



# The Beacon

## March Service Theme: Transformation

Transformation is a complete change of something or someone with an expectation that the change will be an improvement. Winter transforms into spring, a family moves from danger to safety, others transform their lives by risking a bold choice or standing firm.



**MAR  
6**

### Strangers in a New Land

*Rev. Debra Thorne*

The Syrian refugee family sponsored by Beacon Unitarian Congregation is about to arrive. Imagine being a stranger in a new land where every smell and taste and smiling face is unfamiliar. How do we minimize our assumptions and our expectations? How do we maximize our cultural awareness?

- Food Bank Sunday

**MAR  
13**

### Trending Towards Love

*Rev. Debra Thorne and guest speaker Rev. Schuyler Vogel*

We put a lot of effort into being the best we can, but often we fall short anyways. How can we make sense of our vulnerabilities and see others as equally human?

*Rev. Schuyler Vogel is the minister of United Unitarian Universalist Congregation in Waukesha, Wisconsin. He is a recent graduate of Harvard Divinity School and previously served several congregations as a religious educator.*

- Choir sings
- Theology Pub after the service

**MAR  
20**

### Resurrection Again!

*Rev. Debra Thorne and Casey Thorne-Stainsby*

The first day of Spring unleashes winter's buried energy—flowers bloom, sap runs, desire for the renewal of life returns with glee. How wonderful is our interconnectedness with all the forces of nature. How intricate are the many religious responses to this annual renewal of earth energy.

The RE children will help the adults

raise the energy of spring for the first half of the service and then will go downstairs to prepare a surprise for the adults.

- Choir sings

**MAR  
27**

### Transformation Survival

*Sita Sahasrabudhe, Susan White and Sue Sparlin*

*Service Coordinator: Joan Morris*  
Three Beaconites will share personal stories of events that turned their lives around. Big changes in one's life can result in a major shift in perspective, or a whole new lifestyle. Retirement, major moves, or illness affect all of us in major ways. Come and hear how these individuals' lives have been affected by major life changes.

## BOLDER WAYS OF BEING: Conference 2016



It's hard to imagine when you have only ever experienced being a Unitarian in the intimate setting of Beacon what it might be

like to be in a room of 600 singing Unitarians. I can attest that it is a truly awesome experience! This is the opportunity that is coming to us all in May.

The Canadian Unitarian National Conference will be taking place here in Vancouver, on the UBC campus. All four of the Lower Mainland congregations are helping to organize this exciting weekend of singing, learning and worshiping with Unitarians from across Canada.

The weekend officially begins on Friday May 20 at 6:30 pm with a Banner Parade and Opening Ceremonies, followed by the Confluence Lecture by Rev. Melora Lynngood.

Saturday registrants have the opportunity to immerse themselves in one of four 'streams' of study and exploration; join a youth worship service and international dinner; and top it all off with a gala evening of local

**If your time is very limited, you are welcome to attend the Sunday morning worship service without registering for any part of the conference—an inspiring experience which I hope every Beaconite will attend.**

musicians and performance artists.

Sunday morning worship takes place in the elegant Chan Center, and showcases the *Bolder Ways of Being Choir* led by Alison Nixon. Sunday afternoon is an intergenerational event—youth and adults, eating, learning and playing together. The

closing banquet is scheduled for Sunday night.

You can register for either the whole weekend, or one day. If your time is very limited, you are welcome to attend the Sunday morning worship service without registering for any part of the conference—an inspiring experience which I hope every Beaconite will attend (there will be no service at Beacon that morning).

Registration is now open for the conference, go to: <http://cuc.ca/registration-now-open-vancouver-2016-national-conference>.

Conference 2016 also marks the end of the CUC's annual conferences, and the beginning of conferences held every two years. In a 2013 survey, participants stated that they would prefer the CUC to hold conferences every other year. The reasons for this include: allowing for effective use of CUC staff time and resources; helping congregations to plan financial support for delegates and participants; and decreasing our environmental impact.

