

May Service Theme: Revelation

Revelation is classically known to be that which is revealed through a supernatural source, pertaining to human existence. Revelation can also be the receiving of a fact, scientific or personal, not previously known. What is gained and what is lost through revelation? Enjoy exploring the May theme.



**MAY
1**

May Day Blooming

Rev. Debra Thorne and
Casey Thorne-Stainsby

May Day, or Beltane, is traditionally a time to celebrate abundance and growth. In this intergenerational service the whole community will take this opportunity to consider the things we would like to see blooming in ourselves, our relationships and the wider world. We will reflect and share with a Compost Communion ritual, and dance around the Maypole. *There will be no RE classes as the children will be participating in the whole service.*

**MAY
8**

Continuous Revelation

Rev. Debra Thorne

Some religions look to books for revelation, some look to prophets, some to stones, and some to numbers. How do these experiences and methods of revelation compare across the religious landscape? How does the Unitarian understanding of revelation distinguish itself and

support your being in this world?

- Choir sings

**MAY
15**

The Song of the Winter Wren

Rev. Debra Thorne and
Teresa Morton

The Winter Wren returns to precisely the same spot in a wooded acreage on Vancouver Island, for safety & rest. What size was the map of her world? How did she know this was a protected niche? Science would eventually be able to elucidate the size of winter wren's range, but only if we turned our science 'spotlight' on it. And in employing our spotlight we risk losing sight of the whole, of the interconnectedness, of the old knowledge. Perhaps, as our 'scientific progress' proceeds, we are losing as much, or more, indigenous knowledge. What are the risks associated with this erosion of place-based, time-enriched understanding and knowledge?

- Choir sings

**MAY
22**

Growing Bolder Every Day

Chan Center at UBC, 10 am

Rev. Debra Thorne, Rev. Steven Epperson
Join 500+ Unitarians at the Canadian Unitarian Council Conference at UBC. The worship service will feature Aline LaFlamme and *Daughters of the Drum* and the Conference Choir under the direction of Alison Nixon. *Not to be missed!* For directions and parking to the Chan Center go to: <http://chancentre.com/directions/>

**MAY
29**

Continuous Revelation: Engaging in Life's Planned & Serendipitous

Moments!

Joan Carolyn, CUC Congregational Development staff for BC and Western Regions

Service Co-ordinator: Joan Morris

What does it mean to engage well with life? With a commitment to give concrete expression to what we value, be prepared to act. And then with humility and eyes wide open, be prepared to engage life—from the well-planned event to the ever surprising serendipitous opportunities—continually open to inspiration and re-creation.

Joan has been privileged to pursue studies in World Religions and Cultural Anthropology (B.A.) as well as completing a B. Th. and M. Div. (double major, Theology and Peace Studies). Outside of the classroom, Joan has sought to continue life-long learning—of special note here are training and experience with: Conflict Resolution; Cycles of Violence/Wellness Planning; and Aboriginal Awareness.

Minister's Message



I hope that even if you can't come for the whole week-end you'll venture out to UBC on the May long week-end and take part in one of the free

events at the CUC Conference 2016. Or perhaps you are volunteering but would like to participate in something. There are two opportunities to share in the fun. On Friday evening, the Opening Ceremonies, at the HEBB classroom, begin at 6:30 pm, and last for an hour. And on Sunday morning at 10:00 am at the Chan Center the worship service 'Becoming Bolder Every Day' will be an amazing opportunity to sing and laugh and cry with hundreds of Unitarians from across Canada. I hope to see you there.

—Warmly, Rev. Debra Thorne

Board Bitz



Audrey Taylor,
Co-President



Terry McComas,
Co-President

Another Annual General Meeting has been held and with that we embark on another Board Year.

We are so pleased to welcome four new members onto the Board to join the five members who are continuing to serve for another year, or term.

Welcome to David, Helen, Dan and John. But don't be afraid, we strive to do our work with integrity, efficiency and effectiveness, but also with Connection, Inspiration and Fun.

Whereas the Board of Trustees and Rev. Debra are the formal, legal leadership of Beacon Unitarian Church, it is our lay leadership and contracted staff who are the heart and soul of Beacon. Together, we are a mighty team.

The co-ordinating council, Board and lay leadership will meet on May 31 to review this past year and plan for next year. See you there! Everyone is welcome. Stay tuned for more information.

—Audrey Taylor

Youth Coordinator Position

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.

