

## February Service Theme: **Reconciliation**

This month the theme is reconciliation. The living concept of reconciliation will be explored from the perspective of restorative justice, the healing of community and families, and the source of spiritual health. At Sunday services and in small group discussions we will learn and grow together through a deeper understanding of reconciliation.

Right: Detail from the *Well of Reconciliation* by Safina Stewart, Melbourne-based Indigenous artist. Central to the painting is the Well of Reconciliation, understood as the spring of hope from which true repentance, forgiveness, restitution, recognition, restoration, empowerment and relational healing have their source. More info at <http://artbysafina.com.au/portfolio/spirit/reconciliation-well/>



**FEB 7** **Sharing Our Faith:  
A Year of Reconciliation**  
*Rev. Debra Thorne*

It is an auspicious time in Canada, an opportunity to heal historical and present day wrongs through knowledge and spiritual commitment. This opportunity for reconciliation is being shared by Unitarians across Canada as part of our commitment to Indigenous people through the Truth and Reconciliation process.

- Special Collection this Sunday for the 'Sharing Our Faith Program' that supports Unitarian growth programs in Canada.

**FEB 14** **Feeding the Phoenix**  
*Marilyn Medén and Friends*

How do we rise above "we/they" and move into just plain

"We"? If our private lives are a microcosm of the larger picture, the nation, the world—what guidelines can we use? Can we really "be the change we want to see"? Friends from our congregation will explore the possibilities.

- Choir sings.

**FEB 21** **When the Water Runs Clear**  
*Aline LaFlamme*

*Co-ordinated by Rev. Debra Thorne*  
Reconciliation is justice. It is a profound tradition within Aboriginal culture rooted in 'right relationship'. Without right relations there would be no community. When relationships are broken because of hurtful or thoughtless action, reconciliation transforms them and community is restored.

- Choir sings  
*Aline LaFlamme is a Métis grandmother, Sundancer and pipe carrier whose work includes teaching traditional Aboriginal culture and history, as well as facilitating healing workshops and ceremonies.* Biography continued on page 3.

**FEB 28** **What is the Shape of Justice?**  
*Paul Caspell*

*Co-ordinated by Joan Morris*  
Join Paul Caspell as he recounts his journey toward restorative justice after a distracted driver killed his brother John. He will describe the life experiences that led to his family's decision to pursue an alternative penalty to jail time.

## From the Minister's Desk



On March 29, 2014 in Edmonton, Alberta, Unitarians offered an expression of truth and reconciliation to the Truth and Recon-

ciliation Commission. We were represented by Rev. Meg Roberts (Minister to Comox), Rev. Debra Faulk (Minister to Calgary and President of the Ministers of Canada) and the then President of the Canadian Unitarian Council, Dr. Gary Groot. On our behalf they said:

*We, the Canadian Unitarian Council and the Unitarian Universalist Ministers of Canada, commit to the journey of healing and reconciliation between Canadian Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal peoples. Today, as we acknowledge and accept our responsibility for truth-telling, healing and reconciliation, we commit to these specific steps to advance that journey:*

- 1. To assemble and promote educational materials for our congregations regarding the history and impact of the Indian Residential School system.*
- 2. To create and promote a new program for congregations about racial equity and intercultural competency.*
- 3. To continue to encourage our congregations and their members to learn more about the richness of Aboriginal spirituality and cultures, working together to advance the struggle for justice for Aboriginal people.*

So important is this pledge of responsibility that this month not only is 'reconciliation' Beacon's theme, it is the theme for almost every Unitarian congregation across Canada.

Now is the time to further the work of reconciliation. To that end we must educate ourselves about the process of reconciliation, about the history of Indian Residential Schools, how they came to be, the impact they

had on the Aboriginal society and culture down to this day, the impact that this institutionalized cultural genocide has had on Canada and on us individually and how Canadians and First Nations can move forward and heal together.