To pull together an event like *Bolder Ways of Being*, takes lots of people power. Beaconites are contributing their leadership in a variety of ways. I am recruiting volunteers to help with the opening and closing ceremonies, and the Sunday morning worship. Casey Thorne-Stainsby is in charge of the parallel youth event called CANUUDLE and she needs help. Sue Sparlin has agreed to be in charge of Registration, and I know she would love your help too!

There will be an informational meeting after the March 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday service about the conference and how you can become involved. Please consider helping in small and big ways.

—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 April issue of The Beacon:** March 15th, 2016

Please send to: [newsletter@beaconunitarian.org](mailto:newsletter@beaconunitarian.org)

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## Board Bitz

**G**oodness, there are times in the annual cycle of Board business when it seems that we are so busy with work that has already started, there is little, if any, time to embark on something new. With the coming end of our fiscal year, it feels as though this is the part of the cycle we are in.

- Our treasurer, Carol Woodworth, is tying up the year-end financial statements, with the help of our book-keeper, Sharon Wang.
- Our Nominating Committee, headed by Audrey Taylor is reviewing the needs of the Board for next year.
- Our Refugee Task Force, headed by Terry McComas, is working at high speed to be ready for our refugee family to arrive.
- The Board and Lay Chaplaincy Committee are looking at the impli-

cations of becoming a Mentoring Congregation.

- The Personnel Committee is preparing to complete mid-year reviews of all contracts.
- We are planning, with Rev. Debra's leadership, a conversation with all interested parties about the future needs of our Religious Education program.
- The Board is reviewing the *Sharing the Plate* nominations in preparation for presentation at the AGM.
- We are tying up loose ends with parking issues, consent for photos and new sandwich board signs to match our new feather flag.

We spent, as always, some time at our Board meeting, reviewing and feeling immense gratitude for the work of everyone in our congregation. This February, the Congregational



Audrey Taylor,  
Co-President



Terry McComas,  
Co-President

Dinner was a success due to the diligent work of the Stewardship Committee, headed by Sue Sparlin, and so many volunteers. And we recognized the value that has been added to our congregation by the work of the Membership and Connecting Committee, headed by Jean Donaldson.

As a Board, we are proud of the community that is Beacon. We hope you feel the same, that you feel welcome and included in all the wonderful activity that is Beacon.

—Audrey Taylor

## Sharing the Plate Nominees, 2016–17

The Board has selected the three most appropriate nominees for our 2016–17 *Sharing the Plate* recipient. At the annual general meeting, members of Beacon Unitarian will have the opportunity to vote for their favourite.

### Burnaby Seniors Outreach Services Society

[www.bsoss.org](http://www.bsoss.org)

Operating with three part-time staff, the agency provides a Family Caregivers program and a Senior Peer Counselling program.

### Soroptimist International of the TriCities

[www.soroptimistinternational.org](http://www.soroptimistinternational.org)

Examples of programs include:

- *Bea's Closet*, a "free store" for women transitioning to life on their own
- *A Warm Place for Women*, a social evening for women in need
- managing an award program for women who are primary wage earners, to further their education

- *Enchantment Project*, which provides needy high school grads with formal attire
- providing women with interviewing and job survival skills

### Community Integration Services Society

[www.gociss.org](http://www.gociss.org)

- Enables individuals with disabilities to volunteer at a local high school, church, Senior Centre, bookstore, animal shelter and pet grooming facility.
- Provides skills training for those with disabilities by providing work experience in a catering service and soup & sandwich shop that seniors can access.

### 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).

Connecting, Inspiring,  
Transforming!



## What's going on in Religious Education Classes



At the time of writing it is still only February, but spring is in the air. In RE, the teachers and children are looking forward to the season ahead.

