

May Service Theme: Healing

How do we heal ourselves, our families, our society, our world? What a tall and complex question we give ourselves this month! We heal by deepening our awareness, by removing our blinders and seeing a new perspective, by asking forgiveness of those whom we have harmed, by sharing what is truthful however tender or vulnerable we might feel, we heal by standing up and speaking up. Let us be a community who seeks peace, health and wholeness in ourselves and for the world.



**MAY
6**

Transforming Perspective

Rev. Debra Thorne

How do we live together with completely different world views? Members of Beacon have been educating themselves in the history of indigenous people and realizing that their way of seeing and being in the world is so very different than that of the settler. For example there is no word for wilderness in First Nation world view, their word for wilderness is simply 'home'. Participants from the *Truth, Healing and Reconciliation* program will join Rev. Debra and share examples from their transformed perspective.

Children & Youth: Join us in our monthly Spirit Jam! This month we welcome Bette Goode to teach us about gardening. We will be using the compost we created in the March Spirit Jam!

**MAY
13**

Healing in the era of 'Me Too!'

Rev. Debra Thorne

It was like a tidal wave that swept the first world. So much good healing has come from the early days of the 'Me Too!' movement. With unchal-

lenged power this wave uprooted systems of decayed power, and unfortunately a few innocent lives as well. In the aftermath of the first wave there is a dissonance that needs understanding.

• Choir sings.

Children & Youth: The children will view a visual essay by Canadian activist Franke James and create one of their own. The youth will explore, "What should I do with my life?"

**MAY
20**

What about me? Being a man in the era of 'Me Too!'

Phil Campbell and

Theo Boere, Executive Director and Founder of Men's Resource Center
Men have done some truly awful things to women. We should all be ashamed—shouldn't we? How can we men respond to this in a meaningful way and still hold on to our maleness with pride? Should we as men hold to the Possum Lodge oath, *Quando omni flunkus moritati*, or do we enter into dialogue with our women friends, lovers and neighbours about what our gender identity means to us and what it means to treat each other with respect and dignity irrespective of gender?

Children & Youth: The children and youth will participate in a ritual that fosters a deep connection between themselves and trees.

**MAY
27**

Labyrinth Walks: A Contemplative Practice for Wholeness

Rev. Debra Thorne

Special Guest: Diana Ng

Walking the labyrinth has been a spiritual practice since the 11th century and rediscovered in the last fifty years as part of the reclaiming of contemplative practices both in and outside Catholic and Protestant communities. Diana Ng, member of South Fraser Unitarians, built her first 42 foot diameter labyrinth in Fleetwood Park, Surrey, in 2008. Diana comes to labyrinths from a spiritual and practical point of view. In her own words, labyrinths are 'a quiet place where the simple act of walking promotes self-awareness, presence, and calm'. You will have the chance to walk one of Diana's labyrinths during the service.

• Choir sings.

Children & Youth: The children and youth will continue with the ritual introduced in last week's workshop.

Minister's Message



Rev. Debra Thorne

Many of us are struggling with what is happening in our world. On one hand, there is the fear of escalating international tensions, and locally there is the confusion

or passion for the complex issue of the twinning of the Kinder Morgan pipeline. How do we come together as one voice? Is that even possible? I believe we can in one area, and we can also agree to disagree on some things too.

The more I reflect on what some call 'the great turning', (the turning away from using fossil fuels toward renewable energy sources), I hear a challenge to all of us. We are being challenged to live differently. We are being challenged to, first of all, become aware of our current over consumption of fossil based energy. The next step is to ask ourselves if we can change our lifestyle choices. I know some of you are already doing

this in many ways, and are ahead of the general population. I am inspired by your commitment. And I think we can be a community of leaders in the transformation to a greener, cleaner lifestyle. I think we can do this together.

**Great movements have
always started with small steps.
One person, then one family,
then one community.**

On April 22nd, at the Earth Day Service, I made a pledge to change my habits when it came to the convenience of single use plastic. I know that I need to change my consumer choices and I know I will have moments when I am resistant. Convenience is such a hard choice to reject. It even seems to be irrational to choose to do something that will take more thought, more time, more steps. But this is our challenge if we are going to enter the curve of the turning. On Earth Day 2018 I asked you to join me in this project, and I

was thrilled by how many of you were willing to walk this path with me.

