

Fr. Jürgen's sister Birgit arrived from Germany and all she wanted to see was snow, and she did. It was very cold during the Christmas season and Fr. Jürgen took her to Alberta with -30 C degree. Needless to say, she was happy when the temperatures bounced back above freezing.

## 2005

	Baptisms	Weddings	Funeral	Confirmations	Ordinations
2005	18	11	108	24	1

## January

### The Utrecht Union

Starting in 2000 we have been invited to join the Utrecht Union, which is a organization of Old Catholic Churches from Holland, Germany, Austria, Switzerland, and other European countries by the Bureau of the International Old Catholics. After much correspondence and debate, the Bureau is asking us to pay a representative to visit us in November of this year. We agreed. The Rev. Fr. Jürgen Wenge from Offenbach, Germany will be this representative.

## February

Our server Michael Ward was ordained to the diaconate on Sunday February 6. Deacon Michael joined our Church three years ago and has been a server for two years. He is Acadian and originally from New Brunswick where he also studied. He is working as a lab technician at St. Paul's Hospital. A quiet man, he is very faithful in attendance and well liked by the congregation.

On February 19, 2005 we had a very special occasion, the 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary of Mr. & Mrs. Ferdinand and Marie Girard. They have been faithful in attendance over 25 years and are a pillar of the Church. Over the years they have been serving the Church in many different capacities, from renovating, cooking, to assisting at the altar. Mr. Girard is the custodian for the Holy Mass on Sunday

morning and greets everyone faithfully for 25 years, Mrs. Girard has cooked numerous times for everyone. Both are well liked by everyone and together they have 22 children and grandchildren.

## March

As of March 3, 2005 we are no longer in Communion with Christ Catholic Church International.

On Easter we had again several baptisms, two of them adults, Mr. Samuel Thomas and Mr. Allan Olmsted. It is for a Church a special joy to have adults decide to follow Jesus Christ and we pray for God's blessings for all their future endeavors.

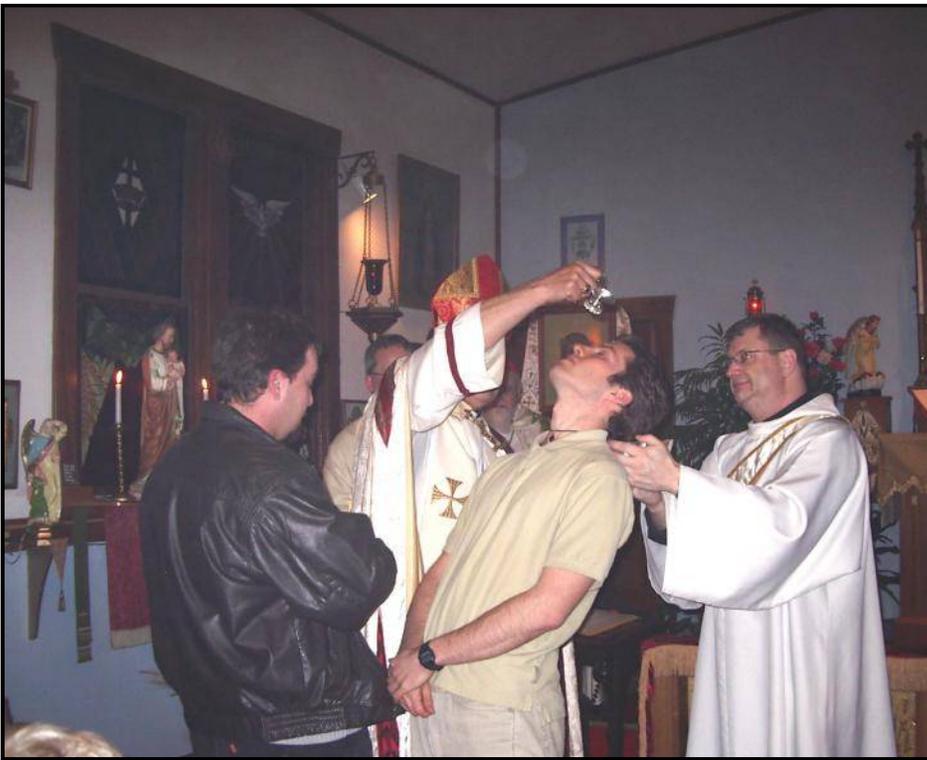
Mr. Samuel Thomas and his mother Rohana have been members at St. Raphael's since the baptism. Of German descent, they both speak German and Samuel is also fluent in French. Samuel graduated with honors from the University of British Columbia with a degree in Bachelor of Arts and the head of the History department encouraged him to continue his study, which we hope he will do.