The *Seekers* and *Children's Community* continue to explore our Unitarian faith using the *Toolbox of Faith* and *Signs of Our Faith* curricula. Both of these programs are part of the Unitarian Universalist Association's Tapestry of Faith. You can learn more about them online at [www.uua.org/re/tapestry/children](http://www.uua.org/re/tapestry/children).

We recently canvassed for more adult volunteers to join us downstairs for one (or more) Sundays this church year. Our goal isn't just to have more adult help downstairs, it's to build connections and community between children and adults. No experience or planning is necessary—you just have to be there! You may be surprised by just how much spending time with the youngest members of our community can enrich your own journey. If you didn't get a chance to sign up please email [beaconunitarianRE@gmail.com](mailto:beaconunitarianRE@gmail.com).

If you're not able to volunteer, you will still have the opportunity to connect with the children on March 20th, when we will celebrate the

Spring Equinox with a special semi-multigenerational service. This date marks the new year in a number of cultures, and we will be particularly inspired by the rituals of the pagan festival of Ostara. This is an excellent chance to get together and celebrate the change of seasons and new beginnings as a community. Stay tuned for more details on what's in store.

We're also tentatively planning another Easter gathering for Beacon families. Last year we all got together to enjoy a potluck dinner and decorate Easter eggs. It was great fun, and we would love to do it again. Once again, stay tuned for more details!

—Amber Strocel

## Advance Care Planning Series wraps-up in March

This four part series of workshops focused on the many aspects of Advance Care Planning and has been a wonderful experience filled with laughter and learning. The community response has been impressive.

I would like to acknowledge the skillful contributions from Beacon members Dr. Peggy Lunderville, Terry McComas and Kathleen Johnston, RN. The generosity of expertise from professionals in the field of Advance Care Planning such as Dr. Charlie Chen (Palliative Physician at Royal Columbian Hospital, Dept. of Medicine, UBC), Cari Hoffmann (ACP Coordinator, Fraser Health), and Triicia Keith (Dying Midwife) has made for a rich and learned experience.

I hope those of you who have participated in this workshop have enjoyed the experience and will take what you have learned and share it with family and friends. One of the big 'take-aways' from this series for

me is how important it is for all of us to talk with our family and friends about our thoughts and feelings about what we value of life, and wish for our death. No matter how old we are, we need to be prepared for the unexpected accident or illness. To be prepared, and to have talked it over with family and friends is an act of love. Yes, an act of love. When those around us know what life means to us, and what we would not be willing to live without, then we have given them the gift of knowing the decision that we would make if we were able to. In doing so, we show respect and love for them, and the choices they make on our behalf are clear. Although the situation will be difficult, we have made it easier for them with our love. There is useful information, workbooks and documents online at <http://www.advancecareplanning.ca/making-your-plan/>

—Rev. Debra Thorne



### 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/>



## Let's Connect



The connections that are happening at Beacon, largely as a result of the *Let's Connect* forms filled out last fall, are heartwarm-

ing! They led to an abundance of volunteers for the wonderful Congregational Dinner held last month. We've had more participants during Beacon services, more volunteers helping with children's activities, and enthusiastic volunteers to host Circle Dinners.

We are delighted to add Phil Campbell to the Connections and Membership Committee. He has already assisted with formatting for the *Let's Connect* forms and will be taking on name tag preparations.

Speaking of Circle Dinners, don't forget March 5th is the next opportunity to join with other Unitarians for a relaxed Saturday evening dinner. We'd love to have you come along.

Invitations to the dinner are happening! Hosts have called people to

let them know where their dinner is to be held. Hopefully, you have heard from your host. If you haven't heard and want to be invited, please contact Donna Hamilton [donna-h@telus.net](mailto:donna-h@telus.net) or Joan Morris [joanmorris@telus.net](mailto:joanmorris@telus.net).

### Getting to Know U Saturday, April 16

(place and time TBA)

Here is an opportunity to meet others who are also new to Beacon and perhaps new to Unitarianism in a relaxed day of conversation and questions.

