

Victoria Multifaith Society AGM

Oct. 28 2018, Victoria, BC



AGM Agenda

- Welcome & Devotional Prayer
- Review & Approval of Minutes from last AGM
- Treasurer's Report – Financial Statements
- Board Member Elections
- Annual Activity Report
- Upcoming Activities

Refreshments

- Partnership updates
- Keynote: **Human Rights & Faith Communities**
- Acknowledgements



Devotional Prayer

Sufi Prayer for Peace

Bismillah-i-Rahminir-Rahim

Send Thy peace, O Lord, which is perfect and everlasting,
that our souls may radiate peace.

Send Thy peace, O Lord, that we may think, act,
and speak harmoniously.

Send Thy peace, O Lord, that we may be contented
and thankful for Thy bountiful gifts.

Send Thy peace, O Lord, that amidst our worldly strife
we may enjoy thy bliss.

Send Thy peace, O Lord, that we may endure all,
tolerate all in the thought of thy grace and mercy.

Send Thy peace, O Lord, that our lives may become a
divine vision, and in Thy light all darkness may vanish.

Send Thy peace, O Lord, our Father and Mother, that we
Thy children on earth may all unite in one family.

Amen.

**The Prayers of Hazrat
Pir-o-Murshid Inayat Khan**

VMS Vision

Vision

- To learn from one another, to celebrate our unity in diversity, and to work respectfully together for the well-being of the community and the world.



Review of last AGM Minutes

- **Current Board Membership :**
 - Ali Hemani Muslim board member
 - Sheila Flood Baha'i board member
 - Christine Johnston Unitarian board member
 - Sridevi Ganti Hindu board member
 - Henri Lock Christian board member
 - Janine Theobald Buddhist board member
 - Shoshana Litman Jewish board member
 - Parminder Virk Sikh board member
- **Treasurer's report**
 - Motion and vote passed to accept Treasurer's report
- **Annual Activity Report**
 - Outline of annual activity of the Society provided by VMS Chair & Board Members

Treasurer Report

Financial Update:



Financial Statement

Board Membership Updates

- Muslim board member & Chair - Ali Hemani's term has ended as per bylaws.
- Unitarian board member & Treasurer Christine Johnstone's term has ended as per bylaws.
- First Nations representative ***seat is still vacant***
- Bylaws allow for one Board member seat not affiliated with any major faith group

Board Structure & Elections

Janine

Ali Hemani – Chair (retiring)

Sheila Flood – Secretary

Christine Johnston – Treasurer (retiring)

Board recommendations for election:

- Muslim Board Member – **Moussa Magassa**
- Non-affiliated Board Member – **Yavhel Velazquez**

Our Objectives

Key Objectives:

- To demonstrate that people of faith can work respectfully together
- To be a resource for the community by:
 - Responding to emergent humanitarian issues which impact on relationships between communities of Faith
 - Liaising with and providing resources to those wanting information and educational material on multifaith perspectives and social issues
 - Serving as a communication hub for faith communities
- To increase engaged and committed membership

Ali

Board Planning Activity

Annual planning: (Aug – Sept.)

Ali

- Confirm programming objectives aligned with mandate
- Review Board priorities, planning assumptions & constraints
- Focus on understanding our stakeholders and their interests

Board Priorities Identified:

1. Increased stakeholder identification and targeted engagement.
2. Maintain a variety of programming to achieve VMS objectives.
3. Leverage and join forces with initiatives underway that have energy and attraction:
4. Resourcing and longer-term capacity building

VMS Activity Update

Activities / Events Sponsored:

- Lunch & Learn sessions: (Malcolm)
 - Multifaith Perspectives on Modern Issues
- Living Well Dying Well Series with Kim Holl (Janine or Sheila)
- UN Interfaith Harmony Week Event (Janine)
 - Panel discussion on creating a more compassionate future.
- Starfields (Jo)
- Support for World Partnership Walk (Ali)
- Responding to the Refugee Crisis (with ICA) (Sheila)
- Multifaith Evening – with shared devotional songs, poetry in praise of God (Sri)

Lunch & Learn - Multifaith Thursdays

Objectives:

- An educational opportunity for community members to learn the major faiths' perspective on modern issues.

