

April Service Theme:

Good & Evil

April is sprouting ideas about GOOD and EVIL! The garden is alive with earthly questions like, 'Is evil real or just an old fashioned word for bad?' 'How do we know if our actions are good or evil? Aren't we all born good? Our Sources tell us to confront 'powers and structures of evil', what does that mean?



APR 1 **A Holy Foolishness**
Rev. Debra Thorne

Hee-hee-hee! Did you hear the one about the Unitarian? The world of humour has a pointed wisdom, and jokes about Unitarians are no exception. What do jokes tell us about who we are? What humour delights and what humour offends? Let's try a little 'laughing yoga' with our chocolate bunnies this Easter Sunday.

Children & Youth Program: The children and youth will participate in an egg hunt, followed by a brief discussion on what this time of year means for different religious backgrounds.

APR 8 **A Question of Evil**
Rev. Debra Thorne

Darth Vader and the Wicked Witch of the North are clearly bad. Real life is not so specific. Yet is there a line we can draw between good and evil? What is the function of evil in the stories we tell and how do we confront the very real structures of evil in our world?

- Choir sings.

Children & Youth Program: The children will explore interdependence and how trees impact all creatures and plants in the web of life. The youth will question: "How am I connected with everything else?"

APR 15 **Stitch by Stitch: A Journey of Rediscovery**

Guest Speaker: Lara Charles
Service Coordinator: Janet Pivnick
Brene Brown has said that "if we want our children to love and accept who they are, our job is to love and accept who we are." But how do we get to this place of self-acceptance? Join Lara Charles as she shares her journey of rediscovering her passion for life, teaching and learning, through the most challenging and rewarding time of her life. She will share the lessons she learned about nature's capacity to shift how we look at the world and our lives—as these lessons were revealed—stitch by stitch, in the creation of a quilt.

Children & Youth Program: Join us for our April Spirit Jam with Glen Wootton who will be sharing his joy of singing and song writing with us!

APR 22 **Creatures of our Plastic: Earth Day Service**
Rev. Debra Thorne, Ashley Cole and Teresa Morton

Did you know that worldwide we use one million plastic bags every minute! Half of all this plastic we use is only used once and then thrown away. How did this happen in a single generation and can we change it? Today we launch a two-year project to learn about how we live with plastic and how we might change our thinking about how we use it (see the Minister's Message, page 2, for more information.) This is a Whole Church Sunday service with creative activities, games, songs and dancing for the whole family!

- Choir sings.
- Soup lunch and AGM

Children & Youth Program: Children and youth will be participating in the whole church service.

APR 29 **The Passionate Humanist**
Guest Speaker: Jim Stephenson

Service Coordinator: Marilyn Medén
Service description continued on page 2

Minister's Message



Rev. Debra Thorne

How many Unitarians does it take to recycle a drinking bottle?



Debra: Did you hear the one about the Unitarians?

Teresa: Well, there's a few, which one were you thinking about?

Debra: The one that goes: You know you are Unitarian when.....

Teresa: OK, I'll bite...

Debra: You know you are a Unitarian when you think the Holy Trinity is REDUCE! REUSE! RECYCLE!

Teresa: That's good. I like it! I'm going to share it with the UCV Zero Waste folks!

Debra: That's great, it's good to spread the fun around.

Teresa: But not the plastic!

Debra: Yes, that's hard to have any humour about the amount of plastic we use in our lives.

Teresa: It sure is.

Debra: I'm hoping that this project I want to get off the ground with the Beacon community will be both fun and serious.

Teresa: Good luck!

Debra: You know, I'm doing this because I need help with my own thinking and behaviour around how I use plastic.

Teresa: Yes, I know. It's just so easy to use it. It's everywhere you turn.

Debra: And when I throw it away.... it just disappears. I take it all to the recycling depot and I never have to think about it again.

Teresa: Except.....

Debra: Yes, I know. Except only half

of the single-use plastic actually gets recycled.

Teresa: And if human beings are using one million plastic bags every minute!