There'll be a few 'mature' Beconites to share their stories with you and a little Unitarian history thrown in as well.

Contact Rev Debra Thorne ([minister@beaconunitarian.org](mailto:minister@beaconunitarian.org)) or Joan Morris ([joanmorris@telus.net](mailto:joanmorris@telus.net)) for more information.

Don't forget, the best way to connect is to participate. From your Connections and Membership Committee,

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

### Parking at Sapperton Hall

Parking for the Sunday services, and for any Saturday Beacon event, is available in the parking lot at the back of Sapperton Hall, and in the lane behind the Hall. Parking in the lane, next to the Professional Building, is available to us also, including the spaces that say they are reserved for staff.

There is additional parking in the lot behind the Professional Building, which is accessed from Simpson St., with the exception of the one space that is nearest the street and is clearly marked as Reserved for MCFD emergency vehicles. This reserved space must not be used at any time. Foot access to the lane and thus Sapperton Hall is through the cedar hedge.

If parking in the limited spots on Keary St., one must be sure to obey the city parking signs. There are metered spaces close to the Hall, and free spaces (2 hours) further up the hill. Do not park in the spaces reserved for residents. There is similar street parking on Simpson.



## 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: \$145; Children: \$133.

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.

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

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 page 7 for details on our March 13th gathering. Contact Debra Thorne: minister@beaconunitarian.org.

**Soul Matters Groups** delve into the monthly sermon themes—“Transformation” for March. Part personal sharing, part spiritual deepening, the groups meet once a month either at 1 pm on Wednesday, or 7 pm on Thursday. Contact 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. **February 28th Meeting:**

Ralph Green was a clear and free thinker who always had the definitive comment at the end of a Humanist meeting. He left notes of his thoughts on the future: tomorrow, next week, a million years from now. His wife, Ivy, is going to share these with us. The discussion promises to be lively. 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, 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. The 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.

**Book Club** meetings are held the 4th Thursday of each month at 7 pm. For location details contact Bev Lock: 604-525-6791 or lockbev@gmail.com. See below for more information and details on the March 24th meeting.

**Youth Group** will not be meeting in March due to the Spring Break. Contact Debra Thorne (minister@beaconunitarian.org) regarding upcoming events for youth.

**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).

## Book Club Line-up



**On March 24th** we'll be discussing Don Hauka's book, *Pizza 911*, his most recent Mister Jinnah mystery. Don is a longtime member of Beacon and will be attending the meeting to add fun, humour and insight into the discussion of his book and the writing process. In future months we'll be discussing:

**April 28:** *Influence: The Psychology of Persuasion* by Robert B. Cialdini

**May 26:** *The 100-year-old Man Who Climbed Out of the Window and Disappeared* by Jonas Jonasson

**June 23:** *Through the Black Spruce* by Joseph Boyden

**July 28:** *The Moonstone* by Wilkie Collins

**August 25:** *The Maltese Falcon* by Dashiell Hammett

### Obtaining the books

If one or more of these books interest you, please feel free to join us. The March book is available at local libraries or can be purchased by contacting John Hagen at ajhagen@telus.net. The April book is available at local libraries. The books from May through August can be obtained by contacting Bev Lock a month in advance of the meeting to arrange for a copy. Contact Bev Lock (604-525-6791, lockbev@gmail.com) for any other enquiries and for location of monthly meeting.

## Advance Care Planning Fourth and Final Session:

### Having the Final Word!

Rev. Debra Thorne

Sunday, March 20th, 1 to 3 pm  
Sapperton Pensioners Hall

Here is your opportunity to have the last word! Practical tips on writing your own obituary and planning your memorial. This is your creative opportunity to construct how you want to be remembered in words, music, or maybe creative movement!