I offer you the words of Chief Phil Fontaine, when he was the National Chief of the Assembly of First Nations, from an excerpt of his response to the Government of Canada's Indian Residential School Statement of Apology:

*We must now capture a new spirit and vision to meet the challenges of the future. As a great statesman once said, we are all part of one 'garment of destiny'. The differences between us are not blood or colour, and "the ties that bind us are deeper than those that separate us". The 'common road of hope' will bring us to reconciliation more than any words, laws or legal claims ever could.*

*We still have to struggle, but now we are in this together. I reach out to all Canadians today in this spirit of reconciliation. Meegwetch. Thank you.*

This month is simply the beginning. Together we will learn about reconciliation as a form of justice in mending personal relationships and in strengthening community. We'll have an opportunity in Sunday services and in the Soul Matters groups to challenge ourselves toward deeper understanding and a personal commitment to *truth-telling, healing and reconciliation*. I believe that we have a responsibility as Unitarians, and as Canadians, to do this work.

— 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](http://www.beaconunitarian.org).

**Deadline for the March issue of The Beacon:** February 15th, 2016

Please send to: [Newsletter@BeaconUnitarian.org](mailto:Newsletter@BeaconUnitarian.org)

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## Board Bitz

The Board of Directors and Rev. Debra would first like to say how much we appreciate what an involved and committed congregation Beacon is. Without all the work that our people do on committees and helping with Sunday services, we could not, would not, live up to our Mission: *Connect, Inspire, Transform*.

Speaking of *transforming*, Beacon has been offered, by the CUC, the incredible opportunity to mentor an emerging congregation from the interior of BC. This congregation has spent considerable time looking at their values and beliefs and have decided that they are most closely aligned to our Unitarian values and beliefs. Debra and the Board of Directors and the Lay Chaplaincy Committee have all agreed that we are eager to support and mentor this committed group of fledgling Unitarians!

In terms of *connecting*, we have some work to do with the Sapper-ton Old Age Pensioners Association (SOAP). The membership of SOAP

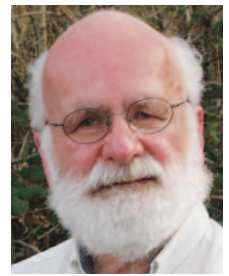
and thus also their Board of Directors, is rapidly declining. There is some concern expressed by Peggy, who is on their Board, that if some new energy is not injected into SOAP that the Association may not be able to continue for much longer. If this comes to pass, there is no guarantee that Beacon could continue to rent space in the hall and there is also no option to purchase the building.

If you are a senior (over the age of 50, in this case) and you would consider attending an open meeting, perhaps with an eye to joining the Association, the meetings take place at SOAP on the third Wednesday of every month at 1:30 in the afternoon. Your participation could be very beneficial to Beacon!

If you think you would like to assume a role that could *inspire* our Youth, please consider applying for the Beacon position of Youth Coordinator. This is a part-time, paid contract position. There are between 3–8 youth involved, who currently meet once a month, although we would



Audrey Taylor,  
Co-President



Terry McComas,  
Co-President

hope this might increase to twice a month sometime in the future. If you would like to know more, please see Rev. Debra or one of the Personnel Committee (Carol Woodworth, Audrey Taylor, Terry McComas).

As our congregation grows, so too do the jobs that need doing to keep us functioning well. A case in point at this time is a need for help in the stacking and storing of chairs at the end of each Sunday service. If you can help with this task at the end of a service, please consider doing so. Many hands make light work!

As always, this Beacon community is active, positive and a treat to work with. See you on Sundays!

—Audrey Taylor

### Share the Plate Nominations, 2016–17

As we are wrapping up our year-end business and preparing for the AGM in April, it is time to begin accepting nominations for this coming year's *Share the Plate* recipient. If you know of a non-profit organization in our catchment area that you would like to nominate, please see Terry McComas for details of qualifications and expectations and to receive a nominations form to fill out and return to him. All nominations must be in by February 7th.

### Job Opportunity – Youth Coordinator

Beacon is looking for a person, 25 years of age or older, who would like the opportunity to inspire youth. The part-time, paid contract position of Youth Coordinator is currently available. Visit the Beacon home page to link to a job description. For more information, please talk with Rev. Debra Thorne, or a member of the Beacon Personnel Committee: Carol Woodworth, Terry McComas, Audrey Taylor. To apply, please email your cover letter and resume to [info@beaconunitarian.org](mailto:info@beaconunitarian.org).

