



Dear friends,

As you know, I am thrilled that someone has “replied to all” in response to a newsletter contribution! This is great, and may it be the beginning of much dialogue on many topics from many members Do consider continuing the conversation during the month!

Here for the record is the message:

from **Noreen Smith**

smithfsj@gmail.com

Sent: September-13-11 1:32 PM

Subject: Re: September newsletter

Hi Rainer

Welcome to our group. I too am originally from Calgary. Born and raised there for 30 years before moving to the Kootneys like your self. I lived 'over the hump' from Creston in the Village of Nakusp for 6 years before coming up North to Fort St. John. Not sure if you are a fisherman, but have you tried Duck Lake outside of Creston? I loved catching a fun little fish called a 'Pumpkin Seed Sunfish'.

My husband's aunt has recently left your area to live in Vancouver, but she ran MacGregor Ministries in Nelson (again over the hump) for many many years. Nice enough lady, but I always had a hard time with her. She was a Jehovah's witness for many years then became Christian. She has spent decades denouncing all other religions (including UU) as cults. She travels the world and has produced videos and published books about her ideologies. **I would be interested in hearing in future newsletters how you express and deal with your 'change of heart' to those who question your new path.**

Warm Regards,

Noreen

from **Rainer Rohr**

rainer.rohr@gmail.com

Greetings and love to all newsletter readers. My wife and I just got back from a trip to Calgary, AB. We celebrated my mother's 82 birthday in Calgary on Sunday. Also had the very first opportunity to meet real live UU's. My wife and I dropped in on the Unitarian Church of Calgary at their Sunday morning meeting.

We found a warm welcome there and listened to an amazing guest speaker, Margot Van Sluytman. She moved us deeply with her story of inner healing after her father was murdered in a random armed robbery when Margot was just 16 years old. Her story is here:

<http://www.margotvansluytman.com/index.html> I love you all because we share this human experience together !

Rainer Rohr
Creston, BC

from **Janet Vickers**

janetvickers@shaw.ca

News for October: The vegetables in the garden are dwindling down to tomatoes, potatoes and cabbage. The weather here is cooler and yesterday was the first day of the season we lit the wood stove. The fellowship at Nanaimo is now well into its fall season with many inspiring topics and fine presenters who help to keep me in the "*optimism of the will*" camp.

This coming weekend on Gabriola, Tony and I will be visiting artists through the annual Art Tour. As the BC/Yukon Rep for The League of Canadian Poets I am planning a reading for the PK Page Trust Fund, and as an incurable exhibitionist I have joined the Gabriola Players Board, working on communications.

Here is an apple - the apple itself is now in a frozen sauce or has already been eaten in a pie.



best

Janet

Editor's note:

My reminder about contributions to this newsletter was a little earlier than usual, as I need to send it out before I go away to visit family and friends. This was probably a bit discombobulating as I've received only the responses above – but not to worry: save what you would have sent me till next month, and for this time I'll draw on more general material, starting with excerpts from the Canadian Unitarian eNews. You can see the whole eNews, and back issues, online at

<http://www.cuc.ca/enews/>

*Taking the Environment to Heart:
Vancouver Unitarians Launch
a Farmers' Market*



“ABOUT 8 YEARS AGO,” Unitarian Church of Vancouver Minister Steven Epperson says in a **Youtube video** created for the launch of his congregation's new project, *“I asked a member of my congregation who works for Environment Canada – what could the members of this congregation do to respond to the threat of global warming and to be responsible environmental stewards?”*

“And without missing a beat, she replied: ‘Start eating locally grown organic food’.”

Since then, that advice has been taking root, and this season it came into fruition. On June 1st, the Unitarian Church of Vancouver launched a weekly, organic, all-local farmers' market on its property at Oak St. and 49th Avenue.



*The Oak Street Farmers' Market “ribbon cutting” in June 2011.
Market Committee Chair Grant Watson, Vancouver City
Councillor Andrea Reimer and Rev. Steven Epperson.*

The Oak Street Farmers' Market features produce, eggs and meat, wild-caught salmon, a variety of prepared foods, and — like all the best farmers' markets — live local music.

The market is now an open door to the community every Wednesday from 3-7 p.m. Its mission is “*to connect local farmers and artisans with customers in South Vancouver and in the UCV community, by supporting and promoting local, sustainable food production and distribution.*”

The project “*has taken the work of many volunteers,*” says Market Committee Chair Grant Watson, a retired organic farmer and local food activist. The first proposal to the UCV Environment Committee was made in November 2009. Karl Perrin, Chair of the Environment Committee, played a lead role, putting aside other projects to help make it happen. A congregational forum last fall solicited volunteers, the right people stepped forward, and the project was underway.

