

ca.thecolorrun.com/about/

JOY!

The theme for June is Joy! The joy that comes from being together and creating a safe, challenging, meaningful community. The joy that comes from brave decisions, from risking uncomfortableness in order to live our principles more deeply. The joy of accomplishment and completion. The joy of being!

JUN 5 There will be two services today in two locations:

At Camp Sasamat, 3302 Senkler Rd, Belcarra, BC V3H 4S3:

Sing a Joyful Song

Rev. Debra Thorne and Laura Redmond

In the beauty of the Sasamat Camp, amid the trees and family of campers, we will sing our joy of being together. This annual worship service brings together families from across the Lower Mainland.

At Sapperton Pensioner's Hall, 318 Keary Street, New West:

Joy or Happiness?

Is there a difference?

Beacon member Sue Sparlin and friends

Today's informal service will explore our lived experience of joy and happiness. People will be asked to share their own thoughts on the subject. Sue will bring some readings. You are invited to bring poems or music or readings that speak to you of joy or happiness and how they might differ. This will be an all-ages service. Any

children will be invited to join in the discussion. The food bank collection will be next Sunday, June 12th.

JUN 12

Transitions

Rev. Debra Thorne

There are times in our lives when 'what was' is no longer and 'what will be' is unknown. These are the transitions of our lives. Sometimes we are aware when the transition is upon us and other times it is only on reflection that we see the moment of change. Today we celebrate Danae McLean and Hannah Brown who are bridging from youth to adulthood. A tea, in honour of Beacon elder Ivy Hubbard, will follow the service.

- Food bank collection

JUN 19

Our Interdependence Calls Us to Love and Justice

Rev. Debra Thorne

We are each called to something in our lives. Have you heard a whisper in your heart, or a shout from the world beyond you? What inspires you, what moves you, what gives meaning to your life? What calls you?

This service will also include a presentation from our *Sharing the Plate* program to *I's on the Street*.

- **Beacon Family year-end picnic follows the service (see page 4).**

Summer Services:

We are planning a Poetry, Prose and Music service in July, and a Music service and Rainbow Pride service in August. There will be dates and more details in the summer newsletter. If you have an idea for a service in the summer, more informal than the usual, and held somewhere other than Sapperton Pensioners' Hall, the worship services committee would be very very interested, Please contact Marilyn at m.j.medden@telus.net, 604 469 5697.



**Beacon
Unitarian
Church**

Minister's Message



The first day of the Canadian Unitarian Council Annual General Meeting was the business meeting where I learned about many ways

that the CUC supports our national association of congregations. In this past year the CUC had intervenor status at the Supreme Court's decision on Assisted Suicide. It is widely believed that it was because of the Unitarian initiative to become politically involved on the issue of Death and Dying—that many believe is a human right, and therefore inline with our principles—that the last federal government put Unitarians on the list of charities to be audited by the CRA.

The audit cost Unitarians \$38,000 in legal fees, hundreds of hours of attention by the Executive Director and the CUC Board. On a positive note, it pushed our association to clarify its charitable status and moved us to complete a new vision statement, which reads: As Canadian Unitarian Universalists, we envision a world in which our interdependence calls us to love and justice. With the vision statement comes five Aspirations: Deeply Connected, Radically Inclusive, Actively Engaged, Theologically Alive, and Spiritually Grounded. It will now be each congregation's job



The banners of the four Lower Mainland congregations that hosted the recent Canadian Unitarian Council annual conference.

to ask how this vision aligns with our own visions, and then, how can we make this statement come alive in our congregations.

I also learned of the extent of refugee sponsorships across Canadian Unitarian congregations. In the

As Canadian Unitarian Universalists, we envision a world in which our interdependence calls us to love and justice.

past year refugee sponsorships have exploded from two applications to 50! So far, 38 out of 47 congregations have sponsored a refugee family or families. As of May 20th, 17 families have arrived in Canada, for a total of 70 people, mostly from Iraq, but also Iran, Somalia, and Brundi.