# Bolder Ways of Being

Early bird registration deadline: Thurs. March 31st

## Register now for the CUC National Conference

Early-bird registration is now open for the 2016 CUC Conference “Bolder Ways of Being”, which will see over 500 Unitarians from across the country converging on the UBC campus May 20–22. It’s a great opportunity for us to deepen connections with Unitarians from congregations near and far—without ever going near an airport.

Registration is available at lowest rates until March 31 at <http://cuc.ca/conference-2016/>, where you can click to find details of meal plan options and accommodation at the Gage Residence. Many sessions will be held in the award-winning new Student Union Building.

Rev. Melora Lynngood of First Unitarian Church of Victoria will deliver the Confluence Lecture following the opening ceremony on Friday night. Saturday streams and workshops range from climate justice to congregational networking, with a special session on



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

*Building Bridges through Understanding the Village*, hosted by our Truth, Healing, and Reconciliation Task Force co-chairs Revs. Samaya Oakley and Meg Roberts.

Our own Alison Nixon will be rehearsing and conducting the conference choir slated to sing in the Sunday worship. That service, open to all, will be held in the Chan Centre, followed by a multigenerational lunch and all-ages workshops. The Sunday awards dinner banquet is included with a one-day Sunday registration as well as the full conference package. Research

your options now and consider volunteering to join the local teams helping behind the scenes. Contact Marcia Stephenson ([marciastep@shaw.ca](mailto:marciastep@shaw.ca)) if you have some time to contribute.

**Sunday, March 6 after the service at Sapperton**  
A special information session on *Bolder Ways of Being*, the Annual Conference and Meeting of Canadian Unitarians. Come and find out how you can participate.



## THEOLOGY PUB 2016

*Deep conversations in a relaxed atmosphere*

Theology Pub meets the second Sunday of the month in a public restaurant in the Sapperton area of New Westminster (suggestions for restaurants are welcome). Beginning at 1 pm, an informal group comes together to eat, drink and share their ideas on a variety of topics. We are inclusive. You may reserve at [minister@beaconunitarian.org](mailto:minister@beaconunitarian.org). Facilitated by Rev. Debra Thorne and/or Franci Louann.

**March 13th: Transformation**  
*Gino's Restaurant, 431 East Columbia Street*

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?

