

THE LIGHTHOUSE

March 2018

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<http://cotvictoria.ca>



Fertility, Creativity and a Touch of Madness

Fertility, creativity and a touch of madness dictated by the physical presence of the gamboling or roaring wind prevailing at any time in the month. Hares in the Scottish fields stand up on their hind legs and box each other - mad or not it is their way of sorting out the competition; this is why they are called "mad March Hares", and perhaps where Lewis Carroll drew inspiration for his Mad March Hare in Alice's Wonderland. So this month comes in like a lion and leaves like a lamb - or vice versa. It is also the month where we hop (oops!) forward into Spring.

Submitted by D. Joan Thomas, SDC

The Lighthouse March 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 Submissions due by the 21st.

SUNDAY SERVICE SCHEDULE

Fertility, Creativity and a Touch of Madness

March 4 Moderator: Bob Winkenhower
Meditation: Jane Warren Campbell
Speaker: Sanjara Omoniyi
Greeter: Marie Logan
Coordinator: Jane Warren Campbell

March 11 **Surrender in Life**

Moderator: Elsie Mary Poliquin
Meditation: Jennifer Sager
Speaker: TBA
Greeter: Linda Chan
Coordinator: Laurence Beal & Linda Chan

March 18 **Community Service**
Recovery from Broken Relationship and Starting Anew

Moderator: Bill Israel
Meditation: Marvelous Trudeau
Community: (Group) Discussion
Greeter: TBA
Coordinator: Bill Israel

March 25 Moderator: TBA
Meditation: Linda Chan
Speaker: Paul Galewitz
Greeter: Jean Gregson
Coordinator: Marilyn Smando

Oneness Wednesday in March

Meditation and Connection Circle -

March 7, 14, 21 + 28 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm

Everyone Welcome to Drop-In! Free or By Donation

Meditation is a way to still the mind, broaden awareness and deepen the connection to self.

Coming together in a circle, we create a stronger energetic field which makes the effect of the meditation stronger.



For the next couple of months, we will create a new formula for the Oneness Wednesday's meditation circle that will help us to deepen the connection to ourselves and to each other. We invite you to come and join the circle and add your energy, your ideas and wishes into this co-creative process.

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



HAPPY BIRTHDAY
We Celebrate with YOU!

Frances Litman April 12
Peggy Muncaster April 30

A Letter from Your Earth

Here I am, before You.
Snow-blue crystals, violet-hued valleys, dark, quiet forests.
I invite You to explore Me.
My moss-covered rocks at the stream's side.
The low tree branches stretching out over the bubbling waters.
Hear the bird-song: the call of Innocence, Joy and Trust.
Do You feel the Love I have for My Self?
It is palpable. There is only Perfect Alignment in the Natural World.
Harmony Reigns.
Love Pervades.
You, too, are part of this World

And yet, so many of You have forgotten this Truth.
When You remember Your Truth, You can allow more Ease and Joy back
Into Your Heart, Your Life.
I invite You to Take care of Love.
This means finding value in It,
Cherishing It.
For it is only Love that can restore Harmony throughout All Worlds.
The more Love is valued,
The more it can reach into those places which need it.
Sometimes, humans can find Them Selves in a
Very complicated,
Depleted World of their own making.
People can feel overwhelmed by its noise,
Its wearying distractions and pace.
Take Heart, and know that to experience Peace and Harmony,
One simply needs to place Them Selves in Nature, physically or mentally.
There, You will find what It is that Your Heart truly seeks.
Care for Me, so that I may tend to You.
Show Me, Your Earth, Your Love;
For You will always find Wonder and Joy when You do.
Marvel at Me.
Share Your Compassionate Kindness with Me.
Couple Compassion with Respectful Use of the Gifts I share with You.
Try Your best to be Harmonious in the choices You make.
Know that Every effort is appreciated and felt.
For the Love which accompanies Your efforts has a Beautiful, cumulative effect.
Encourage All by setting an example.

As Your Earth, I delight in Creativity
And, thus, find many ways to share My Gifts and Secrets with You.
Do not be shy with Me.
Know too, that I Communicate
With You Individually, in ways which are Unique between Us.
Explore and develop the experiences We share Together.
Whenever You sense My hand reaching out to You
Through a Bird, the Breeze, the Sea or any other of My Forms,
Know that it is an Invitation to Hold Me in Your Heart.
Allow Me to embrace You Compassionately,
Lovingly.
Let Me soothe You... Comfort You... and Delight You.
It is what I live for!
Sharing Love with One Another will always benefit Every One.
And are We not All Connected?
Are We not All One?
Allow Your Self to have a Personal Relationship with Me, Your Earth.
May the Love and Compassion You share with Me,
Fill You with Trust and Faith in Our Future Together.

Amen.

Submitted by April Hambly



Choir Practice

Laura will be starting choir rehearsals on Sunday, March 11th.

Those who would like to join her to hear what music is planned are welcome to meet around the piano at 10:00 a.m. sharp. No, not flat - sharp. Lol.

