

## Compassion

**Love and compassion are necessities, not luxuries. Without them humanity cannot survive.**

—Dalai Lama

**Our task must be to free ourselves by widening our circle of compassion to embrace all living creatures and the whole of nature and its beauty.**

—Albert Einstein

**Make no judgements where you have no compassion.**

—Anne McCaffrey

This month the Beacon community explores the theme of compassion with these and other thought provoking questions: When are we called on to bring compassion to a situation and when is compassion not enough? Is there a difference between compassion and empathy? When the world is dark with loss and pain how do we keep our hearts open, hopeful and compassionate?

**APR 2**

### The Power of Compassion

*Sandy Burpee*

Compassion is a powerful emotion, but does it always lead us in the right direction? Today we will explore the nature of compassion and consider its intersection with the ethical treatment of others.

*A long time Beacon member, Sandy has chaired the Tri-Cities Homelessness & Housing Task Group since December 2006. Previously he was the founding chair of the Fraser-Burrard Community Justice Society (now the CERA society), a restorative justice program for youth, as well as the Tri-Cities Housing Coalition. He was Volunteer Lead at SHARE's Coquitlam food bank depot for 10 years until May 2014, and is a Life Member of Coquitlam Search & Rescue. Sandy retired from a career with BC Hydro in 2004. On March 20, 2017 he was presented with a BC Medal of Good Citizenship at a ceremony at the Coquitlam Town Centre fire hall.*

**APR 9**

### Compassion: Our Interrelated Lives

Beacon writers Sarah Hong, Susan Millar, Sita Sahasrabudhe, Janet

Pivnick and Marilyn Medén will go deeply into their own and others' experience of compassion, to give us food for thought and action.

**APR 16**

### Compassion in the workplace

*David Jordan and*

*Brigit Atkinson*

*Service coordinator: Joan Morris*

With the theme of compassion this month, two Beaconites will explore their experience of compassion working in the caring professions. David Jordan, a wheelchair technician, and Brigit Atkinson, a registered clinical counsellor and trauma therapist, both work in an environment where compassion can make a difference in the lives of those they care for. Find out what role compassion plays in their work.

**APR 23**

### Autonomy and Choice

*Rev. Arthur Berman*

*Service Coordinator:*

*Marilyn Medén*

We welcome the Rev. Arthur Berman's return. His sermon will deal with the ethical issues raised by medically

assisted death. His views are informed by his experiences as a spiritual care practitioner at Vancouver General Hospital.

- Choir sings

**APR 30**

### Compassion in Troubling Times

*Guest Speaker:*

*Heather Talbot*

*Service Coordinators: Nancy Rupert and Janet Pivnick*

Recent world events have left Unitarians feeling a sense of despair and seeking ways to support and catalyze change. Yet some may wonder how to participate in social justice without burning out or giving in to despair. Join us this week to listen to Heather Talbot share the ideas of deep ecologist Joanna Macy who has created an experiential model called the *Work that Reconnects*. Heather will answer the question, "How can we keep our hearts open in these troubling times?"

- Choir sings

*Heather Talbot is an artist and counsellor who has been facilitating Joanna Macy's 'work that reconnects' for the past six years.*

## Minister's Message



Rev. Debra Thorne

I will be away on sabbatical during the month of April. I am deeply grateful that the Beacon Board, who last June as we were renewing my contract, fully supported my request to take this month away to renew my heart and soul after what had been a difficult time of care-giving my mother through her stroke recovery and the organizing of the Canadian Unitarian Councils' Annual General Meeting. I did not anticipate back in June, when we were making the plan for this sabbatical, the decline and death of my daughters' father and shortly after that the death of my mother—I was only half way through the challenging year.

It might seem odd to say that my heart is happy to have had the wonderful and difficult experiences of this past year. Death is, of course sad, even wrenchingly painful, but it is also rich and deep with many incredible moments of love that rise up when our hearts are open. In these times there is also a great deal to do, as those of you who have supported loved ones through illness and death know well. There is just a lot of work to be done. Now that the work is easing for me, my grieving heart needs some attention. I am going to use this month to reconnect to an environment that has renewed me many times in the past. A friend has invited me to her home in Scotland and I have gratefully accepted. I will be away from April 3rd to May 2nd.

My time away will include a trip to Nelson to assist the emerging Nelson Unitarian Spiritual Center learn about community building, the meaning of membership and how to create an implementation plan for their vision. When I return to Beacon I look forward to sharing with you stories of my inner and outer journeys.

