



Trail to Schooner Cove, Pacific Rim National Park, BC

Rootedness

This September we will consider different aspects of ‘rootedness’, such as: Where do you put your roots down? Are you clinging to tradition, intertwined in community or knotted to principle? Have you ever had your belief in the world, or in humanity uprooted? What does being ‘rooted’ mean to you?

SEP 11 **Juicy Roots: In Gathering Service and Water Communion**

Rev Debra Thorne
It’s time to gather again as community after a summer of gardening and travel, visitors and solo journeys. Please bring a sample of water that represents your summer and be prepared to share what water means to you: spiritually, socially and environmentally. Children will attend the service upstairs to start, and then go downstairs to have their own water service.

SEP 18 **Deep-rooted Tradition**
Rev Debra Thorne and the Beacon Choir

If you ever thought being a Unitarian was easy because you can ‘believe anything’, think again! Unitarian theological roots have been growing for close to five hundred years. Ours is a deep-rooted tradition of liberal ideals—ideals of diversity and inclusiveness, of interdependence and the free will to seek and chose a faith that is true to oneself. (This is an excellent service to introduce friends and neighbours to the roots of our tradition.)

- Choir sings

SEP 25 **Finding our way home**
Co-ordinated by Joan Morris

How, when we are in chaos and time of personal challenge, do we find a way back to our roots? How do we reconnect to our deeper selves? Four of our members will share stories about how they find their way back to their roots, whether it be through community, nature, theology or their inner resources.

- Choir sings

Minister's Message



Rev. Debra Thorne

As you read this, the Beacon community is beginning the journey back together after a few months in summer mode.

Using the metaphor of a tree, with its roots deep in the earth, pulling up nutrients that feed the limbs, members of this community have not stopped making sure that people are cared for, connected and the future planned for, during the summer months.

The creation of a community whose purpose is to not only understand the deepest meanings of that connection but to live into the mystery of our interdependence is a special community. It is rare to find such a community in the materialistic society in which we live, and in which we sometimes struggle.

Our unique type of community is

worth working for. It takes work to stay connected. It takes many hands to hold the threads together. It takes many voluntary hours to care for, make decisions for, and plan for this community.

So much has happened in the past months! As you know the Al Rbaai family arrived in New Westminster on June 20th and have begun the challenging process of acclimatizing to a new country and a new culture. The Settlement team have been working hard to get them to doctor and dentist appointments, taking them on shopping trips and helping with the beginnings of English instruction.

The personnel committee have been interviewing to fill the positions of Director of Religious Exploration, and Accompanist. The Board, the music committee and the worship committee have been researching and preparing for this next year. I encourage you to attend the All Congregation Start-up workshop on Saturday September 10th to help decide the

All things are connected.
The art of community is
discovering how.
—Mark Nepo

focus of our community direction this year. The fruit of all these labours will be evident when we gather together for Sunday services beginning September 11th.

Each one of us is connected to all those who have been continuing to hold these aspects of Beacon through the summer, and soon, very soon we will be reconnecting and deepening into the art of community!

I welcome you back to the branches and the roots of this most important connection.

Warmly,

—Rev. Debra Thorne



Beacon Unitarian Church

Sunday worship services and religious education classes are held at the Sapperton Pensioners Hall, 318 Keary Street, New Westminster. Services start at 10:30 am. More info at www.beaconunitarian.org.

www.beaconunitarian.org
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Become a Northern Lights Contributor!

Northern Lights is a unique fundraising program jointly sponsored by the Unitarian Universalist Ministers of Canada (UUMOC) and the Canadian Unitarian Council (CUC) manifesting our interdependence as we partner to grow the vitality of our movement. Hundreds of Canadian Unitarians join annually and pledge to an inspiring project by Canadian Unitarians. This year will you be one of them? Go to this link to find out more on how you can become a Northern Lights Contributor. <http://www.northernlightsuu.ca/>

Board Bitz



Audrey Taylor

Here we are at September once again. Did your summer go as quickly as ours? Don't forget to bring a bit of water from your summer adventures to our Water Service on September 11th.

