

Creativity

The theme for November is Creativity—that spark of energy that is the essence of all that is. How are we a people of creativity? How is your day a creation? How creative can you be in your response to the world you live in? What is the source of your creativity?

**NOV
4**

The Stories of Our Lives

Service Co-ordinator: Phil Campbell, The Beacon Choir

People probably started telling stories as soon as humans started speaking. Stories provided a way of passing on skills learned and the history of the tribe. Everyone has a story to tell. The stories of our lives are so much more than a biography. In this service we will look at how and why stories are important. There is a library of stories within each one of us. Some brave members of the congregation will share stories about themselves that will help to tell us how they became who they are today.

- Choir sings.

Children & Youth: The children will look at traditions and rituals for welcoming new life into families and faith communities. The youth will explore Unitarian Universalism's theology of love focusing on "agape" (brotherly) love.

**NOV
11**

Spark of Creativity

Rev. Debra Thorne

The universe began with a spark or a bang or a cloud of chaos! The universe has never stopped being



creative, and our lives are nothing but the continuous unfolding of that original creative moment. How do human beings keep up with the creative universe?

Children & Youth: Today the children will identify ways we care for others in our families, at school, in the congregation, and in the wider world. Children will learn about the common Unitarian Universalist ritual of sharing our joys and concerns. The youth will explore sources, meanings, uses, and expressions of hope.

**NOV
18**

The Ecstasy of Art

Rev. Debra Thorne, Beacon Choir

There is a mapable process of creativity that includes moments of agony and moments of ecstasy. It's a wild ride to an unknown destination. How does art touch our lives? How are our lives works of art?

- Choir sings.

Children & Youth: This morning we welcome Susan White to lead us in a percussion Spirit Jam.

**NOV
25**

Rebel with a Cause

What makes some people able to think outside the box?

Marilyn Medén and Heather Brown will explore what makes a creative thinker, and then give each of you a chance to have fun and stretch your thinking. They'll ask: What allowed famous inventors and changemakers like Edison and Darwin to create new ways of seeing and understanding the world? How are people such as John Stuart Mills and Elon Musk able to branch out from accepted norms or ways of thinking, and how can we apply that thinking in our our lives, in small ways, and even in larger ones, such as combating climate change?

Children & Youth: This morning the children and youth join forces to learn about and prepare for the upcoming mid-December solstice themed pageant.

*Connecting,
Inspiring, Transforming!*

Minister's Message

As I write to you, it's a beautiful autumn day. The leaves on the tree out my office window are transforming from green to yellow and red. The branches are bouncing with enthusiastic squirrels and the birds in the other tree are busy collecting red berries. I love this season best, this time of abundance and vibrant colour. With cooler nights I am enticed indoors to find quieter time, to read and to reflect on what is important.

What is important is how to respond to these times we live in. These are indeed strange and uncertain times we live in, but they are our time. What might be our spiritually creative response? Well, this month we are very fortunate to have an opportunity to take a workshop with the lovely and dynamic Tandi Rogers. In preparation for the *Dreaming a New Way* one-day workshop (see page 3) Tandi offers the following spiritual practices:

- The work of religious people in uncertain times is first to gather and be still. Be still in our spiritual practices and reflection. Remember who we are and what we value. The truth is, we as Unitarian Universalists were made for these times. We are religious meaning-makers at our core and we hold dear the very values that are at risk. We've been practicing for these times. We have spiritual practices for these times.

- I believe showing up, specifically showing up for those most vulnerable, for those often different than us, is one of, if not *the*, UU spiritual practice of our current time. It develops our personal growth and pushes us toward our highest potential. I've identified six spiritual sub-practices within the practice of showing up:

1. Practice being awkward. When we first start risking and trying and learning and stretching, we're awkward. Expect it. Own it as a badge of honor.
2. Practice surrender, particularly when we notice being 'The Clever Ones' and having all the right answers.
3. Practice following, especially when we have been so attached to being the leaders as part of our identity.
4. Practice humility, the letting go of the need to be preciously unique, as we experience the very values we hold dear embodied fiercely and beautifully by another movement.
5. Practice wholeness, as we are not made whole by ourselves alone, but in community and in the stretching. All lives will only matter when black lives and other most vulnerable lives matter and survive and thrive. Only when everyone is a thriving vibrant part of the web are any of us whole.
6. Practice hope, because we are a people who can see the longer view.