Warmly,

*Rev. Debra Thorne*

### While Rev. Debra is away the following people will be covering her responsibilities:

- Emergency pastoral care services: Contact Rev. Samaya Oakley, 604-323-4341 (soakley@uuma.org)
- If you need a wedding or memorial please contact Beacon's lay chaplain, Marilyn Medén, 604-469-6797
- The Soul Matters group at 1pm will be facilitated by Laura Redmond (lauraredmond2@telus.net) and the 7pm Soul Matter's group by will be facilitated by Janet Pivnick (janpivnick@gmail.com).
- *Beacon This Week* and board announcements will be put together by Donna Hamilton (donna-h@telus.net).
- Sunday Services will be co-ordinated by Marilyn Medén, Joan Morris, Janet Pivnick and Nancy Rupert.
- If there is an issue for the board it is always best to contact one of the board members: Audrey Taylor, Carol Woodworth, John Hagen, and David Kristjanson are the executive until the AGM on April 23rd.

#### BEACON'S VISION

CONNECT with Compassion & Respect

INSPIRE learning & Spiritual Growth

TRANSFORM through Joy & Justice



#### BEACON'S MISSION

Our mission is to celebrate the worth and dignity of all people and to live in conscious relationship with the earth.

For inspiration, we draw on the world's great scientists, artists, humanists and theologians, as well as on our personal experiences.

So we are inspired to create greater equality, greater justice and greater hope for our world.



**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.medeen@telus.net

#### Choir Director:

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

#### Board Executive:

**President:** Audrey Taylor,  
**Vice-President:** John Hagen,  
**Treasurer:** Carol Woodworth,  
**Secretary:** David Kristjanson,  
**Members at Large:** Helen McVey,  
Rob Warner, Dan Theal

#### Connections & Membership:

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

#### Religious Exploration Director:

Ashley Cole,  
sundayschool@beaconunitarian.org

#### Beacon Newsletter:

newsletter@beaconunitarian.org  
Production: Laura Redmond  
Proofreader: Donna Hamilton  
Distribution: Tom & Uta Poiker

**Deadline for the May issue of  
The Beacon: April 15, 2017**

## Board Bitz



Audrey Taylor

keeps pouring in. With only one more meeting before the new board takes over, we are trying not to leave too many loose ends.

I neglected to mention last month that the board appointed Janet Pivnick as a Trustee until the AGM. Because of the change of date of our February meeting, Janet was unable to attend, as she was in Guelph at a work conference. Janet attended our March meeting and was a welcome addition. Donna Hamilton also attended the March meeting as a guest.

Speaking of loose ends, we are still looking for one or two people to be our representative to the CUC. This is ideally a two year commitment,

We had only two weeks between board meetings last month. You would think that would make our agenda pretty slim, but some-

how the work just

but not one that takes a lot of time. The representative(s) would attend the CUC AGM on May 13 electronically using ZOOM, and would attend a training/orientation session before that time on how to use ZOOM. Debra will also attend the CUC AGM. After that, you will receive occasional information from the CUC that you may want to share with the congregation, either through this newsletter or via church announcements. If you might be interested in taking on one of these two positions but would like more information, please talk to Audrey Taylor, Board President, or Sue Sparlin, who has been our representative for the past few years.

The CUC is adding a British Columbia Calendar of Events to their web page and Laura Redmond has agreed to be our contact person for the calendar. She will be given access information by the CUC so she can post to the calendar Beacon events that the Board of Trustees agrees should be posted.

Of course, our very own Beacon AGM is coming up on the 23rd of this month. It will be held downstairs, after church and after everyone has time to fill up on the soup lunch. You can expect to see our AGM package by the 9th of this month. One new item on our AGM agenda will be a motion to accept the new Covenant of Right Relations. Please see below for the proposed Covenant.

After the AGM, I will no longer be on the board of trustees, so this will be the last *Board Bitz* that I write. Being on your board has been a very interesting and rewarding experience for me. I have enjoyed working with and getting to know my fellow trustees and I dare say, I will miss you.

Debra is off this month and on her way to Scotland for a well-deserved, and I'm sure very welcome holiday. Nevertheless, I bet she's reading this newsletter. Happy holiday, Debra!

—Audrey Taylor

## Proposed Covenant of Right Relations

The Board will ask the membership to vote on accepting the following covenant at the AGM:

### *Beacon Unitarian Church Covenant of Right Relations*

**W**e, the members of Beacon Unitarian Congregation, acknowledge that this covenant of Right Relations exists within a spiritual community, based on the Seven Principles of Unitarianism.