Your board of directors has been busy this summer and we are now geared up for another great year.

Our first challenge may be filling the hole left on the Board by the July 18th resignation of Terry McComas, who left for personal reasons. We wish him all the best.

The pianist we hired and introduced to you in June, has had to

resign already due to health problems. However, we are in the process of hiring another well qualified pianist. Stay tuned.

Lisa Girardi has accepted a newly created position of Youth Social Action Coordinator. This position replaces the vacant position of Youth Coordinator. We're hoping that Lisa's resourcefulness and enthusiasm will re-vitalize our youth group.

After being unsuccessful at finding 2 new co-directors of RE, we re-structured the position to be one Director of Religious Exploration (DRE). The new DRE will prepare the curriculum and materials for both classes and will teach one class. We will be asking for volunteers from the congregation to sign up for month-long blocks to teach the other class,

with the support of the DRE.

Our new Director of Religious Exploration (DRE) is Ashley Cole. Ashley is a new resident of New Westminster and comes to us with 2 years experience as Director of Religious Education for Children and Youth in Calgary. The Minister in Calgary gave Ashley a very good reference and our own Casey Thorne Stainsby says she knows Ashley and thinks she will be a great asset for Beacon. Welcome Ashley!

We hope you marked Saturday, September 10th on your calendars and will join us in our Leadership Planning day. Help us plot the direction and activities for Beacon for the coming year.

We look forward to seeing you!

—Audrey Taylor

Volunteers Wanted and Welcome

It takes a lot of hands to make our Sunday worship happen. If you are willing to donate your time and energy on a Sunday morning, please contact Sue Sparlin, Sunday Service Volunteer Coordinator, and she will hook you up with the right people.

Nursery Supervision – Take care of the little ones during the service in the nursery room next to the stage.

Coffee Hosting – Make the coffee and tea and prepare some snacks for our congregants to enjoy after church.

Greeting – Say hello to people coming in and make new folks feel welcome. Practice your hospitality skills.

Aesthetics – Use your creative eye to decorate the alter for the worship service.

Collection Taking/Counting – Distribute the offering baskets during the service, count collection money and prepare the deposit record. Show your

stewardship of our financial gifts.

Set up – Energy and stamina are needed to set up chairs, hand out hymnals and move things around in the hour before our worship service.

Take down – Stack the chairs and return everything to its pre-church position.

Service Leader – Be at the front of the room, introduce the guest speaker, ensure that all goes well during the service. This takes some practice but there are fine people to help you on the way.

Children's Religious Education – Help our RE teachers by providing safety and security for the RE space, or commit to leading Sunday school classes for a month (curriculum and materials provided).

—Sue Sparlin

Sue.sparlin@shaw.ca

778-319-7827

OUR VISION

CONNECT

With Compassion & Respect

INSPIRE

Learning & Spiritual Growth

TRANSFORM

Through Joy & Justice

OUR MISSION

Our mission is to celebrate the worth and dignity of all people and to live in conscious relationship with the earth.

For inspiration, we draw on the world's great scientists, artists, humanists and theologians, as well as on our personal experiences.

So we are inspired to create greater equality, greater justice and greater hope for our world.

Let's Connect



Joan Morris

Hear ye! Hear ye! Next Circle Dinner will be Saturday, October 1, 2016. Consider signing up for a Circle Dinner

after the long summer break from church activities. It's always a great way to share food and conversation in a relaxed home setting with a chance to create and renew friendships. A Beaconite family hosts 6–8 people who bring food to share and everyone enjoys the opportunity for lively conversation and connection.

We need hosts!! “Hosting Circle Dinners makes entertaining easy. I do the main course and my guests do the rest,” is how one of our enthusiastic hosts described the job of hosting a circle dinner. Hosting could be a

brunch or lunch instead of dinner for those who prefer not to be out at night. A dinner theme or games can add a fun element to your gathering.

And then we need guests!! This is an opportunity to get to know people who you see on Sunday. Sit and nibble appies and enjoy a drink before dinner, and then enjoy good food and great conversations.