We learned that our lay chaplains

have launched a website called ceremonies.ca that shows how to create all types of ceremonies and where to find a lay chaplain in Canada. Check it out!

As well, we watched the terrific YouTube video created by Anthony, a young Unitarian from Saskatoon who was inspired to speak out for transgendered people feeling at home in our religious communities. Check it out here: <http://cuc.ca/name-anthony-james-approve-message>

The CUC has also make available a new technology platform called ZOOM, that will make meetings easier to schedule and we won't need to leave home to attend them!

All in all it was an enlightening day. I will share more about the learnings from the conference in the coming month—the Opening Ceremony, the Honour Circle and the Sunday Service.

—Warmly, Rev. Debra Thorne



Beacon Unitarian Church

www.beaconunitarian.org
info@beaconunitarian.org

Mailing Address:

#414, 552A Clarke Road,
Coquitlam, BC V3J 0A3

Consulting Minister:

Rev. Debra Thorne
minister@beaconunitarian.org

Lay Chaplain:

Marilyn Medén, 604-469-6797,
m.j.meden@telus.net

Choir Director:

Charlene Dubrule,
604-464-3992, char4myc@shaw.ca

Board Executive:

Terry McComas, Audrey Taylor,
Carol Woodworth

Trustees: Rob Warner, Bev Lock,
David Kristjanson, John Hagen,
Helen McVey, Dan Theal

Connections & Membership:

Jean Donaldson, 604-461-0056,
donaldsj@telus.net

Care & Concerns:

Renée Spakowsky, 604-463-8086

Beacon Newsletter:

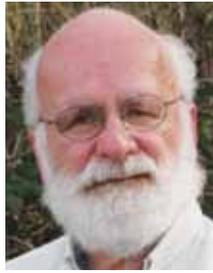
newsletter@beaconunitarian.org
Production: Laura Redmond
Proofreader: Franci Louann
Distribution: Tom & Uta Poiker

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

Board Bitz



Audrey Taylor,
Co-President



Terry McComas,
Co-President

Your new and expanded Board of Trustees met for the first time on May 15th. What a great meeting it was. The agenda was chock-full of interesting and important issues, including work of the

refugee task force; mentoring a new congregation; insurance requirements; CUC resolutions and reports; human resource needs; board work as spiritual practice; plans for next year; the legal responsibilities of trustees; and more.

The discussion of these issues was robust and respectful and many viewpoints were shared. This is going to be a truly great Board.

Rest assured that this Board, like the one before it, knows that it is just one piece of the whole that is Beacon. We all look forward to working together with each other and all of you, to keep Beacon the connected,

inspiring, and transformative community that it is.

—Audrey Taylor

OUR VISION:

CONNECT

With Compassion & Respect

INSPIRE

Learning & Spiritual Growth

TRANSFORM

Through Joy & Justice

Personal View

A Cure for Denial

I told her I would waft us back to Transylvania where the Unitarians still believe in a personal god. We would appeal to that god, who would answer our prayers, and all would be well.

We laughed. But her laugh was weakened by the cancer raging through her body. Raging against her ... against the satisfaction of her life, the future of it.

When was the last time I saw her, the last time we got up when there was a demanding beat in the music and we moved behind the congregation to respond to it? When was the last time she felt her oomphy over-seventy self? Those days, those months, those years are gone. Subsumed into the exhaustion of putting her affairs in order. Of finding pleasure in transitory pain-free rest.

Oh, Sandra, I want to turn the clock back and rewrite the future. Instead, my own denial of age, of

death, has come crashing down in tandem with yours, with your life.

* * *

Sandra and I travelled to Transylvania, in Romania, along the great curve of Unitarian Villages from Brasov to Cluj. We were roommates.