We covenant:

1. To respect each other, honouring the diversity of opinions in the congregation.
2. To honour both the abilities and disabilities in the congregation
3. To practice civil communication, which is courteous and considerate.
4. To participate with trust and commitment.
5. To challenge our assumptions and expectations.
6. To bring our goodwill and hear through our hearts.
7. To encourage laughter and the giving of care.

Recognizing that we are imperfect human beings, we will strive nonetheless to meet the intentions of this covenant.

(If the covenant is broken, we turn to the supportive policies on Conflict Resolution and Disruptive Behaviour.)

## Nominations for our Board

The nominating committee—Marylke Nieuwenhuis, Helen McVey, Peggy Lunderville and Rebecca Burns—are pleased to present you with a full slate of 10 nominees for the 2017/18 year.

### David Kristjanson

*Co-president, first year of first 2-year term*



David grew up in Coquitlam and moved to the West End in the 1970s, to the safety of the “gay ghetto”. The ghetto was safe

but confining, so he moved to the east end in the 1980s, followed by East Vancouver, Gastown, and Richmond, and he now lives in New Westminster.

David worked as manager of the Steveston Hotel for 23 years until it was sold in 2015 and is now looking for a new career (and open to ideas). “Spiritually, I have always been looking for somewhere to fit in. I have problems with most traditional religions, but see value in parts of all of them. I lean towards Buddhism (I meditate daily), and the ideas of love, forgiveness and charity found in the Christian tradition. I feel like I have found a spiritual home at Beacon. I have really been made to feel like I belong, which is a different feeling for me, but I am liking it.”

### Donna Hamilton

*Co-president, first year of first 2-year term*



Beacon Church has been my spiritual home and a vital part of my life since my family and I joined in 1983.

During that time, I have held many volunteer positions, including two previous times on the

Board, (where I’ve been trustee, secretary and VP), worked on Worship, Membership, and Music committees, coordinated Circle Dinners, sing with the choir, and produced the newsletter for 10 years. I am also a long time attendee and supporter of Eliot Institute, where our family has been meeting Unitarians for family camps each year for over 30 years.

I worked as Beacon Office Administrator for a couple of years, until in 1990 I took textile and design courses at Capilano college, and spent many years making and selling items for UUs with my own chalice designs – including the designs of the Beacon chalice logo, the choir shirts, and stoles for many ministers.

I am especially glad to be a member of Beacon – where I have been the recipient of much support over some difficult times. I am thus eager and willing to do my part in helping to keep Beacon the vibrant, musical, liberal congregation which it has always been.

### Carol Woodworth

*Treasurer, first year of second 2-year term*



My previous board experience includes 6 years on the board for the Ridge Meadows Child Development Centre. I had the pleasure of working with Audrey Taylor when she was the Executive Director of the centre.

In my career as a speech pathologist, I have always worked as part of a team: at the Child Development Centre in Surrey, the Asante Centre

for Fetal Alcohol Syndrome and in the Maple Ridge School District. One of my school district responsibilities was the coordination of a committee that selects students to receive assistive technology. This has given me many years of experience using a consensus model to make decisions.

I was raised Unitarian by my parents in Kelowna and continued that contact by mail membership in the CUC. I am very appreciative of the hard work of the original members of the congregation who brought Beacon into existence and of those who have kept Beacon going so that it was here for me when I began attending seven years ago.

### Helen McVey

*Trustee, second year of first 2-year term*



Being a Unitarian has been a major part of my life since the early sixties. It all began when someone brought me Philip

Hewett’s sermons to read. Then, when I moved to Montreal, I attended the downtown church. But, it was in the early eighties when I discovered Unicamp north of Toronto that I formally joined First Church in Toronto. I also was on the Board of Unicamp and acted as Assistant Director of Unicamp for the summer of 89. I have been a member of First Church in Honolulu and The Comox Valley Fellowship. It is indeed a pleasure to be part of Beacon and I am honoured to be asked to join the Board.

**John Hagen**

*Trustee, second year of first 2-year term*



I am a long time Unitarian and a charter member at the formation of Beacon Church in 1983. Throughout this time I have been active

in various ways within our congregation. In earlier years I held a number of positions on the board and it's executive and also served on the worship committee. I am excited and impressed by the vibrancy and commitment of our present leadership and hope I can make a positive contribution.

**Rob Warner**

*Trustee, first year of second 2-year term*



Rob is descended from a long line of Unitarians. His great, great, great, great ??? grandfather Elam Warner was one of the first Unitarians to

move to Canada, circa 1805. Rob grew up in the hills near Huntingville, Quebec where the first Unitarian Church was built in Canada.

At heart, Rob is an old-school, New England Unitarian: humble ... heavy on the humble ... knows lots of bad jokes ... reads history, science-fiction, psychology, geography, engineering, etc.

