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Contact:
111 Superior St.
Victoria, BC V8V 1T2
250-382-5412
<http://cotvictoria.ca>

SPRINGING INTO JOY

Spring has come! We are witnessing one of the greatest mysteries of Nature, the cyclic renewal of LIFE on Earth. This occurrence is celebrated by all beings striving to emerge from the darkness of winter. The 'plant people' bless us with their mantle of green and the hope of things to come. Behind it all lies God's grace with the increasing power of the Sun and its rays, blessing us with the light, warmth and vital energy we require for regeneration and rebirth as our Souls call us to awaken and joyfully celebrate the union of Spirit and Matter. Submitted by Troi Leonard SDC



The Lighthouse April 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	Sanjara Omoniyi	250-900-0281
Past President	D. Joan Thomas	250-721-4054
Vice President	Deborah Hawkey	250-813-1747
Inside Maintenance	Jennifer Sagar	778-440-5234
Secretary/Treasurer	Ron Rayner	250-474-2715
Outside Maintenance	Deborah Hawkey	250-813-1747
SDC Liaison	Colin Lee	250-514-1270

Your Spiritual Directions Committee

Don Morris	250-580-2121
Chris Bullock	250-384-8241
Colin Lee	250-514-1270
Marvelous Trudeau	250-384-2563
Troi Leonard	250-532-3442
Jack Hyatt	250-592-1422

Rentals Esther Hart 250-896-5933

Newsletter dbhawkey@gmail.com

SUNDAY SERVICE SCHEDULE

Theme: Springing into Joy

April 3 The Struggle of Emergence

Coordinator: Jack Hyatt
Moderator: Chris Bullock
Meditator: Serguei Martynov
Speaker: Jack Hyatt
Greeter: TBA

April 10 Opening Into Life

Coordinator: Chris Bullock
Moderator: Brian Martin
Meditator: Chris Bullock
Speaker: Valerie
Greeter: Elsie Mary Poliquin

April 17 Blossoming

Coordinator: Troi Leonard
Moderator: D. Joan Thomas
Meditator: Cedona Holly
Speaker: Jennifer Sagar
Greeter: Paul Monfette

April 24 Dance and Play - Community Service

Coordinator: Marvelous Trudeau
Moderator: Lorna Rennie
Meditator: Brian Martin
Greeter: TBA

Speaker's Bio

April 3 Jack Hyatt grew up in and around the vicinity of Calgary, Alberta, the eldest of three children. He followed his father's footsteps into the electrical trade and became a journeyman, working in the construction industry, both in Alberta and across the country. In 1970 he entered the University of Calgary and four years later emerged with a B.Ed, specializing in social studies and psychology. Married with two children, he taught at the high school level with the Calgary Board of Education until his retirement in 1997.

In 2002 Jack moved to Vancouver Island, lured by the climate and lifestyle of the West Coast. Here he received training in two areas of passion in his life, counselling and energy healing, both of which he now practices through local social service agencies on a volunteer basis. He has also had a life-long interest in para-psychology, the para-normal, spiritual influences, and the relationship of the Divine Spirit to Humanity.

April 10 Valerie grew up in Vancouver, and moved to Toronto in the early 80s, where she worked as a legal assistant at a large law firm. She returned to the left coast in 2011, eventually settling in James Bay. Valerie will share with us today how she rekindles and celebrates joy in times of darkness.

April 17 As the alchemical fires of Mother Nature stimulate all to emerge and express, we are awed by the panorama unfolding before our very eyes and ears. A profusion of sounds, colors, and fragrance inundate our senses... we are touched by God's love and beauty. Our and passion are stirred to gratitude and celebration, as we open our Hearts to romance, poetry, song, and dance. We are invigorated energetically in seeking, exploring, traveling and healing ourselves, caring for each other, and the earth, our sacred home.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY
We Celebrate with YOU!

APRIL

Laurel Circle

April 15

Cynthia Pattison

April 27

Peggy Muncaster

April 30



Saturday May 3

Please leave your unwanted items in the church library.

It's Time to Talk about Money

We rarely talk about money at the Church of Truth – Community of Conscious Living. We are blessed by the fact that renters love our space and that rental income covers more than 60% of our operating expenses.

For some years, the church enjoyed substantial surpluses which were used to pay down the mortgages. As a result, we now owe less than \$29,000.