### Aline LaFlamme (Continued from page 1)



*Aline blends modern methods of non-violent communication approaches with traditional ways of resolving conflicts, focusing always on restoring relationships. Aline has deep trust in traditional methods of restorative justice. This she has incorporated into several healing programs she implemented at the Aboriginal Front Door Society and in various prison programs she established.*

## New Beginnings in Beacon's Religious Education Program



First of all, I'd like to say *thank you* for the wonderful, warm welcome I've received over the past few weeks as I've begun my new

job as RE Co-Director and leader of the *Seekers* (ages 8–12). Not only am I impressed by the tiny army of dedicated volunteers that power this small-but-mighty congregation, I have also been made to feel genuinely welcome and supported by many of you. The inspired energy that fills Sapperton Hall and the new Beacon office as you continue to grow and take on new challenges is infectious. I'm thrilled to be a part of it, and I look forward to working and worshipping alongside you.

The new year also brings with it new programs for our two Sunday

morning RE classes. After spending the fall learning about other faith traditions, the *Children's Community* (ages 4–7) has turned towards Unitarian Universalism with the *Signs of Our Faith* curriculum as their guide. They have begun exploring what it means to live our UU values every day. On a similar theme, the *Seekers* are getting handy with the *Toolbox of Faith* curriculum, which highlights a different tool each week, representing an aspect of our faith. So far (the time of writing, mid-January), we've been inspired by a ruler to think about how we create the agreements we live by together, making sure that each person has a chance to contribute. Come downstairs and take a look at our covenant!

The Youth Group is also full of change, as 2016 will see the welcoming of two new youth, Brianna and Charlotte, and the bridging out into

the young adult world of Danae and Hannah at the end of June. This month, there will be a local mini-Con\* at the Unitarian Church of Vancouver on Saturday, February 27<sup>th</sup> for an evening of social justice improv and a sleepover with youth from the North Shore and Vancouver congregations. Of course we're also looking forward to CanUdle, the annual national youth conference which will be happening in Vancouver in May, and to our very own youth service on June 12<sup>th</sup>. The Youth Group meets regularly on the third Friday of the month at 7 pm. Contact Rev. Debra for more info.

May your February be bright and lively—in spirit if not in the skies.

—Casey Stainsby, RE Co-Director

\*Con—short for conference, usually a youth-led weekend gathering

## Let's Connect



The *Let's Connect* initiative is a wonderful vehicle for our Beacon community to connect and contribute. We have connected many of you to areas where you have told us you had an interest or were willing to be involved.

We have a great new group of kitchen volunteers, a great way to get to know Beaconites while you hang out at the sink washing or drying dishes. The greeters who welcome you each morning have recently had a mini workshop reviewing their 'welcoming' process. They are the ones who have that wonderful opportunity to get to know the new visitors with their enthusiastic hellos.

Behind the scenes, committees have been welcoming new people to their groups and one of the finest measures

of the new energy in our congregation is the fabulous new Beacon Refugee Project with so many keen volunteers.

If you haven't filled in a *Let's Connect* form yet, and would like to, please contact Susan Tarras [starras@telus.net](mailto:starras@telus.net).

Thank you to each and every one of you who make our Beacon community such a rich, positive and welcoming place to be.

The Connections and Membership committee is very pleased to welcome five new members to Beacon at the recent New Members Joining Ceremony. Have a look at page 5 for their bios.