For the next Circle Dinner, you will receive an invitation by email in early to mid September, and then you can sign up for a dinner by return email or at church. Your host will receive your name, and be in touch with you about details.

If you'd like to host, or to have more information, please contact Donna Hamilton (donna-h@telus.net) or Joan Morris (joanmorris@telus.net).

We hope you have had a wonderful summer and are looking forward



Hawaiian-themed Circle Dinner, March 2016

to returning to church activities in September. See you soon.

—Joan Morris, on behalf of the
Connections Committee:
Jean Donaldson, Susan Tarras,
Joyce Gudaitis, Phil Campbell,
Rev. Debra Thorne and
Donna Hamilton (Circle Dinners)

Religious Exploration Program Welcomes New Director, Ashley Cole

Hello Beacon Unitarians! I am so pleased to join your community and have already felt a warm welcome from the community members I have met. I have yet to meet many of you, so I wanted to take this opportunity to introduce myself and tell you a little bit about me.

I was born and raised in Calgary, Alberta but have spent the better part of the past decade traveling the globe, learning from different cultures and religions, and earning a degree in International Development Studies. I moved to Vancouver two years ago and currently work for a non profit in the Downtown Eastside of Vancouver. Before I moved out west, I served as

the DRE at the Unitarian Church of Calgary, which was my initial introduction to the Unitarian Universalist community.

Since then I have grown leaps and bounds in my understanding and appreciation of the UU principles and practices. In my time as DRE I attended various regional conferences, teacher trainings, and LREDA gatherings. I was also fortunate enough to coordinate the youth programs for the 2013 Winter Elliot Camp hosted in Seabeck, Washington as well as coordinate the children's programs of the 2013 CUC AGM hosted in Calgary, Alberta.

Now marks a new chapter and I am very much looking forward to



Ashley Cole

continuing to learn and grow with the people of Beacon Unitarian!

—Ashley Cole

All Congregation Start-Up Gathering

When: Saturday, September 10th
Noon: Potluck lunch; **1–4 pm:** Workshop
Where: Jean’s Amenity Room, 235 Guilford Way, Port Moody
Agenda: Beacon’s challenge is to choose a focus for in-depth education and growth. Each of the following areas consists of workshops, service materials, special speakers, educational processes, outreach, community and personal growth. The Board is asking the membership to help make the decision for the community’s focus for 2016–17. Here are a number of programs or initiatives that are on our buffet table:

- Green Sanctuary Program
- Truth and Reconciliation Program
- Welcoming Congregation Program, includes ‘Our Whole Lives’ (OWL)
- Mentoring Emerging Congregation
- Refugee Sponsorship

Everyone is welcome, although we cannot provide childcare in this location. Please bring a contribution for the potluck lunch.

New Workshop Series: *Spirit of Life*

Spirit of Life workshops, led by Rev. Thorne, offer participants space, time, and community to explore their Unitarian Universalist spirituality. Each session focuses on a different aspect of the spiritual life, framed by the lyrics of Carolyn McDade’s song “Spirit of Life.”

Like the song, the workshops are designed to be welcoming to Unitarian Universalists of many spiritual and theological persuasions. Participants are invited to claim an inclusive definition of spirituality and recognize the spiritual aspects of their lives. Reflecting, speaking, and listening are core activities in each workshop.

There are nine sessions, one a month, starting Monday, October 3rd at 7 pm (location TBA), ending May 31st. Sign-up on Sept. 11th or by emailing Rev. Debra Thorne at minister@beaconunitarian.org

New: Beacon Writers’ Group



Marilyn Medén



Janet Pivnick

Are you interested in exploring writing within a supportive group? A small group of writers and would be writers are planning to meet from one to three on the third Saturday of each month. The first meeting will be on September 17th and will focus on choosing the shape of our meetings, and include a time to read, if you wish, up to five minutes of your writing. For more information and location, please contact Janet Pivnick at janpivnick@gmail.com or Marilyn Medén at m.j.meden@telus.net or 604 469 5697.

Soul Matters

Soul Matters is small group exploration of the monthly worship service themes. Once a month, the Soul Matters groups meet to explore the themes from a spiritual and personal level. Soul Matters doesn’t ask “What do you think?” It asks “How do you want to live?”