## May

The spring surprised us with bad news: Both Bishop Mack and Fr. Gordon suffered strokes. Fr. Gordon had to go to the hospital and was admitted to Holy Family Hospital for rehabilitation; Bishop Mack is recuperating at home. Our prayers are with both of them in this time. In other news, Fr. Claude has applied for a provincial charter for our Church in Quebec and we are now waiting for a response.

## June

Again we had some visitors this summer: In July Mr. Jürgen Alsbach came from Germany, and we also had a surprise visit from Mr. Gerhard Oberauer. His parents-in-law and some good friends from Austria came to visit him and after their arrival in Vancouver, they visited the Church before departing for Valemount A former tenant and good friend, Mr. Victor Doucet came in October for the first time in a many years and everyone was happy to see him.



**Baptism and First Communion at the Old Catholic Church of BC**

**Top left:** Mr. Samuel Thomas and Mr. Roger Olmsted are baptized as adults on Easter 2005

**Center:** Infant baptism at St. Raphael's Old Catholic Church

**Bottom left:** First Communion with a number of children who are Metis - Easter 1996

**Bottom right:** First Communion picture Easter 2004



## July

Bishop LaPlante and Mr. Jim Gee went to Gabriola Island for the wedding of Ms. Denese Izzard and Mr. Robert Ferris on the 9<sup>th</sup> of July. Ms. Denese Izzard is a long-time friend and supporter of the Church and moved to the Island a few years ago. The wedding took place at St. Martin Anglican Church and Bishop LaPlante officiated together with the Rev. Dr. Linda A. St. Clair, Anglican Priest and rector of the parish.

## August

In August Fr. Jürgen's parents arrived from Germany and stayed with us for a week, before leaving for Alberta, where they and Fr. Jürgen attended the 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary of the uncle of Fr. Jürgen. On the trip they took the inside passage from Port Hardy to Prince Rupert on the HRMS "Queen of the North" which sank only 6 months later.

## September

After a few weeks at Vancouver General Hospital and nearly three months of recuperation at Holy Family Hospital, Fr. Gordon was able to come back to the Church. He really enjoyed being back and to see everyone, to sleep in his own bed with his faithful companion Raphie at his side. We also celebrated the joyful occasion of the baptism of Andreas Stouter. He is a young man from Thüringen, Germany, who came to Canada for an Internship in metal works. Needing a place to stay he lived with us for 6 weeks. He had never been in a Church, nor did he know about the faith. After learning about the faith, he wanted to be baptized and we baptized him at the end of his stay, before he went back to Germany.

## October

October was overshadowed by the untimely passing of our member Ms. Theresa Frankfort at the age of 37 years. RIP. Originally a school teacher she met Bishop LaPlante a couple of years ago at the funeral of our roofer, Mr. Gagnon. Being ambiguous about faith and the

Church she nevertheless decided to attend St. Raphael's with her friend Brenda. She liked what she saw and became a regular at Holy Mass. She was baptized by Bishop Gérard. However, tragedy hit her: At the age of 35 years she suffered from a stroke. Starting to recuperate from that, she was diagnosed with a fatal cancer that took her life. In her suffering and life she became an example of Christian living and hope to all of us. "What else do you have, but your Church and your family?" she expressed on her death bed. We will remember her.

## November

From 9 – 16 November we had the long anticipated visit of the representative of the Archbishop of Utrecht, the Rev. Fr. Jürgen Wenge from Offenbach, Germany.



