



Young Beaconites enjoy a climbing workshop at Camp Sasamat on June 10th.

Summer Services

We offer informal services over the summer, at various venues. Regular Sunday worship services and Religious Exploration classes will resume on September 9, 2018 at Sapperton Pensioners' Hall in New Westminster.

JUL 15 11 AM
Poetry, Prose & Music
Marilyn Medén

Once again there will be a Poetry, Prose & Music service, with a finger food-pot luck, at the Astoria Retirement Home, 2245 Kelly Ave. Port Coquitlam. Weather permitting, we will be on the patio.

Four themes for the next Beacon year look like good prompts: Vision, Creativity, Freedom, and Beauty. What a good way to start us thinking! As usual, you are invited, really

encouraged, to read what you choose (not necessarily on a theme) from your own writing or that of others. Please, please let Marilyn Medén know as soon as possible that you would like to read, or offer music, so she can plan "the arc" of the service, [and she knows what to add to it herself!]. Please bring your own plate as well as some simple food to share at the end of the service. Coffee and tea are available for a \$1 donation. m.j.meden@telus.net or 604 469 6797.

AUG 19 10:30 AM
Sunday in the Park
Rev. Debra Thorne

The theme of this year's New West Pride Festival is "Together We Can". Our service celebrates the power inherent in interdependence. When we reach out and connect to others we are serving the flow of universal energy.

We are source and conduit, unique part and universal whole. Come join us under the trees in Tipperary Park, top of 4th Street in New Westminster. Bring a chair or blanket for comfort.

AUG 26 10:30 AM
Sunshine, Singing and Socializing

Join Beaconites and friends for a morning of singing at the Lunderville's: 8892 Armstrong Ave. Burnaby. Sing Unitarian hymns from *Singing the Living Tradition*, *Singing the Journey*, *Let Your Heart Sing* and more. Bring musical instruments if you wish to accompany. This service is hosted by Beacon but is open to all. Potluck to follow. If you have a hymn you wish to see included, please contact Peggy Lunderville ahead of time by telephone or message at 604-812-5939, or email prlunder@gmail.com.

Minister's Message

Report from the Canadian Unitarian Council Conference and Business Meeting

The Canadian Unitarian Council of congregations gathers once every two years to renew our connections with each other. As you can imagine, managing 46 congregations across this vast country is no small feat, and it's a great joy to reacquaint ourselves with old friends, renew relationships and build new ones. This past May, Unitarians from across Canada gathered in Hamilton, Ontario. We gathered to celebrate and worship and learn together under the theme of Love and Justice. There were seven all-day workshops on the Saturday and I chose the workshop called "7+1=8: Considering the 8th Principle in the Canadian Context" led by Rev Julie Stoneberg and Beverly Horton.

The focus of this workshop was on understanding why many Unitarians do not think that the Seven Principles are enough to move us to take active steps toward racial equality. There is a proposal to consider an eighth principle which calls Unitarian Universalists to "accountably dismantle racism and the other oppressions in ourselves and in our institutions." The

workshop gave us a chance to think about and talk about structural racism in Canada through the lived experience of Indigenous People and People of Colour. I went into this workshop thinking that we didn't need another principle to commit to dismantling racism. What I heard was an argument that said the UU principles do not have 'accountability' woven in them, which means we can uphold the principles in our minds and hearts, but not necessarily do anything to dismantle racism in ourselves and in the society. It was suggested that if we were accountable in our lives, through upholding our principles, then there would be more impetus to actively pursue the dismantling of structural racism. I came away with more understanding of the frustration and suffering in the Canadian society of those impacted most by structural racism. I believe that we are doing this work in the UU congregations and at the national level, particularly through the work of the Truth, Healing and Reconciliation commitment. I am convinced that we need to be

accountable to our principles, but I am not yet convinced adding an eighth principle will make that happen. The conversation on Canadian racism though is important, if not essential, to our accountability.



Rev. Debra Thorne

Living with Less Plastic: An Update

It's been two months since we made the commitment to live with less plastic in our lives. How are you doing? I asked for community members to share stories with us, for encouragement and inspiration, so here are two of them:

"I am happy to say that I have only accumulated about three or four single use bags since the service on it. I make sure that I take a tote bag when I go shopping. Usually I take my wheeled buggy with me, and I don't use any bags (although items may already be packed in a plastic or Styrofoam container.) I would like to figure out how

Continued on page 4

CUC Serving with Spirit Workshop

Sustaining Practices for Volunteers • Saturday, July 18 or Saturday, August 11



Explore strategies to increase your volunteer pool and sustain people in meaningful engagement with your congregation. The one-day workshop will be held in two locations, with options to attend either in-person or on-line. This workshop was created by Angela Klassen (Lifespan Director, Toronto First), CUC staff Rev. Linda Thomson and Joan Carolyn, and other volunteer specialists.

