

## Summer Services

We offer informal services over the summer, at various venues. Regular Sunday worship services and Religious Exploration classes will resume on September 10, 2017 at Sapperton Pensioners' Hall in New Westminster.

**JUL 9** **Poetry, Prose, Music Service: Leadership & Following**

**Sunday, July 9, 11 am**

*Location:* Astoria Retirement Home, 2245 Kelly Ave. Port Coquitlam

*Coordinator:* Marilyn Medén

*Potluck snack:* Please bring your own plate as well as some simple finger food to share at the end of the service. Coffee and tea are available for a \$1 donation. Weather permitting, we will be on the patio.

The theme will be "Leadership Versus Finding Your Own Path". Ideas you might contemplate are: What is authority? Be your own authority. What is Leadership and Following if one must inevitably and necessarily come to one's own awareness/answer? The above introduces the semantics of Law+Order. A video you may wish to watch is "Law & Order" and Civil Disobedience | Philosophy Tube

You are invited, really encouraged, to read what you choose (not necessarily on the theme) from your own writing or that of others. Please, please let Marilyn Medén (m.j.meden@telus.net 604-469-6797) know as soon as possible that you would like to read, so she can plan "the arc" of the service, [and she knows what to add to it herself!]. Marylke Nieuwenhuis will play the recorder and Michael Jenkins will be one of the speakers.

**AUG 19** **New Westminster Pride Street Festival**  
**Saturday, Aug. 19, 3-8 pm**

*Location:* Columbia Street in New Westminster

*Coordinator:* David Krisjanson  
Come visit the Beacon table on Columbia Street in New Westminster. Sit with us for a while and talk to people who stop with questions. Contact David Krisjanson to sign up for a shift at the table between 2 pm and 9 pm. Set up the booth from 2-2:45 pm; pack up the booth from 8-9 pm.

**AUG 20** **Sunday Service in the Park: Freedom to Be**  
**Sun., Aug. 20, 10:30 am**

*Location:* Tipperary Park, New West

*Coordinator:* Rev. Debra Thorne  
We are all unique and precious. However you identify and wherever you are on your spiritual and personal journey, you are welcome. Bring a friend and join us for a gentling, a quieting and a deepening time under the trees in Tipperary Park. Enter from 4th Street off Royal Avenue, parking on 4th Street, meet at the Friendship Garden.

**AUG 27** **Music in the Summer**  
**Sunday, August 27, 10:30 am**

*Location:* 8892 Armstrong Ave., Bby  
*Coordinators:* Peggy and Tom Lunderville



## Celebrate a Year in Canada with Us!

**Come to a potluck dinner to celebrate the Al Rbaai's first year in Canada.**

**Date:** Friday, June 30, 2017

**Time:** 6:30 pm

**Place:** Tom and Peggy Lunderville's house, 8892 Armstrong Ave., Burnaby

**RSVP:** Bette Goode, [bjgoode@hotmail.com](mailto:bjgoode@hotmail.com), 604-462-7919 or 778-874-9203

For more details please see page 7.

Come join us at the Lundervilles' to sing hymns—old favourites and those still to be discovered—or bring your instrument and play along. There is no audition for singers or players, we welcome you as you are. If you've hungered for more than three hymns at a service and would be just as happy singing, as listening to a sermon, on a beautiful August morning, this is the service for you. If you don't know all our hymns, it's a wonderful opportunity to get comfortable with a few more of our musical treasures. Please join us after the service for beverages and conversation and a potluck lunch. Call Peggy Lunderville for any questions, further info: 604-522-3001.

## Minister's Message



Rev. Debra Thorne

My inner 'geek' is excited for the coming summer. One of the ways that I am preparing for July holidays is by creating my summer reading list. For me summer means a break from email, computer screens and deadlines, and a chance to fill myself up with new ideas, new perspectives and creative experiences. How wonderful it is to wake up to a day without things to do other than opening a good book and reading for as long as I have the attention. Oh yes, the choices have been

made! My anticipation is tinged with a growing pleasure every time I pass the kitchen table where the books are neatly piled.