A municipal campaign to make Vancouver “*the greenest city in world*” has played a role: a new by-law made it possible to have farmers markets on private land. There was still patient work to do in signing up farmers, getting the necessary permits, and contracting for marketing materials and a small website. The effort has paid off. There were fourteen vendors at the market this week, and it has started to turn a profit.

“*I'm excited about this farmer's market. We are going to be sustainable, and this is going to be the best farmers' market in Vancouver,*” says Mary Forstbauer, President of the Certified Organic Growers Associations of BC and a regular vendor. “*Farmers' markets help to connect the people back to their food ... [they're] a place of community, a time to celebrate food, a time to celebrate life.*”

The market is a living example of UU values and priorities. Its organizers are not done yet: they hope to work with Slow Food International, and become one of a very few recognized Earth Markets. “***Here's — to me — where faith comes in,***” says Rex Wyler, a founder of Greenpeace International and supporter of the market. “***I have faith in our nature. That there are deep-seated instincts and feelings that we have for each other — compassion, cooperation — and this farmers' market is a perfect example.***”

(Note from Anne to IMaUU folk: what's going on in YOUR community along these lines? If you have a Farmers' Market nearby, you might find that its organizers would be interested in the story of this one in Vancouver — and if you don't yet have one, this article could be an inspiration!)

Most UUs are interested in such issues as health care. Here's an item from eNews that you might find interesting:

Ministers Speak Out for Health Care

The Unitarian Universalist Ministers of Canada (UUMoC) have released a [short video](#) in support of Canada's health care system, and a statement urging that it be expanded to include dental care, vision care, a pharmaceutical program and a full range of mental health services. In the video, ten ministers speak personally about what Canada's healthcare system has meant in their lives and families.

Rev. John Marsh of First Unitarian Congregation of Ottawa writes: *"The current federal-provincial healthcare accord expires in 2014 and discussions are already taking place about what will be included in the next accord. Now is an important time to let our voices be heard."* Notice of the video and its contents have been sent to the Minister of Health and opposition health critics.

Come Build a School in Central America!

The First Unitarian Congregation of Toronto, in partnership with World Accord, invites you to help build a school this year in the mountains of Honduras.

This is a hands-on opportunity to make a difference in the lives of subsistence farmers and their families. Please join a two-week trip: beginning January 14, February 11 or March 10, 2012. Construction and Spanish language skills are *not* required but would be welcomed. Over 100 UUs have travelled to Central America as part of this project over the last 14 years.

For more information e-mail [Richard Kirsh](mailto:richardkirsh@sympatico.ca) at richardkirsh@sympatico.ca, or phone him at (416) 767-5837 (416) 767-5837. Mention that you're an individual UU, not in a congregation, and that you saw the invitation in this newsletter.

And (for those with the urge and the means to travel) following is another chance-of-a-lifetime, perhaps especially valuable for those of us not in congregations, giving an opportunity not only to meet other UUs but to learn "on the spot" about our early Unitarian history:

Unitarian Journeys: Transylvania and Hungary in June 2012

Are you interested in travelling with Unitarians to the unique area of Europe where our faith began 450 years ago?

It's **Transylvania**. A quarter of all Unitarians still live there. From June 4-18, 2012, you can be part of a specially designed tour facilitated by the UU Partner Church Council Pilgrimage Service, which has more than a decade of experience facilitating UU visits to this part of Europe. Highlights include a stay in a Unitarian village, castles, cultural sites, food, art, and beautiful landscapes. The cost is \$2,075 plus airfare. For details visit the [trip web page](#) or e-mail [Beverly Carr](mailto:Beverly.Carr).



and from me, **Anne Treadwell**

treadwell@ns.sympatico.ca

In my time away (October 8 to 26) I'm going to be with children, grandchildren and old friends, and going to at least one UU service. I'll tell you more when I'm back. Meanwhile, I leave you with these Thanksgiving words, written not long before UU Minister Dan O'Neal's death

Thanks for this, a day in my life. Thanks for the stars, the earth. Thanks for death, which makes life so precious and so vibrant. Thanks for it all, no exceptions. And with this final Thanks, we become friends with all human and other things. We become large and good. We become it all. Nothing left out. Deal done. Amen."

Dan O'Neal November 17, 1996

..... and a few photos from my garden:



Happy Thanksgiving to you all!

Anne