



THE BEACON

BEACON UNITARIAN CHURCH

MARCH 2010, VOL 28, NO 3

Sunday Worship Services and Religious Education Classes are held at the Sapperton Pensioners' Hall, 318 Keary in New Westminster, 9:30 - 10:45

SUNDAY, MARCH 7, 9:30 A.M.

Celebrating Strong Women

Ivy Hubbard, Marcy Green, Amber Strocel

Today we celebrate International Women's Day by hearing the stories of women of different generations. What has changed over the past several generations? What has not?

Coordinator: Rev. Katie Stein Sather

This is Food Bank Sunday, so please donate whatever you can.

 **Choir sings today.**

SUNDAY, MARCH 14, 9:30 A.M.

Which Way Now

Gary & Elva Atha

Have you ever been walking in the woods following a map or guidebook, only to realize that the directions are wrong? You have now come upon many forks in the trail, where the map indicated only one. Which way now? Do you continue to follow your guidebook knowing it to be wrong? Or do you pull out more books with up to date information? Hear one couple's journey out of the woods.

Coordinator: John Slattery
Daylight savings starts!!!



SUNDAY, MARCH 21, 9:30 A.M

Earth Awakes Again

Rev. Katie Stein Sather

Spring is cause enough for celebration; again we celebrate the seasons. Spring is a time of re-birth. What needs to be reborn for you? For Beacon?

 **Choir sings today.**



SUNDAY, MARCH 28, 9:30 A.M.

Why We Matter

Bennett Mitten

Nelson Mandela, on being released from Robben Island said that the thing we, as human beings, most fear about ourselves is not our smallness but the vastness within. I fully agree that we have a far too limited sense of the astonishingly wondrous phenomenon we truly are.

Martin Hiddeger stated we as human beings are the Universe itself become self-aware and self-responsible. In the ongoing story of the cosmos our emergence as humane beings signals something marvellously hopeful and is what we need to hear, especially now.

Coordinator: John Hagen

Harp group plays today.



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Deadline for April Newsletter

Sunday, March 14, 2010
Please send to <donna-h@telus.net>



KATIE'S RUNNING COMMENTARY

Reverend Katie Stein Sather

When we join Beacon Unitarian Church, we enter into a covenant—a promise to walk together in the ways of love. At each New Member Recognition ceremony, I tell people that becoming a member is both easy and hard. It's easy enough to sign the membership book, but it's hard because it carries complex meanings

What defines Unitarians is our sometimes naïve, but steadfast, understanding of the goodness of people. Confidence and trust in each other as we accompany each other through life—despite disputes and betrayals, real or perceived—carry us through the darker days.

Faith is a trust in the future, a vision of what we as a community might possibly be. If we work together, that is, and not to cross purposes. If we treat each other as we truly would want to be treated. Let's give feedback in constructive and open ways, not secretive and hurtful ways. Let's remember to say please and thank you—and you are welcome! Let's really listen to other people's ideas, especially new people's ideas—and then help them put them into practice, rather than ignore them to death.

This is the promise we make to each other—that we will live together as best we can do so, today. Let us treat each other with the honesty, respect and kindness that we would want to receive. Let us model for each other the kind of people we want to see around us.

CONNECTIONS COMMITTEE

Getting to know Unitarianism

March 27, 1 pm, place TBD
Here's your chance to learn more about Unitarianism, and meet a few more folks, too. We'll hear some history, some of the culture of Beacon, and hear some stories of our religious pasts. Do join us. If you are interested, contact Jean Donaldson, 604-461-0056, donaldsj@telus.net.

I'M NOT DEAD YET

A Celebration of the very much alive Denis Probst

We have all lived extraordinary lives, but rarely do we get the opportunity to be acknowledged publicly. This event is designed to deepen our appreciation of one another, to share with all ages, and to honour beloved elders of our church.

On Sunday after church on March 21st *The Beacon Lay Chaplaincy Committee* invites you to join us for a formal tea, some lovely words, and the chance to know Denis at a deeper level – including his “self proclaimed imperfections.”

Tea and sandwiches will be served. We invite your participation with us. You can learn how to go about creating ceremonies of your own, or discover the process of producing such a ceremony, with your Lay Chaplaincy Committee.

Volunteers are needed to: set up the room, serve tea, coffee and desserts, welcome the guests, read or speak during the ceremony. Childcare will be provided. Contact Joy Silver, Chair, Lay Chaplaincy Committee, for more information: odetojoy@telus.net

BEACON UNITARIAN CHURCH

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PRESIDENT'S PONDERINGS

by Sue Sparlin

Next month is our annual general meeting, an opportunity to review the past year, elect new Board Members, and acknowledge all of you who volunteer your time and energy to the life of Beacon Unitarian Church.