During his travels, Rob learned to speak English and French along with a bit of German, a bit of Spanish and a bit of Japanese.

As a young man, Rob tried his hand at construction, soldiering, sailing and repairing helicopters. A career in the skydiving industry brought him to Pitt Meadows in 1999 and he joined Beacon shortly thereafter.

**Dan Theal**

*Trustee, second year of first 2-year term*



I grew up in a Unitarian family in the Comox Valley. In 1989 I moved to Burnaby to attend SFU. I joined Beacon soon after moving here.

The things that attract me to Unitarianism are the progressive thinking of the members, the warmth, thoughtfulness, caring, music and aesthetics.

I have enjoyed Camp Sasamat and I enjoy the Lunch Bunch on Thursdays and circle dinners. I also enjoy Sunday services and stories by Debra's puppet. Beacon is like an extended family. It is really quite wonderful.

**Janet Pivnick**

*Trustee, first year of first 2-year term*



I started coming to Beacon in January 2016, having dabbled in Unitarianism for 15 years. At Beacon, my quest for spiritual

growth found a landing place. I jumped in with both feet, starting with joining a Soul Matters group and helping out the Refugee Settlement Committee. Over the summer I attended my first Eliot camp, deepening my connections with the Unitarian community.

The new church year has been full—providing tech support and being a greeter at Sunday services, joining the Worship Services committee, beginning to dip my toe into service leading, participating in Soul Matters and Spirit of Life. Marilyn Medén and I started a Writer's Group, which has had steady participation and provides an opportunity to delve into the Beacon theme of the month

in a different way. At the end of 2016, I became a Beacon member.

It's been a crazy amount of activity in one year but I have loved every minute of it – the opportunity for growth and depth, the laughter and camaraderie, being provided with a place to settle into myself and live with an open heart.

I am honoured to be asked to join the Board and look forward to serving Beacon in this new capacity.

**Michael Scales**

*Trustee, first year of first 2-year term*



Michael grew up as a Unitarian in San Francisco. In 1968 he demonstrated his opposition to the Vietnam War by moving to

Edmonton where he first met Judy Villett. He moved to BC to be a teacher, and eventually became a school psychologist. Currently, he works at Douglas College, and lives in New Westminster with his wife Judy.

**Gail Thomson**

*Secretary of the Board*



My journey as a Unitarian began ten years ago, when I joined the Unitarian Church of Vancouver. At that time, I concentrated my

energies on the Refugee Committee and the Book Club at UCV. When I retired, almost two years ago, I started visiting Beacon and have been delighted by the warm, welcoming community. Last fall I became a member of Beacon. Since then I have met so many wonderful people at the Sunday services, the circle dinners, the choir and the book club. It is my pleasure to be of service to this caring, compassionate community.

## Let's Connect



Joan Morris

*Let's Connect* is about strengthening our Beacon family's connections—from gatherings to introduce newcomers to Beacon

to Circle dinners and other events specially aimed at getting to know each other better.

This month I'd like to share another way to connect. At a recent Circle Dinner, Sarah Hong, one of our Beacon members, told the group that she had a blog about Korean cooking. It is a wonderful site with many Korean recipes, beautiful enticing photos, and tips for ethnic cooking. She writes a lot about her personal experiences and discoveries about home cooking.

Following are a few tidbits from her website <https://sarahtastyroad.wordpress.com> that may persuade you to look it up and try a few recipes. I dedicate my recipes:

- to people who are curious enough to add some Korean food's touch
- to people who are courageous enough to buy a few unique sauces or ingredients from Korean or Chinese supermarkets
- to people who have willingness to trust me as a guide to healthy, sound and well-balanced diet.

Sarah goes on to make thoughtful suggestions about cooking with

condiments:

She writes: "When I see other ethnic cooking blogs, I found that all alien languages on product labels makes me hesitate whether to buy or not. Trying is always good. However, my thoughts swim around among decisions: how will I end up? Consuming only a little and making rooms to other dominant sauces in a fridge? Is it likely to forget its presence in the end? To me, its destiny seems to be quite obvious: abandoned and forlorn. Since I'm a minimalist who think my fridge shouldn't be a miniature of supermarket shelves, I am not generous to buy all kinds of ready made dressings and sauces. Furthermore, I don't want to be a mouse that diligently and constantly come and go to get a couple of missing item. What I like to do is to utilize a few essential sauces and mix together. From this context, I recommend only some essential condiments to buy."

You will need to check out Sarah's website to learn more!