Recently, with general operating cost increases and the loss of a major donor, we are now experiencing operating deficits. The proposed budget for 2016 shows a deficit of about \$3500.00.

In addition to the regular operating budget, funds are needed for increasing the contingency fund, improving the sound system, stage lighting and upgrading the heating.

Generous members of the community have stepped up to volunteer with fund-raising events such as:

1. The talent show on March 19 coordinated by John Van den Heuval with guidance from Ella Brown who started this event many years ago.
2. A garage sale on April 23 organized by the Men's Group.
3. A concert by Jennifer Sager – date to be confirmed
4. A comedy night organized by Diana Kuch – date to be confirmed.

You can support these events by:

1. Volunteering to assist
2. Attending the events
3. Helping to promote the events in the community

Another source of revenue is from our Sunday collections. Some people might think that if we had more people attending, we might generate more money. In fact, in 2007 we had 29 members and the donation total was \$22,400. In 2012 we had 66 members and the donation total was just over \$18,000.

Recently Esther Hart gave a talk about Expressing Love for our community. She shared her realization that she wanted to express the financial value she feels for this community in the same way she would for a workshop that would give her similar benefit. She determined that she would give a monthly amount whether she was attending services or not. You can hear her complete talk here.

We appreciate every member of the community and every contribution, whether it be presence, volunteering or money. We ask that those, who have the financial capacity, consider whether they can do more to ensure that this amazing place continues to be available to those for value it.

Board of Directors

Name - Church of Truth, Community of Conscious Living by Linda Chan

My views on this subject are two-fold.

Building Name:

I would not want to see the name of our meeting place “Church of Truth” be changed....I believe this name has served us well -- It is well-known by people in the wider community and highly regarded as a beautiful facility which great acoustics for music events, intimate setting, etc.

Also I am familiar with the history of the architecture of our building as written on our word press site: <http://cotvictoria.ca/architecture/> and I feel that the “Church of Truth” name embodies the architectural design of our beautiful building which talks about “Truth” This building is more than shelter for the body; it is a temple for the spirit, a place of sanctuary to rediscover the truth, symmetry and beauty of our God-centred being. The CENTRE expands and expands to embrace and include more and more until the eternal CIRCLE overtakes and includes the CROSS. Here the spirit (represented by the CIRCLE) embraces the body (represented by the CROSS). Our sanctuary is expressed in the form of the CROSS within the CIRCLE. This is our place of reconciliation and transcendence. The spirit within the body, the body within the spirit made one with God at the CENTRE. Truth, with God, lies at the CENTRE, of all experience. All experience feeds into the CENTRE, just as the spokes of a wheel feed into the hub. Here at the very centre, all direction and movement cease. Truth is all inclusive: “God is absolute”.

Community Name:

However, I am in agreement with others on changing the name of our community to allow other people and ourselves to more fully appreciate who we are as a community and what we stand for. I too feel that the name of our community is very important; We need to take the time to delve into this, do the necessary research and more importantly, this needs to be discussed amongst ourselves....

For me and for other people in our community, we do not identify with the word "Church" - Church for a lot of us means religious activities, dogma, hymns, Christianity, minister standing at a pulpit, etc. - things that I do not identify with also.

Most recently, I mentioned to my music teacher that I am a member of the Church of Truth. In the course of her instruction to me and in her selection of music for our lesson, she made the assumption that the hymnal music that we would play together would be part and parcel of my Sunday Service experience and that I would be familiar with it – This is far from the case - I don't even like this music - I am very happy that we don't sing hymns at Sunday Service and prefer more upbeat joyous songs as do others in our community. "Truth" is something that I do not readily identify with or aspire to either since I see it as more of a philosophical term i.e. "What is Truth"-

<http://www.gotquestions.org/what-is-truth.html> and it is subject to interpretation and misinterpretation. I don't feel I come to our community or to Sunday Services to primarily discover or find truth.

For me, I more readily resonate and aspire to the second part of our name "Community of Conscious Living". I believe that the name "Community" truly reflects what we are about - We are a group of people who come together to honor our own individual spiritual journeys, celebrate the diversity that each of us bring to the table while supporting each other and the wider community. For more info: <http://cotvictoria.ca/about/> "Conscious Living" is something that I aspire to - I too would like to live more consciously each and every day through my actions and my beliefs as do others in our community .