To serve on the Board is to place yourself in a covenant relationship – and a legal relationship – with the Church. It gives a deep insistence on spiritual growth and change. It gives great satisfaction in being able to work together with dedicated individuals in leadership and to question and revise what leadership means, not only in this role, but also in your life.

If you are called to serve, either as a Board Member or

a committee member, I encourage you to answer “yes.” It is not an easy answer to give. There are trepidations about how much time may be taken from your already busy life, how you will be able to work with the other members of the committee, whether you will be able to make a difference. This role as your president has been an unexpected learning curve for me, and yet it is one which, in retrospect, I am most grateful to have experienced.

For all that you have done, for all that you are, for the difference you make in my life and the lives of all your Board members, for your commitment to Beacon, I am profoundly grateful.

In faith,
Sue Sparlin, President

Reminder that the AGM will be on Sunday, April 25. To vote at the AGM you must be a member in good standing for at least two months prior. If you are not a member and wish to participate in the vote at the AGM, you must sign the membership book by February 28 and make a financial contribution that can be recorded in your name. If there are any additional motions or issues to be considered at the AGM notification will be sent to members no later than two weeks prior to the AGM. Anyone can speak at congregational meetings but only members in good standing may vote or serve on the Board.



Committee on Ministry Report

by John Slattery

Remember us? Well, we've been hard at work for several months now digesting and collating the results of the surveys on the ministry of the church that you completed in the fall. And the first part of our task is just about complete. We've written five detailed Reports covering lifespan learning, social responsibility, pastoral care, our public face and worship. We are now putting the final touches on five accompanying Executive Summaries, drafts of which are already in the hands of the Board. We also collected your comments about “other facets of ministry” not covered in the aforementioned five service areas, and this document too is ready to go.

We are now about to begin the next phase of our mandate which is to interpret the findings and prepare recommendations. We will be working closely with the Committee on Ministry in preparing these with input from the Board expected as well. Our intention is to have this work substantially completed in time for the Annual Meeting in April.

The Task Force currently is composed of the following people: Jean Donaldson, Karen Greenland (Board liaison), Anita Hagen, David Hamilton (Committee on Ministry), Marylke Nieuwenhuis (Committee on Ministry), Rev. Katie Stein Sather, and John Slattery.

More to come, so stay tuned.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CORNER

by Karen Gosetti

Welcome Spring! This month, the children in the RE classes are learning how people from different traditions celebrate springtime, valuing the Earth, and expressing the qualities of listening and love.

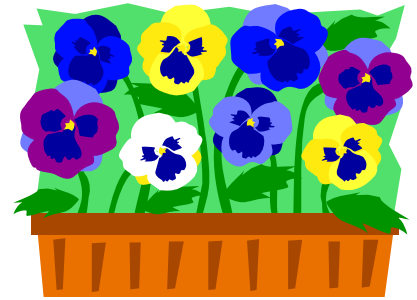
Olympic spirit embraced many Beacon families as we heard of events and torch run parades that the children attended. Those who carried the Olympic flag at the opening ceremonies have qualities that we will explore. Canadian astronaut Julie Payette was one of the Olympic flag holders that Anita Hagen will speak about in the RE classes. A special thank you also goes to Naomi Kerr and John Slattery who offered their storytelling talents with the young children and the MAGs (middle age group) respectively.

The Unitarian Girls Retreat will be held April 30-May 2. Last year several of Beacon's MAGs girls attended and had a great time. See Girls Retreat Flyer for more information.

OWL (Our Whole Lives) age-appropriate sexuality education classes are coming to Beacon Unitarian Church. Beacon's board and the RE Program have sponsored the grade 4-6 OWL training of Gary and Elva Atha who will teach the eight one-hour sessions in April and May. Children from Beacon and the surrounding communities who are in grades 4-6 are invited.

The OWL program has been developed by the Unitarian Universalist Association and the United Church and is held throughout faith communities, schools, and public organizations. Contact Gary and Elva at gatha@shaw.ca for more info.

Happy Spring!
Karen



Our Whole Lives (OWL) Philosophy and Goals

The Our Whole Lives for Grades 4-6 program nurtures and supports the “three Rs” of childhood sexuality education – Respect, Relationship, and Responsibility – by helping children gain self-respect and respect for others, build relationships with people of all genders and with many kinds of families, and understand their responsibilities regarding their own health and that of others.

The messages that children receive through touch, talk, and behaviour affect their future attitudes values, and actions. This curriculum helps participants integrate the values of the program with their own system of values within an open, affirming, and anti-biased environment and a community of trust, confidentiality and authenticity.