Your Connections and Membership Committee,

—Joan Morris, Jean Donaldson, Susan Tarras,  
Joyce Gudaitis, Rev. Debra Thorne



## New Beacon Members

### Vanessa Crawford



Vanessa grew up here in the Lower Mainland and was a competitive dancer as a teenager. At 17, arthritis took away her freedom

of movement for a number of years, but it has since become much more under control and she has reawakened her love of dance and exercise. She loves her job as an instructor in BCIT's x-ray program and is forever upgrading her skills through courses and workshops. Outside of work, Vanessa volunteers with the White Caps to sell 50/50 tickets during the games, and also volunteers with Camp Goodtimes in the summer for kids and their families living with cancer. 2016 is an exciting year for her, because not only will she get to wear one of Beacon's coveted name tags, but she will also be getting married to her best friend, Leighton, in March and moving into their newly completed condo in Coquitlam. She and her future husband share a love of dogs and each will be bringing their "fur baby" (Jimmy and Mowgli) with them into their life together. Vanessa looks forward to nurturing her spiritual self and knows the Beacon community is the best place in which to do it.

### Deborah Henry



Deborah Henry moved to New Westminister in November of 2014 from Vancouver, where she had been a member of the

Unitarian Church of Vancouver for 20 years. Deb has recently retired from a



Five new members joined Beacon on January 24th. Left to right: Deborah Henry, Vanessa Crawford, Susan White, David Kristjanson and Lynne Rhead (back row). Also pictured is Joyce Gudaitis (front row, right side), who joined Beacon last spring, but was unable to attend the May ceremony.

stimulating career as a research technologist at UBC, and is enjoying exploring New Westminister, and developing new friendships with Beaconites. Deb shares her home with two cats she adopted in the past six months after her dear old dog passed away, and her son, who is studying law in Saskatoon. Her interests are fabric art, balcony gardening and trying to keep up with reading her *New Scientist* subscription.

### David Kristjanson



David grew up in Coquitlam and moved to the West End in the 1970s, to the safety of the "gay ghetto". The ghetto was safe, but confining so he moved to the east end in the 1980s and lived in many places from Commercial Drive to Main Street. In the late 1990s he moved to Richmond, then to Gastown for 10 years, then back to Richmond and is now in New Westminister. David worked as manager of the Steveston Hotel for 23 years

until it was sold in 2015 and is now looking for a new career (and open to ideas). "Spiritually, I have always been looking for somewhere to fit in. I have problems with most traditional religions, but see value in parts of all of them. I lean towards Buddhism (I meditate daily), and the ideas of love, forgiveness and charity found in the Christian tradition. I feel like I have found a spiritual home at Beacon. I have really been made to feel like I belong, which is a different feeling for me, but I am liking it."

### Lynne Rhead



Lynne lives in North Surrey with her husband Larry, a high school art teacher, along with her cat Whiskers and dog Baraka. Their house is located close to the Fraser River where deer, raccoon, skunk and coyote wander freely and can make walking their tiny dog eventful! She is an avid gardener and grows flowers, fruit, herbs and vegetables. Lynne and

Larry are currently renovating their house (as “1975” went out of fashion sometime ago.)

Her employment pathways have led to social service and educational jobs, and at times these fields crossed over. This year Lynne earned a degree in psychology. For the past three years she has been involved in a poverty reduction committee with the City of Surrey, as an advocate for First Nations people and Refugees.

Lynne organizes and leads a walking group for woman exploring parks, historical points, beaches and urban features across the Lower Mainland. When walking in Minnehada Regional Park with a couple of friends she looked up to discover a large black bear barreling along towards her! She let out a sigh of relief after discovering the noise-makers that she had been packing around for so many park walks really do scare them off.

Spiritually Lynne has been a Unitarian for about 20 years or so—she was first drawn in by Harold Brown’s piano performances at Vancouver Unitarian and the monthly visual arts exhibits there. Upon discovering the

7 principles were a “good fit” she felt right at home. Now at Beacon Unitarian she finds herself in the throes of volunteering with a committee to sponsor a refugee family. Social justice has always been close to her heart and she can’t wait for the refugee family’s arrival and to help them settle in their new home, British Columbia, Canada.

### Susan White



I grew up in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia and except for three years in Scotland in the mid-eighties, I have lived there all my life. I began attending the Universalist Unitarian Church of Halifax in 1989, participating in many aspects of church life.

Last February I came to New West for a visit with my daughter Nora, daughter-in-law Kira and grandsons Simon and Ezra. I also attended a service at Beacon to check you out and I liked what I saw!