Maybe you'll even be inspired to plan a Korean ethnic dinner for a future Circle Dinner. Hopefully you are signed up for the next one on April 1st.

If you have a web-site/blog you would like to share with your Beacon community let me know—we would love to feature yours in future newsletters. —Joan Morris

## Volunteer & Connect!

If you would like to learn more about and perhaps become more involved in the many activities and tasks that keep our Beacon community so vibrant, we encourage you to have a look at our *Let's Connect* form. You can find the form, printed on bright yellow paper, on the Greeting's table at the front entrance. If you would like to receive a copy via email you can contact Joyce Gudaitis ([joyceg@asrsoft.com](mailto:joyceg@asrsoft.com)). Whether you are new to Beacon or have been around for a while, you will be amazed at the many ways you can contribute your talents and interests to make a difference in our community.

If you enjoy hanging out with the under-5 set, Peggy Lunderville ([prlunder@gmail.com](mailto:prlunder@gmail.com)) would be happy to hear from potential new members of the nursery team. It's so important to provide parents of young children—who can often feel overwhelmed with all the demands on their time and energy that come with raising small children—some quiet time to nurture their own spiritual journey

Right now we need people to help occasionally with the setup and clean-up of our coffee/tea time, which happens right after the service. You'll be paired with an experienced member of the team and there is an excellent set of instructions to follow. Check in with the coffee crew downstairs by the kitchen. This is a great opportunity to get to know people if you are just starting out at Beacon.

—Joyce Gudaitis, *Connecting and Membership Committee*

**If you want others to be happy, practice compassion. If you want to be happy, practice compassion.** —Dalai Lama



## Refugee Sponsorship Update



The Al Rbaai family is continuing to settle into snowy New Westminster. They aren't keen on the cold white stuff, but they did build snowmen in the back yard!

Our wonderful team of volunteer English language teachers are continuing regular help with the family and Nader soon begins English classes through Immigrant Services Society of BC. We are still most appreciative of volunteer translators who help with important meetings and medical and dental issues. We were able to find an Arabic speaking tax consultant who efficiently helped Nader and Taghreed file their first Canadian tax forms!

To support Nader in his goal to get his BC drivers license, several Beacon volunteers have been driving with Nader and he will be taking a few driving school lessons to master those BC's driving rules that differ from those of Syria and Jordan (e.g., shoulder checks).

Carol Becken's Dogwood quilting group created another quilt for the family so now all three beds are topped with a beautiful quilt. Nader and Taghreed repeatedly express their appreciation to Beacon volunteers and donors for all the help and encouragement they are receiving.

## Refugee Settlement: Phase Two



### 2nd Information Meeting: April 9, after the service

There will be a second meeting of interested parties at the Lundervilles

after church on April 9th. It is open to all. Our purpose is to bring further members of the Al Rbaai family to Canada. There will be soup (or bring your lunch) 12-12:30, meeting from 12:45-2:45. 8892 Armstrong Ave. Call Peggy for more info: 604-812-5939.

## Religious Explorations



Ashley Cole

Finally spring has (hopefully) sprung! Now is the time to shift gears, shed layers and start planning summer adventures. And that's exactly what we are doing with our religious exploration. Spring is a great time to explore and so explore we will! This month will mark the end of the curriculum content we have been so studiously using for the 2016/2017 church year and so now we get to play and explore in the wonderful world of R.E. Starting in May the *Seekers*

will be piloting a new curriculum on truth, healing and reconciliation and the Children's community will be exploring hands on, dynamic ways of engaging with Unitarian Universalism.

Also we will be hosting a multi-generational service in June and in preparation for it we are putting a call out for portable weaving looms and ribbon (for ribbon preferably light colours, satin ribbon, 3/4" or 7/8" width). If you can help us out please send an email to me (Ashley) at [akcole1@gmail.com](mailto:akcole1@gmail.com) or come speak to me any Sunday morning.

Seasons blessings,  
— Ashley Cole, Director of R.E

## Sharing The Plate Candidate Organizations for 2017/2018 Recipient

Under Beacon's "Sharing the Plate" (STP) program, one-half of the open collection taken at each Sunday service is donated to a local charity. The STP policy requires that the Beacon membership annually select the following year's STP recipient through a vote at the Annual General Meeting in April. The STP committee offers the following three charities for selection as the STP recipient for the 2017/18 church year. The charities are listed in alphabetical order. Please familiarize yourself with the information included below so that you can make an informed decision.