One participant said, “Because of Soul Matters I experience my life differently and I feel much closer to people at Beacon.”

Our themes this year are: Rootedness, Caring, Hunger, Expectation, Radical Inclusiveness, Joy & Justice, Simplicity, Compassion, Thirst, Flight. The groups are open to all members and friends of Beacon, although we ask for a one year commitment.

Group 1 meets the third Wednesday of the month from 1–3 pm, starting September 21st. Similarly, Group 2 meets the third Wednesday of the month in the evening at 7 pm, starting September 21st.

Sign up on Sept. 11th after the service or my emailing Rev Debra Thorne at minister@beaconunitarian.org.

Youth Group Changes Shape



Lisa Girardi

The Beacon youth group welcomes Lisa Girardi to lead the new social justice focus. Lisa will guide the youth to make decisions and help implement the social justice projects they chose to work on this next year. In the past the youth have made lunches for folks in the Downtown Eastside, stuffed Christmas Stockings for youth living on the street, raised funds for the refugee family and contributed to Kiva (international small business loans). This year will emphasis hands-on activities interspersed with a monthly check-in and games/video night (second Friday of the month). To build a wider UU connection we also encourage our youth to attend youth conferences in BC and in the Pacific Northwest.

The youth group is open to new members! Contact Rev. Debra Thorne at minister@beaconunitarian.org if you are interested.

We invite you to explore these great ways to connect to the Beacon community and yourself!

Soul Matters Groups delve into the monthly sermon themes—“Rootedness” for September. Part personal sharing, part spiritual deepening, the groups meet monthly either at 1 pm or 7 pm on the 3rd Wednesday of the month. Contact Rev. Debra Thorne: minister@beaconunitarian.org.

Humanist Discussion Group meets the last Sunday of the month at 7:30 pm at *The Astoria Retirement Home* (2245 Kelly Avenue, Port Coquitlam) to discuss a wide range of current topics. The next meeting will be on Sunday, September 25. We will be continuing our discussion of these questions: *What is fairness and how should it be applied? To what extent do we value individual fitness vs. cooperative fitness? How should humanists act*

and advocate in our current economic context? Contact Marilyn Medén for more information: m.j.meden@telus.net or 604-469-6797.

Join the Beacon Choir for musical fun and skill development. Rehearsals are every Tuesday at 7:30 pm at Miller Park School in Coquitlam. Contact Charlene Dubrule, choir director, at 604-464-3992 or char4myc@shaw.ca. Choir practice will recommence September 6th.

Lunch Bunch meets every Thursday at noon, year-round. Bring your own lunch and share in lively and topical conversation. Contact Sally Frith: salfrith44@gmail.com.

Attend a Circle Dinner and connect with other Beaconites in a relaxed setting. For details on the next round of dinners, please contact Donna Hamilton: donna-h@telus.net.

Book Club meetings are held on the third Thursday of the month at 7:00 pm. For location details contact Bev

Lock: 604-525-6791 or lockbev@gmail.com.

Attend a ‘Getting to Know U’ session to meet other newcomers and deepen your knowledge of how Beacon functions and what Unitarianism is. Contact Jean Donaldson for future dates: donaldsj@telus.net.

Help out on Sunday mornings as a Coffee Host (contact Sue Sparlin: sue.sparlin@shaw.ca), **or sign-up as a Sunday Morning Greeter** (contact Susan Tarras: starras@telus.net).

Soup lunch on Sunday, September 18th, after the service at Sapperton Hall. Please contact Peggy Lunderville (604-522-3001) and let her know what you can bring.



Two Mindful Journeys in 2017, for UUs & their friends, led by Rev. Wayne Walder

Peru: Always wanted to experience Machu Picchu? Join us March 25–April 5, 2017. Our journey will be filled with comfortable places to stay, Shamanic conversations, lovely food, water blessings at an old Inca spring, beautiful natural vistas and reflections while sitting on a mountain top.