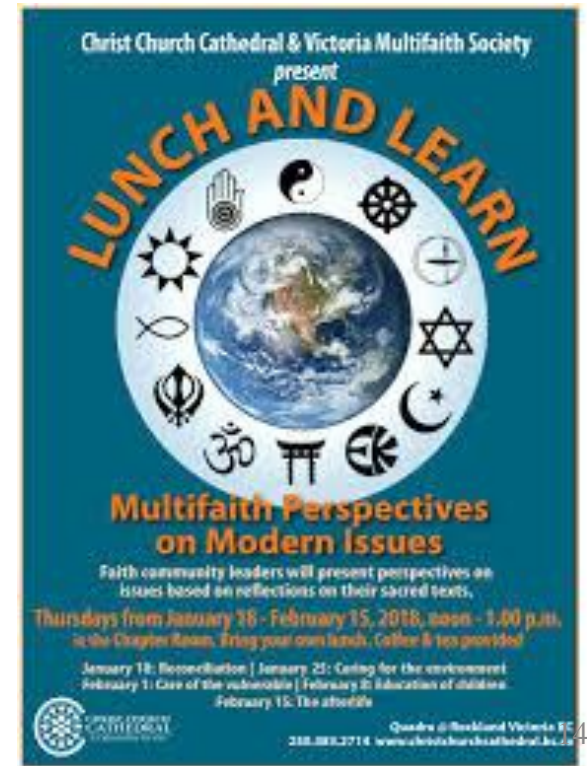
Venue: Christ Church Cathedral

Date: Jan. 18 – Feb. 15, 2018

Attendance: 40–50 per session

Schedule:

- January 18 Reconciliation / Forgiveness
- January 25 Environmental Stewardship
- February 01 Caring for the Vulnerable
- February 08 The Education of Children
- February 15 The Afterlife



Community Conversations: Living Well Dying Well

Objectives:

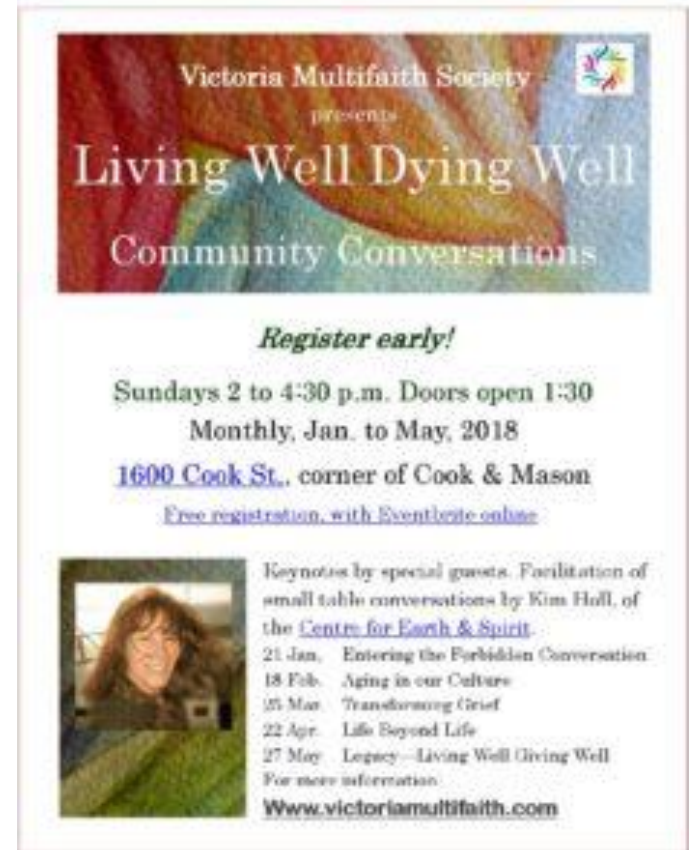
- Share insights and wisdom from the world's faith traditions on this theme and provide unique insights into the spiritual nature of living well and dying with dignity.

