



*Dear friends,*

*It's good to have heard from some of you that you're having fine summer weather and are enjoying many aspects of the season.*

first, from **Janet Vickers**

[janetvickers@shaw.ca](mailto:janetvickers@shaw.ca)

The last month has been one of connection for me. We went to Toronto to visit our son and daughter-in-law and their two children. Part of that visit was the League of Canadian Poets AGM that I attended as the new BC/Yukon Rep on the National Council. Being a very new full member (have been an associate for four years) I felt very humble going in, however I was made to feel welcome. Leaving there I felt part of the group and able to contribute. After the league conference I returned to our son's home and reconnected with the grand-children. We went to the park, played hide and seek, changed diapers, ate ice cream and talked with our son and daughter-in-law, getting to reacquaint ourselves with the details of their lives. On coming home we brought with us very bad colds which we still have the remains of.

Getting back into Gabriola life we have enjoyed the Home and Garden tour organized by People for a Healthy Community. The diversity of gardens is quite amazing - some so manicured they look professionally cared for and others wildly enthusiastic in appearance. I admire all the people who offer their homes for the tour that day - the work that goes into preparation seems daunting to me. The money goes to People for a Healthy Community who provide a food bank, advice and support for many people on this island.



Our own garden looks its loveliest this month. We were blessed to buy a home whose garden was well established with perennials and shrubs that attract bees, butterflies and birds.

The photo at left is of a chocolate coloured flower that surrounds a berry. I don't know what it is - perhaps someone on this list can identify it.

The First Unitarian Fellowship of Nanaimo is now in its summer lite phase and our choir will be having a little party at the home of our gifted choir director, Leah Hokanson, on Gabriola next week.

Life seems so abundantly diverse these days and I feel this deep gratitude for all the gifts it offers.

best, Janet

*Janet was too modest to include this: her poem **The Number Six** won a significant award recently from the "blogzine" **Eyewear**. Here it is, followed by an explanatory announcement with a photo of Janet.*

### **The Number Six**

In numerology the number six represents family, responsibility, the good son, a worried teacher, the burden of sleepless nights looking for the right phrase— tension blossoming into a brass door knob or an egg cup.

Six is almost sex but not quite except for the sixth card of the Tarot which is the Lovers, the marriage of interlocking puzzles.

At the age of six a child feels her words call out to the road she is not permitted to cross by herself. Put two sixes on their side together, loops touching, tails farthest apart and what you have is eye-wear you can see through.

### **Eyewear Poetry Prize Winner 2011 Is...**

*Eyewear* would like to congratulate Canadian poet **Janet Vickers**, whose poem has been selected from the many sent to Irish poet and judge of this year's competition, Barbara Smith. (Smith was a recent reader at the Oxfam Spring into Poetry event in London.) A first collection, *Kairos*, was published in 2007. Her work has been shortlisted and awarded prizes, such as at Scotland's Wigtown Poetry Competition 2009 and the Basil Bunting Award. She is hard at work on the 'dreaded' second collection, forthcoming in 2011.

Smith writes: "*It has been a real privilege reading the work of so many varied poets for the Eyewear competition: the styles, the approaches, the wit and humour – all of this and more in the mix. In the final weighing there were quite a few gems that made it into the basket for choosing from, but the one that I felt fitted best – both in terms of the 'six' and the blog itself, was 'The Number Six'. For me, it fitted precisely because it riffed on the number six, it was playful, and had a neat conclusion, bringing us back to Eyewear itself. Happy sixth birthday, Eyewear, and congratulations to Janet Vickers for summing it all up so well. May the road always rise to meet you.*"

Janet Vickers was born in Greenford, Middlesex, in 1949. She left England for Canada with her parents and siblings in 1965, settling first near Montreal, then Toronto, Abbotsford, and finally, Gabriola Island, British Columbia. She is publisher of Lipstick Press – a micro press that prints poetry chapbooks. Her chapbook *You Were There* (the title poem won the poetry category of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Vancouver International Writers' Festival) was published in 2006, and *Arcana* was published in 2008. Other poems have appeared in *sub-Terrain*, *Grain*, *Quills*, *The Antigonish Review*, anthologies such as *Down in the Valley* (Ekstasis), Corporate Watch's *This Poem is Sponsored by ...* – and online at *Nthposition*.