This past summer I undertook a bold move—quitting my job (they call it retiring with a deferred pension :-)) and selling my house and car. Then I moved to New West, bringing with me two suitcases and a little dog. Since then, the little dog died and now I have a different one.

In Nova Scotia I left behind my eldest daughter, Louise, my youngest daughter, Helen, and her husband, Calum, my sister and my mom. They are a family group who can offer support to each other and now we have a family group here.

I am honoured by the warm welcome Beacon Unitarians has shown me, with special thanks to the Lunch Bunch, the choir, the circle dinners folk and to Peggy for including me as a member of the nursery support team.

I look forward to becoming more involved with the church and getting to know you all better.



# Come outside and play!

## Unitarian Family Camp June 3–5, 2016

Set in the natural splendor of Port Moody’s Belcarra Regional Park, the camp offers swimming, boating, hiking, climbing, children’s programming, a workshop for youth/adults, campfires and other fun communal events.

Heated cabins with electricity. Meals provided.

*Note: You do not need children to attend Family Camp!*

### Early bird registration deadline: Sun. March 20

Early bird rates: Adults: \$135; Children: \$125.

Register early, save, and help out the planning committee!

Download a brochure/registration form at <http://beaconunitarian.org/index.php/camp/> or talk with Laura Redmond or Peggy Lunderville for more information.



## Refugee Sponsorship Update

Donations to Beacon's Refugee Sponsorship fund have continued to arrive from the Beacon community, the North Shore Unitarians, and the community at large. We announced at Beacon's January 10th service that the fund was at \$21,550. We are about to receive all of the generous fund-matching offer which will put our balance at \$41,550!

We now have the funds to request a family from the BVOR (Blended Visa – Office Referred) list each time this list comes out. It will be very exciting news when we hear that our request has been successful, i.e., when we actually have a family coming to us! Rev. Debra will immediately send out an email to the congregation and the North Shore Unitarian info line so we will all get the news.

Nancy Rupert reported Jan. 10th that our settlement team is complete except for a housing coordinator. Lynne Rhead is coordinating in kind donations and asks if you have donations of household items, basic furniture for living room and bedroom, and kitchen items to contact her (calyrhead@shaw.ca). We are still looking for a storage place for these donations, ideally a garage in New Westminster or some place close by. Please contact Nancy Rupert (nancy.rupert@gmail.com) if you have any leads.

Susan Millar, who is coordinating fundraising is working with Lisa Girardi on a Trivia Fundraiser night, April 9th. Mark the date on your calendar!

—Carol Woodworth



### Food Bank Report

To all BEACONITES—your continued support for SHARE food bank is remarkable. We have started out 2016 with a bang up collection of \$562.30.

THANK YOU! —John Hagen

PROUD TO SUPPORT



## Share the Plate Update



Jim (right) and Dan both found part time employment after IOS Uptown New Westminster

Here is a quick update on *I's on the Street*. The program has a number of goals: *I's* provides employment opportunities to people with mental health issues in order to help build their self-esteem and transferable job skills. *I's* also fosters community relationships and breaks down stereotypes about the homeless.

Twelve individuals have been hired since June 2015. There have been a number of successes, as well as a few challenges. The community appreciates the program, as it helps to increase neighborhood safety as well as keeping the streets and pavements clean. It is not uncommon for a store front owner to greet the *I's on the Street* crew and thank them for their service.

Three participants have moved on from the *I's on the Street* program to competitive employment. One is working at a car dealership, one in construction and another in a warehouse. One participant was homeless at the start of his employment with the program and has since found safe affordable housing. Another found subsidized housing while with *I's*.

The program means a great deal to participants. One volunteer shared, "I feel important working the *I's on the Street* program—it helps me stay on routine, it gives me something to do." Another, "I would be out here all the time. It's wonderful... I can buy food."

NWHCS would like to thank you again for your generous contribution to *I's on the Street*. You have helped change lives for some of our most vulnerable citizens.