The CBC program Canada Reads has been in part the inspiration for some of my choices, as is my desire to read books by and about Indigenous culture and history. There is no guarantee that I'll read everything from cover to cover but here are some of the books that I hope to delve into:

- *The Right to be Cold: One Woman's Story of Protecting her Culture, The Arctic and The Whole Planet* by Sheila Watt-Cloutier
- *Flight And Freedom: Stories of Escape to Canada* by Ratna Omidvar

- *Son of a Trickster and Monkey Beacon* by Eden Robinson
- *Embers: One Ojibways Meditations* by Richard Wagamese

Reading is only one pleasure, only one path to joy and renewal. I encourage you to do at least one thing each day that fills your heart with satisfaction. There is a great deal of beauty in this world and every day is an opportunity to encounter it. The world years to be met—to be seen and smelled and heard and touched.

However you spend your summer I hope for you that these are days of renewal and healing, as well as days of joy and adventure.

Warmly, Rev. Debra Thorne

## Connecting & Membership: Looking ahead to September



Joan Morris

### Start up the new year with a Circle Dinner!

The first service is Sept. 10, and we will have our first Circle Dinner the following Saturday, September 16!

What a great way to start the "new year", and start re-connecting with Beaconites. Mark it on your calendar now! You will hear more about it, and receive an email invitation, late in August. For more information, or to

offer to host a dinner, please contact Donna Hamilton, donna-h@telus.net.

### Beacon Directory Update

Our Directory of Members and Friends will now be allowed to brew over the Summer months. This will allow your Connecting and Membership Committee to streamline the production process, decrease room for error and make it easy to update the directory—perhaps more often. Many of the improvements are due to the work of Phil Campbell, who has used his time in hospital most creatively.

This delay also gives more opportunity for those of you needing to revise your directory listings. Notify Jean Donaldson with any changes in your contact information, and especially if you wish your name to be included for the first time: 604-461-0056, donaldsj@telus.net.

**Deadline:** August 15. Thank you!

—Jean Donaldson



Jean Donaldson



**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.medén@telus.net

#### Choir Director:

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

#### Board Executive:

**Co-Presidents:** David Kristjanson and Donna Hamilton; **Treasurer:** Carol Woodworth; **Secretary:** Gail Thomson; **Members at Large:** Helen McVey, John Hagen, Rob Warner, Dan Theal, Janet Pivnick, Michael Scales

#### Connections & Membership:

Jean Donaldson, 604-461-0056,  
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#### 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 September issue of The Beacon: August 15, 2017**

## Board Bitz

The board had its final meeting for this church year on June 4 at Helen McVey's home. Debra opened the meeting with an inspiring talk about board meetings as a spiritual practice. We will be meeting again on August 20 to start getting things ready for the first service on September 10.

Our sound technician, Blake Mathew, has had a new opportunity that made it necessary for him to leave his job at Beacon. We are very happy for him and wish him great success, but will miss his friendly nature and professional expertise that made each service run so smoothly. The board will be working over the

summer to hire a new sound technician for September. In the mean time, Heather Brown volunteered to do the sound for the rest of the church year and did a great job. Thank you, Heather, for taking this on.

Beacon will be setting up a booth at the New West Pride Festival again this year. It is on Saturday August 19th from 3–8 pm on Columbia Street in New Westminster. We would encourage you to join us—we will need help for setting up, and tearing down, as well as folks to hang out at the table and tell the public all about Beacon and Unitarianism! Last year was lots of fun. Contact David at davidhardy@telus.net.

Our annual leadership retreat will be on Saturday, September 2. Every-



David Kristjanson



Donna Hamilton

one is welcome, so mark the date on your calendar. We will send out more information via email in August.

Meanwhile, hope to see you at one of the summer services (info on page one), or other summer events, such as the New West Pride Festival.