Debra: Yikes! One million very minute?!

Teresa: Yes. And that's 500 Billion worldwide every year.

Debra: Ok, stop. That is so scary I just want to give up right now.

Teresa: I know what you mean.

Debra: But, I can't. I've got to be strong and face this.

Teresa: We all do.

Debra: Can we at least have some fun with plastic as we figure out how to deal with it all?

Teresa: Got an idea?

Debra: You bet! I think we could make some really weird plastic creatures on April 22. Maybe even make up a plastic song.

Teresa: What about a plastic dance too?

Debra: And jokes... we'll tell Unitarian plastic jokes..... Like how many Unitarians does it take to recycle a drinking bottle?

Teresa: (groaning) Oh no, Debra.... I'm afraid to ask.

Debra: You'll have to come to the April 22 Earth Day service to hear the answer!

Teresa: Ok, I'll be there.

Ashley: I'll be there too!

—Rev. Debra Thorne

Service Descriptions *(continued)*

Unitarian Universalists have been referred to as God's frozen people. We appreciate dispassionate analysis and a sober search for truth. We tend not to evangelize, and frequently don't admit that we go to church. While we may be "spiritual", we are not "religious" and usually don't practice elaborate rituals. Does this mean we are lifeless and boring? Does a skeptical bent mean that we have no place for passion, enthusiasm, zeal, wonder, and joy? On April 29, Jim Stephenson, an accounting consultant and former Green Party candidate, with degrees in engineering, business, and economics, will share his experience living life with passion, enthusiasm, zeal, wonder, and joy. May the farce be with us.

Children & Youth Program: The children will continue to build on their understanding of, and respect for, trees through multiple modes of learning. The youth will question: "What should I do with my life?"

Contest!

Win a prize crafted by "one of Beacon's own"!!!

How? Read the *Let's Connect: Behind the Scenes* article for the answer to: "What is the name of the book that explores ways to 'fish out of the other side' that Rev Debra has shared with the Board?"

Send your answer to joan.morris@telus.net by April 14th.

Correct answers will be drawn from a hat and the winner will be announced in the May newsletter.

Board Bitz

Spring has finally arrived. The days are getting longer, the weather is getting warmer and Beacon is holding its Annual General Meeting. Please make sure that you join us on April 22, 2018 after the service to have your voices heard. There will be a soup lunch and we will be bringing the updated Beacon Constitution and Bylaws to be voted on. We will also be voting in new Board members and choosing next years recipient of Beacon's "Sharing the Plate" (STP) program. The AGM agenda & annual reports will be emailed out by April 12th.

At the request of the Communications and Membership Committee, the Board has set up a Database Task Force to look into finding an integrated data system to collect all the congregational data and lists in one place.

There will also be a task force set up to work on Communications and Public Relations. The four Lower Mainland Congregations have been meeting together to work on ways of coordinating some of this work between them, and to look at up-to-date methods of both internal and external communications.

While the big news this month is Beacon's AGM, we want to remind you that the Metro Vancouver Unitarian Gathering is happening on Saturday April 7th at the Unitarian Church of Vancouver (see page 10). We encourage you to attend—lots of interesting topics to explore and a great way to meet other Unitarians.

We would also like to remind you that we still need people to help out in the nursery, people to help with coffee hour and people to help set up the



David Kristjanson



Donna Hamilton

church on Sunday morning. Volunteering is a great way to get involved. For more information, please email the board at board@beaconunitarian.org.

See you at the AGM on Sunday April 22nd.

— *David Kristjanson and Donna Hamilton, Co-Presidents*

Notice of Annual General Meeting

Sunday April 22, after the soup lunch—all members and friends of Beacon are welcome to attend. The agenda includes:

- Annual reports of President & committees
- Report of Financial Reviewer & 2017 Financial Statements
- Appointment of 2018 Financial Reviewer
- Report of Nominating Committee & Election of 2018-19 Board and Nominating Committee
- Selection of the Sharing the Plate Charity for 2018-19.
- Approval of revisions to By-laws and Constitution.