I have also recently done some research into the name "Church of Truth" on the internet. The following are some of the links that I have found:

http://www.centreforlivingtruth.ca/home_page/history_of_iact.php

http://www.centreforlivingtruth.ca/home_page/what_is_truth.php

<http://www.churchoftruth.ca/>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Church_of_the_Truth

It talks about truth. You shall know the Truth, and the Truth shall make you free Jesus, Dr. Albert C. Grier (Founder of Church of Truth movement). Do we as a community identify with the wider "Church of Truth" Movement in which there are 22 churches founded by Dr. Albert C. Grier and this is their stated vision found on wikipedia: The Church of Truth has a vision: We are inclusive community of Christ centered, prosperous healing ministries, which through affirmative prayer and support, empower all people to awaken the Christ within. Is this what we believe it in or are we more inclusive of all spirituality (including ones that are not Christ centered)?

As a member of the C of T Community of Conscious Living, I am very inspired by people who attend and who are part of our community - I love it when people share their spiritual journeys which is very different from my journey , their struggles, their triumphs, etc. We embrace diversity - I too love that in our community, we accept that there are many spiritual paths and this is reflected in the diversity of speakers that we invite to be speakers or meditators at our Sunday Services or who facilitate in our Oneness Wednesday program. Is this acceptance of diversity part and parcel of other Churches of Truth in other cities across North America?

Have a look at the following:

Youth Group that is part of the Church of Truth in Vancouver, Washington:

<http://generation4truth.com/about.html>

Mission of the Church of Truth: <http://thechurchoftruth.org/the-truth/>

Cosmic Church of Truth: <http://www.meetup.com/Cosmic-Church-of-Truth/>

Church of Truth in Vancouver, Washington: <http://churchoftruth.com/>

Dear Church of Truth Members:

Lawrence Beal asked me to share with you some of what I talked about at Oneness Wednesday, March 16, via our newsletter, The Lighthouse.

Once again our name has come up: - what does the word 'church' mean to you?
- what does the word 'truth' mean to you? and with this, "Who are We".

We have already changed our name yet we're still plagued by newer members saying, "I don't like the word church, or the word truth" or, "my friends won't come because of the name". May I suggest, that no matter what 'words' you choose, always, someone is NOT going to like it. And if the 'word', any word, puts you off to that degree, it just might be an invitation to look deeper within to see why you're reacting. You may discover that there is a past hurt/pain causing this reaction and is related to your association with the word - not the word itself.

Do you really feel by changing our identity, the church, as a whole, will be improved or is it just so you'll feel better? - it is easier to blame something 'out there' for feeling uncomfortable, rather than doing work on ourselves. I don't think any of you would go into another place of worship, be it a church, centre, mosque, temple, synagogue or longhouse & suggest they change their name or identity because, "I'm put off by your name" or "I'm not interested in your roots", (I actually had that said to me a year & a bit ago). For me, our name and our tenets and purposes go together. So why is it OK to come into our space and change our name or who we are (my perception)? Sorry, but if you cut the roots off any plant, it will die. Yes, you can replace the plant with something else, but that beautiful, unique plant (our church) will be gone. What is most interesting is, that those who want the change, are trying to change us into something that is already established on the island somewhere. What we stand for is inclusion of all paths, all religions, all sacred ways, and we welcome learning about these traditions.

Over the years, we have had board members with very strong opinions, in an attempt to 'grow the church' & make it appealing to the masses, the 'core' of our being, our very principles got watered down or even dropped. Then repeatedly we have had persons or groups with a special interest who wanted the community to represent them only. When this did not happen, those people and a few of their friends left the church. Membership went down temporarily and over time, grew back again, as we continued to be who we are.

So.....we've had all the meetings, debates, pros & cons. The membership has voted & you have achieved the 75% of the vote you need for your changes. My

question to you now is - Do you have the love, passion & financial commitment for this place to see it through for the next 30 years? (it's 32 for me in June). Do you have the fortitude to live through the barrage of groups/individuals coming through your doors on a regular basis, questioning your choice of words you've chosen to call this place & challenge what you now stand for, in order to meet their needs/wants?

The Church of Truth, Community of Conscious Living, has always been proud of our diversity. We never have, nor should we ever go away from that diversity to pay homage to one sect only to the exclusion of all others. IT IS NOT WHO WE ARE! We (COT-CCL) bless & honour all religious/spiritual expressions & bless the thread of Truth that runs through us all, joining us all together.