These times will require we partner with people we never imagined partnering with—people we're not sure we trust yet, people with whom we don't always agree, people whose norms and leadership styles are different than our own, people our culture tries to pit us up against. And that is part of the religious work. It cannot be realized until our circle widens and widens and envelops the entirety of creation. And in that process of widening our circle, we will then become a people we may have never been able to fully imagine.

I hope to see many of you at this workshop. —Rev. Debra



Rev. Debra Thorne

Pledge Drive

Flame carriers! Thank you. For anyone just a little behind on the "to do" list, of course it's not too late! If you didn't get a chance to make your pledge during the October pledge drive, please don't hesitate to contact Carol Woodworth, our inimitable treasurer, [604-465-4992] so she can add it to the budget.

—Thanks, Marilyn Medén



**Beacon
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the 15th of the month, for inclusion
in the following month's newsletter.



Dreaming a New Way

A workshop with Tandi Rogers

Saturday, November 17th, 9:30 to 3:30

We are dreaming a new way of being in the world, as a congregation, as a people. We want to be a clearly focused congregation who are authentically and boldly in relevant relationship with the wider community. How does Beacon do that? What do we not see, what risks do we want to take? This highly interactive, reflective and creative workshop will help us take the next step. And we'll do some cross-pollinating with the South Fraser Unitarians.

So please, join us on Saturday, November 17th from 9:30 am to 3:30

pm. We'll have coffee, tea, muffins and fruit waiting for you! Please contact Sue Sparlin (sue.sparlin@gmail.com) to make sure that you're registered for this fabulous day! When you sign up, please let us know what you'd like to bring for the potluck lunch. To make sure that you're comfortable, you'll want to bring a cushion to sit on. There is no fee for the workshop.

We meet at Erin Knudsen's and David Dalley's (members of South Fraser) common room in Surrey. You will be given the address when you register. Parking in the complex

itself is very limited. There seems to be a number of malls and recreation centres nearby where you could park. Please car pool as much as possible. As some people may have difficulty walking, drivers are encouraged to drop off people with such issues at the complex and then drive away to park. Transit is very good.

Rev. Tandi Rogers is a member of the Pacific Western Region's Congregational Life staff team of the Unitarian Universalist Association. Tandi has been working for the UUA since 2002. She is also adjunct faculty with Meadville Lombard Theological School teaching *Religious Education for a Changing World*. Tandi resides in Tacoma, WA with her wife Rev. Sue Phillips and Kepler (age 10).

Board Bitz

October has flown by in a whirl of activities: it has been Pledge-Drive month; Building Your Own Theology (BYOT) classes have started; and Beacon sponsored a forum on the upcoming referendum on Electoral Reform. Many thanks to Michael Scales for all his hard work on this project. We knew that we really didn't have enough time to properly get the word out, but decided that it was important, so we did it anyway, and we are glad we did. It ended up being a well attended and informative evening. We even attracted a few non-Beacon folks. At our recent meeting, the board supported the idea of doing more of these events.

The Pledge Drive team has once again done a masterful job of preparation, and we await the final results. If you haven't made your pledge yet, please get it to us as soon as possible so that our treasurer, Carol Woodworth, will be able to

create our budget for next year.

This is Carol's 5th year as treasurer and she has been exemplary, but she has given us notice that this will be her last year. The board is now looking for someone to take over this position. The new person will be able to join the board now and be mentored by Carol in order to be prepared to take over next year. So, if you, or anyone you know, likes numbers, even just a bit; if you have any bookkeeping or accounting knowledge, or want to learn; and if you care about Beacon's future and financial health; you could possibly be our next treasurer. Please contact Carol at cwoodworth@telus.net for more information.

Now on to November!

