually. From the Statement of Belief in this newsletter we accept that 'we are a spiritual community of individuals, while accepting diverse expressions of belief' (our own truths) 'that are ever changing and evolving'. 'We accept the interconnectedness of all things and the power of love and appreciation.' It has been good to really re-read our statement of belief in this newsletter.

'Church of Truth'—some love the name others find it a bit pretentious "Do we feel we have a corner on the TRUTH???"- Of course we are anything but an exclusive community who feel we have THE TRUTH. What is truth anyway? Is there any absolute truth? After looking into this I really am not sure. Our fascinating diverse SDC ran with ideas and truths of their own with interesting results.

As for me I began to think about various religions and wondered if they, while having different approaches and paths, really had the same intent. A little reading and some contemplation led me to this conclusion 'Everyone is God' is the commonly held truth behind all World Religions. GOD is ALL IN ALL. Or whatever you choose to name the Creative Force or Source. A person's ultimate and real identity is God. It is not difficult to see why religions did not say this aloud over the centuries. It is quite amazing we are saying it now!

It is in Judaism the core of the Kabbalah *batinl*, the hidden meanings of Islam *vajrayana*, in Buddhism the hidden teachings of the Buddha, and in Christianity Jesus revealing the mysteries of the Kingdom of Heaven *recognized the conscious recognition of the Eternal Divine Presence within*. Early in the history of Christianity the existence of a very mystical interpretation of the teachings of Christ whereby his message is not merely that he himself is God but that everyone else is God as well. (My feeling is that this would not have caught on too well!) Continued on page 4

The Lighthouse December 2011

A Newsletter for Friends of the Church The Church of Truth - Community of Conscious Living

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 may 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.

Sunday Service - 11 am

Working for you - Your Board of Directors

President	Esther Hart	250-896-5933
Past President/SDC Liaison	Brian Martin	778-430-1872
Vice President/Outside Maintenance	Patti Huot	250-385-0941
Treasurer	Jan Falkowski	250-370-9192
Secretary	Cynthia Pattison	778-433-0261
Rentals	Esther Hart	250-896-5933
Inside Maintenance	Tracy Koebel	250-857-8185

Your Spiritual Directions Committee Members are:

Trish Coleman	250-721-1973
Laurence Beal	250-380-6249
Marvelous Trudeau	250-384-2563
Bernadine Sperling	250-384-5721
Susan Blackwood	250-889-5335

Community Care Liaison – Lorna Rennie 361-2079

Newsletter—Deborah Hawkey Email dbhawkey@gmail.com

Newsletter Submissions welcomed by the 21st. of each month

Linda Chan <http://cotvictoria.ca>

Rev. Joan Hopper Pastoral Care for free consultation call 250-384-3637

Sunday Service Schedule for December 2011

Theme: Sea/C of Truth

December 4 **THE ANCIENT WAY**

Coordinator: Susan Blackwood
Moderator: Susan Blackwood
Meditation: Pashta MaryMoon
Speaker: Pashta MaryMoon
Greeter: Pat Chapman

December 11 **COMMUNICATION OF THE HEART**

Coordinator: Bernadine Sperling
Moderator: John Hutton
Meditator: Trish Coleman
Speaker: Rev. Greg Skala
Greeter: Bernadine Sperling

December 18 **MANY RIVERS ONE SEA**

Coordinator: Marvelous Trudeau
Moderator: Bob Winkenhower
Meditation: Patti Huot
Panel: Stephen Kinsella -- John Hutton
Greeter: Marvelous Trudeau

December 25 **OUT OF THE DARKNESS-INTO THE LIGHT**

Coordinator: Patricia Coleman
Moderator: Hendrik de Pagter
Meditation: Hendrik de Pagter
Facilitator: Patricia Coleman
Greeter: Pat Chapman



If all religions are true, then what is all the fighting about? Probably it is politics, control, and distortions I read in my search-“The carnage inflicted upon the world in the name of religion has precious little to do with genuine religion or Spirit. People fight over doctrine and dogma: we don't see people being murdered over attaining divine union! A ‘religious war’ is a large-scale egotism gone berserk.”