*The monument of the Old Catholic Church of BC at Valley View Cemetery in Surrey, BC*

## November 2005 cont.

We have applied for membership in the Union of Utrecht of Old Catholic Churches 5 years ago and we were very pleased to meet someone officially face to face. Fr. Wenge arrived for a week which was filled with the many activities to show the different facets of the Old Catholic Church of BC. He met the Bishops, clergy, and members of the Old Catholic Church of BC, incl. Fr. Claude Lacroix, who came from Quebec City, Quebec and Fr. Gary Wulf who drove up from Redmond, Washington. He met the Anglican Bishop Michael Ingham, the Principal and Dean of the Vancouver School of Theology, Dr. Wendy Fletcher, and the representative of the Episcopalian Diocese of Olympia in Seattle, Washington. He was given time to meet and discuss with members and friends of the Church, saw the archive of the Church, and worship with us at the different locations: St. Raphael's Old Catholic Church in Vancouver, Our Lady of Nativity Old Catholic Mission in Surrey, Ocean View Cemetery in Burnaby, and Holy Trinity Anglican Church in Redmond, WA. Before his departure for Germany on November 16 Fr. Jürgen Wenge thanked the Bishop, Priests, parishioners, and friends of the Old Catholic Church for their hospitality, the participation with us in the liturgical and social life of the Church and its people during that time. He said to Bishop LaPlante that he was much impressed with the vitality and future of the Old Catholic Church of BC, and a favourable report from his part will be submitted to Archbishop Vercaemmen and the International Conference of Old Catholic Bishops.

The month of November ended with quite a shock for us as we had to mourn the loss of yet another close friend of our community, the Reverend Father Paul Thompson on November 23. Father Paul was

the Airport Chaplain of the Roman Catholic Diocese and over the years became a good friend of the Bishop and the Church. His wit, good advice and gentle personality will be deeply missed. He died suddenly of a stroke in the Rectory of Holy Rosary RC Cathedral where he resided. Bishop Gérard LaPlante, Fr. Jürgen Schmode, and Fr. Gary Wulf - who came especially from Seattle - attended Prayers and the Funeral Mass for him. Holy Mass was also offered for him at St. Raphael's Old Catholic Church.

## 2006

	Baptisms	Weddings	Funeral	Confirmations	Ordinations
2006	12	13	105	8	1

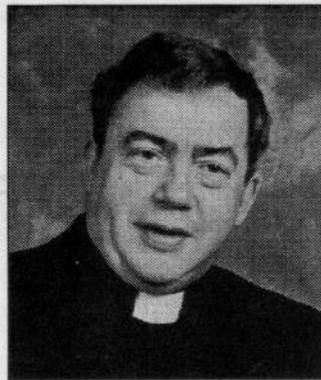
## February 2006

Fr. Jürgen went to Germany to attend the 70th birthday of his father. He also took the change to visit Fr. Wenge in Offenbach and see Mr. Jürgen & Astrid Alsbach in their new home with and meet their 6 month old daughter Lina.

## April 2006

For Easter we had a full Church on all services between Holy Thursday and Easter, with many guests and visitors and baptisms and confirmations. Holy Thursday was also the first time after his stroke that Fr. Gordon was playing the organ in the Church. We are very happy of his recovery and his ability to contribute again to the life of the Church in the way he loves.

At the end of April we also received the news that our Church was accepted in the Utrecht Union of Old Catholic Churches.



*In Prayerful Remembrance of*

### Rev. Fr. Paul Henry Thompson

Born: February 23, 1947  
Edmonton, Alberta

Ordained: December 20, 1975  
Fort McMurray, Alberta

Died: November 23, 2005  
Vancouver, BC

**Visit of the Reverend Father Jürgen Wenge, Offenbach, Germany  
Personal Representative of the Archbishop of Utrecht,  
The Most Reverend Dr. Joris A.O.L. Vercammen and the Utrecht Union**

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10 November 2005; at St. Raphael's Old Catholic Church; with the board of the Old Catholic Church of BC; front seated left to right: as guest Fr. Jürgen Wenge, official representative of the Archbishop of Utrecht, Bishop J. Gérard LaPlante, Deacon Michael Ward, Fr. Claude Lacroix standing behind left to right: Mr. Jean Doucet, Mr. Jim Gee, Mr. Alain Vaugier, Mr. Fred Foster, Mrs. Suzanne Pemberton, Mr. Samuel Thomas, Fr. Jürgen Schmode, Mr. Tony Klymchuk



10 November 2005: with Bishop Michael Ingham, Anglican Church of Canada, New Westminster diocese; left to right: The Very Rev. Ron Harrison, Archdeacon (Anglican), Fr. Jürgen Wenge, Bishop Gérard LaPlante, Bishop Michael Ingham, Fr. Jürgen Schmode