Happy Summer!

—Your co-presidents, David Kristjanson and Donna Hamilton

## Personal View

### Why volunteer at church?



Sue Sparlin

Why do I do it? All that work for free just so my church can put on a worship service? Why do I do it? I have to get up early and spend time on the com-

puter and talk to people I don't know very well and... Well, maybe that's it. I get to talk to people I don't know very well. I get to know people in my faith community—and they get to know me. I get to give back to the world, into a place that I support and yes believe in. I sing in the choir. I'm an expert singer and I surely don't need the training so why do I do it? The music isn't very challenging for me. It takes up my Tuesday evenings. And yet... I am challenged to keep my mouth shut, to learn to speak up when it will serve the entire group and not just my own notions, to blend my voice with others

and not stand out, to make the experience one of joy for me and for everyone if I can, and together—together—create something of beauty.

Volunteering at church is not about getting something for myself—although oddly enough I do! It's about giving, giving selflessly with no expectation of praise or appreciation or thanks—although there's plenty of that too. Volunteering is a spiritual practice—or a humanist practice in radical community. The truth is we wouldn't have a church if we didn't volunteer. Volunteering is love in action. It's standing—and doing—on the side of love.

I think of volunteering as my "team sport", and when I volunteer at church I exercise my spiritual muscles and minimize my selfishness. Sometimes it's boring, or tedious, or frustrating. Sometimes it's amazing. There's no telling. But there is one thing for sure: you will grow; you will

stretch your wings; and you will learn to fly in ways you could not imagine. Volunteer. I dare you!

—Sue Sparlin, a veteran volunteer and Beacon member



**Beacon Unitarian Church**

**OUR VISION**

**CONNECT**  
With Compassion & Respect

**INSPIRE**  
Learning & Spiritual Growth

**TRANSFORM**  
Through Joy & Justice

**OUR 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.

## Religious Explorations



Ashley Cole

Wow! What a year we have had here in Religious Exploration at Beacon! We have explored two compelling curricula: *Sing to the Power* and *Faithful Journeys*, we have enjoyed many circle dinners including the annual Night Tree Party in December, hosted a winter pageant, engaged in some social action projects like backpacks for youth in need and welcoming the Nelson congregation, had fun with an outdoor Easter egg hunt, made new friends through the Mystery Buddies program, participated in a pilot project of the CUC Truth, Healing and Reconciliation Reflection Guides for grades 4–6 and topped it all off by attending Camp Sasamat! Phew... say all that in one breath!

Now we will take a brief break for summer but no need to worry- next year promises many more adventures! This summer the R.E committee will be sitting down to discuss how to structure our R.E programs in a way that best meets the needs of the children and youth and how might our Sunday mornings reflect those needs. We are also exploring the possibility of leading the *Our Whole Lives* curriculum for Grades 7–9.

If you are interested in sharing your talents please consider volunteering some of your time in R.E next year. It is only a one month commitment and we are definitely flexible! Thanks again to all those who volunteered this year both on Sunday mornings and in the R.E committee. It is your presence and dedication that makes Beacon R.E what it is. I for one cannot wait to see where next year takes us! Until then I hope you all have a great summer.

—Ashley Cole, Director of R.E

## Creative Arts Eliot 2017 Camp in Seabeck, Washington, August 12–16, 2017

CAE 2017 promises to be a relaxing time for exploring your creativity! This smaller Eliot camp includes many of the Eliot activities we know and love—in-gathering, small groups, daily worship, evening activities, and waterfront swimming, with the added bonus of a morning workshop with an artist! Children are welcome at Creative Arts Eliot. The morning children's program generally includes a balance of active play and exploration with arts, crafts, and/or science offerings during the camp. The children's program is not solely arts focused.

### Adult Workshops:

**Writing through "The Woods"** with Shannon Applegate

Name, frame, and shape personal narratives in the form of vivid vignettes that lantern life's chapters.

**Intro to Puppetry** with Rob D'Arc

Puppeteer Rob D'Arc shares his love for the ancient art of puppetry with you, in this delightful hands-on program where you will make fun puppets, and learn some of the secrets of puppet manipulation and performance!

**Storytelling** with Will Hornyak

All good storytelling feels like a natural conversation between teller and audience. But how do we find

the right place to start and end that conversation?

**Painting & Collage** with Sue Jensen

This class will focus on preparing collage papers primarily using printing methods and painting. We will design and make our own stencils and stamps for this out of foam plates, cardboard, and acetate.

**Beginning Ukulele** with Nancy Stevens

We will learn 10 chords, four strumming patterns, and perhaps a simple finger picking pattern. I will provide handouts. We will also learn to play a few familiar tunes by ear.

**Colorful Creations II** with Jilly Watson

Jilly will be teaching the basic ele-



Intro to Puppetry with Rob D'Arc

ments of composition, colour and value, while exploring the diversity of acrylic paints. Each morning the group will explore a different technique and composition that will help them produce a joy-filled colourful painting.

**Photography** with Martin Waugh

This is a course on the art, science, and imagination of photography. We will cover some of the technical issues, composition, applications, and practice of photography.

**More info at [www.eliotinstitute.org](http://www.eliotinstitute.org)**

## Aunt Leah's: 2017–18 Sharing the Plate Recipient



Aunt Leah's Place is a registered charity that, for over twenty-five years, has been helping kids in foster care and teen moms

achieve a better future by providing guidance, supported housing, job training and coaching in essential skills.

We believe that every young person deserves to feel safe, cared for and have a sense of belonging. This is not the experience for many teens in the foster care system. When they “age out” of government care at 19, they find themselves completely alone. Aunt Leah's Place tries to fill that gap and to provide the loving support young people in care so desperately need and deserve.

Often, it is Aunt Leah's that provides the only thread of care and continuity for youth whose young lives have been marked by abuse, neglect, abandonment and multiple foster

home placements. We have seen how support at this critical time can help these young people realize their possibilities and potential and become resilient, independent adults.

### Our Mandate:

Aunt Leah's Place helps prevent children in foster care from becoming homeless and helps prevent mothers in need from losing custody of their children. To support them on their journey to self-sufficiency, we provide supported housing, job training and coaching on essential life skills.

### Our Core Values:

1. All behaviour has meaning and is the human tool for communication.
2. Success is fragile and must be tended to and supported with care.
3. Celebration is essential to a successful life.
4. An individual's artistic/soulful centre must be expressed and appreciated.
5. Entrepreneurial spirit builds

individuals and organizations.

6. Community building ensures that we all have a place to go when we need support.

### What We Do:

We provide safe, secure housing and programs that give young people the practical skills they need to make a successful transition to adulthood and independence.

In addition, we provide young moms with housing in a supportive and home-like setting. We help teen moms—in foster care themselves—learn how to care for their babies and themselves, so they can go on to live independently and raise their child as they grow into self-sufficient adults and loving, competent parents.

By supporting young people at this crucial time we help them learn to take responsibility for themselves and build the life they choose rather than the one that has been prescribed. More than three-quarters of the youth Aunt Leah's helped last year moved forward into work, education or training.

## Camp Sasamat 2017

Highlights of our annual family camp included campfires (complete with s'mores and great music), swimming, kayaking, canoeing, a joyful and choir workshop with Patti Powell (*We are circling, circling together...*), climbing workshops and more.



Kayaking



Swimming



Wonderful campfire music

### 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. Part personal sharing, part spiritual deepening, the groups meet monthly either at 1 pm on the 3rd Wednesday, or 7 pm on the 3rd Thursday of the month. Meetings will resume in September. Email minister@beaconunitarian.org for more information.

**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, June 25th:** *Progress on the Downslope: Can humans only evolve or change their ways during a crisis?* Rob Warner will introduce this topic citing the past and reasons why humans are reluctant to change. He will present two very different examples, one connected with the climate change of today, the other of the Greenland Vikings from 1000 AD to 1400 AD when they were confronted with a particularly warm period and serious reduction in profitable trade.

The topic question is very relevant today. Are there constructive answers to be found? Reference books available in libraries are *Collapse* by Jared Diamond, and *Little Ice Age* by Brian Fagan.

For location details please contact Marilyn Meden m.j.meden@telus.net or 604-469-6797. The Humanist Group will meet again on Sunday, September 24.

**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.

Choir practise will resume in September.

**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.

**Upcoming Books:**

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

**August:** *Americanah* by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

**The Beacon Writers' Group** will meet on Saturday, September 16th at Marilyn Medén's in Port Moody. Our writing often, but not necessarily, reflects the monthly theme for the services, and is more concerned with content, not critiquing [unless this is asked for]. Newcomers are welcome. Bring writing to share. Contact Marilyn Medén (m.j.meden@telus.net, 604-469-6797) or Janet Pivnick (janpivnick@gmail.com) for more details.

**Attend a Circle Dinner** and connect with other Beaconites in a relaxed setting. For more information contact Donna Hamilton (donna-h@telus.net) or Joan Morris (joanmorris@telus.net). The next dinner will be Saturday, September 16.

**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 Rev. Debra (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 Debra Thorne at minister@beaconunitarian.org.

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



Beacon welcomed Tyler Ewasiuk, Judith McLean, Vrindy Spencer and Regina Ogmundson as new members in May.

## 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 before 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.

### Women's Potluck Supper

**Tuesday, August 22 at the Lundervilles'**



Peggy Lunderville

Folks are welcome for an evening of conversation, good food and renewing friendships. Please share the invitation with old

friends whom we don't see very often. Bring something for the shared buffet table. Further details will be sent in August—but **mark your calendar now!**

### Come to a potluck dinner to celebrate the Al Rbaai's first year in Canada

Please RSVP with what you would like to bring—appetizer, main dish, salad/vegetable dish or dessert. Also, choose between “everyday” Canadian fare (e.g. potato salad, deviled eggs, etc.) or the cooking style of the Al Rbaai family who choose to follow their religion's guidelines for cooking and eating.

The family prefers Halal meat, from animals which are killed in a certain way, and butchered according to strict guidelines. No gelatin or alcohol can be used, including flavourings. Peggy has some vanilla paste which she has volunteered to share for baking. The family doesn't eat dairy due to food sensitivity.

Vegan recipes would work well as would vegetable dishes and salads.

**Date:** Friday, June 30, 2017, 6:30 pm at the Lundervilles'

**RSVP:** Bette Goode, [bjgoode@hotmail.com](mailto:bjgoode@hotmail.com), 604-462-7919 or 778-874-9203



# Beacon Calendar: July & August 2017

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
25 7:30pm - Humanist Meeting	26	27	28	29 12pm - Lunch Bunch	30 6:30pm - Al Rbaal Potluck	1
2	3	4	5	6 12pm - Lunch Bunch	7	8
9 11am - Service at the Astoria @	10	11	12	13 12pm - Lunch Bunch	14	15
16	17	18	19	20 12pm - Lunch Bunch	21	22
23	24	25	26	27 12pm - Lunch Bunch	28	29
30	31	1	2	3 12pm - Lunch Bunch	4	5
6	7	8	9	10 12pm - Lunch Bunch	11	12
13	14	15 7pm - Newsletter Submissions 7pm - Worship Services	16 Pastoral Support Team	17 12pm - Lunch Bunch	18	19 2pm - Pride Festival in New West
20 10:30am - Service in the Park @ 1:15pm - Board Meeting	21 10am - RE Comm. Meeting	22	23	24 12pm - Lunch Bunch	25	26
27 10:30am - Service at the	28	29 Music Committee Meeting	30	31 12pm - Lunch Bunch	1	2 Leadership Meeting