“The heart of every religion has a specific gift to offer humankind; a unique viewpoint which enriches the world. Christianity stresses love and sacrifice; Judaism, the value of spiritual wisdom and tradition. Islam emphasizes universal brotherhood and equality while Buddhism advocates compassion and mindfulness. The Native American tradition teaches reverence for the earth and the natural world surrounding us. Vedanta or the Hindu tradition stresses the oneness of existence and the need for direct mystical experience.”

Perhaps Truth comes filtered through the limited human mind. Light, when put through a prism, appears in various colours when observed from different angles. But the light always remains the same pure light. Can this be compared with spiritual truth?

What about other beliefs?

Guess what belief system this comes from? The Divine is all around us. It is the fabric from which the universe is made. Everything in the material world - and all other worlds - is a manifestation of the Divine.

Life is born out of love and unconditional Love is another name for the Divine.

OR Where do these beliefs emanate from?

- All that exists is derived from a single source of divine energy. God is all that exists. God is at once the entire universe, and transcends the universe as well.
- A belief in the importance of uniting to preserve the health of the earth, which is often, looked upon as Gaia, (Mother Earth) a living entity.
- Since all is God, then only one reality exists, and all religions are simply different paths to that ultimate reality. The universal religion can be visualized as a mountain, with many spiritual paths to the summit. Some are hard; others easy. There is no one correct path. All paths eventually reach the top. They anticipate that a new universal religion which contains elements of all current faiths will evolve and become generally accepted worldwide.
- As the Age of Aquarius unfolds, a New Age will develop. This will be a utopia in which there is world government, and end to wars, disease, hunger, pollution, and poverty. Gender, racial, religious and other forms of discrimination will cease. People's allegiance to their tribe or nation will be replaced by a concern for the entire world and its people. ???? Whose beliefs ?

So what do you believe? What is your Truth or belief?

Well that is all wonderful and pretty high-minded I thought to myself but what is my truth while still being on this human plane??? Not just what are my opinions but what is my truth? Is what I believe really true or just that I believe it to be true at this time?

I believe I am a spiritual being having a human experience What is the truth of all that ?
I know my purpose at this time is to love. I want to think and act in a loving manner from my heart. BE LOVE. (I know I don't always make it—but- I am a work in progress! While judgments may enter my mind I can let them go more quickly than I used to do.

I believe Love without Truth however is sentimentality and it is not really love and I also know that Truth without Love is brutality and does not compute with the truth of my Being. I believe that each person must find the truth that is right for him or her. I feel that in all that happens there may not be justice---but there is some kind of Divine Order and it JUST IS!

My truth is that I truly feel one with the beauty of the natural world around me and am in awe of this universe, planet, and this place this flower- this moment in time. My truth is I am 80 years old and I can't do all the things I used to do – I say that's Ok and I say it's the truth but sometimes it sucks.

I have no idea what happens when you leave this mortal coil but I know it's perfect. My truth is I am part of a wonderful family and I treasure each one as I do my friends. I know when I sense a presence, an aura, of truth and integrity in others, as has often happened, especially lately, it is beyond words. It is a wonderful feeling this soul-connection brings.

My truth is I believe in a spiritual dimension outside myself but connected somehow to me from within. I talk to these presences often. Call them angels, Holy Spirit, Universal Mind or Source. I know this is real for me. I have come to believe that there is no absolute truth, excepting the truth that there is no absolute truth. I also recognize that the only constant is there will be change.

As Susan says our individual truths are different and always changing. This month's journey has made me really go off the deep end into the sea of truth and it feels remarkable! Join us!

We look at THE SEA OF TRUTH (S) this month under the headings of:

The Ancient Way with a fascinating speaker **Pashta MaryMoon**.