At Wednesday's meeting, it was stated that I was 'attached'. Yes, it's true, I am. Maybe even as attached as you are to disliking our name. I do understand that attachment is not always a good thing, but it can be worked on, none of us is perfect, we are works in progress.

But my 'attachment' to COT is a joyous one. Here's why: Lorna Rennie & I were on the first board. We, along with our founding minister, Richard DiCatri & several founding members, realized we were outgrowing the space we were renting. Wouldn't it be great to buy a piece of land & build our own place! We had 2-3 W/E retreats to brainstorm. What a Fabulous time!

Of course, we didn't agree on a lot of things but we talked it out 'til we met a consensus.

John Cawood, founding member & artist, spent weeks of research to find a perfect design for our "new home" (he gave us eleven pages of the symbolism he put into the sanctuary). Years later, Lorna & I spent hours making the eleven pages into one. It is framed in the foyer for all who are interested to read.

We were so excited we had our board meetings sitting on boxes on the bare ground with only the walls around us. No roof or doors yet. Getting near to opening, everyone participated. We nailed, we washed & painted walls, we cleaned bathrooms & did the landscaping. The excitement was electric. (By the way, our building will be 30 years old this December.) Monetarily, it was huge for a fledgling church. Two elderly members gave us some money to help buy this piece of land, and some for start-up costs. But the mortgage was big, & the bank required all 6 board members to sign the mortgage. That meant, if the church failed, we 6 would be held liable for the mortgage. We all gulped but

do you know, not one of us hesitated, we signed on the dotted line. We knew our principles were sound, we believed in what we were trying to accomplish. Of course, the church would make it! But the financing commitment, for all of us, was horrendous - and that's the truth!

For those of us who worked so long and hard together to create a beautiful place that's open, accepting & welcoming to all, one is bound to become attached. We were the stewards that gave birth to this beautiful, unique baby! We loved & nurtured her. S/he (the she encompassed the he, S/he is balanced, as is the yin & yang. We are both too, just working on the balance). S/he, over the years, has matured into a precious, beautiful being, certainly able to stand on her own, s/he does not need me to defend her. But I will stand next to her.

So, yes, my ego & my heart fair bursts when people come in & say, "Wow, what a wonderful place, the energy is fabulous." Only to have some of those same people, weeks or months later tell us we should change the name etc. At first, for me, it was shocking, hurtful & disappointing. But even after so many years, for me, it is still upsetting, insulting, dishonouring & maybe even disrespectful. We accept you & who you are, we don't try to change you, so why do you feel you have to change us!? I'm not against change, no-one has seen more change, over the years, than this wee church & her elders! I do not want to change the heart of who we are - which is in our original tenets.

Which brings me to another very important point - our financial commitment. Having a large congregation, filling seats & parking spaces is not the problem - but getting our members to part with their money is. Without dedicated members to donate enough to see us through the day to day running of the church she will die. Volunteering is wonderful but it won't pay the bills. We all seem to have many wants & shoulds, but don't put any more into the coffers to support them.

I heard someone suggest, (not on Wednesday) "Well, those members that don't pay at least \$100./year, should not be allowed to vote at your AGM". Sounds harsh, but thinking about it I have to say I endorse the idea. Think about it - say all our members gave \$100./year, that would be approximately \$6000 for the year. The electric bill, the phone bill, insurance, gardener, music programmes, general maintenance - the new roof & skylights are \$40,000 plus, we had to increase the mortgage for that expense & now I understand we need a new furnace. Let's break it down = \$100./yr = \$8.33/month, which is \$2.08/wk. One can't buy a coffee for that, oh I lie, that's not a truth, there is McDonald's. But you see my meaning. Can you not give this beautiful place \$2.08/week? Blessings to all of you who give far more than that each month, but it is not fair

for the few to carry the many. I understand we are in financial trouble again, which only proves we cannot rely on 'The Few' & our rentals alone = EVER. We had a wonderful talent show & auction last Saturday and the men's group is putting on a garage sale, This is a wonderful start. Thank you all for participating. (It's not all about work & money, we do need to have time together to just play & have fun.)