13 November 2005—final blessing at Holy Mass at St. Raphael's Old Catholic Church; left to right: Fr. Claude Lacroix, Fr. Jürgen Schmode, Bishop Gérard LaPlante, Fr. Jürgen Wenge



12 November 2005 Outside St. Raphael's Old Catholic Church; left to right: Mr. Jean Doucet, Fr. Jürgen Schmode, Fr. Claude Lacroix, Bishop Gérard LaPlante, Fr. Jürgen Wenge, Fr. Gary Wulf

# The Old Catholic Church of BC

## Visit of the Reverend Father Jürgen Wenge, Offenbach, Germany Personal Representative of the Archbishop of Utrecht, The Most Reverend Dr. Joris A.O.L. Vercammen and the Utrecht Union Page 2



**Above Left:** 13 November 2005 During Holy Mass at St. Raphael's Old Catholic Church.

*Right: 13 November 2005 Bishop Gérard LaPlante with clergy and the newly baptized and confirmed members of the Old Catholic Church of BC; clergy in the back left to right: Fr. Claude Lacroix, Fr. Jürgen Schmode, Deacon Michael Ward, Fr. Jürgen Wenge, Fr. Gary Wulf*



**Above right:** 13 November 2007 Bishop Gérard LaPlante with the Tomas family, who are Mayan and originally from Guatemala and who came as refugees to Canada

**Below:** 13 November 2005 A view of the packed St. Raphael's Old Catholic Church.



## The Old Catholic Church of BC

### Visit of the Reverend Father Jürgen Wenge, Offenbach, Germany Personal Representative of the Archbishop of Utrecht, The Most Reverend Dr. Joris A.O.L. Vercammen and the Utrecht Union Birthday celebration of Bishop Gérard LaPlante & reception for Fr. Jürgen Wenge



10 November 2005—At the reception for Fr. Jürgen Wenge; left to right: Mrs. Ellen Vaugier, Fr. Paul Thompson (Roman Catholic Priest, Holy Rosary Cathedral; Vancouver Diocese), Fr. Gary Wulf, Fr. Jürgen Schmode, Mr. Jean Doucet



10 November 2005—the members and friends of the Old Catholic Church of BC during the reception for Fr. Jürgen Wenge



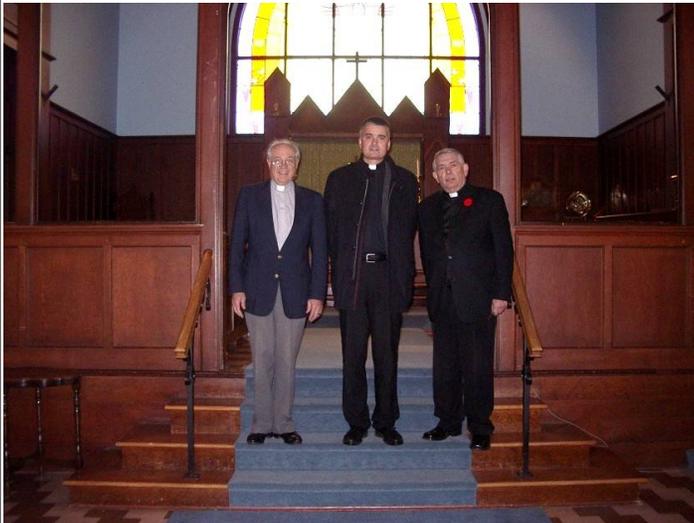
10 November 2005—the head table; left to right: Fr. Gary Wulf, Bishop Gérard LaPlante, Fr. Jürgen Wenge, Fr. Jürgen Schmode, Fr. Claude Lacroix



10 November 2005 in St. Raphael's; left to right: Fr. Jürgen Wenge, Fr. Jürgen Schmode, Fr. John Horgan (Roman Catholic Priest, Ss. Peter Paul Parish; Vancouver Diocese), Mrs. Rohanna Thomas, Mr. Fred Foster

Visit of the Reverend Father Jürgen Wenge, Offenbach, Germany  
Personal Representative of the Archbishop of Utrecht,  
The Most Reverend Dr. Joris A.O.L. Vercammen and the Utrecht Union