We look forward to the return of **Greg Skala** who has always spoken with truth, love, and integrity since I have known him- under the title- **Communication of the Heart**.

Many Rivers-One Sea will be addressed by a panel including two fairly new-comers to our unique community, **John Hutton and Stephen Kinsella**.

This month will prove to be a thought provoking, spiritual journey, into our C (SEA) of TRUTH The final Sunday will take us out of the darkness and into the light. It's the Winter Solstice.

Sunday December 25th Into the Light Everyone has different ideas about celebrations at this time. Some love it, some find it very stressful, some ignore it, some question the whole birth of Jesus idea and others rejoice in it. Some celebrate Chanukah. Whatever your attitude and feelings are, we welcome them. If you feel Christmas is just a myth consider this: "Myths are truths that cannot be told in words, but can only be felt in the heart." So--No matter what your beliefs may be, you are invited to take part with your heart as we celebrate the coming of the light.

And that's the truth!



UP CLOSE with Marie Logan

I was born at Royal Jubilee Hospital, in Victoria and soon after, adopted. I know nothing of my birth parents but bless them for a strong set of genes. My adopted father was in the RCN and saw action in the Atlantic and Egypt, ending the war by peace-keeping in Hong Kong. He came home with TB and was hospitalized soon after my adoption. Mum bought a house near the hospital so we could walk to see Daddy every day. It was an isolation ward so I'd be left in my buggy and later outside, within eyeshot, to play. Daddy came home when I was four. Now unable to work, he augmented his small navy pension making jewelry and plush animals. Mum would not go to work until I was in school. Daddy died when I was 9.

School was not my forte. The teachers were very strict/regimented - a lot of them had been in the war, so could be forgiven to some degree, but throwing chalk and blackboard erasers at us and being hit or strapped seemed a little excessive! Mum and Dad did try to help me along but I really didn't enjoy school until Victoria High - there I excelled and loved it.

When I was 6, mom enrolled me in Highland dancing. A recital that year was the only time my Dad was able to see me perform. I was so proud knowing he was in the audience. At 12 my choice of instrument was the bagpipes - the Scottish scene was to play a huge role in my life.

Age 11, my first babysitting job was 3 youngsters, 5, 3 and 1½. A six hour stint yielded me ten cents - I thought I was rich - my mother was not amused! During high school I worked at Stelk's Hardware, Friday nights and all day Saturday. I thought I'd died and gone to heaven. Four days after graduation I secured a job in Dietary at RJH. It was perfect - not much typing and a lot of multi-tasking (a perfect job for a Gemini). Over the years I worked in different areas of the hospital and was extremely lucky to be able to see and participate in an autopsy, weighing the organs as they were handed to me and later to observe an open heart surgery. Neither were usual for a steno to view - I just knew the right people to make it happen. Fabulous experience and opportunity.

At 21, I started singing with a vocal coach. Mr. Gregory invited me to sing in his choir at First United Church. Another wonderful opportunity. Every Sunday we would sing an anthem, the complexity/bigness of the music was exciting. Mr. Gregory gave his students (at least this one) such an appreciation for the voice and how it worked and for music in general - all I wanted to do was sing. I did audition and was accepted in Victoria Operatic Society. Singing and acting was a blast. This same year Mum left home to be married. Len was the best thing that happened to us. He loved us to bits and we adored him. A friend and I rented the family home from Mum. I took the train to Montreal for Expo and at age 24 went to Japan for their Expo. I wasn't much of a traveler, but I really wanted to see both Expos.

Really wanting to be a singer, I enrolled in a 3 week acting course in Drumheller, Alberta, back-to-back with a 3 week intense singing workshop at the Shawnigan School of Music - which was nearly my undoing. I was surrounded by professional singers and went home every night and cried my heart out because I couldn't produce a sound. You see, they had been taught a completely different method of singing and I just couldn't relate. One lunch time a woman in the class asked if she could have lunch with me. I was so shy and embarrassed at my lack of performance experience that I had alienated myself from the rest of the class, so her request was welcomed. I never did know her name and always referred to her as "my saving angel".