Creative Arts Eliot Camp 2016 for UUs and their Friends and Family

Did you know that there is an arts-related summer camp run by The Eliot Institute for UUs from Western Canada and the NW U.S.? "Creative Arts Eliot" takes place at the beautiful Seabeck Conference Center on Hood Canal in Seabeck, Washington. Creative Arts Eliot will take place this summer from Saturday, August 13 through Thursday, August 18, 2016 and will offer opportunities for UUs and friends and relatives to enjoy many wonderful aspects of a multi-generational "camp" experience while also pursuing an interest in one of six artistic or creative endeavors. Talented presenters will delight and inspire during a five-day camp full of creativity and fun with morning workshops in Photography, Writing, Ukulele, Vocal Music, Painting, and Beginning Craft Brewing (adults only for Brewing; age 12 and up for all others). Campers choose one activity to focus on while at camp, and spend the rest of their time enjoying waterfront fun, sports, games, singing, UU community, cards and board games, evening programs, and numerous other planned activities including Firelight and music and an "Extravaganza" on the last night to celebrate everyone's creativity. Join us from August 13–18, 2016 for our annual Creative Arts Eliot at Seabeck! For more information, please contact the Eliot Administrator at Eliotregistrar@gmail.com or visit our website at www.eliotinstitute.org.



**Beacon
Unitarian
Church**

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**Deadline for the June issue of
The Beacon: May 15th, 2016**

Bolder Ways of Being

**CUC Conference 2016
at UBC May 20–22**

Lower Mainland congregations are busy preparing to host the 2016 CUC Conference “Bolder Ways of Being,” which will bring Unitarians from across the country to UBC from May 20–22. After April 30, online registration will be closed. Walk-in registration will be available at the conference for individual days or the entire weekend.

Check out <http://cuc.ca/conference-2016/> to find out about accommodation at the Gage Residence. Billetting with UCV families can also be arranged. While food orders must be confirmed by April 30, a few meal tickets may be available for purchase during the weekend. Most program sessions will be held in the award-winning new Student Union Building, The Nest.

During the opening ceremony Friday night, a visual sampler of life in each congregation will introduce the banners. While that event is open to all from 6:30 to 7:30 pm, only registered participants attend the Conflu-

ence Lecture at 7:45. Saturday streams range from cross-border climate justice to congregational networking, with a special session hosted by our Truth, Healing, and Reconciliation Task Force co-chairs Revs. Samaya Oakley and Meg Roberts. After-hours social times on both Friday and Saturday nights promise relaxation and entertainment.

The 10 am Sunday Service at the Chan Centre, open to everyone, will feature the mass conference choir. The service will be followed by a multigenerational lunch and all-ages workshops in the afternoon. Research your options now and consider volunteering to join the local teams helping behind the scenes. Contact Rev. Debra Thorne for more information.

Worship service in the Chan Centre at UBC May 22: Doors to the Chan open at 9:30 and the service begins at 10:00 am. Please allow plenty of time to park in the nearby structure and walk a short distance to the entrance. There is a special accessible drop-off zone. Free admission tickets to the Chan (required for entry) will be available in local churches by the weekend of May 8, from volunteers outside the building on the morning, or in packets for registered participants. Contact your local Host Committee member if you can offer a ride to anyone needing assistance.

Parking Details: The Rose Garden Parkade (6278 NW Marine Drive) has the quickest and easiest access to the Chan Centre. The parkade utilizes the Pay by Phone system (also used by the City of Vancouver metering system). To avoid line-ups and process payment quickly and easily, the app can be downloaded at paybyphone.com. You can also phone (604) 676-9933. The Location Number for the Rose Garden Parkade is 5665. Please note that the payment machines located on level 3 and 5 of the parkade do not accept bills; credit card or coins only.

Day Workshops at Unitarian Family Camp Sasamat Outdoor Centre, Port Moody, June 4 & 5, 2016

Resounding Joy Music Workshop with Kathryn Nicholson

Saturday, June 4th, 10–11:30 am, 1:30–3:30 pm
(*& optional Sunday participation in the worship service*)

The teamwork required in choral singing offers a unique and often profound experience of community at its best. Come and join us in this joy-filled activity of making beautiful, fun, uplifting music together!

\$67 includes workshop with lunch, & access to canoes and kayaks (3:30–5:00)

For more information about Kathryn, see www.soundeclectic.ca/director.html



Climbing Wall or High Ropes Course Sunday, June 5th

Climbing Wall: 1–3 pm
Age 6 to adult.

High Ropes Course: 3:30–5 pm Age 8 to adult.

Challenge yourself and have some fun.

Sunday workshop with lunch: \$49 (includes access to canoes and kayaks from 1–5 pm).



**Registration
deadline:
May 30th**

Download a brochure/registration form at <http://beaconunitarian.org/index.php/camp/> or talk with Ross and Gabi Harvey for more information.

