



## THE LIGHTHOUSE JULY 2012

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<http://cotvictoria.ca>**

## Word's Worth: Language and Action

"People just love to play with words." - Men at Work

"Words ... the most powerful drug used by mankind." - Rudyard Kipling

"Words are alive. Cut them and they bleed." - Ralph Waldo Emerson

"Words have the power to both destroy and heal." - The Buddha

Word. My word! Words fail me. Words are cheap. Speak your truth. Walk your talk. Talk him down. The word made flesh. A call to arms. As good as my word. The word on the street. The oral tradition. The Gutenberg galaxy. Glyph, cursive, print. Blow hot air, flap your gums. He's all talk and no action. Blessings, curses, vows. Sayings, slogans, declarations. Poetry, fiction, information. Manifesto, propaganda, constitution. Anthem, speech, proclamation. Extry, extry, read all about it: "In the beginning was the Word ..."

There are those among us who, gazing heavenward, decode the brilliant amidst the obscure and read the language of the stars: astrologers, the star (astron) speech (logos) diviners. To one star-talker, the message these celestial fires speak these coming days is all about language and action and in July, the Church of Truth will lift a corner of the veil on communication and activation, the talk and the walk, examining the power, beauty and perhaps the treachery of words and how they move us in the world.

When I was tasked with writing a description of the coming month, I was initially at a loss for words (imagine!) and readily read it as a sign when the University of Victoria's Torch magazine appeared in my mail box to illuminate my darkness. The cover story, "Finding the Words," relates the struggle to preserve indigenous languages, the voices of the First Nations systematically shoved aside by Caucasians who came to these shores speaking foreign tongues. The article reviews the grave consequences of language loss ("the loss of an entire worldview"), the heroes of language revival, the connection of language to land, the spirit that is lost when language dies or when others define us. The article notes, "They gave us names that were not our names..." In Genesis 1:3 ("And God said, 'Let there be light, and there was light.'") a truth of language and reality is revealed. It is the naming of an object ("light") that creates it.

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The Lighthouse July 2012  
 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 – 11:00 am  
 Working for you - Your Board of Directors

President	Patti Huot	250-385-0941
Past President	Esther Hart	250-896-5933
Vice President	Roland Guenther	778-433-4386
Treasurer	Hanna Figon	250-412-7446
Secretary	Cynthia Pattison	250-661-8687
Rentals	Esther Hart	250-896-5933
Outside Maintenance/SDC Liaison	Sanjara Omoniyi	778-433-4386
Inside Maintenance	Dancing Wolf	250-418-0694

Your Spiritual Directions Committee Members are:

Trish Coleman	250-721-1973
Laurence Beal	250-380-6429
Hendrik de Pagter	778-440-5234
Stephen Kinsella	250-478-5363
Dancing Wolf	250-418-0694

Community Care Liaison – Lorna Rennie 361-2079  
 Newsletter—Deborah Hawkey Email [dbhawkey@gmail.com](mailto:dbhawkey@gmail.com)  
 Newsletter Submissions welcomed by the 21<sup>st</sup>. of each month  
 Linda Chan <http://cotvictoria.ca>

## Sunday Service Schedule for July 2012

### THEME: Words-Worth: Language and Action

- July 1**     **Mother Tongue (First Words of Love)**  
Coordinator:                      Patricia Coleman  
Moderator:                         Catherine Dennison  
Meditation:                        John Van Beek  
Speakers:                          Ella Brown & Patti Huot  
Greeter:                             Joyanna Wilkinson
- July 8**     **Speaking Without Tongues**  
Coordinator:                        Stephen Kinsella  
Moderator:                         John Hutton  
Meditation:                        Roland Guenther  
Speaker:                            Experiential Selections  
Greeter:                             Janet Taylor  
Magdalena--sounds of the Spirit  
Bernadine, Paul & Marvelous: Body language  
Sharing Photography of Facial Expressions  
What are you expressing to others non-verbally?
- July 15**    **Manifesto**  
Coordinator:                        Hendrik de Pagter  
Moderator:                         Junie Swadron  
Meditation:                        Catherine Denison  
Speaker:                            Joan Hopper  
Greeter:                             Katharina Nolla
- July 22**    **Last Words**  
Coordinator:                        Dancing Wolf  
Moderator:                         Bob Winkenhower  
Meditation:                        Marek Losinski  
Speaker:                            Don Morris  
Greeter:                             Hendrik de Pagter/Dancing Wolf
- July 29**    **On My Word**  
Coordinator:                        Laurence Beal  
Moderator:                         Stephen Kinsella  
Meditation:                        Marvelous Trudeau  
This is a Community Service

Continued from page 1

In quantum physics, a wave is just a wave until we observe and define the wave, which collapses from infinite possibilities of flow into this or that particle, quantifiable, named. Another name interrupts the flow of possibilities into a different manifestation, perhaps better suited to the second namer's co-creation. The awesome power of words! Happily, First Nations linguists and elders here in BC, home to sixty percent of Canada's indigenous languages, are birthing a revival of their languages, defining themselves and their land, and I honour their struggle and success. The revival of the Hebrew language as a secular, as well as spiritual, tool of communication has a great deal to do with Israel's revival, and I pray for no less for the First Nations. Ultimately, all language is secular and sacred. How we choose to use it, and refuse to lose it, names us. I identify with language revival. I restored a part of my soul when I returned to Holland at age 19 and immersed myself in the language of the country of my birth. I had the same emotional revival of a missing part of my soul when Jen and I lived in France for three years, as some of my Huguenot ancestors fled La Rochelle for the Protestant haven of Holland. Oh, the healing power of language.