We explored. When I look at the photos, Sandra was often missing, off on her own adventure. She was communicating with people with smiles and admiring gestures, checking things out. We'd lose her at markets, and find her at a stand selling shawls. I called her Sandra Shawl.

Kobatflava was our partner church. Sandra connected with our hosts, and played with the minister's daughters at the communal dinner. It was a wonderful trip, and Sandra and I became friends. This friendship continued after we returned, and very often, at church, when there was music with a beat, we would get up and move to it, together.

Sandra was a serious, but fun,

person. I and many, many friends and relatives miss her warmth and laughter.

—Marilyn Medén



Sandra Shaw in Transylvania, 2011.

Let's Connect

Let's celebrate with Ivy Hubbard
—June 12th after church.

A number of years ago, our Beacon lay chaplains got the brilliant idea to celebrate the lives of our elder Beaconites while they could be here with us. Ralph Greer and Denis Probst were two of our long-time members celebrated with a special tea where their life stories were told. Recently the Board recalled this lovely tradition and suggested that we celebrate the life of Ivy Hubbard, a founding member of Beacon and one of our Beacon elders.

On June 12th, after the service, we will be hosting a special celebration of Ivy's life with a light lunch and stories of her youth and time at Beacon. Please join us to celebrate and learn about one of our special elders.

—Joan Morris

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



LET'S CELEBRATE WITH IVY HUBBARD

Sunday June 12, 2016
(after church)
Beacon Unitarian Church
308 Keary St.
New Westminster, B.C.
www.beaconunitarian.org

Join Ivy and her family after church for a light lunch and stories of Ivy's life. Ivy Hubbard has been a Beacon member since 1983, a founding member. She has been on every committee and served in every position (except Treasurer!).

Let's celebrate with her!!



Year-end Picnic, June 19th

We are wrapping up the church year with a picnic in Sapperton Park, 1.5 blocks north of Keary St. We hope you can stay after the service and enjoy a potluck lunch with the congregation.

Hotdogs/veggie dogs will be provided. If the weather is hot, you may want to bring swimsuits and try out the water park!

We'll gather on the park's west side, behind the playground, an area easily accessible via the lane between Sherbrooke St. and E. Columbia St. (see map). Leave your car at Sapperton Hall or look for parking on Sherbrooke St.

There are three picnic tables we can use. Please bring:

1. food or drink to share;
2. your own dishes and utensils;
3. a lawn chair or blanket (optional)

Please contact Laura Redmond if you have any questions or need transportation.

Rain plan: If the weather is rainy we will stay at the Hall for an indoor picnic.

What helps us grow?

The Religious Education program kicked off the month of May with a special intergenerational ‘Beltane Blooming’ service. The whole community gathered together in a creative Sunday worship format that brought together Pete Seeger, creative visioning, ritual infusion of sunflower seeds, communion, a story about the beginning of the universe, and an all-ages Maypole dance. May your seeds continue to bloom all season!

By the time this newsletter is in your hands, our community will have welcomed Unitarian and Universalists from across the land to the west coast for the Canadian Unitarian Council’s annual conference and meeting. An important part of this gathering is CanUUdle: the annual conference for UU youth aged 14–20. Two of our youth, Danae and Hannah, will have attended, and participated in the bridging ceremony, officially marking their transitions from youth to young adulthood. A big thank you goes to Michael Jenkins, who volunteered to stay up all night on Saturday so that the conference’s advisors could get some sleep, and he helped out in the kitchen, to boot!

The secret to a great youth program—and all kids’ programs, in fact—lies in the dedication of largely behind-the-scenes adult allies. CanUUdle is a wonderful example of this, and our own RE programs at Beacon have also been benefitting from more volunteers from the larger congregation. Not only does this mean that our teachers are supported and our safety policies respected, but it creates deeper bonds between the younger and older members of our community, contributing to our children’s sense of belonging at Beacon. Three cheers for everyone who has volunteered in



Last month, in response to a call from 11 year-old UU Anthony in Saskatoon, the Seekers wrote messages of support for trans and gender creative kids and took photos with them—here is our group shot! The pictures from Beacon were combined with similar ones from across the country to make a YouTube video called “Stand up, stand up, people of grace.”