### **Aunt Leah's Place: The Link**

([www.auntleahs.org/services/thelink](http://www.auntleahs.org/services/thelink))

**Principle Activities:** The Link acts as the umbrella program for all services and supports Aunt Leah's offer to former youth in care by offering young people tools, resources and a supportive community to help them achieve their goals and become healthy and successful adults. Aunt Leah's Place supports youth by providing a transition worker for one-on-one support and guidance to help create goals and plans for the future, help in creating resumes, job searches and employment programming, emergency food and clothing, safe and secure housing, rent subsidies or information on suitable housing, assistance with applications, and access to computers.

**Population Served:** Aunt Leah's Place supports youth who have transitioned out of care of the Ministry of Child and Family Development Youth.

**Why the proponent believes this charity should be next year's "Sharing the Plate" recipient:** "I believe Aunt Leah's Place relates to several of our principles relating to the inherent worth and dignity of every person, justice, equity and compassion in human relations, and respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part."

### **LOOKOUT Emergency Aid Society** ([www.lookoutsociety.ca](http://www.lookoutsociety.ca))

**Principle Activities:** Lookout Emergency Aid Society is a charitable organization and social safety net that provides housing and a range of support services to adults with low or no income who have few, if any, housing or support options. Because the people we serve have challenges meeting basic needs and goals, we place minimal barriers between them and our services. LOOKOUT believes helping people help themselves is essential in addressing homelessness and all the issues that surround it. Securing appropriate housing is the first and most essential step in achieving responsible independence for individuals. It's generally agreed that three things are needed to end homelessness: an adequate income, affordable housing and programs that help people get back on their feet.

**Population Served:** Lookout offers services to adults with low or no income with multiple challenges.

**Why the proponent believes this charity should be next year's "Sharing the Plate" recipient:** "LOOKOUT values the inherent worth and dignity of every person, and attempts to achieve justice, equity and compassion in human relations."

### **Monarch Place** ([www.monarchplace.org](http://www.monarchplace.org))

**Principle Activities:** Monarch Place provides emergency and long term housing and supports for women and their children who are fleeing domestic abuse. If chosen as the 2017/18 STP recipient, Monarch Place would direct the funds between two existing support programs. W.I.S.H.E.S (Women in Safe Healthy Empowering Relationships) offer women an opportunity to share their experiences and feelings, to work through the personal effects of abuse, and to focus on recovery and empowerment. W.I.N.G.S (Women in Need of Gaining Strength) offers counselling and therapeutic support in a confidential setting to women and their families without long delays or wait times.

**Population Served:** Monarch Place provides services to women and their children who are fleeing abusive home situations.

**Why the proponent believes this charity should be next year's "Sharing the Plate" recipient:** "The work of and services provided by Monarch Place relate directly to the inherent worth and dignity of every person and justice, equity and compassion in human relations."

### **Guidelines for the Sharing the Plate Charity:**

- have their principal activities in the Lower Mainland, preferable the New Westminster/Tri-Cities area
- are a relatively small charitable organization, one which will be positively impacted by the amount of the Sharing the Plate contribution
- do not have a formal affiliation with a religious organization or political party
- will be willing and able to come to Beacon in September 2017 to tell about their work and in May or June 2018 to receive the cheque if they are selected as our STP recipient



### Beacon Events

**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—“Compassion” for April. Part personal sharing, part spiritual deepening, the groups meet monthly either at 1 pm or 7 pm on the 3rd Wednesday of the month. See page 2 for contact info for the month of April.

**The 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, April 30th:** Marilyn Medén will lead the discussion: If Humanism is a democratic and ethical life stance, which affirms that human beings have the right and responsibility to give meaning and shape to their own lives, have we a responsibility to simplify our lives? In what ways? Would this help humanity? If so, how? Contact Marilyn Medén for more information: [m.j.meden@telus.net](mailto: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](mailto:char4myc@shaw.ca).

**Lunch Bunch** meets every Thursday at noon, year-round. Bring your own lunch and share in lively and topical conversation. Contact John Hagen 604-521-1335.

**Book Club** meetings are held on the 4th Thursday of each month at 7 pm. For meeting location details contact John Hagen [ajhagen@telus.net](mailto:ajhagen@telus.net).

**Upcoming Books:**

**April:** *And The Birds Rained Down* by Jocelyne Saucier

**May:** *Never Cry Wolf* by Farley Mowat

**June:** *The Time Traveler's Wife* by Audrey Niffenegger

**July:** *A Town Like Alice* by Neville Shute

**The Beacon Writers' Group** meets the third Saturday of the month to share what is meaningful for us. We write about connection, a spiritual longing, a groping for meaning, using Beacon's themes (April's theme is Compassion) as possible inspiration and thinking about content, and not critiquing unless this is asked for. Newcomers are welcome. Bring writing to share. And, some of us will be speaking on Compassion at a Beacon

**Food Bank Sunday will be April 2.**

service on April 9th! Contact Marilyn Medén or Janet Pivnick for more details. [m.j.meden@telus.net](mailto:m.j.meden@telus.net), 604-469-6797, or [janpivnick@gmail.com](mailto:janpivnick@gmail.com).