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13 November 2005—inside St. Mary's of South Hill Anglican Church, diocese of New Westminster, Anglican Church of Canada, Vancouver, BC with the Rector the Rev. Fr. Dennis Morgan (left) with Fr. Jürgen Wenge (centre) and Fr. Gary Wulf (right)



14 November 2005 inside Holy Trinity Anglican Church, Redmond, Washington, USA with left to right: Fr. Jürgen Schmode, the Rector, Fr. Gary Wulf, Fr. Jürgen Wenge, Bishop Gérard LaPlante, Fr. Claude Lacroix, server



14 November 2005—outside Holy Trinity Anglican Church, Redmond, Washington, USA with left to right: Fr. Jürgen Schmode, Fr. Jürgen Wenge, Bishop Gérard LaPlante, Fr. Claude Lacroix, the Rector, Fr. Gary Wulf



14 November 2005—Inside St. Mark's Episcopal Cathedral, diocese of Olympia, the Episcopal Church, Seattle, Washington, USA; Fr. Jürgen Schmode with Fr. Jürgen Wenge

Bulletin of the  
32nd Sunday Ordinary Time  
November 13, 2005

St. Raphael's Old Catholic Church Vancouver, BC



Visit of the Rev. Fr. Jürgen Wenge of Offenbach,  
Germany, representative of the  
Utrecht Union of Old Catholic Churches

Baptism  
First Communion  
Confirmation

## The Old Catholic Church of B.C.

*Be joyful always; pray at all times; be thankful in all circumstances.  
This is what God wants from you in your life in union with Christ Jesus.*

### Caring Community

#### **The Old Catholic Church of BC is a “Caring Community”**

*“For this is the message you have heard from the beginning that we should love one another.” 1 John 3:11*

In recent years I have become more aware of the importance of a support group to the ministry of Jesus. At the beginning of His ministry one of the first things He did was to gather a group of people around Him who were to be His disciples. This group of friends were to be together through most of the crucial moments of Jesus' ministry giving their support and assistance. While it is true Jesus went into the Garden of Gethsemane alone, we must never forget that he walked up to the garden with friends.

As individuals we are not made to go it alone - we need support. We need to be surrounded by a caring community. The church at its best is a caring community, where people are given new strength by the love and concern that surrounds them.

## The Old Catholic Church of BC

A caring community is first of all a place where people feel accepted as they are with "no strings attached". We all need to feel this circle of acceptance around us. We are living in a world where we have to continually prove ourselves. How good it is to be part of an organization that accepts us without qualifications. A caring community is also a place where people are encouraged to new life. It is a "mutual aspiration society", where people help each other grow and encourage each other to new heights.

<b>Baptism</b>		<b>age</b>
	<b>Name</b>	
1	Kate Jacqueline Dubois	1 year
2	Francisco Efrain Tomas Domingo	0 year
3	Trinity Juanita Graham	3 years
4	Francisco Efrain Tomas Domingo	23 years
<b>First Communion</b>		
	<b>Name</b>	
1	Seamus McNamara-Noël	11 years
2	Katie McNamara- Noël	12 years
<b>Confirmation</b>		
1	Henry Tomas Gaspar	28 years
2	Miriam Tomas Gaspar	26 years
3	Francisco Tomas Lorenzo	23 years
4	Domingo Tomas Gaspar	24 years
5	Gloria Tomas Gaspar	22 Years
6	Angelica Tomas Gaspar	20 years
7	Maria Tomas Gaspar	18 years
8	Martin Tomas Gaspar	16 years
9	Francisco Javier Tomas Gaspar	14 years
10	Orval Tomas Gaspar	12 years
11	Brandon Korman Proux	15 years
12	Lisa Randi Omeasoo	38 years
13	Brandyn Gabriel Bennett	13 years
14	Kyla Lee Anne Marie Bennett	12 years
15	Logan Anthony Bennett	16 years
16	Ryan Randy Omeasoo	20 years

## The Old Catholic Church of BC

### May – July 2006

May was a very busy month for Bishop LaPlante. Because two of his brothers were sick, he left for a short trip to Causapscal, Quebec in the middle of the month to visit with them. At the end of the month he again had to journey, this time to Germany to baptize the daughter of Mr. Jürgen Alsbach and Astrid. Bishop LaPlante took the opportunity to visit Fr. Wenge and celebrate the Eucharist with him at Christ Church in Offenbach. Lina Sophie Alsbach was baptized by Bishop Gérard LaPlante on June 4, 2006 at St. Jakobus Church in Koblenz, Germany. It was a very joyous event, as Lina is the first grandchild in the Alsbach family.