Portugal/Spain: May 14–24, 2017, Lisbon to Santiago de Compostela. Along the way, we enjoy soulful Fado music, a tile-making workshop, wine, port and culinary tastings, and a bit of a walk on the Camino. Imagine cruising down the Douro River sipping port while reflecting on the scenic vineyard-covered hillsides.

To receive a detailed itinerary for either journey, please email Beverly Carr, member of the Neighbourhood UU Congregation in Toronto, at beverlz@me.com.



View over Rio Douro.

Photo: Paula Santos. Source: Wikimedia Commons: Douro River Portugal.jpg

Beacon Refugee Sponsorship

The Al Rbaai family arrived June 20th and have spent the summer adjusting to life in New Westminster.

When they arrived they were fasting for Ramadan, so after Eid Al-Fitr (the holiday marking the end of Ramadan) we organized a potluck welcoming party at the Lundervilles'. In addition to Nader, Taghreed, Raneem and Mohammad, we welcomed two of our translators, Moe and Mona and their children. It was a wonderful celebration!

It has been a busy summer for Settlement volunteers. The priority has been helping the family with English lessons, budgeting, and medical/dental appointments.

The next steps will be helping the children to settle into their new schools in September, and organizing a fall welcoming of the Al Rbaais at Beacon.



The Al Rbaai family at the Lunderville's Welcome Lunch, July 16.

Everyone working on Settlement is finding it fascinating, rewarding work. Beacon has given the Al Rbaai family the chance to rebuild their lives in

Canada, and they are on their way to doing this!

—Nancy Rupert
Settlement Coordinator

New Westminster Homelessness Coalition Society

Last year Beacon raised over \$2,000 for the *I's On the Street* program, which is only one program administered by New Westminster Homelessness Coalition Society. Martha Kerr, NWHCS Coordinator wrote to thank Beacon congregation for the generous donation and wondered if anyone in the community wanted to become an official member of NWHCS.

She wrote: "Besides the *I's* program, we hold meetings several times a year which are opportunities for community agencies to discuss and network regarding homelessness and poverty issues. In addition, the annual Homeless Action Week is

coming up, during which NWHCS will be involved in a number of events including Connect Day and our annual fundraiser. The annual fee is only \$5, and I believe that your church (members) would be an important voice to add to our society."

Martha Kerr can be contacted at admin@nwhomeless.ca or by phone: 778-847-4468



Pride Week Celebrations



Susan White and Jennyfer Hatch provided beautiful music for the August 14th service in Tipperary Park, New Westminster.



Beacon Unitarian table at the New Westminster Pride Street Festival, Saturday, August 13, 2016

Central American Community Development Project

I'm writing to ask for your assistance again in making all Canadian UU's aware of the opportunity to participate in the Central American Community Development Project co-sponsored by Toronto First. Thanks to your past efforts and those of your predecessors and colleagues, over 100 Canadian UU's from 22 congregations—New Brunswick to British Columbia—have travelled to Central America to help hard working people improve their lives. Working alongside Guatemalans, Hondurans and hundreds of Canadian volunteers from other walks of life, we have helped our hosts achieve their dreams.

The First Unitarian Congregation of Toronto has been working on development projects in Central America since 1997 with the goal of building understanding between people and improving the social, economic and living conditions in the poorest areas. We have helped build: schools; houses; and training and community centres.

This year, we would again like to extend an invitation to all UU's across Canada to join us for an unforgettable experience, building schools in the mountains of Honduras. There will be three trips this winter: January, February



and March. Please join a two-week trip, beginning: January 7, February 4 or March 4, 2017. Construction and Spanish language skills are not required but would be welcomed.

If you have any questions or would like additional information, please e-mail me directly (richardkirsh@sympatico.ca). Thank you,

Richard Kirsh, Chair, Central American Community Development, First Unitarian Congregation of Toronto

Sandy Burpee nominated for BC Medal of Good Citizenship

Sandy Burpee, a long-time Beacon member, was concerned about the recent high incidence of deaths from drug overdoses. When Fraser Health approached him, he readily agreed to help organize a free community event to give members of the public an opportunity to learn how to prevent and respond to drug overdoses. This workshop took place on August 9 at Trinity United Church in Port Coquitlam. Every attendee was trained about when and how to administer an antidote, naloxone, and every attendee who qualified was given a free naloxone kit to take home.