Interested in attending for the full weekend? Email registrar at lauraredmond2@telus.net for availability.

Successful Trivia Night Fundraiser

Kick Start Trivia Night was a big fundraising success for the Refugee Sponsorship program. Under the talented leadership of Lisa Girardi and Susan Millar well over \$3,000 dollars was raised and a wonderful time was had by all. Please take a moment to thank Susan and Lisa for sharing their extraordinary gifts with the community.

A huge thank you to Susan and Lisa's families who came out to help make the event roll along smoothly, and to those who simply were there to support. Both Susan and Lisa had the inspiration to tap into the generosity of local volunteers and business people outside of the Beacon community, who surprised everyone with their generosity.

Although New Westminster's Mayor Jonathon Cote couldn't make

it in person, his donation of a framed lithograph called "Wait For Me Daddy" raised money in the silent auction. We were not lacking for dignitaries at Kick Start either. City Councillor Jaimie McEvoy was there as was Stacy Ashton, Executive-Director for Community Volunteer Services, and Rick Carswell, Past President of the Arts Council of New Westminster.

Federal Minister of Parliament for New Westminster Peter Julian provided a silent auction item of a lunch with him at Wild Rice, hotly bid on by Debra Thorne and Tom Lunderville, who won. Judy Darcy, MLA, provided a wonderful framed photograph of hers.

New Westminster donations came from Key West Ford (48" TV); Re-Up BBQ gave us two \$100 gift cards; Boston Pizza (\$165); MOVE Yoga Studio; Mr. Mikes (food); three gift baskets



Thank you Lisa and Susan !!!!

from School Trustee Jonina Campbell (\$100); Fraser Works Co-op (\$195); and Royal City Farmers Market (\$140). Thank you all!

I also want to mention that there were many "experiences/talents" that





were up for bids on the silent auction tables from our own Beaconites that brought in some serious moola: John Hagen's bird watching raised \$175, Renee Spakowsky's landscape designing \$105, Teresa Morton's offer to create a picture of one's home brought in a \$100. Charlene Dubrule donated 5 ½ hours of music lessons and a coffee gift basket worth \$100. Another \$400 was raised by donations from Laura Redmond, Carol Woodworth and Katie Sather, Terry McComas, Susan White, Elizabeth

Campbell, Marylke Nieuwenhuis, and Debra Thorne. Shane Scott, Rebecca's partner donated plates and glasses, and Deepak Sahasrabudhe looked after all the technology, from sound to the square which allowed us to take in non-cash money. In total there were nearly 50 donors to this event!

The "most tickets sold" honour goes to Susan Millar at 20, while John Hagen and Carol Woodworth each sold 19. It seemed that Carol brought the entire Maple Ridge paddling community with her! It was wonderful to

see so many unknown community faces.

This evening of serious fun for a good cause thrust the Beacon congregation out into the wider community in a way that has not been experienced before. Let us continue to act boldly, not for ourselves alone, but for principles of the inherent dignity of every person and the commitment to a world community with peace, justice and liberty for all.

—Rev. Debra Thorne
with photos by Jane Shoemaker

Let's Connect

Wow! We have had a fabulous month of connections due to the Trivia Night extravaganza. Congratulations to everyone who helped make it a very successful and fun event. Many more folks now know about our amazing Beacon community and also about our commitment to the Syrian Refugee Family sponsorship.

We will also have another Circle Dinner on the 30th of April with all of the connections that provides. Hope you are able to attend and have let Donna Hamilton (donna-h@telus.net) know that you are interested.

Have you noticed and welcomed all the visitors who have come to Beacon since January! We have had

over two dozen new folk attend our services. Welcome to each of you.

There is another Getting To Know U session this month on Saturday April 30th for any of you interested in getting to know our Beacon community better. You will meet a few of the members including our minister Rev. Debra, learn a little history and enjoy a light lunch. If you haven't already signed up please contact Rev. Debra at minister@beaconunitarian.org.

Congratulations are in order for one of our newest families, Gus and Brianna Leger with 2-year-old Levi. Edmond Daniel (Eddie) was born March 4th, a healthy big baby at 9 lb. 7 oz. Brianna reports it all went well and you can see for yourselves what a

beautiful baby he is. We hope to see them all back at church soon. This is Eddie at about 5 weeks old.



Submitted by Joan Morris on behalf of the Connections and Membership committee: Joan Morris, Jean Donaldson, Susan Tarras, Phil Campbell, Joyce Gudaitis, Rev. Debra.