When our second minister left (voluntarily, as we couldn't pay him), we were down to 10 members, nine of whom were women. We had been looking to amalgamate - 3 New Thought churches came forward, it was evident that 2 of them only were interested in our real estate. The third group was wonderful, empathetic & welcoming. After their service, we 10 stood on the sidewalk, looked at each other & said, "Been there, done that, what do we do now?" Nine of us women came back to the loving space of the Church of Truth, sat in a circle & shared ideas, D. Joan Thomas, & Maria Escude asked if they could look after the Sunday services & they would call themselves The Spiritual Directions Committee - SDC. These two dedicated women guided this wee place for five years. We all owe them a great amount of gratitude. We nine, a couple of new members & a few rentals looked after the mortgage & bills. If 10 so dedicated souls can accomplish that, think what fifty plus could do, think of the programmes & outreach we could have!

I look forward to your heart-felt responses to my questions & also hear your comments on what you feel about the church.

Respectfully submitted by Marie Logan

Member Exchange Network

Be available to offer a helping hand to fellow members by "opting in" to the Member Exchange Network, our community-wide email support system. Post personal requests for yourself or on behalf of another.

Just choose to "opt in" on your annual membership form.

Contact: memberexchangenetwork@gmail.com



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

2016

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) _____

Please indicate your birthday: Day _____ Month _____

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 _____

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 _____

Coffee serving/cleanup _____

Provide Snacks for after service _____

Gathering/putting away music and order of service _____

Flowers _____

Maintenance _____

Children's Program _____

Other _____

Areas of Interest/Expertise

Spiritual Directions Committee _____

Choir/Music _____

Meditation _____

Workshops _____ Moderator _____

Speaker _____

Fundraising/Functions _____

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 _____

Email address:



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.

NAME	SERVICE	CONTACT INFO
Susan Blackwood 250-889-5335 Weddings, Funerals, Celebrations of Life, Divorce, Retirement, Baby Namings	Ceremonies	www.ceremoniesbydesign.ca
Renn Butler Archetypal Astrology Consultations, Holotropic Breathwork Workshops	Consultations/Workshops	rennbutler@shaw.ca
Waterfall Good 250-384-7994 personally or for any women.	Spa Services including Swedish Massage, Facials, Pedicures, Manicures, Reflexology, Reiki treatments; for men that I know personally or for any women.	waterfallgood@gmail.com
Stephen Graves 778-677-7597 All things PC (and little things MAC) Hardware, software, troubleshooting, networking and web design. \$25.00 per hour	Computer Service	stephen@spiritquest1.ca
Dr. Roland Guenther 250-650-1662 email: roland@natures-mystery.com	MD (Germany), PhD, Homeopathy	www.victoriahomeopathy.com
<p>Roland specializes in helping people with severe chronic diseases. Homeopathy is a holistic modality that can provide healing in a wide range of health problems, anxiety, and depression, and their manifestations in the body.</p>		
Esther Hart 250-896-5933	Author, Speaker, Freedom Coach, Author Mentor	www.authorsolutions.com
<p>Esther inspires people with her talks, coaching and writing, always encouraging people to experience freedom by trusting their own knowing. She gets great pleasure from supporting other writers to blossom into authors so that their inspirational stories can reach the people they are meant to inspire.</p>		

Deborah Hawkey **Technical Writing**
250-813-1747 writeitright@shaw.ca
Sales & Marketing, Career Coaching, Websites, Desktop Publishing, Resumes &
Cover Letters

Cedona Holly **Spiritual Counsellor/Meditation Facilitator**
250-642-1060 www.EternalOneness.org
www.whitelionschildrensbook.org

Pauline Karch **Videography Services** paulinekarch@gmail.com

Laura Lane **Celebration Pianist** 250-893-9656
Accompanist, Pianist, Singer. Available for Weddings, Celebrations of Life &
Special Events
“Comfort Zone” Band, Boomers, Folk, Light Rock music group.

Paul Monfette **Carpenter** 250-896-4439
Specializing in Reno’s, Decks & Alterations

Daniel Ouimet **Carpenter/Craftsman/Designer**
For all your renovation, restoration and furniture design needs (and wants)
chanteclaraartisal@gmail.com

Michelle Pedersen **Make-up Artist**
For make-up consults and pricing please email me at
sweetpeamakeup@gmail.com

Bernadine Sperling **Pet Sitting** 250-384-5721

Junie Swadron **Author, Writing Coach, Workshop Facilitator**
250 - 813-0183 **& Psychotherapist**
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