Only current members in good standing who joined prior to Feb 22 are eligible to vote.

Sharing the Plate

Currently, there are two nominations for the Sharing the Plate:

1. Camp Kerry, a New Westminster charity which provides a large spectrum of services to "children, youth and families impacted by grief and loss."
2. RAVEN (Respecting Aboriginal Values and Environmental Needs) is a registered charity which raises funds to pay for aboriginal legal and court costs. Although RAVEN is not a locally based organization, if Beacon were to support this charity, we could specify where our Sharing the Plate donations would go, such as the ongoing legal battle against the Kinder-Morgan pipeline.

— *John Hagen, Chair*



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

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

Lay Chaplain:
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604-469-6797,
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Angela Zhang
choirdirector@beaconunitarian.org

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Religious Exploration Director:
Ashley Cole,
sundayschool@beaconunitarian.org

Beacon Newsletter:
newsletter@beaconunitarian.org
Production: Laura Redmond
Proofreading: Donna Hamilton
Deadline for article submissions is the 15th of the month, for inclusion in the following month.

Let's Connect: Behind the Scenes at Beacon—Your Beacon Board



A huge Thank You to our Beacon Board!!

The Beacon Board of Trustees for 2017-2018:

David Kristjanson,
Co-President
Donna Hamilton,
Co-President
Carol Woodworth,
Treasurer
Gail Thomson, Secretary
Members-at-large:
John Hagen,
Rob Warner
Janet Pivnik
Michael Scales
Dan Theal
Helen McVey

This month I thought it was time to find out who “runs this show”! Of course there are many of us who contribute, but there is a group of 10 dedicated volunteers who meet regularly with our minister to oversee the big picture of making sure Beacon runs smoothly. Read on to hear more about what they do¹, and why they do it.

Meeting monthly at a member’s home, the Board addresses the many big and small issues that we learn about in the Board Bitz each month, from tackling a review of our Constitution and By-laws, to planning the annual Beacon Birthday party.

At a typical meeting, members discuss issues and receive reports from the minister, treasurer, liaisons of the committees and task forces, but still have time for occasional laughter. It is

vital to keep in the loop with everything that goes on.

Co-presidents, Donna Hamilton and David Kristjanson run the meetings, planning the agenda and keeping track of all our many church activities.

Recording all the detail, Gail Thomson, Board Secretary, makes sure each member receives the minutes of each meeting.

Treasurer Carol Woodworth spends hours each month keeping the church finances in order, paying staff and keeping track of all of our donations. (Board Executive also acts as the Personnel Committee.)

Rev. Debra attends each meeting bringing a spiritual focus and asks the question “What’s the Buzz?” for a discussion of how Beacon is doing. She also brings communications from

the larger UU world.

Lately, the Board has been on a ‘fishing trip’. I heard they were learning some fishing tips from a book Rev. Debra introduced. This book, called *Fishing Tips*, by John Pentland is about looking at new ways of doing things, and letting curiosity & imagination flower. The author was inspired by an ancient story about a group who fished all night without catching anything, and were told to try tossing their nets out the other side of the boat, and were then surprised by nets full of fish! The book looks at many ways to “fish out of the other side”. *Fishing Tips* is an open invitation to be curious. I wonder where their “fishing trip” will take them?

I asked a couple of board members what prompted them to join the board (other than the invitation from

1. I checked the Beacon website and learned; *Unitarian churches are unique in that we have congregational polity; that is, each congregation is independent of another and does not answer to a higher level of government. Our congregation is a member of the Canadian Unitarian Council (CUC), but we alone control our own budgets and sustain ourselves financially. The Board, made up of elected members of the congregation, handles administration and provides leadership and direction with its primary job to lead from the vision of the congregation.*

the nominating committee) or what they have learned by being a board member:

Donna Hamilton (co-president) responded: *“With my long time membership at Beacon I thought I could bring a little of the Beacon history perspective. New blood, with questions and new points of view is so important—a mix of old and new seems a good way to go.”*

