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**Contact:**  
**111 Superior St.**  
**Victoria, BC V8V 1T2**  
**250-999-1064**  
<http://cotvictoria.ca>

## Romancing the Soul - It's All About Love

As we know, love is the elixir of life. In his letter to the Corinthians, written more than 2000 years ago, St. Paul gives us a philosophy that still rings true today:

“Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not love, I am becoming as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal. And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith so that I could remove mountains, and have not love, I am nothing. And although I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not love, it profits me nothing.

Love suffers long and is kind; Love envies not; Love vaunts not itself, is not puffed up, does not behave itself unseemly, seeks not its own, is not easily provoked, thinks no evil; rejoices not in iniquity but rejoices in the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things, Love never fails.

And now abides faith, hope and love, these three but the greatest of these is Love.”

(1Corinthians 13.1-13)

Respectfully submitted by D. Joan Thomas, SDC



The Lighthouse February 2018  
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
Vice President	Troi Leonard	250-532-3442
Inside Maintenance	Lorna Rennie	250-361-2079
Secretary/Treasurer	Deborah Hawkey	250-813-1747
Outside Maintenance	Bill Israel	250-744-0590
SDC Liaison	Bill Israel	250-744-0590

Your Spiritual Directions Committee

Laurence Beal	250-380-6429
Jane Campbell	778-533-7978
Linda Chan	250-380-6383
Marilyn Smando	250-516-9687
D. Joan Thomas	250-721-4054

Rentals Esther Hart 250-896-5933

Newsletter [dbhawkey@gmail.com](mailto:dbhawkey@gmail.com) Submissions due by the 21<sup>st</sup>.

# SUNDAY SERVICE SCHEDULE

## Romancing the Soul

### February 4      **All is Love**

Moderator:            Marie Logan  
Meditation:         Norm Smookler with his flutes  
Speaker:             Rev. Joan Hopper, retired Minister Church of Truth  
Greeter:              Marvelous Trudeau  
Coordinator:         D. Joan Thomas

### February 11      **Connection**

It takes energy and commitment to connect in a real genuine way in relationship...

Moderator:            D. Joan Thomas  
Meditation:         Linda Chan  
Speaker:              Brian Martin  
Greeter:              Jean Gregson  
Coordinator:         Marilyn Smando

### February 18      **Cultivating Compassion**

Moderator:            Brian Martin  
Speaker:              April Hambly  
Meditation:         Mary Lapp  
Greeter:              Marilyn Smando  
Coordinator:         Jane Warren Campbell

### February 25      **Community Service – Embracing Community**

Moderator:            Chris Bullock  
Meditation:         John Vanden Heuvel  
Greeter:              Marvelous Trudeau  
Coordinator:         Linda Chan



## Meditation Circle



February 7, 14, 21 & 28

7:00 pm to 8:00 pm

**Everyone Welcome to Drop-In! Free or By Donation**

In the Yellow Room – Please use the St. Lawrence Street entrance

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

## *HAPPY BIRTHDAY*

*We Celebrate with YOU!*



Paul Monfette	February 1
Madge Tolmie	February 1
Pat Miller	February 18
Hendrik de Pagter	February 20
Troi Leonard	February 25

## **Soul Purpose**

Between my eyes and  
My heart is a door, a soul  
I enter and Trust

Romancing the soul. Our Soul Purpose. Romance implies duality, the love two people share. As does the concept of a soul, in my mind at least. The gift is in the plurality in

the duality: how my soul connects to and is a unique representation of Our Spirit, Our Shared Majesty.

My soul. Our Spirit. The soul is a sort of bridge-word. It is an idea we have formulated to give us a being, a reference point, which is our self but somehow more than our limited view of our self. Our soul is our personality in the broadest, Truest sense, our individuality as children of God, Spirit, the Tao, of Life herself.

Why are we here if not to “romance” our selves? To get to know our outer and inner being; to fall in love with the world, nature, the people and the animals around us; to, in realizing the absolutely immeasurable beauty that is this life, turn inward, and in bliss, offer gratitude for all that has been given and can be shared.

In Truly allowing our souls, our persons, both finite and infinite, our selves and those selves we have been entrusted to share this bountiful human experience with, to be as they are, we naturally feel the wellspring of joy, peace and growth flow through our souls, from Spirit, to enrich our physical selves and all of our world.

This is the simple gift of Life. The Lila, the dance we perform every day, every age, without end. For the dance, the play, the romance, the song, the uniVerse, is inexplicable, unfathomable. Our joyous quest as people within this dance is but to join in, to extricate our souls, gently, through a deep Love, from the enshrouding we've affected to protect our smaller selves from the evils of this world. Such a protection seems necessary if we've been convinced we're weak, frail, finite. But from the Soul Perspective, our persons/souls are drops in the ocean of Life, players in a play whose raison d'être is Love, Joy, Learning, Growth.

We are Love. We are Joy. I am my soul, I am Spirit. I am Lucas. I am. You are.

To be Lucas does not make me any less Love. And to know Lucas, to truly be with him through all his pains and his joys and his friendships, enmities, successes and failures, to allow myself to be as weak or as strong as I need to be to learn, to grow, to love, that is why I am here.

This is the romance I, we, have with our souls, our persons, in God, Self, Spirit.

Trusting, feeling the indescribable beauty within and without, we rejoice, celebrate, grow together as many people, many souls, One Love.

Thank you, Love you, Bless you.  
Submitted by Lucas White

## **Guess Who's Coming to Dinner?**

In the 1967 movie, *Guess Who's Coming to Dinner*, starring Sidney Poitier & Katherine Houghton, there's a very strong message of disagreement among family that these two ought not to get married and should not come to dinner.