This is just the latest initiative of the man who has been honoured with both the BC Community Achievement Award and the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal. He has now been nominated for the BC Medal of Good Citizenship.

Sandy has done more than any of us can comprehend to help underprivileged people in the Tri-Cities. It's over ten years ago now when Sandy organized a poverty workshop for members of our church. The workshop featured exercises that helped us understand more fully the challenges facing people with insufficient financial resources. Then Sandy volunteered to manage the SHARE

food bank outlet in Coquitlam, and he persuaded large numbers of us to volunteer on food bank Wednesdays. Sandy continued in this role for ten years.

In 2007 most of us had no idea of how many homeless people lived in our area. When research revealed that over two hundred people were spending the nights sleeping in forested areas and in any kind of makeshift shelter they could find, Sandy volunteered to chair the Tri-Cities Homelessness Task Group. At the time, there was no community shelter, and there were minimal services available for people without a home.

Sandy did an enormous amount of work in this position, recruiting church members and other volunteers to help the needy people in many ways. During cold and wet weather, five churches, in rotation, provided shelter and warm meals. Buses picked up people to take them to the churches. Sandy spent many hours negotiating with neighbours who did not want homeless people sheltering near their homes.

Under Sandy's leadership, a beautiful permanent building was constructed at 3030 Gordon Avenue, to provide both emergency shelter and transitional housing for homeless people. It opened in December 2015.



Sandy Burpee

The Task Group also played a key role in bringing a supportive housing development for single mothers to 528 Como Lake Ave. in Coquitlam.

Sandy has also provided valuable ideas for the people who are studying possible future uses of the Riverview lands.

He has been an active member of the Coquitlam Search & Rescue team since 2006, combining a love of hiking and kayaking with helping persons who have become lost or run into trouble in the local wilderness. More recently, he has helped Coquitlam Alternative Basic Education (an SD 43 high school for youth not thriving in the regular system) implement an outdoor education program.

—Jane Shoemaker

Kiva Update

Kiva is an international non-profit, founded in 2005 and based in San Francisco, with a mission to connect people through lending to alleviate poverty. By lending as little as \$25 on Kiva, anyone can help a borrower start or grow a business, go to school, access clean energy

or realize their potential. For some, it's a matter of survival, for others it's the fuel for a life-long ambition.

Profits from Beacon's multi-faith calendar sales in 2013 & 14 have been Kiva-loaned and paid back several times since they were first collected. This year, on International Women's Day, the money was re-loaned again, and matched through a special pro-

gram. Kiva summarized the results: In one week, Kiva lenders and supporters funded nearly \$4.5 million in loans to women, and \$2.7 million on International Women's Day alone, activating \$1 million in matching funds provided by PepsiCo Foundation, Pearson, Fossil Foundation and other generous donors. Because of you, more women will be able to build a better future.

Beacon Calendar: September 2016

Note: Calendar entries are truncated—view the complete entries on the Beacon web site calendar page.

Sep 2016 (Pacific Time - Vancouver)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28 12pm - Board Meeting	29	30	31	1 12pm - Lunch Bunch	2	3
4 Theme: Rootedness 1pm - Board meeting	5 7:30pm - Choir practice	6	7 1pm - Worship Committee	8 12pm - Lunch Bunch	9 12pm - Congregational	10
11 10:30am - Worship Service	12 1pm - RE Meeting	13 7:30pm - Choir practice	14	15 12pm - Lunch Bunch 1pm - Connecting and	16	17
18 10:30am - Worship Service 12pm - Soup Lunch after	19	20 7:30pm - Choir practice	21 1pm - Soul Matters 7pm - Soul Matters Evening	22 12pm - Lunch Bunch 7pm - Book Club	23	24
25 Committee Budgets due 10:30am - Worship Service 7:30pm - Humanist	26 7:30pm - Choir practice	27	28	29 12pm - Lunch Bunch	30 6pm - Circle Dinner @	1