One dark and rainy day, I took business cards to every church in town, offering my services as a soloist - no response. Two months later I received a call from The Victoria Truth Centre, asking me to be their relief soloist - the beginning of a wonderfully long association with them. I also became a steady soloist for The Christian Science Church for several years. A friend and I went to Vancouver for an opera concert. We'd enjoyed it so much that over coffee we wondered if others would like to come with us. Judith could sell ice-cubes to the North Pole....we found ourselves on the stairs of Vancouver Opera. Coincidentally, they were looking for a tour company to bring people from the Island; this was the birth of Theos Tours. We saw ourselves as business women but actually gave our tours away. We both took the tours to Vancouver and Seattle for operas, ballets and symphonies. Jude left Theos after a year because we weren't making enough money! I couldn't leave Theos, it felt like abandoning ones child, so I plodded along on my own for 5 years. To make ends meet I took on extra work, I was still at the Royal Jubilee Hospital (RJH) - evening ward clerk at Eric Martin Institute (EMI), tours on the weekends, a 5 AM paper route, housekeeping for a couple of friends and because I saw myself eventually leaving the hospital which would mean giving up my pension, I bought an old house with 3 rental units, which would now afford me a new pension plan. I was averaging 4 hours sleep a night and really getting burned out.

My boss at EMI suggested I phone her ex, as he was looking for a small business. It was a match; with the condition I would continue the tours for one more year. Perfect! – This enabled me to say a slow goodbye to Theos, still enjoy the tours and the people yet not have to worry about money. I left all my extra jobs (except the rental unit and went, full-time as a day clerk at EMI. After a year I really needed a change, EMI kept my position for me and I went into the RJH garden - a 6 month relief job - big drama--nothing short of hell! But through it all, I fell in love with gardening. I took 6 weeks holidays and went to Scotland/England, came back and handed in my notice. I was going to be a gardener if it was the last thing I did!

Truth Centre to the rescue - their minister, Emma Smiley, called to say their gardener had died and would I consider taking the position - I sure would! The Truth Centre is four acres of high profile property - I had 20 customers by the end of that year - 1981. Twenty customers were easy to handle by myself, but if Logan's Garden Maintenance was to grow any bigger I'd have to hire someone - OK let's see what happens. I never did advertise, it seemed business cards and word of mouth was all that was need. LGM had 80 customers when I decided to sell it. But back to 1981:

A young man came to The Truth Centre to audition for the position of relief pianist. His name was Richard DiCastrì - the very same young man who would become our (Church of Truth) founding minister. At the same time, I decided to grow the family home too. Another huge saga, not to go into here but a very unscrupulous contractor announced that the money was gone and so was he. Finally found another contractor to complete to work. I was determined to move back into my home by Christmas - 9 months later I did. Although it was late notice and I knew maybe only a few friends could come, I wanted to throw a housewarming party for the New Year. To my joy everyone invited came, Judith even came over from Vancouver for the occasion.

In 1987 my beloved step-dad died and Mum wasn't well. I had been looking for a student(s) to rent a couple of rooms in my home. A young woman and her friend answered the call. That young woman turned out to be, Laura Lane, our church pianist - her mother was, Leona, my "saving angel" from eleven years before. What an incredibly small world. Some of you will know Leona, as she has sung at the church several times. Leona and Cyril are still very good friends of mine.

In 1988 Mum died - a devastating experience which knocked my world for a loop. I sold LGM but kept one customer....Vern's wife had died suddenly and I became his girl-Friday. I continued to do his garden but also, his cooking, sewing, housekeeping, books and later lived at

this place caring for him with 2 others until his death. He was a wonderful friend - I miss him dearly. I did go back to gardening - some older customers wanted me back.