I understand this to be our spiritual work. It is walking the talk of our principles. It is living in integrity with our principles.

Great movements have always started with small steps. One person, then one family, then one community. We have to start somewhere, and starting with ourselves is the obvious choice. Beacon's vision is to be a community that connects, inspires and transforms. Together we will!

With gratitude, Rev. Debra

Summer Services

Have you ever wanted to host a summer service? Please consider this opportunity to coordinate a fun low stress gathering over the summer. Or, if you have ideas about summer services that you'd like to see, send them to Janet Pivnick (Worship Services Chair) or Rev. Debra Thorne.

Day Workshops at Unitarian Family Camp

Sasamat Outdoor Centre, Port Moody, June 9 & 10, 2018

Sing for Joy! Music Workshop with Patti Powell

Saturday, June 9th, 10–11:30 am, 1:30–3:30 pm

Singing together is SO. MUCH. FUN! If you've never tried it, it's time. If you're a seasoned singer, you will love the lively, interactive and joyful atmosphere for learning great songs for group singing. From gospel to rounds, to fun interlocking song mash-ups, Patti will get you steeped in the world of playful connection that singing together provides! Patti Powell is a community choir leader in the

Ubuntu Choir Network. Ubuntu choirs aim to be inclusive, community-focused, non-auditioned and socially-engaged.

Patti leads four community choirs and is an apprentice conductor with Brian Tate and the City Soul Choir (www.citysoulchoir.com). Patti welcomes ANY and ALL voices to raise up their voice together. Come and sing for joy!

*Saturday workshop with lunch:
\$67 (includes option to canoe/
kayak after the workshop, 3:30–5 pm)*

Climbing Wall or High Ropes Course

Sunday, June 10th

Climbing Wall:

1–3 pm Age 6 to adult.

High Ropes Course:

3:30–5 pm Age 8 to adult.

Challenge yourself and have some fun.

*One climbing workshop with lunch: \$49
(includes access to canoes and kayaks from 1–5 pm)*

Register at <http://beaconunitarian.org/index.php/camp/> or email sasamat@beaconunitarian.org for more information.



**Registration
deadline:
May 31st**



Board Bitz



David Kristjanson



Donna Hamilton

Thank you all for attending the AGM on April 22nd, where we voted in our updated constitution and bylaws. It is wonderful to see that so many people want to be involved in the governance of our very special community.

With the AGM comes a new Board of Trustees. This year we welcome two new members. Elizabeth Campbell has served on the Board of Trustees at Unitarian Churches she attended before coming to Beacon. Audrey Taylor is returning to the Beacon Board after taking a year off. She has previously served as a trustee at

large, treasurer, co-president and then president. Returning members are Donna Hamilton, David Kristjanson, Carol Woodworth, Gail Thomson, Janet Pivnick, Michael Scales, and John Hagen.

Leaving the board are Helen McVey, Dan Theal, and Rob Warner. Thank you all for your hard work and dedication over the last year. You will be missed. A special thanks to Helen, who hosted board meetings in her home for a good part of the last two years.

Our first board meeting will take place on May 6th and will mostly involve bringing our new members up to date. Since they are both very experienced at being a board member, we should be up and running very quickly.

Coming up on June 2nd, at the Lunderville's house, is the Co-ordinating Council meeting. The Co-ordinating Council is made up of one (or two) representative from each committee,

SAVE the DATE!



Location:

The Lundervilles'

Saturday, June 2nd

10 am–noon: Calendar Meeting of the Co-ordinating Council

12–1 pm: Potluck Lunch

1–3 pm: Choosing of monthly service themes for next year.

Please join us!

task force, group, etc., the board president (or designate) and the minister. They will be planning the next church year. Anyone is welcome to come. Talk to Donna Hamilton or Rev. Debra.

— David Kristjanson and
Donna Hamilton, Co-Presidents

Plastics hit the headlines!



Teresa Morton

As reported by 'SUM of US' (sumofus.org), there are two good initiatives in the works, both of which help tackle the challenge of single-use plastics.

Firstly, McDonald's in the UK is phasing out the use of plastic straws, starting this month.

Secondly, Starbucks in the US has committed to developing a take-out cup that can be put in the compost. They will commit \$10 million to bring out a fully recyclable cup in three years.