RE this last year!

While celebrating our accomplishments, we also look forward to the future, preparing for the inevitable changes that life brings. The personnel committee is searching for two new co-directors of religious education for the next church year. If you are interested, or know of someone who might be, please see the home page of beaconunitarian.org for more information.

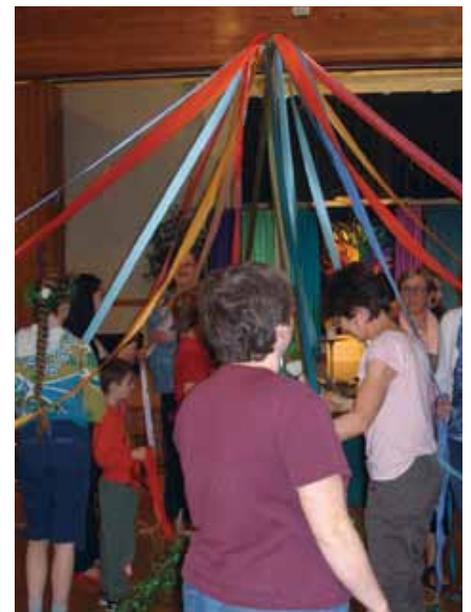
Lifespan Learning

A conversation has begun about what expanding the mandate of the RE committee to cover Lifespan Learning might look like. Since the current mandate was written in 2004, we are going to dedicate our next meeting to rewriting it, considering the broader possibilities. We welcome participation in this process from all members of our community—if you would like to be a part of it, please join us on

June 6th at 1 pm at Bev Lock’s home. You can also send us your thoughts before the meeting, by emailing BeaconUnitarianRE@gmail.com.

Blessings on you and your families for all kinds of growth.

—Casey Thorne-Stainsby



Refugee Family to arrive June 20th

Nader and Taghreed, the parents, Raneem, their daughter, just turned thirteen, and son, Mohammad, five, are arriving on June 20th! They will be living on Kent Street in New West. There will not be time for the children to be in school before summer. It would be great if

we could arrange some contact with girls and boys their age during the holidays.

Maybe you have an idea of a place to meet? Something to do together? A playdate with Mohammad? They do not speak any English, so it would be important to focus on doing some-

thing. After they have been here a few days, I can tell you how this might be arranged.

If you know a boy around five, or girl twelve or thirteen, who would like to meet them, please let me, Marilyn Medén, know. m.j.medeen@telus.net.

The General Assembly Banner

The conference organizing committee for our recent CUC conference at UBC asked Donna Hamilton if they could use the General Assembly (GA) Banner for the Sunday morning worship service. Here is the story of the GA Banner.

In the late 80's, I worked as the Beacon Church office secretary, and in about 1990 I retired from that to go back to school. I ended up taking textile and design classes at Capilano College, and in 1992, in a design class, I designed this chalice.

With this chalice, I started making pulpit cloths and stoles, and selling them at General Assemblies of the UUA (my first was in Calgary in 1992). I worked with UniUniques, and we used to lend various items, such as chalices and pulpit cloths, for worship services at General Assemblies. That is how the planning committee of the UUA first saw my chalice design.

In 1995, the planning committee commissioned me to make a large banner of this chalice, to use in plenary sessions at GA meetings. As I thought about it, I remembered the colourful cape that I had made while at school, using shards of colour in long triangles, and thought that adding these shards of colour, all pointing to the chalice, would make a much

more interesting banner than just the chalice. The colours signify for me the diversity of all of us, but pointing to a unity, symbolized by the chalice.



The banner was first present at the opening ceremonies of the GA that was in Spokane in June, 1995. It was hanging, hidden, at the front, and when it was unveiled, complete with spotlight

on it, there was a collective gasp from the audience of several thousand.

It was intended for use at each GA, and for several years was on display at GA every year. But eventually they must've got tired of lugging it back and forth, and decided to hang it permanently at the UUA headquarters in Boston. Around 2004, when the GA was in Boston, I was able to visit the UUA headquarters and see the banner in place.

There is one other banner like it. A church in Florida really wanted one, so I made it for them in the late 1990's.

When the UUA finally outgrew its space in the historic building at 25 Beacon Street, they decided to move. They did not have a place for the GA banner in their new home, so asked for my input in the decision about what to do with it. I chose the option of having it returned to me.

—Donna Hamilton

For more information about Donna Hamilton and her work see: <http://www3.telus.net/DesignsbyDonna/>

I's on the Street Update

Two new people, Cliff and Brenda, started with *I's on the Street* in the last week of April 2016. They are both in the Supported Independent Living Program (SIL) which is a subsidized apartment in New Westminster with CMHA. Both Cliff and Brenda go to the mental health centre to meet their case managers and CMHA workers. They are in their fifties, and are enjoying the opportunity of working. Brenda would like to continue working part-time after IOS is finished.

The previous participants, Trevor and Kris, both enjoyed working IOS and would like to find part time employment. Trevor is in the SIL program, has a CMHA worker and is seen at the mental health centre by a case manager. Trevor is looking for part-time work. Kris is living at the Russell Hotel and hoping to find employment.

From New Leaf Clubhouse:

The participants come to us in various stages of their lives. We have two homeless persons living in shelters, two living at home with parents, and one living on their own. These people range from age twenty to seventy and all participants are on a fixed income making less than \$1000 per month.

These are statements made by participants on how the *I's on the Street* program impacted their lives.

- Gave me the opportunity to follow routines that would get me ready for real world situations (getting up early, having a routine, getting paid for a day's work). This participant left the program early to attend school at Douglas and is looking forward to a brighter future. V.A, we found, was a natural leader. He was responsible enough to give us two weeks' notice and trained new hires.

- Another member is in his seventies with the energy of a twenty-year-old. He was very diligent and particular in the work he did for the program. He passed on his wisdom and ideas to other team members and was well respected by his co-workers. He has since gone on to volunteer at the Salvation Army.
- This member stated that she was very happy for the work as it gave her a reason to get up in the morning and made extra money for things she wanted. Although it was difficult for her at times she stuck with it. She eventually retired due to her physical health.
- BW sees this as the first step towards getting regular paid employment. He likes to have the extra money and finds that working distracts him from his physical, emotional, and mental struggles. "I like cleaning around the police station because the police are nice to me and I feel good to give back to the community."
- This member is one of the younger participants and is so proud to be doing this work. She is proving to herself and others that she is a capable person. At times she is over zealous and will go out of her way to get every single cigarette butt on her route which can sometimes slow her down. She is another great asset to this program.

The overall community has responded well to the work that is being done. Workers say that people honk their horns, wave, or say things like "good job, keep it up". The participants are very responsible for their own safety as well as that of co-workers and people in the community.



Sharing the Plate

The *I's on the Street* program is the 2015–16 recipient of Beacon's *Sharing the Plate* initiative. The June 19th service will include a presentation from Beacon to *I's on the Street*.

Fraser'side Community Services Society has been a member of the New Westminster Homelessness Coalition Society (NWHCS) since 2005. While the NWHCS administers the *I's on the Street* program, Fraser'side's New Leaf Clubhouse has operated it since 2010.

For more info on New Leaf and *I's on the Street* visit: <http://www.fraser'side.bc.ca/is-on-the-street/>.

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—"Joy" for June. 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.medén@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. Choir practice will recommence in September.

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.

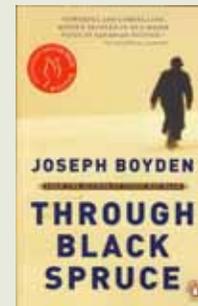
Help out on Sunday mornings as a Coffee Host (contact Sue Sparlin: sue.sparlin@shaw.ca), **or sign-up as a Sunday Morning Greeter** (contact Susan Tarras: starras@telus.net).

Coordinating Council Meeting

Tuesday May 31st, 1–3 pm
at the Lundervilles'

All welcome!

Book Club Line-up



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 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.

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.



Here Comes the Sun! We daydreamed all winter about what we would do *In Summer*, and the season is finally upon us! The days are long and lazy and free, and sometimes it's just *Too Darn Hot* to do anything. But then the glare of the blazing sun fades, and the edges of the world soften, and we catch a warm *Summer Wind* and dance to the *Rhythm of the Night*. After your long summer days, join us for Summer Nights!

WHEN: Saturday, June 25, 7:30 pm

WHERE: Unitarian Church of Vancouver, 949 West 49th Ave

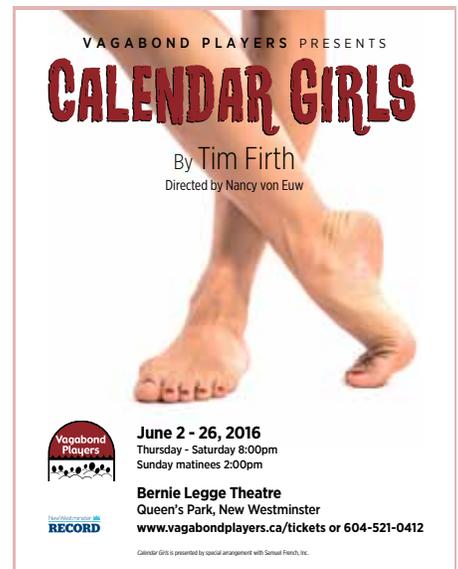
TICKETS: Ticket prices remain only \$15; there are also \$10 concession tickets available and children 12 and

under are admitted free. Keeping our concerts accessible in all ways is a priority for us.

Tickets may be purchased from choir members or at the door via cash or cheque, or online at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/out-in-harmony-celebrates-summer-nights-tickets-24843069289?aff=erelexpmlt>.

In keeping with our commitment to accessibility, this will be a scent-reduced event. Please abstain from wearing perfumes or scents so that those with allergies and sensitivities are able to come and enjoy the concert.

The venue is wheelchair accessible and all-genders washrooms will be available.



June 2–26 at the Bernie Legge Theatre in New Westminster's Queens Park, **Sue Sparlin** will be performing (for one brief cameo) in *Calendar Girls* as the haughty Lady Cravenshire. This delightful and poignant play will probably be sold out, so get your tickets soon online at www.vagabondplayers.ca or by phone at 604-521-0412. Note: Sue will be playing two different roles on June 5 & 19 (and a few other nights, too).

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

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

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

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



Photo credit: Pedro Szekeley at <http://www.flickr.com/photos/pedrosz/>

Beacon Calendar: June 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
29 10:30am - Worship Service 7:30pm - Humanist Group	30	31 1pm - Coordinating Council -	1	2 12pm - Lunch Bunch	3 6pm - Sasamat Family Camp	4
5 June Theme: Joy Sasamat Family Camp 10:30am - Worship Service	6	7	8	9 12pm - Lunch Bunch	10	11 6pm - Choir Party
12 10:30am - Worship Service	13	14 1pm - Board Meeting	15 Newsletter Deadline 1pm - Soul Matters Wednesday	16 12pm - Lunch Bunch 7pm - Soul Matters Thursday	17	18
19 10:30am - Sharing the Plate 10:30am - Worship Service	20	21	22	23 12pm - Lunch Bunch 7pm - Book Club	24	25
26 7:30pm - Humanist Group	27	28	29	30 12pm - Lunch Bunch	1	2