Language acquisition and use are core concepts of what it means to be human. I cannot think without words, though I may speak without using my voice. Words imprint and assign, define, confine, inspire, elevate and deflate, convey the truth, refine, imply, allege and spin out lies, and language begins where we all begin. "Mama" is probably the first word most of us uttered, and we open the month with an investigation of Mother Tongue, those first messages we heard as infant sponges. While humans appear to be inherently wired for words, how we are nurtured plays a huge role in how effectively we use the tools of communication and how we act in the world. Were we lathered in lullabies and love or left lingering in neglect and suppressed, told that children should be seen but not heard?

Of course, despite the primacy given to the spoken and written word, non-verbal communication is ubiquitous (wink wink, nudge nudge), and the ways we communicate without words are explored on July 8 in *Speaking Without Tongues*. We can never not communicate.

Screed, pamphlet, letters to the editor. Language allows us to declare intent, stimulate thought, manipulate and mobilize, and in this role runs the gamut from the cruel and licentious (de Sade's *La Philosophie dans le Boudoir*) or the mendacious horrendous (*Mein Kampf*), to the assertive political (the Declaration of Independence, the Communist Manifesto, the Global Green Charter), to the spiritual (the gospels or "good tales," the eight-fold path of Buddhism) and to the highly personal, such as Sanjara Omoniyi's *Revolutionary Self-Love* manifesto,

which she has shared at the Church of Truth. The third service in July, Manifesto, will touch the dark and light of an unambiguous form of communication. Perhaps it will raise for each of us what it is we wish to declare to and about ourselves. What is our intent?

On July 22 we will come to grips with Last Words, the words of gratitude and forgiveness with which we shuffle off this mortal coil, the painful, poignant, purposeful and passionate words of truth, love and liberation that I certainly hope will stumble from my tongue when this earthly journey comes to a close. Purple prose, yellow journalism.

Finally, when all the talking heads and Marcel Marceau have done their wonderful thing, the community service on July 29, On My Word, will gather us in small discussion groups to speak our personal insights, the subjective truths of language and action enriched, emboldened and inspirational in the sharing. In this exercise in logotherapy, some might share encyclopedic encomiums of tales and deeds and others may simply share the opinion of the Beatles: "the only word is love." And on that truthful note, as expressed in the modern parlance, slang, jargon, argot. patois, lingo: WORD!

Submitted by Hendrik de Pagter SDC

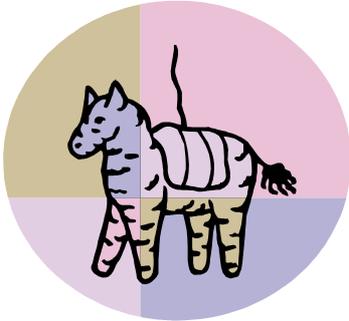
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The Board of Directors recently regretfully received and accepted the resignation of Reverend Joan Hopper as a member of our church community. Joan acted as an associate minister, alongside Reverend Richard DiCatri for many years in the early history of the church, and served on the Board of Directors and for the past number of years also acted as the pastoral care representative. In that capacity she offered her services to anyone who sought them and folks who met with her were indeed helped by her wise and straightforward counsel.

Over the years Joan had a special sense of knowing exactly what was needed for some troubled souls who entered the church and they would leave feeling better after she prayed with them. Joan's commitment and dedication to the church for so many years are much valued; we thank her and wish her well on whatever paths she chooses to take from here. We also hope our paths will continue to cross occasionally.

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Happy Birthday  
We celebrate with you



Robert Winkenhower	July 12
Susan Blackwood	July 13
Jan Falkowski	July 18
John Van Beek	July 23
Dancing Wolf	July 25
Penelope Rokeby	July 29

## UP CLOSE

With Jayne Gerlach



I grew up in Rochester on a farm in central Alberta. I have four sisters Vivian, Maxine, Emily and Jacqueline. I have one brother, Trevor, who was born when my sisters and I were older.

Elementary school was completed at a local country school. High was completed in Athabasca.

After high school I attended Concordia Lutheran College. I then switched to the University of Alberta to further my education degree. Once I completed my education degree I was offered the first teaching position I applied for.