FOR ONE WHO STOOD ALONE

quatrains for Sandra Jane Shaw,
whose 90-some aunt said 'I love me'

two years ago
you stood in sunshine
swaddled yourself
said 'I love me'

friends watched from shadows
in silence;

later I would learn
of your cancer

then it was over, you were safe
as safe as we can be;
I loved how you told people so well
of your appreciation

*Do not keep the alabaster boxes
of your love and tenderness sealed up,
until your friends are dead.
Fill their lives with sweetness...*

(George W Childs in "Leaves of Gold")

two years ago
when you said 'I love me'
we could have grabbed you close
and said 'we love you too'

—Franci Louann

OSCURO

las palabras! the words!
I search my *diccionario*
as two people wait patiently
in the kitchen, curious
to hear my revelation—
what's so important for me
to say

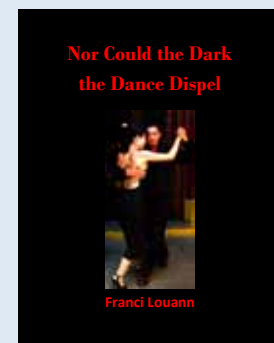
oscuro
I finally say, pointing
outside
(dark)—
they double up, laughing
I see the humour
hope they're laughing
with me

oscuro / oscura
la noche está oscura
(the night is dark)
(and feminine)
(and—not always dark...)
no es siempre oscura...

—Franci Louann

Franci Louann,
co-leader of
Theology Pub, has
written a
new book of
poetry,
Nor Could

the Dark the Dance Dispel, published by Silver Bow Publishing. These poems have been selected by New Westminster's Poet Laureate, Candice James. Purchase the book for \$18, \$2 to Beacon Refugee FUNd-raising.



What's going on in Religious Education classes?



In RE there are a lot of changes in store. Amber Strocel is stepping down from her role as Co-Director of Religious Education

effective May 1 due to a scheduling conflict with the required coursework for her teaching degree. For the remainder of the church year her role teaching the Children's Community will be filled by Laura Redmond. Laura and Casey will need lots of support in order to nurture our children. If you are able to help please email beaconunitarianRE@gmail.com.

The RE children have discussed what they can do to help our Syrian refugee family as they relocate to Canada. At the suggestion of Deb Henry they decided to join forces with the youth to help organize a toy, book and household item drive and sale. With your support we raised over \$240 to buy toys for our Syrian family's youngsters, as well as putting some great books aside to start their library.

This spring we also held an Easter party and Easter egg hunt at the Lunderville residence. A number of families attended. Children and adults enjoyed socializing, and then the children all decorated Easter eggs. We walked to the nearby park to hide and search for the eggs. The weather was great and a good time was had by all.

The next day we had a partial intergenerational service to celebrate the spring equinox. After heading downstairs the children decorated cupcakes to share with the congregation. Here are a few photos from our recent celebrations that you may enjoy.

—Amber Strocel



Easter egg hunt at the Lunderville's.



Making and eating treats to celebrate the first day of spring.



Rummage sale raises \$240 to buy toys for our Syrian children.

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—“Revelation” for May. Part personal sharing, part spiritual deepening, the groups meet once a month either at 1 pm on Wednesday, or 7 pm on Thursday. 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. 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. For details on the next round of dinners, 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. See the sidebar for a list of the books we are planning to discuss. 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).

Worship services planning meeting—come with your ideas for a service!

Saturday, May 7th, noon

Help the worship services committee choose monthly themes for the coming year, and discuss ideas to improve our services. The meeting will be at Marilyn Medén's starting with a potluck lunch at noon and then discussion from one until four. Please RSVP to Marilyn at m.j.meden@telus.net, 604-469-6797.

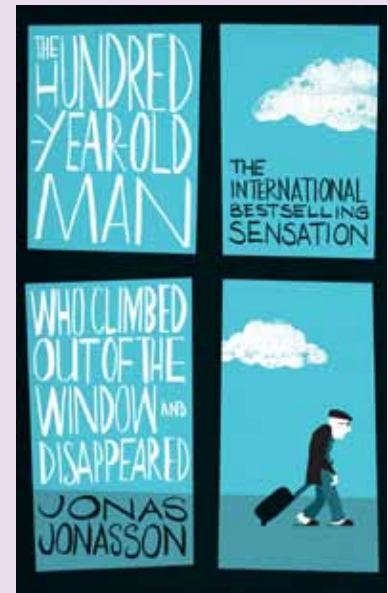


Coordinating Council Meeting

**Tuesday May 31st, 1–3 pm
at the Lunderville's**

All welcome!

Book Club Line-up



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 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.