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

**Theology Pub** patrons discuss relevant issues on religion and spirituality in a relaxed pub atmosphere. See below for details on our February 14th gathering. Contact Franci Louann: flouann@telus.net.

**Soul Matters Groups** delve into the monthly sermon themes—“Reconciliation” for February. Part personal sharing, part spiritual deepening, the groups meet once a month either at 1 pm Wednesday, or 7 pm Thursday. Contact Debra Thorne: minister@beaconunitarian.org.

**Humanist Discussion Group** meets the last Sunday of the month at 7:30 pm at *The Astoria House* in Port Coquitlam to discuss a wide range of current topics. On January 31st, based

on the book *The Brain That Changes Itself* by Norman Doidge, Marilyn Medén will talk about neuroplasticity—how it works, evidence of dramatic results, how it influences our lives, and how we might make use of it. Contact Marilyn Medén: m.j.meden@telus.net.

**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, 604-464-3992 or char4myc@shaw.ca.

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

**Attend a Circle Dinner** and connect with other Beaconites in a relaxed setting. Next dinner is planned for March 5th. Please contact Donna Hamilton: Donna-h@telus.net.

**Beacon Men's Group.** Contact Tyler Vittie at cycleman58@gmail.com.



**Check out the Book Club.** The book for February is *The All-girl Filling Station's Last Reunion* by Fannie Flagg. For time and place contact Bev Lock: 604-525-6791 or lockbev@gmail.com.

**Youth Group** will meet February 19th, 7pm, at the new Beacon Office. Topic: Reconciling with Friends.

**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).



## THEOLOGY PUB 2016

*Deep conversations in a relaxed atmosphere*

Theology Pub meets the second Sunday of the month in a public restaurant in the New Westminster area. Beginning at 1 pm, an informal group comes together to eat, drink and share their ideas on a variety of topics. This is an open and informal group, all are welcome. Facilitated by Rev. Debra Thorne and/or Franci Louann.

### February 14th: Reconciliation

**1 pm, Take Five Café, 202 E Columbia**

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission wound up its five year process last year. How will Canada and how will you integrate the institutionalized erasure of Aboriginal culture? What do you see as the next step for you, and the next step for Canada?

### March 13th: Transformation

The egg shell is the perfect design for both strength and fragility. But when

the pressure from the inside becomes unbearable and the structure breaks, a world is transformed. Where is transformation taking place in the world today?

### April 10th: Imperfect Beings

In our struggle to grow and learn and be our best, when is imperfection the goal? What does imperfection in nature teach us, and are we really ready to learn this?



### **Climate Change Covenant Group meets February 3rd**

Do you have thoughts and feelings about climate change that you need a safe, respectful place to share with others who are also concerned? Covenant groups are “mostly listening” and this one has been designed by Mary Bennett and Teresa Morton as a place to listen to each other around this important issue. While it will culminate in a group project, it is more about hearing each other, and ourselves, than it is about doing. The group meets 6:30–8:00 pm at Waves Coffee Shop (715 Columbia, close to the New West Sky-Train Station) on the first Wednesday of the month. New members are welcome in February (3rd) and then the group will close to new members. Contact [teresa.a.morton@gmail.com](mailto:teresa.a.morton@gmail.com) for further information or to RSVP.

Info on the first session can be found at [maryunitarian.wordpress.com/climate-change](http://maryunitarian.wordpress.com/climate-change).

### **Soup Lunch on February 14th**

There will be a soup lunch after the service. Volunteers for soup veggies, buns and dessert are welcome. See Peggy.

### **Circle Dinners March 5th**

Come and spend a relaxed Saturday evening having dinner with a group of Beaconites! Good food, good conversation, good company! The first dinner of this new year will be March 5th—put it on your calendar so you'll be able to say “yes” when you get our invitation.

You can host a potluck dinner in your own home or visit another Beaconite's home with your contribution of food. We'd love to have everyone involved, so look forward to an invitation from a host. We always need hosts, so if you are interested in hosting, please let Joan or Donna know.

For more information, contact Joan Morris ([joanmorris@telus.net](mailto:joanmorris@telus.net)) or Donna Hamilton ([donna-h@telus.net](mailto:donna-h@telus.net)).