Date: Jan. - May, 2018

Attendance: 20-40 per session

Schedule:

- 21 Jan. Entering the Forbidden Conversation
- 18 Feb. Aging in our Culture – Role of the Elder
- 25 Mar. Transforming Grief
- 22 Apr. Life Beyond Life
- 27 May Legacy—Living Well Giving Well



The poster features a colorful, abstract background with the text "Victoria Multifaith Society presents Living Well Dying Well Community Conversations". It includes the following details:

- Register early!**
- Sundays 2 to 4:30 p.m. Doors open 1:30**
- Monthly, Jan. to May, 2018**
- 1600 Cook St., corner of Cook & Mason**
- Free registration, with Eventbrite online**

Below the text is a small photo of a woman, Kim Hall, and a list of keynotes:

- Keynotes by special guests. Facilitation of small table conversations by Kim Hall, of the [Centre for Earth & Spirit](http://www.victoriamultifaith.com).
- 21 Jan. Entering the Forbidden Conversation
- 18 Feb. Aging in our Culture
- 25 Mar. Transforming Grief
- 22 Apr. Life Beyond Life
- 27 May Legacy—Living Well Giving Well

For more information:
www.victoriamultifaith.com

UN Interfaith Harmony Week – Collaboration Event with UVic MFS

Objectives:

- Raise awareness of the diversity of our faith communities and highlight our shared values.
- Provide a forum to interact and share ethics, beliefs and how each faith needs to approach current challenges faced

Venue: University of Victoria

Date: Feb. 4, 2018

Attendance: 200+

Outcome:

- World faiths were represented by the extremely passionate and articulate panelists who shared perspectives on creating a sustainable and more compassionate future.
- The event raised awareness of each faith community's ethics, values, and their approach to face the key challenges today.



Starfields 2018: A Festival of Hope

Objectives:

- Opportunities for open-minded and open-hearted artistic expression to foster closeness and understanding among people of different faiths and cultures.

Date: April 13-15, 2018

Attendance: Hundreds

Venue: Multiple Venues

- Starfields featured multiple concerts, workshops, readings and celebrations across multiple venues to engage youth & community groups.



The poster for Starfields 2018: A Festival of Hope features a blue header with three white stars and a white swoosh. Below this, the word "starfields" is written in a large, blue, sans-serif font. Underneath, "— A FESTIVAL OF HOPE —" is written in a smaller, white, sans-serif font. The dates "APRIL 13-15 2018" are prominently displayed in a large, yellow, sans-serif font, followed by "3 MAINSTAGE CONCERTS!" in a smaller, white, sans-serif font. Below this, the text "2 DAYS OF WORKSHOPS ★ POETS. AUTHORS ★ VISIONARIES ★ OPEN MIC!" is written in a smaller, yellow, sans-serif font. The website "www.starfields.ca" is listed at the bottom of the main text area. A row of small, square photographs shows various people and activities. Below the photos, a list of performers is provided in a white, sans-serif font: THE PAPERBOYS ★ THE SMALL GLORIES ★ SHANE CLAIBORNE, LEELA GILDAY BAND ★ CRIS DERKSEN ★ LINDA MCRAE, RAE SPOON ★ DEER AND COYOTE ★ LAUREN MANN ★ WHITEBIRD, WASHINGTON & COOK ★ DECADES AFTER PARIS ★ THE LAKE MEN, BENEDICT BEATTIE ★ HOPE BAY COMMON ★ LIZ DIELEMAN, FRANCES LITMAN ★ IAN HINKLE ★ DR. CATHERINE NOUIN ★ DANNY BROCK ★ STAR WEISS, GREG MARCHAND ★ TANYA TAFT ★ MATT JACKSON ★ YVONNE BLOMER ★ BARBARA PELMAN ★ MARGO MCLOUGHLIN, DAN MACISAAC ★ PHILIP KEVIN PAUL ★ FR. KARAM ALRABAN ★ HENRI LOCK ★ SHOSHANA LITMAN. At the bottom, the ticket information is listed: "TICKETS: Munro's Books 250.382.2264, Ivy's 250.598.2713, or www.starfields.ticketleap.com". The footer contains logos for various sponsors and partners, including the Abbey Church, Anglican Diocese of British Columbia, Emmaus Community, University of Victoria, Victoria Multifaith Society, and others.

starfields
— A FESTIVAL OF HOPE —
APRIL 13-15 2018
3 MAINSTAGE CONCERTS!
2 DAYS OF WORKSHOPS ★ POETS.
AUTHORS ★ VISIONARIES ★ OPEN MIC!
www.starfields.ca