Kinder Morgan puts the brakes on their pipeline construction!

Recently, Kinder Morgan issued a press release announcing a halt on "non-essential" construction activities. The Texas oil giant said that unless the opposition in BC softens by May 31st, "it is difficult to conceive of any scenario in which [they] would proceed with the project". (*Taken from the LeadNow.ca website.*)

While protesters are celebrating the halt of construction, the May 31st deadline puts a lot of pressure on the politicians involved. If you think the pipeline expansion should be stopped, now is an excellent time to let your MLA or MP know!

—Teresa Morton



**Beacon
Unitarian
Church**

www.beacon
unitarian.org
info@beacon
unitarian.org

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

**Consulting
Minister:**
Rev. Debra Thorne
minister@beacon
unitarian.org

Board Executive:
Co-Presidents:
David Kristjanson
and Donna Hamilton;
Treasurer: Carol
Woodworth; **Secre-**
tary: Gail Thomson;
Members at Large:
John Hagen, Janet Piv-
nick, Michael Scales,
Elizabeth Campbell,
Audrey Taylor

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

Choir Director:
Angela Zhang
choirdirector@
beaconunitarian.org

**Connections &
Membership:**
Jean Donaldson,
604-461-0056,
donaldsj@telus.net

**Religious Explora-
tion 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.

Circle Dinners

Circle Dinners continue to be popular with Beacon folk. There were six very successful dinners last month, held April 14th, with 49 people including 9 children attending.

During 'Joys & Sorrows' the next morning, one member lit a candle and expressed, "We had a wonderful evening with great food and we talked for five hours". Another host commented, "After a scrumptious dinner complete with home made pie we had a sing-along with favourite songs from our Beacon song books". Another group celebrated with a Hawaiian theme, including special drinks, leis, and pineapples!

In regards to her group, Marylke wrote that, "David K., Alex, Ryan and I enjoyed a lovely dinner at the Rasmussen-Mamani home. There was lively conversation, dog-walking (the four boys), delicious food and a great game of *Apples to Apples*! Thank you, gracious hosts!"

The last Circle Dinner of the year will be Saturday, May 26, maybe with a special theme. So put the date in your calendar and sign up with Donna Hamilton to take part.





Lets Connect: Behind the Scenes—Sharing the Plate

This month we chose a new *Sharing the Plate* (STP) recipient at the annual general meeting. Do you know the history of this very worthwhile initiative?

For almost 10 years, Beacon has been sharing the Sunday morning collection half and half with a local charity chosen by Beacon members at our annual general meeting.

Back in 2007, after reading an article in the *UU World* magazine entitled “Sharing the Plate Increases Giving”, Rev. Ev Morris and I proposed to the board that sharing our morning collection with a local charity could be a super way to contribute to our community, increase our awareness of local issues and get to know the good works happening in our area.

The board grappled with questions like: “Who decides with whom we share the plate? How much of the plate do we share? All of it? Part of it? Does it depend on the cause? How do we integrate our own special collections into these other sharing collections? Should we share the plate every Sunday, or most of them? The usual, and very natural, concern was that it would dip into our regular pledge contributions.

The board decided to form a task force to create a policy. “*With the assistance of Sandy Burpee and Hugh Morrison, an STP policy for Beacon was drafted over the summer of 2008 and approved by the board in September. Subsequently an STP committee was formed and a local charity, PoCoMo Youth Centre Society was selected as the first year’s STP recipient... PoCoMo operates a mobile youth outreach pro-*

gram with two converted buses on the streets of the Tri-Cities several nights per week.”

At each AGM we vote to select one of three local charities presented to the members.

Other groups Beacon has supported over the years include: I’s on The Street, Hope for Freedom, Pioneer Community Living Association, and Pacific Assistance Dogs Society (PADS), which raises and trains assistance dogs for people who are facing the daily challenges of life with a physical disability.

Each year Beacon is able to donate at least \$2000 to the chosen charity, which is half of the unpledged contributions collected at services each Sunday. This year, Aunt Leah’s Place will receive our donation. And next year’s recipient of the STP initiative is Camp Kerry, a New Westminster charity which provides a large spectrum of services to children, youth and families impacted by grief and loss.

Some comments from folks after the STP began:

“So often there seems to be a disconnect between what we do in our worship and the real world expression of our values. This practice makes a clear and intentional connection.”