In 1999, a long time dream of singing opera was fulfilled - I was accepted for the chorus of Pacific Opera. What a gift! The year 2000 brought one wing-ding of a party and a new wood floor to our church. This year also brought me another life changing gift - at a concert friends introduced me to Sue. Two years later we bought a wee house with a big yard, Villa Paradiso. We both retired and found ourselves travelling - Greece, Hawaii, England/Scotland, Viet Nam/Cambodia and this year New Zealand/Australia. Another dream: we both love animals and adopt older beasts as it is harder to find homes for them. We now have 3 cats and 2 dogs.

Life is Fabulous. We are extremely fortunate and give thanks everyday for the gifts we've been given. Oh, yes, it seems I don't create as much drama - don't have time - ha, ha!

Marie

Come make a joyful noise this December.



Rehearsals will commence at 9:45 am sharp on Sunday mornings Dec. 4, 11 and 18. Please arrive a few minutes early so we can start on time.

We will be practicing "One Earth, One Sky" and "Celtic Blessing". The plan is to perform both of them on Dec. 18th and again on Dec. 25 if there are sufficient carolers in attendance at the Christmas service.

The Celtic Blessing is a bit challenging and may not be accessible to all singers. One Earth, One Sky is much more approachable. So come and sing as only you can and we will all be blessed.

See and hear you on the 4th.
Brian Martin

Happy Birthday
We Celebrate With You!

DECEMBER

Joan Hopper	Dec-12
Sanjara Omoniyi	Dec-31
Gordon Thurston	Dec-31



Oneness Wednesdays in December:

Transforming How We Engage with Our World: ConversationWorks

Facilitator: Christopher Bowers



Church of Truth, Community of Conscious Living
111 Superior Street, Victoria, BC
7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
Free or by Donation

[50% of donations to the church and 50% to Outreach Project

December 7th – ConversationWorks on a personal basis: Questions that change lives and open opportunities in every conversation. An introduction to a new listening style. This is not an add-on to 'how we engage in conversation', but a new approach to replace the small talk and social banter, that rarely goes below the surface. We'll be introduced to the tools, both hand-held and web-based and use them to engage with each other around themes or metaphors important to each person.

December 14th - ConversationWorks bring clarity, insight and collaboration 'Collaboration is the new black'. We will use ConversationWorks tools to explore issues and initiatives important to each participant. This is a shorter version of the Collaboration Board that ConversationWorks offers monthly at the Union Club.

How often are you in a diverse group of strangers, where one gets to mention an issue to them, and the rest of the people in the group are solely focused on how they can help you resolve that? That's what [Collaboration Board] is to me

— Christopher Bowers

Bio for Christopher Bowers: Community developer – Coordinator of Green Drinks Victoria – Creator of workshop series called Power of Personal Story, Conversations with Roger, and Women in Change Principal of ConversationWorks – produce new models of communication – Created MobilizingHope.com a container for stories that inspire. Social entrepreneur – Created the suite of tools, ConversationWorks.ca dedicated to increasing social capital for people of all ages – Executive director of Community School Interviews, a registered charity, designed to help students (all ages in fact) understand how the wider world works – Created a social network to connect resources to progressive projects.- Award winning educator – Worked in classrooms for over 30 years.- Received a Marshall McLuhan Distinctive Teacher Award for Innovation in Education.
Contact info for Christopher: info@conversationworks.ca

Winter Solstice Celebration

Wednesday, December 21

Facilitated by Joy Emmanuel



**Church of Truth, Community of Conscious Living
111 Superior Street, Victoria, BC
7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
Free or by Donation**

[50% of donations to the church and 50% to Outreach Project

Solstice is a moment to re-balance our energies in the yin and yang of Darkness dancing with Light. Solstice is the direction of North on the Medicine Wheel; place of the ancestors, wisdom, and strength. In Solstice time we celebrate the shift toward greater Light.