THE PAPERBOYS ★ THE SMALL GLORIES ★ SHANE CLAIBORNE
LEELA GILDAY BAND ★ CRIS DERKSEN ★ LINDA MCRAE
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TICKETS: Munro's Books 250.382.2264, Ivy's 250.598.2713, or www.starfields.ticketleap.com
Artists Subject To Change

Logos: abbey church, ANGLICAN DIOCESE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA, EMMAUS COMMUNITY, University of Victoria, VICTORIA MULTIFAITH SOCIETY, HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC PARISH, PLANET, First Met United Church, St. Matthias Anglican Church, h!, Victoria Multifaith Society, and others.

World Partnership Walk

Objectives:

- The World Partnership Walk, sponsored by the Ismaili community, is Canada's largest annual event dedicated to raising funds and increasing awareness to fight global poverty.
- An opportunity to engage our faith communities and networks in an issue of social justice.

Venue: UVic campus

Date: May 27, 2018

Attendance: 2000+

Outcome:

- Demonstrated solidarity with other faith and community groups in support of development projects to fight global poverty.
- Every dollar we raise together is helping to bring hope to people and communities who need it the most.
- **VMS Raised over \$1500.**



Partnering on the Refugee Crisis

Objectives:

- An opportunity to work with faith communities and partner with ICA to help the most vulnerable.



Date: July 29, 2018

Attendance: 90

Venue: Cadboro Bay United Church

- VMS was happy to support the Refugee information meeting put on by the ICA to encourage sponsorship of BVOR refugees.



Multifaith Evening of Devotion

Objectives:

- An opportunity to learn from and mingle with people of other religions within their places of worship and congregation.

Date: Sept. 29, 2018

Attendance: 100+

Venue: Hindu Temple

- Several world faiths represented and shared devotional songs, poetry in praise of God



Upcoming & Planned Events

- **World Interfaith Harmony week event (Janine)**
 - Sunday Feb. 4th - Uvic David Lam Auditorium
- **2019 Lunch & Learn series: (Malcolm)**
 - TBD
- **Starfields? (Jo)**

Social Time



VMS Partnerships

Partnership & Collaboration Updates:

- Communications committee & Spiritually Speaking Blog
- Victoria Interfaith Liaison Network (ILN)
- Collaboration & partnerships with UVic Multifaith Services & the UVic Interfaith Student Association
- Inter-Cultural Association (ICA)



VMS Partnerships

Partnership Updates:

- New Communications Committee & partnership with the “Spiritually Speaking” blog
- See sample hand-outs.
- Update from Anna Bowness-Park



VMS Partnerships

Partnership Updates:

- Victoria Interfaith Liaison Network (ILN)
 - Focused on service projects and shared activity
- Update from Sheila Flood



VMS Partnerships

Partnership Updates:

- Collaboration & partnerships with UVic Multifaith Services & the UVic Interfaith Student Association
 - Alignment of topics relevant to Youth & Student interests
 - Joint planning and collaboration for Annual UN Interfaith Week Event
 - Access to devotional space on campus
- Update from Sheila & Ali



VMS Partnerships

Partnership Updates:

- Collaboration with Inter-Cultural Association (ICA)
- Update from Steven Baileys



Keynote Topic: Human Rights & the Role of Faith Communities

Speaker: Moussa Magassa

- Moussa Magassa is the Human Rights Education Advisor for the Dept of Equity and Human Rights at UVic.
- His areas of interest include: human rights education and transformational leadership; global leadership; ethics and social justice activism.



Special Acknowledgements

A special vote of thanks to:

- All our board members and their supportive families
- Jim Flood – Website, IT, and logistics support
- Sudhakar Ganti – A/V support for events
- ICA for their support and help with publicizing our events
- UVic Multifaith Services & the Victoria Interfaith Liaison Network
- Last but not least – to each of the participating faith communities for helping to promote our events and supporting the vision of VMS!

VMS Resources & Membership

Individual Membership - \$10

Faith Group membership - \$50

Website:

<http://victoriamultifaith.com/wp/>

Online membership registration available soon.

Contact email:

victoriamultifaith@gmail.com

Facebook: Victoria Multifaith Society