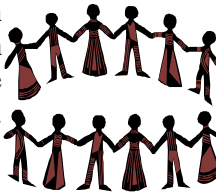


The goals of Our Whole Lives (OWL) for Grades 4-6 are:

- *To strengthen and support each child's sense of self and self-esteem.*
- *To help children understand the place of sexuality in human life and loving.*
- *To encourage children to appreciate their bodies as good and beautiful, private and special.*
- *To provide children with accurate, developmentally appropriate information about human sexuality, reproduction, and gender identification.*
- *To prepare children for the normal changes they will experience as they grow and develop.*
- *To help children develop interpersonal skills – including communication, decision making, and problem solving - that will help keep them safe and healthy.*
- *To help children learn to make responsible decisions that show respect for themselves and others.*
- *To help families communicate openly about all life questions.*
- *To strengthen parents' roles as their children's most important sexuality educators.*

SMALL GROUP MINISTRY

Have you been wanting to find a small church group where you can meet regularly with Beacon people in a stimulating, warm, and supportive environment? Newcomers are always welcome. For a start, try out...



Lunch Bunch – meets every Thursday at noon, contact Ivy Hubbard 604-527-9990.

Choir – Choir rehearsals are held at Miller Park School in Coquitlam, 7:30 Tuesdays. All welcome. For info call Hamiltons at 604-944-3113.

Family Night - March 6, 5 - 8 pm. Supper, as usual, is potluck (make sure you bring something your children will like) and a donation towards child care is needed to cover the period after supper so the adults can have their discussion time.

Family Night will take place at the home of Christiana & Tony St. Pierre, 3223 Chrome Crescent, Coquitlam. Please call ahead to 604-468-6368.

Humanist Group - Usually the last Sunday evening of the month - discussion oriented. Contact Anita Hagen for more info: 604-521-1335.

SPRING FLING
Community Dance for all ages
Saturday, March 20, 6:30pm-9pm
at Sapperton Pensioners' Hall, 318 Keary, New West

Invite your friends, your grandmother, your uncles, your kids, your neighbour's kids.

A great place to have fun and enjoy all ages. A grand march, the hokey pokey, and other easy-to-do line dances for old and young alike taught by our own Carol Becken. Or just come to watch and socialize.

Get tickets at Sunday services or ask any Board Member: \$10 per adult, \$5 per child. Families pay a maximum of \$25.

Need a ride? Childcare? Let Sue Sparlin sue.sparlin@shaw.ca or Carol Becken carol-becken@hotmail.com know in advance so we can arrange it.

Volunteers are needed to sell tickets, bring an appetizer or dessert to share, help set up and clean up, make coffee and tea, and oversee the food table.

Let's have fun!

Contact: Sue Sparlin sue.sparlin@shaw.ca or Carol Becken carol-becken@hotmail.com

LOOKING AHEAD....

Choir concert on Sunday May 16 at 2:30 p.m. at the Sapperton Pensioners' Hall. This will be in the form of a Cabaret, and will be combined with a silent auction. More details in the next newsletter, but for now, mark the date on your calendar, and get ready for a great time!

Social Responsibility Opportunity

On April 25, 2010 there will be a pilgrimage to Burns Bog, a free multifaith event to help people understand the significance and sacredness of the Bog. Our connection is through the Vancouver Unitarian Church and the contact person is Karl Perrin at info2pilgrimage2burnsbog.org.

The pilgrimage will start at Quiznos on Annacis Island at

1:30 p.m. and will cross over the Alex Fraser Bridge with a stop at the Ice Arena in Delta for speeches and entertainment. It will then proceed into the Bog and end around 5 p.m. at the Delta Nature Reserve. If you are not up to all that walking you could join the pilgrimage at the Ice Arena.

This is a chance to witness what is going on in the area and to show the various development and environmental interest groups that people still care.

SHARING THE PLATE 2010 HOPE FOR FREEDOM SOCIETY

by E Ray Stinson, HFFS

Last month's newsletter article focused on the Hope for Freedom Society (HFFS) addiction programs and in this issue we focus on their programs to support the homeless.



Most individuals suffer from homelessness because (1) they don't have enough income to pay for housing, (2) they can't find affordable housing, or (3) they do not have access to health or social support services to help them stay in homes identified for them. These social support services include drug and alcohol treatment, mental health services, counselling, and assistance with daily living.

It has been reported to the Tri-Cities Homelessness Task Group (Chaired by our own Sandy Burpee) that more than 200 individuals suffer from homelessness in the Tri-Cities area. That same survey found that the largest majority of them lived, work, and played in the Tri-Cities area before they became homeless. Many were born and raised in our community and attended our schools.

Unfortunately about 90% of them also have a serious drinking and/or drug abuse problem. When the HFFS noticed that very high correlation, they began to expand their alcohol and drug abuse program to provide services for these people.