Submitted by Laura Lane

Opening Thoughts by Chris Bullock, Moderator for the Community Service on February 25, 2018:

If we're to speak of romancing, or loving our community, we need to know what love means in relation to communities, what the concept of community means in general, and what the COT community is about in particular. Impossible questions to answer in a brief introduction, but I think a good starting point might be a quotation from Martin Shaw, often referred to as "that Wildman philosopher from the United Kingdom."

In his book, *Snowy Tower: Parzifal and the Wet, Black Branch of Language*, Shaw writes: "An issue seems to be the tyranny of harmony. What we call community is often a network of like-minded people singing from the same hymn sheets. A real community holds village idiots, scoundrels and folks rubbing up against each other with entirely different views. It's often tense. But lack of tension rarely makes great art of truly rousing conversation... Harmony is not the same as love... To be clear, moments of general accord (i.e. love) and confirmation are wonderful; pseudo-harmony as tyranny is not."

So what is Shaw saying? That community is characterized by diversity and frequently tension, and for love to be present in community doesn't mean that everything has to be always harmonious. Now let's get to the third question. What this community is about? The best glimpse of this is a survey presented to the congregation in January last year. The answers to questions like "What drew you to this community?" and "Do you agree with our mission of supporting each other whatever our spiritual path?" are very various but a common thread is that respondents want to belong but they don't want their freedom of belief imposed upon – some feel even the mention of "God, Soul or Spirit" are an imposition upon those of Buddhist or similar persuasions.

These responses make it clear that there's nothing easy about building a community out of diverse perspectives. But I follow Shaw in thinking that the first step in romancing the community is to dispense with the idea that love involves harmony. Let's replace that idea with the idea that love can consist of creative tension, interspersed with wonderful moments of warm-hearted accord.

FYI: The Compilation of the Responses of the Community Survey mentioned in the above article: <http://cotvictoria.ca/welcome/reflections-on-community-responses/>

Submitted by Chris Bullock

FEEL THE FLAMES

Poetry flowing more than memory
Love growing like it was meant to be
Friends showing their deepest truths to me
I'm knowing now just how to free

now my naked heart can weep
for all the promises I did not keep
then stop the crying to finally leap
into the pain further than deep

The shackles that bind the light inside
the mental prison so tall and wide
but my sword of ink has allied
with the wings of purpose long denied

feel the flames and they are hot
especially the ones that I forgot
but I will never burn, I can not
for self love has tenderly taught

My heart blooming with such a flower
indeed there has been no finer hour
for each moment so longs to shower
each of us with our perfect power

this grateful soul to finally feel
what is true yes what is real
to deeply witness, to reveal
if anything at all needs to heal

I take leave of what no longer feeds
the very nature of my needs
as ego's story breaks and bleeds
my mind frees and finally heeds

dancing deeper into the dark
my passion no longer a spark
now a flaming arrow starting to arc
towards a most mysterious mark

the call to charms, the call to grace
the call to end this chosen chase
of seeking that which I will not face
unless all my armour is in place

Victor Van Buskirk
January 28, 2018

Here the friendship blessing from the book *Anam Cara* by John O'Donohue:

A Friendship Blessing

May you be blessed with good friends.
May you learn to be a good friend to yourself.
May you be able to journey to that place in your soul where
there is great love, warmth, feeling, and forgiveness.
May this change you.
May it transfigure that which is negative, distant, or cold in you.
May you be brought in to the real passion, kinship, and affinity of belonging.
May you treasure your friends.
May you be good to them and may you be there for them;
may they bring you all the blessing, challenges, truth,
and light that you need for your journey.
May you never be isolated.
May you always be in the gentle nest of belonging with your *anam cara*.

On Friendship

Kahlil Gibran

Your friend is your needs answered.
He is your field which you sow with love and reap with thanksgiving.
And he is your board and your fireside.
For you come to him with your hunger, and you seek him for peace.

When your friend speaks his mind you fear not the "nay" in your own mind,
nor do you withhold the "ay."
And when he is silent your heart ceases not to listen to his heart;
For without words, in friendship, all thoughts, all desires, all expectations are born and shared, with joy that is unacclaimed.
When you part from your friend, you grieve not;
For that which you love most in him may be clearer in his absence, as the mountain to the climber is clearer from the plain.
And let there be no purpose in friendship save the deepening of the spirit.
For love that seeks aught but the disclosure of its own mystery is not love but a net cast forth: and only the unprofitable is caught.

And let your best be for your friend.
If he must know the ebb of your tide, let him know its flood also.
For what is your friend that you should seek him with hours to kill?
Seek him always with hours to live.
For it is his to fill your need, but not your emptiness.
And in the sweetness of friendship let there be laughter, and sharing of pleasures.
For in the dew of little things the heart finds its morning and is refreshed.

Poetry submitted by Linda Chan

Annual General Meeting, April 15

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 Mediator 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 to contribute a pot of soup or other goodies to share in meal. It's always a good time and a great way to get to You can drop in any time for as much time as you can you!

Submitted by Lorna, Inside Maintenance lornajr@shaw.ca



wonderful if anyone wants a community noon know each other better. spare, it will all help. Thank

**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.)

Name: _____ Phone Number: _____

E-mail address: _____

Spring is Coming! 