**Attend a Circle Dinner** and connect with other Beaconites in a relaxed setting. For more information contact Joan Morris, [joanmorris@telus.net](mailto:joanmorris@telus.net). The next dinner will be held on Saturday, April 1st.

**Attend a 'Getting to Know U' session** to meet other newcomers and deepen your knowledge of how Beacon functions and what Unitarianism is. Please contact Joan Morris ([joanmorris@telus.net](mailto:joanmorris@telus.net)) or Rev. Debra ([minister@beaconunitarian.org](mailto:minister@beaconunitarian.org)) if you are interested in attending the next meeting.

**Youth Group:** The youth group (ages 13–18 yrs) is open to new members! Contact Lisa Girardi at [lisa.m.girardi@gmail.com](mailto:lisa.m.girardi@gmail.com).

**Help out on Sunday mornings as a Coffee Host** (contact Glenn Wootton, [wootongg@gmail.com](mailto:wootongg@gmail.com)), **or sign-up as a Sunday Morning Greeter** (contact Susan Tarras: [starras@telus.net](mailto:starras@telus.net)).

#### Sue Sparlin stars in "Glorious"



Sue Sparlin will be starring as Florence Foster Jenkins on stage in White Rock. "Glorious" will be running at Coast Capital Theatre from April 19–May 6. There are two Sunday matinees: April 23 and April 30. Sue would love to see Beacon friends in the audience. This is a fun show and she sings three arias really badly. Such fun! Seniors Tickets are \$19. <http://www.whiterockplayers.ca/tickets/>. Free parking.



#### Cookies!

Charlotte Moon has many cases of cookies to sell in order to attend a week-long camp in Smithers, BC. Buy your Girl Guide cookies from Charlotte! \$5/box. 604-939-9310.





Come, share a lake with me.

## Unitarian Family Camp June 2-4, 2017

Set in the natural splendor of Port Moody's Belcarra Regional Park, the camp offers swimming, boating, hiking, climbing, children and youth programs, a choral workshop for youth/adults (led by Patti Powell), campfires and other fun communal events.


Heated cabins with electricity. Meals provided.

*Note: Children love this camp but you do not need children to attend Family Camp!*

**Registration deadline: April 30th**

Adults: \$155; Children/Youth: \$143.

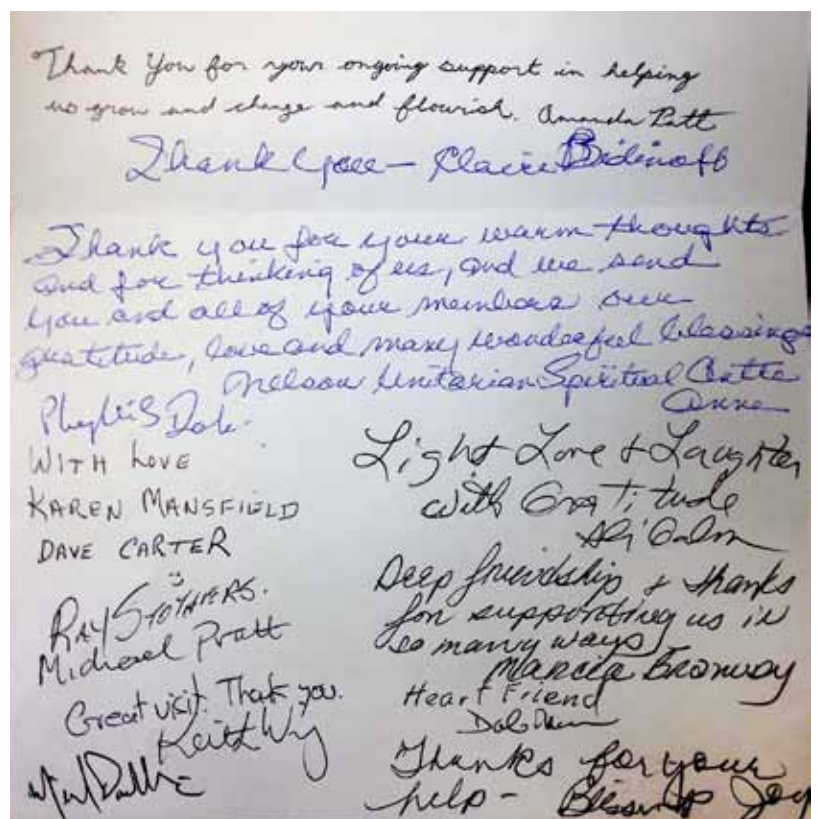
Download a brochure/registration form at <http://beaconunitarian.org/index.php/camp/>

 To see a fun video created by Ross & Gaby Harvey of Jazzfly Productions of our 2016 camp, go to Youtube and search for "Camp Sasamat hosted by Beacon Unitarian".