Beginning in 2007 the HFFS began to operate their outreach program to individuals who were homeless or at risk of

becoming homeless in the Tri-Cities area. Under a contract from BC Housing they now provide three outreach workers, including a psychiatric street nurse, to seek out homeless persons where they live, establish contact, develop rapport and connect them with available resources and services when they are ready.

As part of their Outreach Program, HFFS operates a Cold Wet Weather Mat Program in cooperation with five area congregations. This program provides a mat and blankets overnight in a host church, with an evening meal upon arrival and a breakfast and bag lunch the following morning. The staff of the HFFS Outreach Program pick up individuals at various locations in the Tri-Cities area in the evening and drive them back to the same location the next morning. Since Nov 1 2009, HFFS has helped 33 individuals to either find housing and/or seek treatment services that provide housing as part of their program, truly a remarkable success story. Plans are being developed for a 24 hour/day, full service permanent emergency shelter and transitional housing facility that will have 24-26 shelter beds and 25 transitional housing units.

Rob Thiessen, managing director of HFFS, has recently announced that their outreach program is being expanded to include dental services for the homeless. Northside Foursquare Church has donated space for and three dentists have volunteered their time in the clinic.

The HFFS is proud that Beacon's 2010 Share the Plate program is being donated to support their efforts.



Camp Sasamat 2010

Unitarian Family Camp / Choir Workshop: June 4–6th

Download a registration form at www.beaconunitarian.org



Set in the natural splendor of Belcarra Regional Park, the camp offers swimming, boating and hiking. Commune with Unitarians and friends new and old—chat, enjoy the water and woods and take part in activities in a cooperative atmosphere.

“People let’s spread da word—Hallelujah!!”

with Kathryn Nicholson



**Saturday, June 5th,
10–11:30 am, 1:30–4 pm**

Come and experience the uplifting spirituality of making music together as we sing the “good news” from faith traditions around the world.

Registration deadline: April 30

Please register early to help out the planning committee!

THINKING AHEAD TO SUMMER CAMPS.....

Did you know that one of the very best things you can do for your family is take them to a Unitarian family camp? Especially your kids! Here is information on a couple of them:

Eliot Institute

Eliot Institute is a both a camp conference *and* a vacation. It is a one-of-a-kind intergenerational experience of stimulating speakers, discussions, music, activities and worship for the whole family. Eliot is a **Welcoming Community** for individuals, couples, and families of all configurations.

This year’s Eliot camp at Naramata BC runs from July 3 - 10, and features Barbara and Jaco ten Hove as the speakers. Their talk is titled GUUD NUUS: The Gospel of Our 21st Century Liberal Faith. They say: “Gospel means “good news” and Unitarian Universalism has lots of positive purpose and melodic meaning to go around. Our contemporary UU message is grounded in an inspirational heritage, infused with inclusive theology, dedicated to community-building, and animated by excellent music.

Come explore how all this can deepen personal lives, strengthen relationships and impact the world in powerful ways.”

For over 60 years, Eliot campers have laughed and sung and talked and splashed and enjoyed nature’s beauty together. And you’re invited! Learn more at www.eliotinstitute.org and click on July at Naramata. Hope to see you there! For more information, speak with Hamiltons, 604-944-3113, or donna-h@telus.net




UNICAMP is in Ontario, and they send this info:

If you don’t know about Unicamp visit our website, www.unicampofontario.ca. We are one of those well kept secrets (that we would like others to know about). Unicamp is a very special place for Unitarians and like minded people and it’s especially wonderful for children.

We get visitors from all over the world, so don’t think you are too far away for your people to be interested. A couple of years ago we had a cook from Japan, counsellors from Vancouver and Edmonton, children’s campers from China and many children from Buffalo, as well as many campers from other parts of the US.

If you’ve never been to Unicamp, 2010 is the year you to discover and experience the magic yourself. Contact admin@unicampofontario.ca or telephone 519-822-6353 to make your reservation.

March 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 choir rehearsal	3	4 Lunch bunch	5	6 Family Night
7 <i>Celebrating Strong Women</i> choir Food Bank Collection	8	9 choir rehearsal	10 Food Bank	11 Lunch bunch Board Meeting	12	13 Daylight Savings starts - set your clocks forward at 2 a.m.
14 <i>Which Way Now</i> G & E Atha Newsletter deadline first day of Daylight Savings.....	15	16 choir rehearsal	17 RE Meeting	18 Lunch bunch	19	20  SPRING FLING Community Dance
21 <i>Earth Awakes Again</i> Rev KSS choir Celebration of Life	22	23 choir rehearsal	24 Food Bank	25 Worship Services Mtg Lunch bunch	26	27 Lay Chaplains mtg Getting to Know Unitarianism 1pm
28 <i>Why We Matter</i> Bennett Mitten Harp group plays	29	30 choir rehearsal	31			