



## One Spirit: Celebrating our Faiths Together



### Anishinaabe Blessing by John Borrows

VMS Chair John Borrows is Anishinaabe from Ontario and one of the world's leading scholars on Indigenous law. He co-created the world's first dual Indigenous law program (UVic) and guides communities in reviving Indigenous legal principles and processes to address today's challenges.



### Jewish Community

#### Presenter Rabbi Matthew Ponak

Rabbi Matthew is a spiritual counsellor, songleader, and teacher of Jewish mysticism. He is the author of [\*Embodied Kabbalah: Jewish Mysticism for All People\*](#). Learn more at [MatthewPonak.com](http://MatthewPonak.com). He will be leading a nigun, a wordless song from the Jewish mystical tradition.



### Bahá'í Community

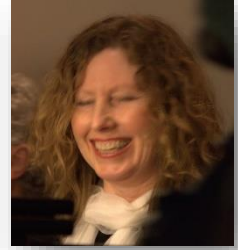
#### Bitá Kamalian, prayer chanted in English & Arabic

Bitá Kamalian came to Canada 7 years ago and is a lifelong member of the Bahá'í community. She has a 23 year old son and works as a Preschool Teacher. Bitá is very thankful to live in a multicultural country. Bitá will be singing the Bahá'í prayer "God is Sufficient unto Me", in English & Arabic.

Central Saanich United Church,  
Bob Gilbert & Amy Nold, Christian prayer with music



Bob Gilbert and Amy Nold from Central Saanich United Church, will offer Christian prayer & music. Amy is a lifelong musician and has been playing for Central Saanich United Church since 2012. Bob is an ordained minister for over 28 years & presently serves the congregation of Central Saanich United Church.



Sikh Community

Rajwant Singh, playing the tabla hand drum



Rajwant moved with his wife and 3 children from northern India to Victoria in 2003, serving for over a decade as priest at the Sikh temple on Topaz St. and as a teacher of the Punjabi language. He and his family have just opened the [All Spice restaurant](#) in Burnside Village this past summer. Rajwant will be playing the tabla, an essential instrument in the bhakti devotional traditions of Hinduism and Sikhism.

New Thought

Sharron MacLeod, God Makes Me Want to Sing



Sharon is a long time member of Unity Vancouver Island, where she found her spiritual home when her heart was searching for a certain something to fill her soul. "The words of the songs I sing bring me closer to God and my heart awakens to joy and gratitude every time I sing." She will perform a song by Daniel Nahmod called God Makes Me Want To Sing.

Sufi Community,

Carol Ann Sokoloff, song and meditative circle dance



Also known by the spiritual name 'Nirtan', Carol represents a non-Islamic, 'Universal' Sufi lineage founded by the Indian musician and mystic, Inayat Khan (1882-1927). She serves as a guide for Sufi Circle Canada, a leader of Dances of Universal Peace and also conducts the Universal Worship ceremony. Carol will share contemporary songs and a meditative circle dance based on the teachings, prayers and aphorisms of Inayat Khan.



### Indigenous Community, Scott Sam and OCM

Scott Sam is a member of the Tsartlip Nation and the son of Elder May Sam and the late Gabriel “Skip” Sam. He is married with two beautiful children. Scott has been drumming with OCM, Our Culture Matters, since about 2004.



### Hindu Community Prashant Pednekar, reciting a poem in Marathi

Preshant grew up in Goa, India, moved to Canada in 2008 and has been living and learning on Vancouver Island ever since. He currently works for the province of BC as a Geospatial Analyst with the Ministry of Water, Land and Resources Stewardship. Preshant will be presenting a poem in the Marathi language called 'Tya Fulanchya Gandhakoshi' (Within a flowers' fragrant core) where the poet marvels about the wonders he sees around, ponders over them and strives to know who is behind all these.



*One Spirit 2022*