## **Beacon Congregational Birthday Dinner Celebration**

# **You are invited to “Share the Love”**

### **Saturday, February 6, 2016**

**5:30 pm to 9:00 pm**

**Sapperton Hall downstairs**

Doors open at 5:30 pm, dinner at 6:00 pm

Tickets on sale after church on January 24th and 31st or by phone or email with Sue Sparlin (778-319-7827 or [sue.sparlin@shaw.ca](mailto:sue.sparlin@shaw.ca))

Adults \$25 (catered) or \$15 plus potluck dessert or appetizer to serve 8.

Kids ages 5-15 are \$5 each. Kids under 5 are free.

Family maximum \$55 (catered) or \$35 plus one potluck dish per adult.

Childcare will be available. Come join the fun. Bring your friends.

This is a time to connect, inspire and share the love.



### **Sue Sparlin performing in “Enchanted April”**



From January 21st through February 20th at the Langley Playhouse, Sue Sparlin is performing in “Enchanted April” and would be delighted to see her fellow congregants in the audience. There's lots of free parking. This is a sweet little play set in England and Italy in the 1920s.

Two repressed young married women take a risk to go on a vacation without their husbands. They advertise for two other ladies (me and a glamorous socialite) to join them. The play relates how all four women are transformed by their adventure and by the beauty of the Italian seaside as they connect with and inspire one another. Smiles are guaranteed! The 2 pm Sunday matinee performances are Jan 24th and 31st and Feb 7th and 14th. Thursday through Saturday performances start at 8:00 pm. Arrive 30 minutes prior to get the best seats. Tickets are cheap at only \$15 or \$10 if you go on Jan 21st or 22nd. Reserve your tickets online at [www.langleyplayers.com](http://www.langleyplayers.com) or call (604) 534-7469.

# Bolder Ways of Being

## CUC National Conference comes to UBC campus in May



UBC aerial view.jpg, from Wikimedia Commons. Author: justiceatlast

**J**oin hundreds of Unitarians from across Canada at the 2016 Annual Conference and Meeting at UBC over the weekend of May 20–22. Hosted by the four Lower Mainland congregations, the ACM provides a unique opportunity for us to learn, celebrate and network together. Conference 2016 also marks the last ACM in this format, as future gatherings will be held in alternate years.

Concurrent with workshops and business meetings, youth will hold their CANUUDLE conference at UCV, and children will be busy in special programs by age group. On Thursday, May 19th, a two-day training course for lay chaplains begins, and a plenary session for delegates to the business meeting is planned for the evening. In addition to the AGM on Friday, all are welcome to attend the banner parade and the Ingathering. Don't forget social events on Friday and Saturday evenings. Young adults are planning their own mini-con for Friday and Monday, as well as a bridging ceremony and dinner with youth on May 21st.

Registration will begin online at <http://cuc.ca/conference-2016/> near the end of January, including details of meal plan options and accommodation at the Gage Residence. Many sessions will be held in the architecturally stunning new Student Union Building, The Nest. Saturday streams range

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from climate justice to congregational networking, with a special session on *Building Bridges through Understanding the Village*, hosted by Revs. Samaya Oakley and Meg Roberts, the CUC's *Truth, Healing, and Reconciliation Task Force* co-chairs. Sunday morning worship, open to all, will be held in the Chan Centre, followed by multigenerational workshops after lunch. The Sunday awards banquet is included with a one-day Sunday registration as well as a full conference package.

What a weekend—but we need many volunteers from the four local congregations to make it all happen. What can you offer? We need help with registration, child care and children's programs, transportation, on-site photography, tech support, hospitality, welcome desk services, first aid, food or supervision for the youth con, and general assistance to the organizers.

Check the description of the conference at <http://cuc.ca/conference-2016/> and look for the link to the Survey Monkey form at CUC Conference Planning in the final paragraph.

In addition, Rev. Debra Thorne needs help organizing the Sunday worship service—please contact her and let her know you want to help!

See you in May!

—CUC Conference 2016  
Host Committee