Sat, July 28, 2018, 9:30 am – 3:30 pm ET at the Unitarian Congregation in Mississauga

Sat, Aug 11, 2018, 9:30 am – 3:30 pm CT at the Saskatoon Unitarians

Registration: \$55.00 in-person, \$25.00 on-line

Register at <https://cuc.ca/events/serving-with-spirit-sustaining-practices-for-volunteers/1533979800/1534001400/>

Deadlines: Mississauga Workshop – July 18 • Saskatoon Workshop – August 1

Note: On-line option will only occur if five or more are registered to enable sufficient numbers for Zoom group discussions. Congregations able to send 2 or more participants are likely to find this more useful.

Board Bitz



David Kristjanson



Donna Hamilton

Well, that was fun—the Sasamat weekend I mean. A huge thank you to Laura Redmond who is stepping down this year after years of calmly organising this very successful event. Richard Kwan, a long time Sasamat camper and a member the North Shore Unitarian Church, will be taking over from Laura starting next year. Sasamat camp will continue to be a Beacon event.

In our June Board Bitz, we mentioned looking for paid help for the nursery. This is part of an ongoing effort to make Beacon more family friendly. The board voted in May to fund this from our growth fund, for a

trial period of 3 years, with a review each year. The Board has also decided to hire a second RE teacher, to work with Ashley, to give the younger children more consistency—at present, the teacher of the younger group changes each month. This will also be funded from our Growth Fund, for a trial period of 3 years, with a review each year. See page 10 for more details. As soon as the job descriptions have been finalized, they will be posted on the Beacon website.

In June, the board met with the co-chairs of the RE Committee to further discuss ways of making Beacon a more family friendly place. One of the things we talked about was how to make coffee hour work better for everybody. Things like having certain areas where kids can play, and certain areas where adults can talk and visit. We have to remember that kids will be kids and won't necessarily be quiet all the time, but we also have to remember that kids running around may make it more difficult for some

Save the date!

On Saturday, September 1, we will hold our annual Start-up Gathering. You will get more information closer to the date, but now would be a good time to book that day off on your calendar. Everyone is invited.



of our elders to get around. We are all part of the Beacon family and these 'Whole Church' discussions will be ongoing through the next year.

June was probably the busiest month of the church year! The personnel committee (your board executive) had to review and renew staff contracts for next year and committees were busy doing major planning for the new year.

Beacon will be setting up a booth at the New West Pride Festival again this year. It is on Saturday August 18th from 3–8 pm on Columbia Street in New Westminster. We would love it if you joined us. We will need help 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 start-up gathering will be on Saturday, September 1st. Everyone is welcome, so mark the date on your calendar. We will send out more information via email in August.

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.

Have a Happy Summer!

— David Kristjanson and Donna Hamilton, Co-Presidents

Food Bank Update

On behalf of the Share Food Bank, I am very grateful to those of you who have donated so generously to the food bank this year. With May and June's wonderful response we have now reached over \$1,000 for 2018. Thank you, thank you, thank you!

—John Hagen



Beaconites and New Westminster MLA Judy Darcy at the 2017 New West Pride Festival.

New Westminster Pride Street Festival

Saturday, August 18, 3–8 pm

Come visit the Beacon table on Columbia Street in New West. Sit with us for a while and talk to people who stop with questions. Contact David Kristjanson for details: davidhardy@telus.net.

Living with Less Plastic (Continued)

I can purchase and carry home fish or meat. I guess I can ask the butcher to wrap it in paper.

The other thing I have been doing for a long time now is to pack my sandwich and veggies for Lunch Bunch in freezer bags. Yes, they are plastic, but they're very strong and so I take them home, wash them and use them again for the next Lunch Bunch. I haven't had a freezer bag split or fall apart yet. So eventually I guess I will have to replace them, but I've used them for months now."