# Beacon Congregational Birthday Dinner Celebration

Share the Love, February 6, 2016

Photos by Jane Shoemaker





**Beacon's Birthday Party: Share the Love, February 6, 2016**



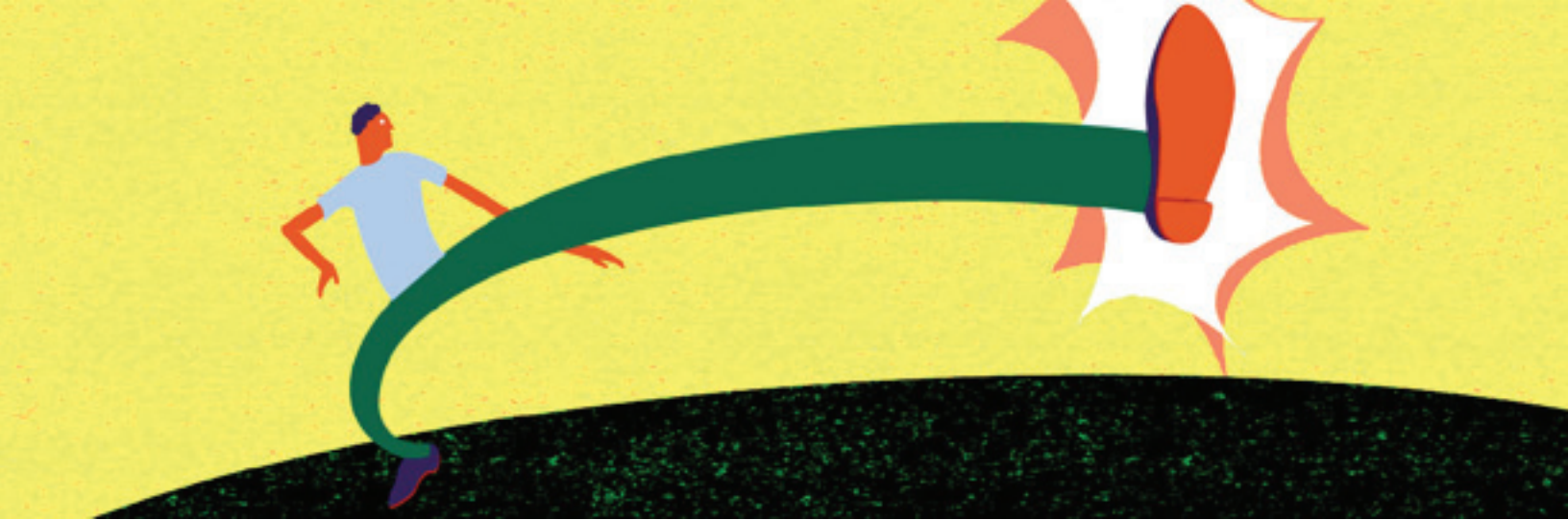


Illustration courtesy of <http://www.seek.com.au>

# Kickstart! A Trivia Game Fundraiser

Glenbrook Park Amenities Centre in New Westminster  
Saturday, April 9th, 5:30 pm

For a great night of fun and laughter with a little bit of friendly competition, come to Beacon's refugee sponsorship fundraiser, *Kickstart! A Trivia Game Extravaganza*, at Glenbrook Park Amenities Centre on April 9th (73 Jamieson Court, New Westminster). We're hoping the earnings will round out the first year's financial needs of our refugee family who will soon be winging their way here.

Lisa Girardi is a master creator of Trivia Game quizzes and she's cooked one up for this event that may challenge even the most sponge-like of minds with fascinating, sometimes off-beat questions of general knowledge. Win or not, you'll have some good laughs about the weird and wonderful trivia that you'll learn about.

Doors will be opening at 5:30 so you can get a burger and a drink before game start at 6:30. Beef and vegetarian burgers will be sizzling on the patio, compliments of the New Westminster Lions Club. Drinks will include wine, beer, sparkling ciders and more. Your \$25 dollar ticket will include a burger and a drink.

There will be six rounds of 10 questions. For each round, you and

your table mates will get only five minutes to correctly answer as many as you can. So start putting your team together—we suggest groups of six, but each table can squeeze in eight. Decide on your team's name—zany is preferred. Bring finger-licking nibbles for your table too.

There will be prizes galore and many chances for winning, not just the games, but there will be door

**Win or not, you'll have some good laughs about the weird and wonderful trivia that you'll learn about.**

prizes, a 50/50 draw, and a slew of wonderful experiences and gifts to win that will be part of our extensive raffle. Rumours are that prizes will include dining-out opportunities, a wine tasting event, a birding watching expedition, a canoe ride and that's just scratching the surface of what will be on offer.

To make this event a great success, we are going to need YOU! We will need people to help with table set-up and tear down, to sell beverage and

raffle tickets, to serve drinks (a Serve It Right Certificate is Required), to sell snacks, to clear tables, etc. We will need table runners and scorers, and an individual to provide music. Deepak Sahasrabudhe will be projecting the progress of winning teams on a big screen.

Before hand, you can help by selling tickets, offering or soliciting raffle and door prizes—we have a letter signed by our President, Terry McComas, explaining what it is all about to potential sponsors. You can create score sheets, distribute marketing postcards, put up posters, help transport food and beverages, among other things. Just talk to Susan Millar or Lisa Girardi and they'll give you any guidance or support you need. They will soon be circulating "sign up" sheets to the congregation for both volunteer tasks and prize offers.

Mark your calendars NOW! It's going to be one of the highlights of the year for Beacon Unitarian Church. We are expecting 200 fun-loving people. And start eating that brain food!

—Susan Millar