From the Board Secretary, Gail Thomson: *“Being a member of the Beacon board of trustees for the past year has been a great learning experience for me. As a new member, I welcomed the opportunity to make new friends, to work closely with other members, and to get to know and serve the Beacon community. It brings great meaning to my life to be part of a caring and compassionate community.”*

Michael Scales added: *“One big reason that I am on the Board is because I learned one simple truth about helping the groups I belong to—the more effort I put into a group, the more I get out of it.”*

Your hard working Board is a gift to us all and with elections coming up this month you have an opportunity to welcome and support a new group of Beacon members who will take on the tasks of “running our wonderful Beacon church”. Talk with a board member about more ways you can be involved and connected.

—Submitted by Joan Morris on behalf of the Connections Team: Phil Campbell, Jean Donaldson, Joyce Gudaitis, Joan Morris, Susan Tarras, Rev. Debra Thorne

Living with Less Plastic



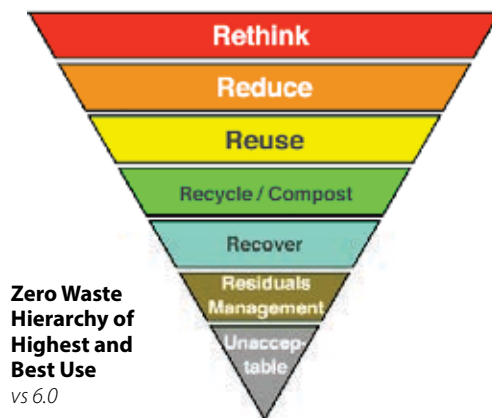
Teresa Morton

This is the name of a Facebook Group; Living with Less Plastic. You may be interested in becoming a member if you want information about how to reduce the amount of plastic used in our day to day lives. They

give hints, suggestions & encouragement! And encouragement can be very useful as we come to the realization that nearly every aspect of our lives involves the use of plastic. Going swimming? Synthetic fabrics require plastics. Updating electronics? Plastics are used for cases and boards and chargers. Grocery shopping? Even the produce section includes single-use plastic for grapes, cherry tomatoes, prepared salads or bags of oranges. It takes a bit of practice to remember the RE-THINK mantra from Zero-Waste Canada!

I’ve had the dubious pleasure of spending a lot of time in hospitals lately (as my parents work through their health issues) and there is an enormous amount of plastic consumed. At the hospitals, rethinking plastic use is made much more complex by the hygiene requirements (disposable gloves, disposable needles, disposable cups, disposable masks... you get the picture). It makes me wonder if, for example, bamboo fibre could be used for some of these products.

—Teresa Morton



Religious Explorations



Ashley Cole

What warm weather we have been having! It feels so nice to have the sun on my face and see all the little flower buds

emerging from the cold ground and tree branches. I hope you have had a few moments in your days to bask in the sunlight and dream up summer plans!

March has been a good month—we kicked off the *Circle of Trees* curriculum and we had Deb Henry come teach us about compost.

April is going to be a fun month as well, starting with an Easter egg hunt on April 1st. See the service descriptions, starting on page 1, for more information on what the children and youth will explore this month. Mark all the fun in your calendars!

As always RE welcomes new and inquiring volunteers who are interested in exploring religious education with the children. If you are interested in volunteering please let me know. we would love to expand our volunteer base!

*—Ashley Cole, Director of Religious Explorations
sundayschool@beaconunitarian.org*

Syrian Feast and Silent Auction a Success!

From all the positive energy in the room, it seems that Beaconites had a rockin' time at the Syrian Feast and Silent Auction. Nearly 70 people showed up at the fundraiser to help sponsor the sons of the Al Rbaai's and their families, who, it is hoped, will come to Canada this year. Nader, Taghreed, and children, Raneem and Mohammed, were the honoured guests. They shared a table with their Syrian friends, Sousan and Abdul.

The food was plentiful. Congregants showed their versatile cooking abilities with a broad range of Mid-Eastern foods including tabbouleh, humus, spicy vegetarian stew and tzatziki, all to be lapped up with plentiful pita. Tayybeh, the Syrian Catering Company, provided very generous dishes of Syrian Moussaka, Chicken Kababs, Rice Vermicelli and Smoked Rice that seemed to tickle the palate of everyone there.

The Silent Auction provided a range of wonderful bidding opportu-

nities including a bird expedition to Reifel Sanctuary with John Hagen and a Games Night with Donna Hamilton and Joan Morris. Bidding was intense for Susan White's Divine Cheese Cake and also to choose a Sermon Theme by Reverend Debra. There were so many more thoughtful experiences for people to bid on, including some generous gift certificates from local merchants and organizations. **To support the cause, see the boxes below for two fun events you can still join in, or contact me to arrange a photo portrait session for \$30.**

Deepak Sahasrabudhe kept the program moving along as MC. He gave out a whole host of door prizes and raffle winnings, which kept lots of people smiling. And, as the evening started to run down, the choir sang a couple of rousing songs to leave everything on a high note. The volunteer effort was 'over the top.' So many wonderful people stepped up to look after ticketing, the kitchen, the set up



and tear down, and all the things that are involved in such an event. Susan Millar and Peggy Lunderville were the organizers.

It was a financial success too. Although all the numbers aren't finalized, it looks like this small but undaunted congregation raised approximately \$1700 for sponsorship. It's the little church that could!

—Susan Millar

SALMON SEND OFF!



Date: Sat. May 12 (rain or shine)
Time: 12:30 - 2:30 p.m.
Place: Tynehead Regional Park, 16700 96 Ave, Surrey BC. Meet at the hatchery entrance gates inside the park.
Cost: Per silent auction or by donation (funds raised will go to the

Settlement 2 fund). Latecomers welcome!

Contact: Cathy Tingskov, sheltiecat@gmail.com, text 604 780 0444

Watch/help release salmon into the Serpentine River, discover how salmon are raised in the hatchery, enjoy concession & family activities (some free, others at your own cost), followed by an easy nature walk led by Cathy Tingskov in this beautiful urban forest! Suitable for all ages. Dog friendly (yay!), but while we are on hatchery grounds your pet must be kept in your car or outside the hatchery gates. Off-leash area too!

REIFEL MIGRATORY BIRD SANCTUARY WALK



This notice is STRICTLY FOR THE BIRDS—the birds of Reifel Bird Sanctuary that is—and only a BIRD BRAIN would fail to see what a terrific value there is to join your fellow Beaconites on Sat. April 21st. at 10:00 am to FOLLOW THE BIRDS to

Westham Island Reifel Migratory Bird Sanctuary!

- Experience a 2-hour guided walk led by Kathleen Fry (Sanctuary Mgr.). See upwards of 30 varieties of song-birds, warblers, shorebirds, ducks, raptors & lbs (little brown jobs!)
- Get FREE admission, lunch, and beverages.
- And support our AL RBAAI Refugee fund raiser. All this for a mere pittance—Adults \$25, Kids \$5. COME and bring a friend! To register, and for more information, contact John Hagen @ 604-521-1335 or email jhagen1834@gmail.com.

Beacon Programs

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 and part spiritual deepening. In April, Group 1 meets Wednesday at 1pm (April 18), and Group 2 is Thursday at 7pm (April 19). Email minister@beaconunitarian.org for more information.

The Humanist Discussion Group meets the last Sunday of the month at *The Astoria Retirement Home* (2245 Kelly Avenue, Port Coquitlam) to discuss a wide range of current topics. **Sunday, April 29th, 7 pm:** Luc Beaudoin will lead us in *We(e) Sense-makers*, a reflection on the human propensity to make sense of experience, despite our incoherence. Please contact Marilyn Medén, 604-469-6797 m.j.meden@telus.net for more details.

Join the Beacon Choir for musical fun and skill development. Choir rehearsals for Monday, April 2 will be 7 pm at the Lundervilles' place. Starting on April 10, rehearsals will be on Tuesdays, at Miller Park School. Contact choirdirector@beaconunitarian.org. Basses urgently needed!

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.

March: *The Japanese Lover* by Isabel Allende; **April:** *The Snow Queen* by Michael Cunningham; **May:** *Being Mortal: Medicine and What Matters in the End* by Atul Gawande; **June:** *Ru* by Kim Thuy

Youth Group: Contact Ashley Cole, sundayschool@beaconunitarian.org, for more information.

Lunch Bunch meets every Thursday at noon, year-round. Bring your own lunch and share in lively and topical conversation. Contact Anne MacLeod at 604-524-2434.

Settlement 2: The Settlement 2 task force is organizing the sponsorship of four further members of the Al Rbaai family. Please contact Peggy Lunderville for meeting times and dates: prlunder@gmail.com. All are welcome.

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 circle dinner will take place on Saturday, April 14th.

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.

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 Writers' Group: For more information contact Satya at sbrown@realifepress.com or 604-584-6895.

Circle Dinner, April 14th

The next Circle Dinner will be on Saturday, April 14. To reserve space(s) at a dinner, please contact Donna-h@telus.net or Joan_morris@telus.net, or call Joan at 604-513-1526, preferably by April 1st. Then you can hear from your host by April 7 or 8.

News from the Canadian Unitarian Council



Sharing Letter-Writing Campaigns to the Love and Justice Facebook Group

The CUC's Love and Justice Facebook page offers a new way for letter writing campaigns and important topics to be shared. Share your letters on the Canadian Unitarian Council's Love and Justice Facebook Group and spread the news about what you are working on! Follow this link to join the group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/281072552320728/about/>

An Appeal to Support the Right of Free Speech for Charities

In 2016, Minister of National Revenue Diane LeBouthillier conducted a two-month, Canada-wide consultation with charities and the public on the rules under which charities should be allowed to speak out in Canadian society. As a result of input from these consultations, an expert panel submitted a report in March 2017 to the Minister of National Revenue calling for action to fix the broken system (<https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/charities-giving/charities/resources-charities-donors/resources-charities-about-political-activities/report-consultation-panel-on-political-activities-charities.html>). Despite a promise to act, the federal government has done nothing to implement the Expert Panel's recommendations. Tell the federal government to keep its promise to create a new law to protect Canadians' right to be heard through the charities they support.

Excerpted from the CUC March eNews. See the full edition at <https://mailchi.mp/90d61f3e8a28/cuc-ewsletter-may-2676309?e=79a86af56d>

Nominations for our Board

The nominating committee—Nancy Rupert, Helen McVey, Peggy Lunderville and Rebecca Burns—are pleased to present you with a full slate of 10 nominees for the 2018/19 year.

David Kristjanson

Co-president, second 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. Although currently working, he is open to new career opportunities and suggestions. “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, second 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 Wor-

ship, 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, second 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.

John Hagen

Trustee, first year of second 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.

Janet Pivnick

Trustee, second 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.

Gail Thomson

Secretary of the Board, second year of first 2-year term



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.

Michael Scales

Trustee, second 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.

Joyce Gudaitis

Trustee, first year of first 2-year term



I was born in Ohio but have lived in the Vancouver area since 1969, and became a Canadian citizen in the 70s. I have a

degree in chemistry and biology from St. Louis University (Missouri) and have worked as a scientist, teacher and most recently, owned and operated a small software company with my husband, who passed away in 2012. I have 3 grownup children and 4 grandchildren who all live nearby. I was raised Catholic and received 16 years of Catholic education.

Over the years, I drifted away from the Catholic Church and attended different mainstream Protestant churches off and on, especially when my children were growing up, but never really felt at home. My youngest son attended a service at the Vancouver Unitarian Church and suggested I check it out. I did an Internet search and discovered Beacon. I felt welcomed from the first day I walked in the door and quickly realized that I had finally found a church home.