—Anne McLeod

"My story about reducing plastic is a short one. I bought four white mesh bags (two sizes) from RE the day of the service on reducing plastic. I take them to the store with me, along with my cloth shopping bags, and use them instead of the store's plastic bags for my produce purchases. It's easy! And whereas I expected some push back from store clerks,

there has been none." Cheers,
—Audrey Taylor

Thank you Anne and Audrey for sharing your stories of success.

I ran into Mayor Jonathan Cote of New Westminster at the Over Nineties Birthday Bash at Sapperton Hall last week, and as we were standing in line choosing our egg salad sandwiches I told him about the Beacon initiative to live with less plastic and he was very interested in what we were doing, and asked that I write him about the project. Mayor Cote is also on the Metro Vancouver task force investigating how the municipalities can reduce their use of single use plastic. I will be writing him soon!

Keep up the good work over the summer! I look forward to more success stories in September.

Warmly,
Rev. Debra Thorne

Facebook Post: June 24, 2018

More than twenty-five years after first being enamoured with the idea of Community Supported Agriculture (CSA), I just received my first CSA farm box. This action was inspired by Beacon's two year campaign to reduce plastic use which prompted me to ask the questions: "What do I want my lifestyle to be, two years from now?" and "What's the first step to take?" This summer, I'll be learning how to cook whatever is harvested on the farm each week. This week: kale, escarole, fennel, garlic scapes, scallions, red leaf lettuce, rhubarb, carrots, new potatoes, and lavender from an organic farm in Abbotsford—dropped off at a pick-up location in New Westminster with the scent of the farm still clinging to the veggies. Next week, fruit delivery begins from an organic orchard in the Similkameen Valley. Thanks for the inspiration Debra Thorne. Very happy. —Janet Pivnick



All the Plastics Talk is Encouraging

A&W is introducing paper straws for their drinks, IKEA is moving away from single use plastics

Teresa Morton in their stores and restaurants, even the G7 got in on the act! The Oceans Plastics Charter, signed by 5 of the G7, sets voluntary targets on recycling and recovery. "This is an important step towards achieving a life cycle economy in which all plastics would be recycled and re-purposed," Trudeau said.

As positive as this is, it is also highlighting the challenges of tackling plastic pollution. Some of the targets are 12 or 22 years away! We really need to be rethinking how we use plastics, so that we can reduce the amount produced, as well as increase the amounts recycled or repurposed.

The following quote by Farrah Khan, plastics activist, helps to capture the reaction of environmental groups. "Regardless of the outcome of the G7 Oceans Plastics Charter, Canada does not need to wait on its allies to create an urgently needed national plan and show leadership on this issue domestically. Canada must urgently move beyond this voluntary agreement and

legislate binding reduction targets and bans on single-use plastics."

Federal Decision on TransMountain is Discouraging

Ah well, it might have been worse... but it is hard to imagine how! Locking in at least \$4.5 BILLION into a pipeline with a dubious financial rationale, and a disastrous environmental outlook, is an extremely worrying commitment for the Canadian taxpayer. Imagine what could be done with that amount of money in the retraining of oil-sands workers in the green energy economy, or in the bolstering of Alberta's renewable energy infrastructure.

—Teresa Morton

Religious Explorations

For me, summer time always brings with it a sigh of relief. It invites me into a period of pause. As I breathe in, I reflect on the work of the previous seasons and as I breathe out, I do so with gratitude for all the hands and hearts that made this work possible: for the RE committee, full of leaders dedicated to the task of raising children and youth who are well equipped to navigate this sometimes broken world; the board and church leadership who have the vision to lift up the importance of a strong, thriving and integrated RE program; and to the families who show up week after week when there are certainly

a million other things they could be doing with their weekends. All these components are like parts of a puzzle that we work on together throughout the year. When summer comes it is like the final piece, putting it in place and stepping back to admire the image lain before us.

In the pause we are invited to reconnect with that spark of imagination that led us on this journey in the first place and, in turn, that spark invites us to imagine again, to lead us always forward, onto next year's themes, next year's lessons. For now though, we rest. There will be plenty of opportunities to be involved in RE

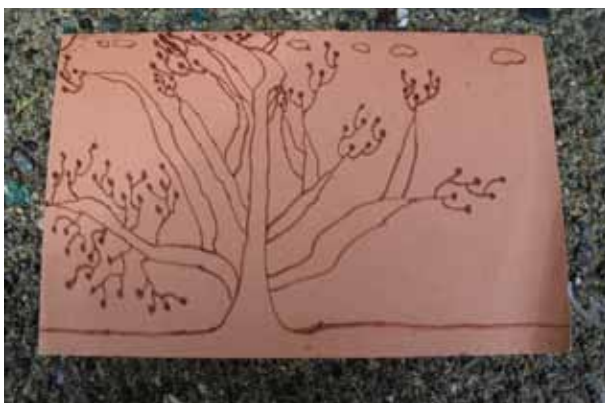
projects in the fall, winter and spring of this coming church year (and I do encourage folks to embrace these!) but for now I invite you to pause and breathe with me. To breathe in and rest. To breathe out and let your inspiration lead you to adventure. Breathe in. Breathe out.