She is currently the BC/Yukon Rep for The League of Canadian Poets. She has asked that her £6 prize be donated to Oxfam, so I will see that the prize goes in on Monday, July 4th. Although I had no part in this decision - it was all up to Smith - I am glad to see a Canadian winner announced on Canada Day - pure felicity.



from **Kim Rogers**

[planetgemini@hotmail.com](mailto:planetgemini@hotmail.com)

**Happy Canada Day, and Happy Summer!**

Yes, summer has finally arrived in the Yukon. The roadside and meadow wildflowers are all blooming up a storm here, and so are my Pansies. We've had so much rain lately, it's been easy to grow things this year. And with the long days (daylight until well into the wee hours) everyone has a lot more energy. Including my 4yr old who simply won't go to bed at a decent hour.

As I watch Crocuses, Dandelions, Arctic Lupine, Yarrow, and Fireweed all taking their turns growing, blooming, and then going to seed, it reminds me how everything has a peak season, a time to bloom and a time to wind down and make way for something else to have their time in the spotlight.

This applies so much to parenthood and having to accept that as much as I am beginning to wind down on my journey, my

daughter is just beginning to sprout up. It's a parallel but opposite journey. This summer I'm trying to enjoy the simple things with her, breaking time down into 'moments', avoiding Do-ing and focusing on just Be-ing. Taking time to stop and smell the flowers. Literally!



Hope everyone's summer makes some lasting memories for you!

Cheers for now,

**Kim Rogers and family in Whitehorse, Yukon**

from **Kelly McDowell**

[kelly@cuc.ca](mailto:kelly@cuc.ca)

Hi Anne,

I was just wondering if you could announce the Regional Fall Gathering planned for Oct. 14-16 in Fredericton in your upcoming newsletter.

The gathering will focus on lay leadership as a spiritual practice and worship development. There will be a youth conference and a multi-generation worship on Saturday night. Please let me know if you have any questions or suggestions.

in peace, Kelly

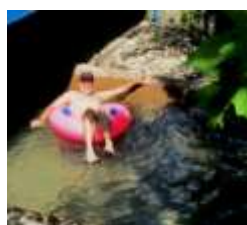
*Kelly is the Congregational Services Programmer for the Eastern Region of the Canadian Unitarian Council. If you're within reach of Fredericton, even if not close enough to be part of the congregation there, contact Kelly with any questions about how this gathering might be of interest to an Individual UU – such as a chance to meet and connect with many other active Unitarians in the Eastern Region!*

*Similarly, depending on where you live, you might be interested in the other 3 Regional Gatherings: October 14-16 -- **Western Region**, in Edmonton, AB; October 21-23 -- **Central Region**, in Peterborough, ON. and **B.C. Region**, in Kelowna BC.*

and to end this short, late newsletter, from your editor **Anne**

[treadwell@ns.sympatico.ca](mailto:treadwell@ns.sympatico.ca)

A few hours ago we arrived back from two weeks in Ontario, visiting family and friends (including “extended family” in two congregations, Hamilton and Kitchener) – it was wonderful, though always delightful to come home! One of the highlights of our time away was the celebration of my spouse’s 65<sup>th</sup> birthday. I had asked John what he’d like for a gift and he said, “*To do something a little crazy with all the kids*” – so we spent the gorgeous summer day at Wild Waterworks! Here’s a small sampling of the day’s pics:



After our absence, the garden is even more of a jungle than I predicted – but **such colour**, both vivid and subtle!!



May you all enjoy the rest of your summer. I'll hope to be a little more timely with the August newsletter ..... and as usual I also hope for many contributions, of all kinds except money, from as many of you as possible.

Love, *Anne*