I became a member in May 2015 and have had various volunteer roles over the past several years, including coffee making, collection counting, nursery helper, and most recently, serving on the Membership and Connecting committee.

I am involved in politics, especially childcare issues, and I've recently retired from the board of my grandson's childcare after 10 years. I enjoy painting and attending art history classes at Capilano University, as well as living with and helping my daughter and her family. I'm really excited about serving on the Beacon Board and deepening my understanding of, and connection to, Unitarianism.

Elizabeth Campbell

Trustee, first year of first 2-year term



Elizabeth is retired from a career in marriage counselling and workplace mediation. She retired again after working with her

son in his restaurant as his book-keeper.

She has been a Unitarian for 33 years. She joined in Saskatoon and moved here with her husband Phil in 1995. They lived in Vancouver, joined the Unitarian Church of Vancouver and then on the final retirement they moved to Port Moody and joined the Beacon Unitarian Church in New Westminster.

In previous Unitarian churches Elizabeth has served on the Board of Trustees, Welcoming Committee, Personnel Committee and Membership Committee and the Search Committee for Rev. Dr Steven Epperson of the Unitarian Church of Vancouver.

(Nominations continued on page 10.)

Nominations for our Board

(Continued from page 9)

Audrey Taylor

Trustee, first year of first 2-year term



I have served previously on the board of trustees as a trustee at large, treasurer, co-president and then

president. I have been away from the board for one year and look forward to joining the trustees and Debra once again.

Previous to my work with the Beacon Board, I spent close to 30 years as executive director for non-profit health & social service agencies in BC. More importantly (I think) I have been daughter, sister, granddaughter, daughter-in-law, wife, mother, grandmother, hippie, farmer and housewife.

The Unitarian principles speak directly and personally to me. I cherish the Beacon community and truly appreciate the welcome and trust I experience here.

Register for the Metro Vancouver Unitarian Gathering by March 31st

Catalysts for Change



Connect with Unitarians from BC and beyond at the Metro Vancouver Unitarian Gathering on April 7, 2018. The Saturday conference, co-sponsored by four Lower Mainland congregations, will begin at 9 am at the Unitarian Church of Vancouver at 49th & Oak.

Based on the theme Catalysts for Change, events include networking sessions about social action, a presentation by young adults on intergenerational solidarity, and a special appearance by singer-songwriter-activist Tony Turner. Tony will lead a workshop entitled "Singing for Change" during which we'll have the opportunity to explore how we can be more active in social justice issues as Metro Vancouver Unitarians.

There will be a children's program and a weekend youth con that will weave in and out of the adult program. No matter your age or stage in life, please join us and be a part of this exciting day!

On Saturday evening, after a fabulous dinner, we'll enjoy an open mic Coffee House hosted by Tony Turner—the perfect time to showcase that poem, dance, story, or song with an appreciative and supportive audience. The Open Mic Coffee House is open to the general public, \$5 at the door (all conference registrants get in free!)

Registration, which includes lunch, dinner, and coffee breaks, will be available through the CUC at cuc.ca/metro-vancouver-unitarian-gathering.



Registration deadline: April 30th

Thanks again for a wonderful weekend. I have never seen my boys so delightfully exhausted. They smell like campfire, their clothes bear traces of marshmallows, their faces are a little sunburnt, their knees are bruised, and they fell asleep on the way home. We loved it! As Albert put it, let's do this again!

Ernest, 2017

Unitarian Family Camp June 8-10, 2018

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, campfires and other fun communal events. Heated cabins with electricity. Meals provided. Note: Children love this camp but you do not need kids to attend Family Camp!

Regular rates (ends April 30th): Adults: \$161; Children/Youth: \$149.

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

More info: sasamat@beaconunitarian.org



Sing for Joy! Music Workshop with Patti Powell on Sat. June 9th. \$67 includes lunch & the opportunity to swim or kayak after the workshop!