Ashley Cole

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

For the past few months, the Community of Children has been exploring the UU *Circle of Trees* curriculum. Beacon children made thank you cards for their favourite trees, and learned tree shapes in a game called "Team up for Trees". See below for a team rendition of the Bristlecone Pine.



Lets Connect: Circle Dinners

Circle Dinners continue to be a popular way to connect with Beacon friends. May 26th saw five gatherings with two lunches and three dinners. Over 30 people met at Beacon members' homes. A few comments/stories follow:

- After a taco lunch at the Becken/

Sloboda home we played *Personal Portraits*, a cooperative game. It was a great way to get to know each other a little more deeply.

- Donna Hamilton put Tom Lunderville to work barbecuing at her dinner with five guests.
- John Hagen and Marilyn Meden

both invited a friend to introduce them to our Beacon family.

- Another host had three Beacon families with children.
- Deb Henry made a delicious borscht for lunch with three other Beaconites, followed by a walk on the quay.

All in all everyone enjoyed their time together. The next Circle Dinners will be held in the fall.

Other summer events where you can connect with Beacon friends will be the summer services in July and August to be held in Members' homes. See page one for details.

Why don't you plan to call a Beacon friend (or reach out to a newcomer) and go for a walk, a picnic, attend a movie together, or attend a summer service? Let us know so we can share your experience in the September newsletter.

Have a great summer Connecting!!

The Connecting and Membership Committee

Joan Morris, Phil Campbell, Joyce Gudaitis, Susan Tarras and Rev. Debra Thorne and Donna Hamilton (Circle Dinner Organizer Extraordinaire)

Hosting a games night is another fun way to maintain connections within our Beacon family. Below are two pictures from the games night organized by Joan and Donna this past March.



Photo taken by Cathy Tingskov



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 the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 1 pm; and Group 2 meets the 3rd Thursday of each month at 7 pm. Meetings will resume in the fall. 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. 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 7:30 pm, at Miller Park School and will resume in September. 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.

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 be in the fall, but feel free to socialize with other Beaconites over the summer.

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.

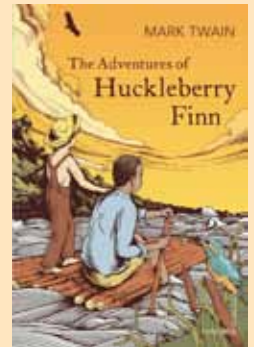
Help out on Sunday mornings as a Coffee Host (contact Joan Morris, joanmorris@telus.net), **or sign-up as a Sunday Morning Greeter** (contact Susan Taras, starras@telus.net).

Beacon Writers' Group: Contact Satya at sbrown@realifeppress.com or 604-584-6895.

Beacon Book Club Summer Reading

July: *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* by Mark Twain

In recent years, neither the persistent effort to “clean up” the racial epithets in Mark Twain’s classic boy-hood adventure tale, *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, nor its consistent use in the classroom have diminished, highlighting the novel’s wide-ranging influence and its continued importance in American society. An incomparable adventure story, it is a vignette of a turbulent, yet hopeful epoch in American history, defining the experience of a nation in voices often satirical, but always authentic. (Publisher)



August: *The Rosie Project* by Graeme Simpson

Professor of genetics Don Tillman’s life is turned upside down when he embarks upon the *Wife Project* in order to find a suitable mate for his quirky habits and demanding personality. When a psychology PhD student named Rosie walks into his office, she’s all wrong—her hair is dyed, her clothes are sloppy, she smokes, and she is habitually late. But then again, something is right about her . . . Don just can’t recognize it at first. As the *Wife Project* takes a back burner to Rosie’s own project of searching for her biological father, Don finds himself breaking all kinds of rules and breaking out of his routine in ways that are both uncomfortable and exciting. When a research trip takes them from Australia to New York City, and Don’s career is threatened by his allegiance to Rosie, Don must face the toughest puzzle of all—himself. In the end, Don must confront his long-held notions of what it means to love and connect with people, and what it truly means to open up and trust someone. (Publisher)



The CUC Conference: A Newcomer's Experience

Picture this: 350 Unitarians of all ages from across the country standing together in song, in spirit, in purpose and in worship; with different regional priorities and experiences but united by values and shared practices. I chose to attend the bi-annual conference because I wanted to connect with other Unitarians from across the country, deepen my understanding of Unitarianism, and hear the dialogue that happens when conversation switches from congregational concerns and interests to priorities that unite all congregations. As a first-timer, my goal was to be a sponge and stay open to new learning and new connections.

