

more acid, warmer, and more prone to vast oxygen-deprived dead zones. At risk is the very structure of life in the ocean and therefore, on the planet as a whole." (<http://www.alannamitchell.com>) She painted a pretty bleak picture of what the acidification of the ocean would do, such as: the disintegration of coral, the loss of wild seafood that many people and other species depend upon, and the reduction of oxygen into the atmosphere.

Even though she ended the talk with a sense of hopefulness, I felt traumatized for weeks. I fell into a state of grief over the inevitable loss of our world as we know it. We either have to stop our addiction to fossil fuels (which will require drastic changes to our lifestyles) or we will have to suffer the effects of what they are doing to our oceans (which will result in drastic changes to our lifestyles). I prefer the former, but we have to do it fast! I had no idea the situation was this critical. I keep wondering; why aren't our governments doing more about it?

So, having had my head dragged out of the sand, I feel inspired to be more environmentally friendly: driving less, using more eco-friendly cleaning supplies, eating less meat, buying more local organic foods, thinking twice about travelling, sending emails to politicians, supporting the Green Party, attending environmental protests, joining environmental groups and supporting them financially.

I guess I'm an environmentalist now. What about you? Could you please help spread the word, and let your government representatives know what your thoughts are? Maybe join an environmental group or two? We need to collectively step out of denial and work together on this, quickly. It's the only way to be hopeful about the future of the planet. The optimist in me thinks we still have a chance to turn things around.

By Cathy Fletcher  
(as printed in The Seaside Times)

## ***The Positive Living Centre of Victoria***

### **Centre News for December 2010**

#### ***Kim's Korner***

A loving thought to all for a Joy filled Christmas season. This is a time when there is an influx of joy and good cheer. It is felt in the Christmas music, lights and the decorations. As this consciousness of celebration unfolds, it picks up everyone that is open to it and moves them into a loving energy. I sound rather optimistic perhaps, but this has always been, and is my truth around this most special celebration. I personally have a deep love for the story of the Christ birth, because it is our story, and within it is the salvation of all of mankind. It reveals our deeper spiritual nature, but to partake of the gift it holds for us, we first must let go of any thought that it is a religious story, and realize that it is speaking to us of our evolution into Christ consciousness. The fact that it has been around as a documented story for well over four thousand years speaks of its importance. This evolution into Christ consciousness is our birth right and our inevitable end. Like *The Course in Miracles* says, "This is a required course, only the time in which you take it is voluntary." To you, the congregation of the PLC, I am grateful to walk with you through this course of Learning.

In Love, Kim.

#### ***President's Remarks***

As we welcome the Christmas season, we open our hearts to the messages of peace and joy and love, knowing that they are messages for every day of the year. While we welcome members of every religion at our Centre, Christmas provides us with an opportunity to celebrate with our Positive Living Centre community.

We will begin this year's festivities at the Positive Living Centre with a community potluck turkey dinner with all the trimmings on November 28. We will have a bus tour of Christmas lights on December 17. Our wonderful annual Christmas concert will be held on December 19 and will be the highlight of the Centre's Christmas season.

On January 9 we will conclude our seasonal celebrations with Tithe Sunday, when those organizations to which the Centre has donated tithes for 2010 will be invited to come and speak to us about the work that they do within the community. This year we have invited the congregation to provide some suggestions of names of organizations they would like to have considered for these donations. In order to provide a meaningful sum of money to each selected organization, there will be 5 organizations chosen, one of which will be the International Association for Transformation which we have supported for several years. The Board looks forward to hearing your suggestions.

For those members who are interested in attending Board meetings as observers, the next scheduled meeting will be on Sunday, December 5, after the service.

In January the Board will hold a half day retreat to make plans for 2011. If you have suggestions, please let Rev. Kim or a Board member know what you would like to see by way of events, educational opportunities, guest speakers and social events for the coming year.

Moving forward into 2011, I know that we are building on a firm foundation and that the New Thought principles that we practice in our daily lives will strengthen our community and enable us to build an ever-expanding Centre founded on principles of love, gratitude and trust in Divine All-encompassing Spirit.

Love and blessings for this joyful Christmas Season!

Rev. Joanna Drewry  
Interim President

## ***Confessions of a Reluctant Environmentalist***

I didn't plan to become an environmentalist. My personality does not suit being an activist. I'm the shy, quiet type, and don't like being 'out there'. I hate asking people for stuff, their money or their time.

Also, I'm an eternal optimist and only like to think about the positive things in life. This sometimes requires keeping my head in the sand. I don't like bad news.

So hearing about the global warming sceptics would give me hope. Maybe the situation is not that bad after all. Sure, I was responsible. I recycled, tried to keep my energy use down, carpooled and all that, but without giving it a great deal of thought. I love going for drives, travelling, eating imported food, etc., and was not willing to give all that up, especially since everyone else wasn't.

Then I inadvertently went to a talk at UVIC by journalist Alanna Mitchell, author of the book, *Sea Sick*. Now, I wouldn't normally go to something like that, which sounded like it might involve listening to some bad news, but the community choir that I belong to was invited to sing at the event. And I love to sing at community events. It's usually a positive, uplifting experience.

Well, there's a reason Alanna is affectionately referred to as 'The Armageddon Lady.' This was the most depressing information I had ever heard. She spoke about the current state of our oceans. "In a nutshell, some of the carbon dioxide we are putting into the air by burning fossil fuels is being absorbed by the ocean. That reverts it to a state it has not been in for millions of years: