

Caring

October's theme is Caring. From the heart of compassion to the practicalities of care-giving, to the saving of our earth, our caring is needed to smooth the jagged places of life. Consider how you care for yourself and others and become curious about what you withhold your care from.



OCT 2 **The Light between Us**
Rev. Debra Thorne
We live in a diverse and beautiful world. Everyday, somewhere on the earth, it is a sacred and holy day. This week marks both the Jewish and the Islamic new year, and the Hindu festival of Navratri. How are we inspired and transformed in this time of spiritual interdependence?

Also on this Sunday, Shari Mahar will introduce the Sharing the Plate program recipient organization: Community Integration Society Services.

OCT 9 **Currency Transformed**
Rev. Meg Roberts
As Unitarians, we are comfortable talking about politics, religion, and sex. So how can we become more comfortable talking about a very important driver in our lives and culture—money? I think of money as 'stored energy.' How do we decide where to invest that energy to reflect what we care about so it actually changes lives? Reflecting on these things is exactly what a spiritual community can help us with.

Rev. Meg Roberts is in her fifth year as a part-time consulting minister with the Comox Valley Unitarian

Fellowship. She lives in Vancouver, and also does a community ministry called Spirit Arts: using our creativity to explore our spiritual lives.

OCT 16 **Coming through the Storm**
Rev. Debra Thorne and Deepak Sahasrabudhe

When the foundations crumble and we tumble into the darkness of loss, what do we reach for to find our way back to the light, to safety, to stability? Each of us will find we have strengths we didn't expect to find, courage we didn't know we had, and perhaps a whole new way of seeing ourselves.

OCT 23 **Circle of Care**
Rev. Debra Thorne
Many of us value caring, value being a caring, compassionate and giving person. Yet caring too much can be detrimental to ourselves and others. Caring for the wrong reasons can be unhealthy. When we take a look at the whole circle of both care and carelessness we become more aware of our motivations behind our value of caring.

- Choir sings
- Nelson visitors and Soup Lunch

OCT 30 **Breaking Free**
Cathy Tingskov
Service Coordinator:
Marilyn Medén

'Breaking free' from internalized oppression, to live a happier healthier life, can be a challenging process. For some who are not quite there yet, it can take months, years, or even a lifetime to achieve. Yet, at any age, the risks and benefits are well-worth the journey.

Using personal stories, Cathy Tingskov will share some experiences on her path to breaking free. In doing so, she hopes to support and inspire others who may be on similar journeys.

- Choir sings

Sunday worship services and religious exploration 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.



**Beacon
Unitarian
Church**

Minister's Message

Some of you know that last fall I was approached by Joan Carolyn, the Canadian Unitarian Council's Regional Representative, asking if I might be interested in being part of a support system for an emerging Unitarian congregation somewhere in the west. It was an exciting offer and my curiosity was piqued. I imagined that the emerging congregation must be somewhere in British Columbia and through deductive reasoning I guessed it would be in the Kootneys. I soon found out I was right. A congregation of like-minded people in Nelson were inquiring about how they might become Unitarian.

It is a very rare opportunity to welcome an already formed community into the association of Unitarian congregations. The Nelson community had been in existence for thirty years under the theological auspices of Unity (Unity church is a spiritual philosophical movement based on the principles of truth taught by and exemplified by the teachings of Jesus). After a theological review the community discovered that how they worshiped together was much more in line with the Principles, Sources and expression of Unitarianism.

The Beacon Board endorsed a mentoring relationship, whereby Beacon would mentor Nelson in how to be a Unitarian congregation. This will include sharing music and worship service practices, support in governance and lay chaplaincy. The sharing will also flow back to Beacon



with visits between the two congregations over the next year. The first visit will take place at Beacon on the weekend of October 21–23. I will be travelling up to Nelson in November, with a few others from here, with the mandate of sharing Unitarian theology and history.

The Nelson Unitarian Spiritual Center is now finalizing the restructuring of its bylaws and charitable status, so that it may soon operate as an independent self-governing Unitarian congregation.

If you are interested in participating in the program of mentorship please send me an email.

Warmly,

—Rev. Debra Thorne

Board Bitz



Audrey Taylor

Our church

year has started off in its usual, positive, energetic way. On Sept. 10, twenty-two members showed up for our annual all-

congregation, leadership planning day. Together, with Debra's leadership, we looked at what we are already doing:

- Refugee Settlement
- Mentoring the Nelson congregation
- Soul Matters groups
- Circle Dinners
- Humanist Group

- Book Club
- A new Spirit of Life course
- Green Congregation certification
- Truth & Reconciliation
- Reaffirming our Welcoming Congregation status
- Our Whole Lives Program

And we looked at projects we could choose to take on:

After some indication of people's preferences and lots of lively discussion, it became clear that we are happy and busy with what we are already doing and that there is interest in each of the new ideas. There was no one new project that stood out as a clear priority.

What did stand out as a priority is the importance and quality of our Sunday Services. The passion of our sermons and homilies, our greeting and welcoming process and our coffee time.

So, it is now up to Debra and the Board to review the product of our planning day and strive to make the right decisions and hopefully strike the right balance of old and new in the coming year.

Of course, the bottom line is that it is up to all of us to participate, communicate and CONNECT, INSPIRE, TRANSFORM!

—Audrey Taylor

Let's Connect



Joan Morris

How wonderful to be back to regular events, connecting with our church community. There is lots going on this fall and here are just a couple of events where you may like to join in.

For newcomers!

Getting to Know U gathering is happening Thursday, October 13 at 7 pm.

This is an opportunity to meet others who are also new to Beacon, and perhaps new to Unitarianism, in

a relaxed evening of conversation and questions. There'll be a few 'mature' Beaconites to share their stories with you and a little Unitarian history thrown in as well. Contact joanmorris@telus.net if you would like to join in.

For everyone!

Circle Dinners are happening again October 1st. Hopefully you will have already signed up, but if not, there is still room to take part. Just contact Joan Morris at joanmorris@telus.net.

We'd love to have photos of your group dinner that can be shared in the November newsletter (check to see if everyone is comfortable with their photo being published).

Here is an idea!

It's our stewardship month in October when we assess our involvement with our Beacon community and make a renewed commitment. What if we each made a pledge to connect more fully with our Beacon community? Consider making a pledge to get to know someone in our church community that you don't already know.

Have a good month

—Joan Morris, on behalf of
the Connections and Membership
Committee: Jean Donaldson, Susan
Tarras, Joyce Gudaitis, Phil Campbell,
Rev. Debra Thorne and
Donna Hamilton (Circle Dinners)

News from the Religious Exploration Program

Welcome to the month of October! Fall is my favorite season and October is one of my favorite months! Thank you all for welcoming me so warmly in the time that I have been with Beacon. I can't believe how much has happened so far!

In September we welcomed each other back with our very own childrens' water ceremony. What fun it was to hear of the travels and adventures of the group! We spent the following Sundays delving into our chosen curriculum for the fall. For the Children's Community we

will be working our way through a curriculum called 'Faithful Journeys' in which (according to the programs introduction) "*Participants embark on a pilgrimage of faith, exploring how Unitarian Universalism translates into life choices and everyday actions.*" The Seekers (older children) have started in on their own curriculum entitled 'Sing to the Power' which is described as follows: *Sing to the Power affirms our Unitarian Universalist heritage of confronting "powers and structures of evil with justice, compassion, and the transforming power of love."* *Participants experience their own power, and*

understand how it can help them to be leaders. Both programs pair nicely with the fall monthly themes of Rootedness, Caring, Hunger, and Expectation. So much learning to be had!

Coming up for October

On the first of October there will be a Family Circle Dinner at the Lunderville Residence. A fun, laid-back evening where the kids can play and parents can socialize. Please bring a potluck item to share (home cooking is not required!).

Happy Autumn!

—Ashley Cole



**Beacon
Unitarian
Church**

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**Deadline for the November issue of
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October is Stewardship Month

Stewardship is being the grateful, responsible stewards of the gifts we receive from the Universe. It is the tradition of giving back with love to that which is worthy of our time and hearts. Classically known as tithing, or in our case, pledging, stewardship is giving back to sustain the community that nourishes your spirit and your soul. The Stewardship Drive begins on Sunday, October 9th and wraps up on Sunday, October 23rd.

Questions about Pledging

Why do we pledge? This church belongs to each of us. We pledge to fund the daily operations and to ensure that the church and its resources are here for us and for others now and in the future.

What is the money used for? Your pledge supports our worship and music programs, our religious exploration program, programs for members and friends, community outreach, and our connection to the CUC. Our budget reflects our mission and vision.

Should everyone pledge the same amount? We place a high value on diversity in our congregation—diverse views, backgrounds, and experiences. Included in this diversity is a diversity of economic circumstances. All of us support our church at individual financial levels.

How much should I pledge? Plan to contribute a percentage of your annual income. See the Fairshare Giving Guide at the bottom of this page for a suggestion on what you might give.

What about the money I put in the collection plate? Some people use the Sunday offering to make their pledge payments. As long as the offering can be associated with you, e.g. your personal cheque, whatever you put in the offering will be counted toward your pledge.

What if my financial circumstances change during the year, if I lose my job or have a financial emergency? Lives are not static. Contact the Minister or the Treasurer: Carol Woodworth, if you need to adjust your pledge.

What is tithing? Tithing is giving ten percent of income to support a church. Many UU churches ask their members for a “UU Tithing”: 5% to support the church, and another 5% to charitable organizations.



Definition of stewardship.
“The careful and responsible management of something entrusted to one’s care.”

Fairshare Giving Guide

Annual Income	Sustainer : Beacon is central to my identity and I am committed to sustaining our programs.		Visionary : Beacon is my spiritual home; I am committed to nourishing it today and providing for its future.	
	Suggested % of income	Monthly Payment	Suggested % of income	Monthly Payment
\$10,000	3%	\$25	5%	\$42
\$25,000	3%	\$63	5%	\$104
\$50,000	4%	\$197	6%	\$250
\$75,000	5%	\$313	7%	\$438
\$100,000	5%	\$417	7%	\$583
\$200,000	6%	\$1,000	8%	\$1,333



Sue Sparlin, Chair, Stewardship Committee

The Pledge Drive is a chance for me to practice generosity, to adjust my mind set to hold the congregation as generous, resourceful and capable, to practice expressing gratitude for all things and in particular for the people at Beacon. We do amazing work with a limited number of people. Each of us touches so many others and each of us has an inspirational story to tell. Let us open our Big Beacon

Hearts and let money be our measure—just for now. I will increase my pledge to reflect the expansion in my life due to Beacon. Join me. —**Sue Sparlin**



Stewardship is about changing lives.

This year, Beacon has been able to help the Al Rbaai family, refugees from Syria, come to New Westminster and begin a new life in Canada. Because the Beacon Unitarian community is healthy, spiritually and fiscally, we were accepted as part of the Canadian Unitarian Council's sponsorship program and could harness the generosity of many donors.

—**Carol Woodworth**



For those members who have investments, I would recommend that you donate shares or other appropriate investments to Beacon. Since you don't cash them in or sell them, you don't pay capital gains taxes. That saved amount means you can give more to Beacon! If you deal with an Investment Advisor who handles your investments, giving to Beacon is very easy. Try it!

—**Anne McLeod**



Did you know the tax benefits of donating?

You get a tax credit for your donations to Beacon of approximately 20% for the first \$200 and 43% for any amount in excess of that; so a donation of \$1000 to Beacon would give a total tax savings of \$389. So, by giving to Beacon you are actually saving yourself taxes!"

—**Susan Tarras**

JOKE! God is talking to one of his angels and says, "Do you know what I have just done? I have just created a 24-hour period of alternating light and darkness on Earth. Isn't that good?" The angel says, "Yes, but what will you do now?" God says, "I think I'll call it a day."



Promising, Serving, Pledging

These three actions sustain the Beacon community. We *promise* or covenant to live the principles everyday because they have intrinsic value. They are worthy of our commitment. We *serve* because it feels good to give to something bigger than our singular selves. We *pledge* because we are moved to sustain what nourishes our lives, our spirits and the wider community.

—**Rev. Debra Thorne**



Stewardship is the growing, nurturing, promoting, and building of the gifts, call, and spiritual vocation that have been given to members of a faith community. **Stewardship is not necessarily the things people do, but the spirit that influences the things they do.**

—**Dr. Wayne Clark, Beyond Fundraising**

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—"Caring" for October. Part personal sharing, part spiritual deepening, the groups meet monthly either at 1 pm or 7 pm on the 3rd Wednesday of the month. 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.

Sunday, September 25: We will be continuing our discussion of these questions: *What is fairness and how should it be applied? To what extent do we value individual fitness vs. cooperative fitness? How should humanists act and advocate in our current economic context?*

Sunday, October 30: Al Sather will lead a discussion on *Evolution Misbehaving*. Menopause is limited to humans and toothed whales. In all other mammals, death follows at the end of their reproductive life. This appears to be a case of evolution mis-

behaving. Certain mutant genes appear to protect the elderly from diseases like late onset Alzheimer's. Is evolution again misbehaving? Evolution is driven by reproductive fitness or fecundity (i.e. ability to produce many offspring) and logically could not select for a trait expressed after reproductive life has ceased. Or, could it?

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

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

Book Club meetings are held on the 4th Thursday of each month at 7 pm (except for December, which has been moved to the 5th Thursday). For location details contact Bev Lock: 604-525-6791 or lockbev@gmail.com.

Line-up:

October 27: *Inconvenient Indian* by Thomas King

November 24: *Monkey Beach* by Eden Robinson

December 29: *Snow Falling on Cedars*

Soup lunch on Sunday, October 23rd, after the service at Sapperton Hall. Please contact Peggy Lunderville (604-522-3001) and let her know what you can bring.



by David Guterson

January 26: *Poisonwood Bible* by Barbara Kingsolver

Beacon Writers' Group meets the third Saturday of each month from 1–3 pm. For more information and location, please contact Janet Pivnick at janpivnick@gmail.com or Marilyn Medén at m.j.meden@telus.net or 604-469-5697.

Saturday, October 1: Attend a Circle Dinner and connect with other Beaconites in a relaxed setting. For more information contact Joan Morris, joanmorris@telus.net.

October 13, 7 pm: Attend a 'Getting to Know U' session to meet other newcomers and deepen your knowledge of how Beacon functions and what Unitarianism is. Contact Joan Morris at joanmorris@telus.net.

New Workshop Series: *Spirit of Life*

Spirit of Life workshops, led by Rev. Thorne, offer participants space, time, and community to explore their Unitarian Universalist spirituality. Each session focuses on a different aspect of the spiritual life, framed by the lyrics of Carolyn McDade's song "Spirit of Life."

Like the song, the workshops are designed to be welcoming to Unitarian Universalists of many spiritual and theological persuasions. Participants are invited to

claim an inclusive definition of spirituality and recognize the spiritual aspects of their lives. Reflecting, speaking, and listening are core activities in each workshop.

There are nine sessions, one a month, starting Monday, October 3rd at 7 pm (location TBA), ending May 31st. Sign-up on Sept. 11th or by emailing Rev. Debra Thorne at minister@beaconunitarian.org

Sharing the Plate

One half of the open collection on Sunday morning is designated for Beacon's Sharing the Plate program. The chosen recipient for 2016-17 is the Community Integration Services Society.

Community Integration Services Society, founded in 1990, is committed to enabling individuals with disabilities to become active members of their own communities. Our goal is to maximize the independence of the people we serve by developing programs that include various levels of life skills training, education, community involvement and social activities, and helping find paid employment for those that seek it.

On May 30, 2011 CISS purchased the Melissa Park house in Port Coquitlam and transformed it into our head office and training space for services to adults with developmental disabilities. Melissa Park, built in 1910, is the second oldest structure in Port Coquitlam. CISS currently provides three programs at Melissa Park.

Inlet Enterprises was originally created to accommodate the downsizing and eventual closing of Woodlands Institution. It has now evolved into a full Community Inclusion program supporting individuals with disabilities who are 40 years or older.

Individualized Day Services in Port Coquitlam gives the people we serve the opportunity to develop skills through a variety of meaningful activities. This is done in a range of different ways including improving and developing skills while in the community through: volunteerism,

Our goal is to maximize the independence of the people we serve.

paid employment, educational and physical/leisure activities. Individuals have the opportunity to work with their friends and meet their social and emotional needs and desires through these friendships.

Social enterprise is becoming more prevalent in our programs and the following three initiatives are currently under our administration.

1. Kyle Kitchen helps individuals build on their food preparation skills, money skills, shopping and planning skills. Many of the individuals in the program have gone on to find paid employment using the skills learned at Kyle Kitchen. This program also serves to help typical seniors socialize with other seniors in the community, and provides an affordable lunch consist-

ing of sandwiches, soups and desserts.

2. Melissa Park Catering offers participants transferrable skills that can be used within their personal lives and help them towards any potential employment goals. The program serves CISS' staff and board meetings as well as special events such as our open house, annual BBQ and Christmas parties. In 2016, we were able to hire four individuals to work regularly in this service as the program has taken on new clients like: Van City Bank-Port Coquitlam Branches, DMCL Chartered Accountants, Share Society and Community Living BC. Our aim is to expand our services to local businesses creating more paid positions. To order from the Melissa Park Catering please visit our web site at www.gociss.org.

3. Java with Friends is an event where the local community can enjoy music and socialize with each other. It is the largest activity run by CISS and is open to the public for a small entrance fee. *Java with Friends Coffeeshouse* opens every Thursday afternoon and it takes place at Place Maillardville in Coquitlam. This program provides paid employment for two individuals who manage the canteen where visitors can purchase refreshments.

Oct 28-30,
Burnaby Artists
Guild's 'Art Fest'
at Shadbolt
Centre for the
Arts. Beaconite
Teresa Morton
is the Featured
Artist!



POETRY of ART

Sat. October 1st, Noon-7 pm
'Poetry of Art' Annual Art Show
& Sale for *My Artist's Corner*
(MAC) at Shadbolt Centre for the
Arts. MAC is a group of artists
who also live with mental health
issues. Come & see the wonderful
things created this past year!

Central American Community Development Project



The First Unitarian Congregation of Toronto has been working on development projects in Central America since 1997 with the goal of building understanding between people and improving the social, economic and living conditions in the poorest areas. We have helped build schools, houses, and training and community centres.

Over 100 Canadian UU's from 22 congregations—New Brunswick to British Columbia—have travelled to Central America to help hard working people improve their lives. Working alongside Guatemalans, Hondurans and hundreds of Canadian volunteers from other walks of life, we have helped our hosts achieve their dreams.

This year, we would again like to extend an invitation to all UU's across Canada to join us for an unforgettable experience, building schools in the mountains of Honduras. There will be three trips this winter: January, February and March. Please join a two-week trip, beginning January 7, February 4 or March 4, 2017. Construction and Spanish language skills are not required but would be welcomed.

If you have any questions or would like additional information, please e-mail me directly (richardkirsh@sympatico.ca). Thank you,

Richard Kirsh, Chair, Central American Community Development, First Unitarian Congregation of Toronto

2017 Hungary/Transylvania Choir Tour and Unitarian Pilgrimage

In 2010, twenty-five Unitarians (including 16 singers and choir director Alison Nixon from the North Shore Unitarian church) enjoyed a truly life affirming trip to Hungary and Transylvania, the birthplace of Unitarianism. It's time for another trip!

Plans are well under way for



Budapest

Wikimedia File: Volt Kiralyi palota (13). szamir/miemidek3.jpg

BEACON CLASSIFIEDS

TIRES FOR SALE!

Set of four summer tires (only one season's wear). Perelli 195/60R15. Purchased new for \$340+tax. Open to offers. Please call John Hagen, 604-521-1335.

2ND HAND CAR WANTED

Please call John Hagen, 604-521-1335.

another great travelling experience, led by Alison Nixon, for anyone interested, and especially singers.

The dates for next year's tour have now been pretty well set with arrival in Budapest on Friday, May 26, 2017 and departure from Budapest on Monday, June 5, 2017. The itinerary includes Debrecen, Eger, Kolosvar (Cluj), Torocko (Rimetea), Hodmezovasarhely, and Deva. An optional add-on would be 2 or 3 three nights in Vienna with tours.

Costs are not yet finalized but expect to be in the range of US \$1,300 to \$1,500 for the basic tour with all transportation, accommodation and most meals included on arrival in Budapest. Return airfare from Vancouver is additional.

It's not that far off, so start planning/saving now for the trip of a lifetime!

Please contact Brian Welwood (604-988-1135) or Alison Nixon (604-947-0120) about this tour.

In Memoriam: David Hamilton, March 1940–June 2015



Dedication plaque.



The new piano in the Meeting House at Seabeck (before the plaque was installed).



David playing his cello.

Many of you will remember David Hamilton, our long-time Beacon accompanist. He was also usually the accompanist at the Eliot Camps at Seabeck (in WA) that we attended over the years. Last summer (2015), a fund was set up at Seabeck for donations in memory of David, resulting in a new piano for the Meeting House. This summer, we had a dedication in July, when our whole family was there. Mark & Nicki and I then put our heads together to come up with words to be on the piano. Above is a picture of the resulting plaque, which is now on the piano.

Over the last 30 years or so, our lives have been richly enhanced by Unitarianism, both at Beacon Church, and

at Eliot at Seabeck. David loved going to Seabeck, because he could play music every day, all week. He particularly enjoyed accompanying folks for their first foray into public performing. In fact we were told that when time came for the Eliot Board to formalize some job descriptions, when they came to accompanist, the best they could come up with was “clone David Hamilton”.

I would strongly recommend attending an Eliot camp at Seabeck—it could change your life! I know it did for our family. For more information, see www.eliotinstitute.org or talk to me (several other Beaconites have also attended).

—Donna Hamilton



David meets his first granddaughter, December 2012.



He would play any keyboard, any time, anywhere! This was at a fire-pit at an Eliot camp at Naramata, BC, 2005.



David with his trusty page-turner, Donna, at Seabeck.

Beacon Calendar: October 2016

Note: Calendar entries are truncated—view the complete entries on the Beacon web site calendar page.

Oct 2016 (Pacific Time - Vancouver)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
25 Committee Budgets due 10:30am - Worship Service 7:30pm - Humanist	26	27 7:30pm - Choir practice	28	29 12pm - Lunch Bunch	30	1 6pm - Circle Dinner @
2 Theme: Caring 10:30am - Worship Service 1pm - Board meeting	3 7pm - Spirit of Life	4 7:30pm - Choir practice	5 1pm - Worship Committee	6 12pm - Lunch Bunch	7	8
9 Stewardship Drive 10:30am - Worship Service	10	11	12	13	14	15
16 Stewardship Drive 10:30am - Worship Service	17	18 7:30pm - Choir practice	19	20 12pm - Lunch Bunch 7pm - Getting to Know U	21	22 1pm - Beacon Writer's
23 Stewardship Drive 10:30am - Worship Service 12pm - Soup Lunch	24	25 7:30pm - Choir practice	26 1pm - Soul Matters 7pm - Soul Matters Evening	27 12pm - Lunch Bunch 1pm - Connecting and	28	29 12pm - Lunch Bunch 7pm - Book Club
30 10:30am - Worship Service 7:30pm - Humanist	31	1 7:30pm - Choir practice	2 1pm - Worship Committee	3 12pm - Lunch Bunch	4	5