As we enter the festival of Light, what do these ancient, symbolic teachings offer us in this time of the Great Turning and birthing an awakening planetary consciousness?

Joy Emmanuel is a Transformational Coach, Adult Educator, Organizational Developer and Community Animator. Joy is a resident of OUR Ecovillage and offers transformational change programs for individuals and groups of all sizes.

Below is a wonderful poem Audrey Hepburn wrote when asked to share her 'beauty tips.' It was read at her funeral years later.

For attractive lips, speak words of kindness. For lovely eyes, seek out the good in people. For a slim figure, share your food with the hungry. For beautiful hair, let a child run his/her fingers through it once a day. For poise, walk with the knowledge that you never walk alone. People, even more than things, have to be restored, renewed, revived, reclaimed, and redeemed; never throw out anyone. Remember, if you ever need a helping hand, you will find one at the end of each of your arms. As you grow older, you will discover that you have two hands; one for helping yourself, and the other for helping others.

Submitted by Deborah Hawkey Courtesy of Annette Lloyd

Help Make Christmas Special and Fun for Young Families



Christmas is coming...Ho ho ho

Donation of Practical Gift Items, Special Treats and Toys Appreciated Collection Boxes Located in Quiet Room and in the Library Till Sunday, December 11th

The Church of Truth, Community of Conscious Living is assisting the James Bay Community Project with collecting gift items for young moms/couples and their kids in their Victoria Youth Clinic. We have eight gift baskets to fill with practical items such as socks, gloves, gift certificates, wrapped surprise gifts, special non-perishable mainstream treats like Christmas oranges, cookies, or chocolates and age appropriate toys for babies, toddlers or pre-school kids. See below for details on the young families:

- Single young mom with 18 mth old
 - Young couple with 2 mth old
 - Young couple with 1 yr old
 - Single young mom with 4 yr old
- Single young mom with 1 yr and 4 yr old
- Single young mom with 2 yr and 4 yr old
 - Young couple with 1 yr old
 - Young single soon to be mom

We will be collecting gift items till **Sunday, December 11th** and the Collection Boxes are located in **the Quiet Room** and in the **Library** at the church.

If you have any queries, please contact Linda at (250) 380-6383 or Joyanna at [\(250\) 361-3181](tel:2503613181)



Newsletter Editor Needed

Deborah Hawkey, assisted by Esther Hart, has been providing the community with our monthly Lighthouse. Both Deborah and Esther are ready to pass the torch to a new team.

If you are interested in compiling and formatting the information that is provided for each month's Lighthouse and making it available by email (some print copies) to the community, please contact Esther at 250-896-5933.

The following is an excerpt of an email that was sent to the church.

From: Renee Lindstrom [<mailto:renee.consciouslearning@gmail.com>]

Sent: November-25-11 5:01 PM

To: cotrentals@gmail.com

Subject: An invitation to join a Nonviolent Communication Facebook Group Community Page, to post on an Interfaith/Intercultural Page and 15th Season for Nonviolence

Hi, I am writing to extend an invitation for joining a learning community for the practice of Nonviolent Communication and to suggest you may like to share some of your events on an Interfaith/Intercultural Umbrella page that will be beginning an awareness campaign for the 15th Annual Gandhi, King and Chavez Season for Peace and Nonviolence.

One of the foundations is a Practice of human values called 64 ways in 64 days in the Season for Nonviolence which is January 30th to April 4th, 2012. A Season for Nonviolence is a national 64-day educational, media, and grassroots campaign dedicated to demonstrating that non-violence is a powerful way to heal, transform, and empower our lives and our communities.

64 WAYS IN 64 DAYS

We learn to practice nonviolence one step at a time, one choice at a time, one day at a time. Through our daily nonviolent choices and action, the noble and courageous spirit within each of us expresses itself as the skills, wisdom and character of a nonviolent human being. This is how we each, in our own way, move the world in a direction of peace.

If you are interested and would like more details, please email Renee at the email address above.