## Thank you from the Nelson Congregation



Rev. Debra recently received this lovely note from the Nelson congregation thanking Beacon for its support.



Thank you for your ongoing support in helping us grow and change and flourish. Amanda Patt  
Thank you - Claire Bilinski

Thank you for your warm thoughts and for thinking of us, and we send you and all of your members our gratitude, love and many wonderful blessings.  
Nelson Unitarian Spiritual Center  
Anne

Phyllis Dale  
WITH LOVE  
KAREN MANSFIELD  
DAVE CARTER

Light Love & Laughter  
with GRATITUDE  
Hi'Olom

RAY STOWERS  
Michael Pratt  
Great visit. Thank you.  
Keith W  
Mr/Dalke

Deep friendship & thanks for supporting us in so many ways.  
Marcia Brownway  
Heart Friend  
Debra  
Thanks for your help - Blessings Joy

## News from the Canadian Unitarian Council

### Enter to Win!

The CUC board is running two contests to promote and celebrate our new Vision Statement.

*Our national Vision Statement is:*

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

*These 5 Aspirations guide us in living out our faith:*

**As Canadian Unitarian Universalists, we are Deeply Connected, Radically Inclusive, Actively Engaged, Theologically Alive, and Spiritually Grounded.**

Full details of these contests is now on the CUC website at <http://cuc.ca/vision-and-mission/>. In brief, here's what they are:

#### A. Interconnected Faith Sermon Contest

1. Write a new sermon/homily of 1,800 to 2,500 words on any aspect of the Vision Statement and its five attached Aspirations.
2. Deliver that sermon to a Unitarian congregation sometime between today and the contest deadline of Feb. 2, 2018.

Participants can be ministers or lay people and must be connected to a Canadian UU congregation. The winner will receive a \$150 prize, plus an invitation to present their sermon during the CUC 2018 ACM held in Hamilton.

#### B. Canadian Unitarian Art Contest

1. Create a piece of art that celebrates our new Vision Statement—the statement itself, not the five attached Aspirations. The art can be in any medium—painting, sculpture, songs, videos, poems.
2. Participants should submit their original work or, if the work can't be mailed, send photographs of the work.

There will be three categories, based on the creator's age range: age 12 and under; age 13-17; and age 18 and older. Group projects, such as from an RE group, are welcome. Prizes of \$50 will go to the winning piece in each category. Deadline for submissions: Oct. 1, 2017. Participants must be connected to a Canadian UU congregation. The winning pieces will be shared online with Canadian Unitarian Universalists.



## 2017 Hungary 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! The dates for the next tour are Friday, May 26 to Monday, June 5, 2017. The itinerary includes Debrecen, Eger, Kolosvar (Cluj), Torocko (Rimetea), Hodmezovasarhely, and Deva. 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. Please contact Brian Welwood (604-988-1135) or Alison Nixon (604-947-0120) about this tour.

# Beacon Calendar: March 2017

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

Beacon Calendar							Feb 2017 (Pacific Time - Vancouver)			
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	1	2	3	4
29 10:30am - Worship Service 7:30pm - Humanist	30	31 7:30pm - Choir practice	8:30am - Worship	12pm - Lunch Bunch						
5 Theme: Love & Justice 10:30am - Worship Service 11:30am - Soup Lunch 1pm - Board meeting	6 7pm - Spirit of Life	7 10am - Music Committee 7:30pm - Choir practice	8	12pm - Lunch Bunch	10	11				
12 10:30am - Worship Service	13 Family Day	14 7:30pm - Choir practice	15 1pm - Soul Matters 7pm - Soul Matters Evening	12pm - Lunch Bunch 1pm - Connecting and	16	18 1pm - Beacon Writer's 8:30pm - Circle Dinners				
19 10:30am - Worship Service	20	21 7:30pm - Choir practice	22	12pm - Lunch Bunch	23	25				
26 10:30am - Worship Service 7:30pm - Humanist	27	28 7:30pm - Choir practice	1 8:30am - Worship	12pm - Lunch Bunch	2	4				