At our Community's Annual Christmas pot luck dinner on Dec. 25th, a diverse group of 30 + 'new & old' came together for a delightful evening of fine food and socializing. It's always amazing what a pot luck (participants) bring to the communal table - this year 5 different and tasty brussel sprout dishes, along with many other wonderful complimentary side dishes. Plus the well prepared turkey! The dessert offerings were delectable, delicious and dangerous. No disagreements at this gathering!

The after dinner 'gift exchange' had its usual laughter and conspiracy intrigues with folks taking away from others, all in a good natured atmosphere. A younger child added her charm to the evening. Even though gifts were to be items one no longer needed/wanted, it's interesting to see how 'new/unopened' gifts made their way to the lively audience.

So, guess who came to our Community's dinner? - Folks whom we haven't seen in a long time, friends of friends and some core 'always there, dedicated' members.

The tables were enthusiastically set after 4:30 with wonderful touches of the Advent Season. Colourful table cloths, lights, candles, boughs of evergreen, even beautiful serviettes. Background Advent music added to the festive atmosphere. Yes, many contributed very generously with their time and contributions! This was a true community event!

And a very sincere THANKS goes out to all those involved - before, during and after!

Submitted by John Vanden Heuvel

## **Annual General Meeting, April15**

The health and strength of any community relies upon the participation of its members. Each year we have the opportunity to reinvigorate our community life at the AGM. Too often people shy away from serving on the Board or SDC fearing it will be too big a commitment or thinking they don't have the necessary skills to be effective. This need not be the case any more than standing up in front of the sanctuary and serving as Moderator or Meditator does. There is more support and guidance than you may know if you are only willing to step up. It is such a wonderful opportunity to learn and grow

and really have a sense of connection to the community. It is an opportunity to infuse your unique creativity and spirituality into the community for the good of the whole.

Please consider deeply letting your name stand for election to either the Board or the SDC. There are several positions coming available and each one has a resource book outlining the duties and responsibilities for that position. Sanjara is Chair of the Nominating Committee but you can talk to any of the current Board or SDC members. Looking forward to another year of positively inspiring community life!

Sincerely,  
Brian Martin, President

## **Annual Talent Show, March 24**

Once again we are looking forward to a wonderful expression of our community's creativity and talent.

Saturday, March 24 has been set aside for all would be thespians, songsters and agents of creativity.

Now is your chance to dust off and reveal all your hidden dreams and desires for stardom.

Come shine your light for the world to see. Be the star you were born to be! If your talent lies in the area of organization, we invite you to step up and organize this wonderful showcase of talent

As always, it is a **fundraiser** for the Church so encourage all your friends to come out and support a great cause.

Brian Martin, President

## **ANNUAL SPRING CLEAN-UP**



**Saturday April 7  
9 a.m.-mid afternoon**

It's that time again to come together to spruce up the inside and outside at our lovely church building and property.

Marie will be available to advise people who prefer to work outside about the clean-up and maintenance required there.

Once again it would be wonderful if anyone wanted to contribute a pot of soup or other

goodies to share in a community noon meal. It's always a good time and a great way to get to know each other better.

You can drop in any time for as much time as you can spare, it will all help. Thank you!

Lorna  
Inside Maintenance lornajr@shaw.ca

## **Annual Membership Renewal**

It's time to renew your membership for 2018. You can print the last two pages of this newsletter or pick up forms from the bulletin board at the church.



**CHURCH OF TRUTH - COMMUNITY OF CONSCIOUS LIVING  
GUIDELINES FOR MEMBERSHIP Renewal**

2018

1. Attendance at our services.
2. A strong desire to participate in our community demonstrated by attending services and getting involved as a volunteer and/or by giving your financial support.

Our Mission Statement says it well:

"We are a supportive community of spiritual discovery. We are a gathering of unique individuals, exploring and allowing our diverse expression of belief. We respect the interconnectedness of all life. We welcome all who are willing to commit themselves to participating in our collective creation. Together, we share our sacred place, this adventure ... this celebration!

Please complete the membership renewal application at the bottom of this form.  
Your annual \$10.00 membership fee is due before the AGM in April.  
Your continued membership is based on your active participation in our community.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail (optional) \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate your birthday: Day \_\_\_\_\_ Month \_\_\_\_\_  
(for acknowledgement at Birthday Sundays)

Amount enclosed with application: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (Rcvd. by Treasurer \_\_\_\_\_)

Please add me to the Member Exchange Network \_\_\_

Please include me on the community contact list. \_\_\_

Check what you would like to have listed:

Name \_\_\_ phone \_\_\_\_\_ home address \_\_\_\_\_ email address \_\_\_\_\_

See participation form

# Church of Truth – Community of Conscious Living

## Participation Information Form

The Board invites you to consider how you want to participate and the benefits you wish to receive from your participation in the Church of Truth – Community of Conscious Living. Please complete the form below. (check all that apply)

### Participation

Sunday morning greeter _____	Flowers _____
Coffee serving/cleanup _____	Maintenance _____
Provide Snacks for after service _____	Child Minding _____
Gathering/putting away music and order of service _____	Other _____

### Areas of Interest/Expertise

Spiritual Directions Committee _____	Moderator _____
Choir/Music _____	Speaker _____
Meditation _____	Fundraising/Functions _____
Workshops _____	Other _____

### Benefits

Please share anything you would like the Board to know about the benefits you wish to receive from this community. (Please use the back if more space is needed.)

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_