“Now the money goes for a special purpose, and it also opens up one’s perspective. I’m giving to charities I’d never heard of before. It feels like a very positive thing to do.”

—Joan Morris for the Connections

Team: Jean Donaldson, Phil Campbell,
Joyce Gudaitis, Susan Tarras,
Rev. Debra Thorne

Religious Explorations



Ashley Cole

A big thanks to all our hard working volunteers who have helped the RE to accomplish so much in April! Some highlights included a musical Spirit Jam

led by Glenn Wootten and an Earth Day whole church service in which we were able to renew our commitment to environmental stewardship. Another highlight was the children and youth from Beacon who participated in the Regional Gathering that took place on April 7th. It was a fun (and friendship building) day in which the children participated in getting to know each other activities, and then went to VanDusen gardens as a group. A highlight for me was watching them participate in the coffee house as a group leading a skit. What great energy to move us along into May! This month we welcome Bette Goode who will lead a gardening Spirit Jam using the compost we created together at the March Spirit Jam. We will also be continuing with the chosen curriculum for both the children and junior youth programs. There are still plenty of opportunities to volunteer now and into the fall so if you want to be a part of this great energy, I’m always willing to help you find ways to do so!

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



Tour of Aunt Leah’s Place Beaconites are invited for a tour of Aunt Leah’s Place in New Westminster on Sunday, May 27th at 1 pm. A carpool will be organized to get us there. Sign-up for this trip by May 23rd so that we can confirm the numbers. Let Ashley or Debra know if you’d like to come.

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. Group 1 meets Wednesday, May 30th at 1 pm, and Group 2 meets Thursday, May 31st at 7 pm. These will be the last meetings before the summer break. 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.

Sunday, May 27th, 7 pm: *A Question of Evil* which will be presented by Phil Campbell.

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 are on Tuesday evenings, at 7 pm, at Miller Park School. Contact choirdirector@beaconunitarian.org. Bases 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.

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: prlunderv@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, May 26th.

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 on Friday, May 4th at 7 pm.

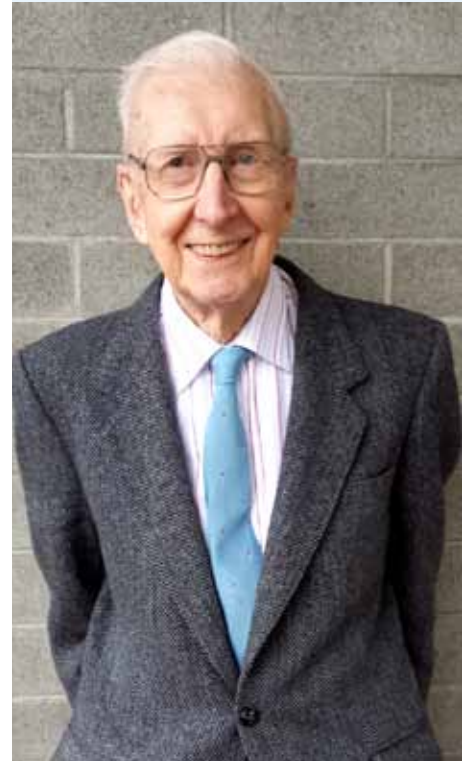
Help out on Sunday mornings as a Coffee Host (contact Glenn Wootton, woottongg@gmail.com), **or sign-up as a Sunday Morning Greeter** (contact Susan Tarras, starras@telus.net).

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

April Newsletter Contest Winner

Beth Connelly is the winner of the newsletter contest. She correctly answered the question, "What is the name of the book Rev. Debra has been sharing with the board?" *Fishing Tips* by John Pentland is the answer. Beth will receive a Donna Hamilton tote bag with the Flaming chalice logo. Thank you to those who entered the contest!!

News from the Canadian Unitarian Council



A Celebration of Life: Phillip Hewett

Friends, family, and colleagues paid tribute to the late Rev. Phillip Hewett, Minister Emeritus of the Unitarian Church of Vancouver, in a celebration of life last month. The hour-long service, now available on YouTube, featured moving and humorous eulogies by his son Barton and two of his past intern ministers, Rev. Nan Geer and Rev. Brian Kiely. Reminiscences from others who knew him recorded following the service are also available online. (Photo courtesy of Stanley Tromp.)

