

Vancouver Island University and Vancouver Island Regional Library proudly present:

THE PHILOSOPHERS' CAFÉ

Come join us at the Philosophers' Café – a public forum for debate. Each Café is on a different topic, briefly introduced by a knowledgeable presenter and opened to the floor for general discussion. Pose questions, present arguments, hear opposing viewpoints, and join in on the fun as we discuss tricky issues, theories, concepts and more!

ROMANTIC RELATIONSHIPS: LOVE STORIES WITHOUT AN AUTHOR

To an important extent, we don't author our real life "love stories"; they instead happen to us. What, then, are the limits of our responsibility for how they unfold? Are we suffering an illusion when we think we should hold two changing people, in a changing world, responsible to make relationships last?

Jim Ayers has been a long-time member of the VIU Philosophy Department. His academic interests include consequentialism, environmental ethics, and philosophy of personal relations.

Wednesday, Feb. 20th, 6:00 – 7:30 pm

CONFLICTED OVER DEATH?

Our behaviour suggests conflicting attitudes towards death. On the one hand, we go to great lengths to preserve life, but on the other, we do little to protect ourselves against nuclear and environmental threats. Can we make sense of our own behaviour or attitudes regarding the finality of life?

Rachel Cooper is a member of the Psychology Department at VIU. She is currently teaching a course on death and dying and is also interested in consciousness and altered states.

Wednesday, March 20th, 6:00 – 7:30 pm

JUSTICE AND THE LAW

What can we do when the justice system leads to injustice? One possibility is jury nullification, the legal, but controversial, power of juries to render a verdict that goes against the law. Is this a good idea?

Gary Bauslaugh holds a PhD in Chemistry and was, for many years, Dean and then Vice President at Malaspina (now VIU). In recent years, he has published six books on social issues, and is an editor for the magazine, *Humanist Perspectives*.

Wednesday, March 27st, 6:00 – 7:30 pm

All Cafés are held free of charge at the Nanaimo Harbourfront Library (90 Commercial Street). After 5:00 pm, free parking is available at the Bastion Parkade (Skinner and Bastion).