Unfortunately, I knew little of discipline or the consequences involved with teaching young adults. I reduced my hours and was much relieved. I realized other teachers were having difficulties with the same issues. I chose to terminate this job. I then moved to Vancouver.

I applied to a rural school district soon after moving there. I taught mostly academic classes. There were a few junior high classes also that I did not enjoy

teaching as much. In the academic class the student size was 12-15 while the junior high class usually had about 30 students.

Although I enjoyed teaching these students I knew that if I wanted a full time job I required more education. Consequently, I enrolled in the University of B.C. I was probably in my late twenties. After a six month upgrade of mainly political science and sociology with a few other courses added in I returned to Edmonton.

I got a job with Catholic Social Services and worked as a counselor for youths with mental impairments.

Too soon my health deteriorated to the extent I couldn't work anymore. My partner Kevin was offered a job on Vancouver Island, so we moved here in 1998.

The climate in Victoria suits my Multiple Sclerosis. The disease has been a slow steady decline of my physical abilities.

While Kevin and I were more able to we enjoyed travelling. A month long trip throughout Western Europe was especially enjoyable. We have visited Nova Scotia, Ottawa and Toronto. Kevin and I also had the pleasure of touring California, New York, Montreal, Cuba and Hawaii.

These days it is only trips to Alberta and Saskatchewan to visit family.

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### What do YOU do for fun?

I love to joke and be an audience for others humor - especially "dry" humor and slap stick comedy. I love to be with rhythm whether it's dancing, drumming or playing an instrument; listening to the rhythms of the ocean, the birds' songs or the leaves rustling in the trees. These are a fun ways that I have fun.

"Music is my passion and caring is my nature."

Laura

Here are my passions:

Going for nature walks, Playing with my 2 cats, Practicing piano, Telling stories, Reading, Swimming, Kayaking, Practicing Tai Chi Chih, Playing Mah Jong, Volunteering, Being with the folks from the Church of Truth  
Cheers, Lavana

Laurence: I like exploring new states of mind.

Deborah: Teaching my cat English

Roland: Fishing



Dear Community;

Cedona is inviting all those who wish to travel with her virtually on her amazing upcoming adventure in South Africa and at the White Lion Leadership Academy, to simply email her at [sunyata333@shaw.ca](mailto:sunyata333@shaw.ca) to sign up. She will connect with you through emails, newsletters, photos, videos. All are welcome!

Cedona in South Africa in 2004

## COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTORY

NAME	SERVICE	CONTACT INFO
Laurence Beal Personal, relationship, transition, etc.	<b>Astrological Counsel</b>	<a href="mailto:swimonmars@hotmail.com">swimonmars@hotmail.com</a>
Susan Blackwood Weddings, Funerals, Celebrations of Life, Divorce, Retirement, Baby Namings	<b>Ceremonies</b>	250-889-5335 <a href="http://www.ceremoniesbydesign.ca">www.ceremoniesbydesign.ca</a>
Renn Butler Archetypal Astrology Consultations, Holotropic Breathwork Workshhops	<b>Consultations/Workshops</b>	<a href="mailto:rennbutler@shaw.ca">rennbutler@shaw.ca</a>
Lynn Goodcare	<b>Life and Love Coach</b>	250-642-2882 <a href="http://www.openingtolovenow.com">www.openingtolovenow.com</a>
Deborah Hawkey Sales & Marketing, Websites, Desktop Publishing, Resumes & Cover Letters	<b>Writing</b>	<a href="mailto:writeitright@shaw.ca">writeitright@shaw.ca</a> 250-813-1747
Cedona Holly	<b>Spirit Counsellor/Meditation Facilitator</b>	250-642-1060
Gillian Huot Weekly, bi-weekly, monthly \$25/hr	<b>Housekeeper</b>	250-385-0941
Pauline Karch	<b>Videography Services</b>	<a href="mailto:paulinekarch@gmail.com">paulinekarch@gmail.com</a>

Kelly Kerr	<b>Massage, Energy Healing</b>	250-999-9282
Laura Lane	<b>Celebration Pianist</b>	250-893-9656
Accompanist, Pianist, Singer. Available for Weddings, Celebrations of Life & Special Events		
"Comfort Zone" Band, Boomers, Folk, Light Rock music group.		
Daniel Ouimet	<b>Craftsman</b>	250-507-6711
		<a href="http://www.chanteclerwoodcraft.com">www.chanteclerwoodcraft.com</a>
Home renovations, Furniture making, Functional art		
Sharon Schroeder	<b>Alternative Healthcare Services</b>	250-661-0072
Healing Energy with Foundation Beauty		
Bernadine Sperling	<b>Pet Sitting</b>	250-384-5721
(drop-in cat visits & James Bay dog walking)		
Bernadine Sperling	<b>Massage Therapy &amp; Reiki by donation</b>	
(former RMT- retired, You supply the table)		250-384-5721
Marvelous	<b>Escort</b>	250-384-2563
Will take people to 1st A.A. meeting		