While Bishop LaPlante was busy in Europe, renovations in the Church started. The shower room was completed redone. The old setup served faithfully for 30 years but an upgrade was urgently necessary. Mr. Jean Doucet took the overall responsibility for the work and his team installed a new shower, new floor, new sink, and new lighting. Upstairs the corner bedroom and the hallway were repainted and the old carpet removed. The kitchen sink was replaced and in the dining room the old carpet was removed. Outside, the platform on top of the emergency stairs was completely rotten, it was replaced and brought up to date. The front door of the Church was redone, the old plywood removed, replaced by new one, new crosses on the door and new locks inside. In the back, a gate was installed at the car port. In the garden everything was cut back a little bit and a new gazebo replaced the old tent cover over the patio. It took several weeks to complete all the work, but it made a major impact on the Church.

### August 2006

The 29th Congress of the Utrecht Union of Old Catholic Churches took place in Freiburg, Germany from August 7 – 11, 2006 and Bishops from

all over Europe were present. Bishop J. Gérard LaPlante represented the Old Catholic Church of BC. During the event, Bishop LaPlante met the Archbishop of Utrecht, Holland, the Most Rev. Dr. Joris A.O.L. Vercammen and the Archbishop of Canterbury, England, the Most Rev. Dr. Rowan Williams.

Upon the return of Bishop J. Gérard LaPlante from the Old Catholic Congress in Germany, we celebrated two baptisms and two confirmations on August 27, 2006. Baptized were Stephanie Long 6 months old and Donna Davila 6 years old. Confirmed were the two daughters of Dr. Margarita Dobson, Gabrielle and Sophie.

The next Sunday we remembered Mrs. Katharine Hexter, the mother of Ms. Johanna Hexter, our neighbour from across the street. She passed away suddenly during the last week of August and we had special prayers for her at Holy Mass. Afterwards, everyone was invited for a small reception in the back of the Church.



*Visit of the Oberauer family from Salzburg, Austria July 2008  
Left to right seated: Mrs. & Mr. Oberauer from Austria, parishioner, Bishop Gérard LaPlante, Mrs. Lee from Portugal, Ms. Elisabeth Lee - her daughter, Mr. Raymond Pallard, Mrs. Lucille Pallard, his daughter. Left to right standing: Mr. Hamid Zanisadr, Rebecca, David, and Gerhard Oberauer, Mrs. Anneliese Eggers, Fr. Jürgen Schmode*

## **BAPTISM OF LINA ALSBACH IN KOBLENZ, GERMANY**

Bishop J. Gérard LaPlante went to Germany at the end of May for the baptism of Lina Alsbach, daughter of Mr. Jürgen Alsbach and his wife Astrid. Lina Sophie Alsbach was baptized by Bishop Gérard LaPlante on June 4, 2006 at St. James Old Catholic Church (Jakobuskirche) in Koblenz, Germany. It was a very joyous event, not only for the Alsbach family, as Lina is the first grandchild, but also for Bishop LaPlante and Old Catholic Church of BC, because Mr. Jürgen Alsbach has been a very faithful friend for many years.



Above left: Bishop LaPlante with the parents Mr. Jürgen and Astrid Alsbach at the baptism of Lina Alsbach on June 4, 2006



Above right: Bishop LaPlante with Mrs. Astrid Alsbach, holding Lina and Mr. Jürgen Alsbach in front of St. James Old Catholic Church (Jakobuskirche) in Koblenz, Germany



Above left: The former Vicar General of the Old Catholic Church in Germany with Bishop Gérard LaPlante and Mr. Jürgen Alsbach



Above right: Outside St. Jakobus Old Catholic Church in Koblenz: left to right: Mrs. Astrid Alsbach, holding Lina, the grandmother of Lina, Mrs. Westendorf, Bishop LaPlante, the brother and father of Astrid, Mrs. Barbara McKenzie from Bellevue, Washington, USA, Mr. Jürgen Alsbach, Mr. Jim Gee, from Vancouver, BC, Canada