Full participant events included the opening ceremony in which all 46 congregations were acknowledged, along with the confluence lecture given by Rev. Karen Fraser-Gitlitz of Saskatoon; an *America's Got Talent*-style talent show led by the host Hamilton congregation; Sunday morning worship; and an awards banquet in which Rev. Debra's work with the Nelson congregation was acknowledged. In addition, I chose to attend the annual

business meeting as an observer; a session on soulful singing; workshops on dialogue methods within congregations and deepening worship services; a lay chaplains' lunch; a dialogue with the incoming CUC Board; a session for Truth, Healing and Reconciliation facilitators; a multi-generational workshop focusing on commonalities and differences in UU values; and an information session for people considering ministry—all within 48 hours!!

To say that the weekend was full would be an understatement—full of experiences and ideas that I'm still processing; deepening connections with old friends; and nourishing the seeds of new relationships that will hopefully develop over the years.

Highlights for me:

- i) Gathering bleary-eyed and still disoriented on the first morning with fifteen other participants to sing chants led by Rev. Lynn Harrison, music which enabled me to settle into myself for the experience that was ahead;
- ii) Hearing about, participating in and being inspired by all of the many ways that Neighbourhood UU Congregation in Toronto deepen the experi-

ence of Sunday worship—through song, through ritual, through Religious Exploration and through a sustained focus on making every component of the service matter;

iii) The sense of being part of something bigger in the whole group events, surrounded by the energy and music that is so much a part of Beacon and recognizing that we are but a spark of a larger flame that glows all across the country;

iv) Standing with Rev. Debra to represent the Beacon congregation as the Nelson congregation was welcomed into the CUC community.

The next CUC conference will be in 2020 in Halifax. In the meantime, you can connect with members of other congregations through the *Serving with Spirit* workshop which will be offered in Saskatoon on August 11th, or on-line either July 28th or August 11th. See page two for details.

—Janet Pivnick



Janet Pivnick

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 Eliot registrar@gmail.com or visit our website at www.eliotinstitute.org.

Camp Sasamat 2018

Highlights of our annual family camp included campfires (complete with s'mores and great music), swimming, kayaking, canoeing, a joyful and affirming choir workshop with Patti Powell (*Behold you beautiful one...*), climbing workshops and more.

Photos by Cathy Tingskov and Laura Redmond



Employment Opportunities

Paid RE Teacher Position for Beacon

Beacon will be posting for a position as a Religious Exploration Teacher for Grade 1 through 5. This is a paid position for September to June. If you are interested in this position or know someone who is please contact Gail Thomson or Carol Woodworth or info@beaconunitarian.org

Paid Nursery Caregiver Position at Beacon

Beacon will be posting a position for an adult caregiver to provide childcare in the nursery every Sunday September to June. This position is in addition to the youth position in the nursery. If you are interested in the adult position or know anyone who might be, please contact Gail Thomson or Carol Woodworth or email info@beaconunitarian.org

The Canadian Unitarian Council is Hiring

Check out the following part-time and contract positions on the CUC's new website here. Are you an innovative, energetic new addition to the CUC staff team? Know someone who is? Send applications to jobs@cuc.ca by **July 5th, 2018 midnight** in your time zone.

- Administrative Assistant
- Communications Manager
- Social Justice Lead
- Website Manager
- Youth & Young Adult Program & Events Coordinator

Growing interest and support for OWL



Representatives from the four Metro Vancouver Unitarian congregations gather to share planning for OWL (Our Whole Lives Program).

Volunteer Opportunity

Administrative Support for the Minister

Beacon volunteer position starting in mid-August. Approximately 2 hours a week, details to be worked out with Rev Debra. Contact Carol Woodworth or info@BeaconUnitarian.org



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: John Hagen, Janet Pivnick, 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 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.