Excerpted from the CUC April eNews. See the full edition at <https://mailchi.mp/b16084d79278/cuc-enewsletter-may-2676317?e=79a86af56d>

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!

Sue Sparlin stars in *Kiss the Moon, Kiss the Sun*



Sue Sparlin is performing again, this time as a 75 year old woman with heart problems in the play "Kiss the Moon, Kiss the Sun". It will be running at Hendry Hall in North Vancouver, Wednesday through Saturday evenings, from May 25 through June 9. There's lots of free parking and about ten steps going up to the front door

(no ramp). It's a lovely story about family and sacrifice and love. You will laugh and perhaps shed tears of joy.

Tickets to all shows are available online through <https://northvanplayers.thundertix.com/events/106683>. To purchase tickets by phone please call our Box Office at (604) 983-2633 or email us at tickets@northvanplayers.ca.

PRICES: Regular Adult: \$18.00; Seniors / 18 & Under: \$16.00 Preview: \$10.00

Creative Arts Eliot Camp 2018 for UUs and their Friends and Family

Creative Arts Eliot takes place at the beautiful Seabeck Conference Center on Hood Canal in Seabeck, Washington from Saturday, August 11 through Wednesday, August 15, 2018 and offers opportunities for UUs and friends and relatives to enjoy many wonderful aspects of a

multi-generational "summer camp" experience while also pursuing an interest in one or more artistic or creative endeavors. Talented presenters will delight and inspire during a five-day camp full of learning and fun with morning workshops in Poetry, Small Art Quilts, Paper Mask Making,

Improvisation, Photography, Painting, and Songwriting; and afternoon workshops in Theater Games, Dragon Sculpting, and Intermediate Ukulele. An additional morning program, "Active Sports," will be available for those wanting a more physical activity, with biking, hiking, kayaking all possible options based on the interests of those who sign up. Campers choose one or two workshops to focus on while at camp, and spend the rest of their time enjoying waterfront fun, sports, games, walks, campfires, singing, UU community, worship, cards and board games, evening programs and entertainment, and numerous other planned activities including Firelight, music/talent shows/concerts, and an "Extravaganza" on the last day to celebrate the fruits of everyone's creativity. For more information, please contact the Eliot Administrator at registrar@gmail.com or visit our website at www.eliotinstitute.org.



Joan Morris, member of the Langley Community Chorus, cordially invites you to attend their spring concert:

**LANGLEY COMMUNITY CHORUS'
25TH ANNIVERSARY
CONTINUES**

**Singing Down
Memory Lane**

**3pm Saturday
May 5**

Willoughby Christian
Reformed Church
20525 72 Ave,
Langley

**7pm Saturday
May 12**

St. Dunstan's
Anglican Church
3025 264 St,
Aldergrove

**3pm Sunday
May 13**

United Churches
of Langley
21562 Old Yale Rd,
Langley

**\$18 Adults Advanced Tickets | \$20 at the door
\$10 Students | Kids under 12 Free**

Online at Brown Paper Tickets | Long & McQuade 6339 200 St, Langley
From a Chorus Member | lcctickets@gmail.com

www.facebook.com/langleycommunitychorus | www.langleychorus.org

HARRY AND UU Summer Theatre Camp



Calling all young wizards, witches, and magical beasts...

Sorting Hat Ceremony

August 7th-10th

*Before &
After Care*

Quidditch

*Join
Dumbledore's
Army*

*Make your
own Wand*



*Fight Real Horcruxes
(Engage in Social Action Projects)*

**THEATRE
& ART**

How will **YOU** face Voldemort?

Registration opens April 20th
\$240 per witch/wizard.
Early Bird Discount: \$225 -
Early Bird Deadline: May 31st
Sibling Discount
August 7-10, 9am-4pm
949 W. 49th, Unitarian Church of
Vancouver

REGISTER: email
dre@vancouverunitarians.ca
and ask about Harry Potter Camp!

Before Care: 8:30-9am, \$5/day.
After Care: 4-5:30pm, \$15/day
(snack included).
Combined: Before and After Care,
\$17/day (afternoon snack included).
Discounts available for siblings and
for Full-Week Care.

Cancellation Policy: e-mail
dre@vancouverunitarians.ca to
receive 85% back before July 31st