Coming up in Surrey, on November 17th from 9:30 am to 3:30 pm, Tandi Rogers will be offering an exciting workshop for the South Fraser and Beacon congregations. Tandi is the UUA Director of Congregational



David Kristjanson



Donna Hamilton

Life. She is a passionate and engaging speaker, who will help us explore the reason and purpose of church through a different lens. This workshop will be of interest to all who are committed to Beacon's future, and for everyone who is looking for new ideas and a little enthusiasm for 'these times'. The location information will be provided when you sign up.

There will also be Circle Dinners on Saturday, November 24th (see page 4), and a Night Tree Party/Advent Wreath making party on Saturday, December 1st (see page 6).

— David Kristjanson and
Donna Hamilton, Co-Presidents

Who is helping you in 'Living with Less Plastic'?



Teresa Morton

To celebrate the changes that are happening in our communities, we are making a list of places & businesses who are using less plastic. So, if you know of a restaurant that allows you to bring your own

containers for take-out, let me know! I'll keep track of stores that are selling cucumbers without the plastic wrap, or are stocking tooth powder in boxes or tins, as well as the standard toothpaste in plastic tubes...

Beeswax cloths for replacing plastic cling wrap for food

At our great Committee Fair, Joyce G. asked me where to find beeswax cloths, so here is some info on several brands.

Brands differ by ingredients (whether they include tree resin, for example) and the type of cloth (some use organic cotton while some utilize a cotton linen mix). Beetomee says the cloths will last a year if well cared for.

- Amazon: Lists 4 different brands, including Abeego: Beeswax Food Wrap, Honeywrap, Abeego and Beetomee.
- Abeego brand is available at Gardenworks Marine Drive, Burnaby
- Canteen & Supply, 810 Quayside Drive, New Westminster
- Eden West Fine Foods, 96 Kyle St, Port Moody
- Walmart

Drop me a line to let me know about either your experience with beeswax cloths or finding a restaurant that lets you use your own containers for take-out...! teresa.a.morton@gmail.com

—Teresa Morton

Let's Connect: Behind the Scenes

If you have ever really looked at *Our Shared Ministry* section of the weekly Beacon order of service you will see over 20 volunteers and staff named as the folks who make our Sunday services happen. And that changes weekly! Sue Sparlin does the amazing job of keeping us all on our toes and aware of who is "on" for the day.

This month, Sue Sparlin shares her story of coordinating the job of Shared Ministry: "I took on this job to help all those who volunteer to help make our Sunday worship services happen harmoniously. When everyone volunteering on Sunday knows what they are doing, are well trained to do it, feel appreciated for what they do, and know who to turn to with questions, then we create a space of certainty and welcome for all of us. If there is confusion or resentment about our basic tasks, folks can tell, people won't want to volunteer, and in general it just doesn't work. So I gather all the names of the volunteers, put them together, add any little notes about stuff that's different this week—like being upstairs and respecting the other group that's renting the downstairs Sunday morning, for instance. And I "hold the space" for volunteering and co-creating our ministry of inspiring, connecting, and transforming.

It takes a lot of people to make any church work smoothly. If you're a small community—as we are—it takes darn near everybody! If you haven't found a niche for your special gifts to be used at Beacon, contact me, or Rev. Debra, or Joan Morris of the Connecting and Membership Committee."

—Sue Sparlin, Shared Ministry Coordinator



Joan Morris



Sue Sparlin

Upcoming Connecting Opportunities

Getting to Know U: If you are new to Beacon, this is an opportunity to get to know more about Unitarianism, and Beacon's history. On Friday, November 16th, Rev. Debra and a few Beacon members will gather in a member's home to welcome you, share their stories and answer your questions. Contact Rev Debra at minister@beaconunitarian.org or joanmorris@telus.net.

Circle Dinners on November 24th: If you are interested in attending or

hosting one of our popular dinners held in Beaconite's homes, contact Donna Hamilton at donna-h@telus.net or Joan Morris at joanmorris@telus.net.

—Joan Morris, for the Connecting and Membership Committee



September Circle Dinner

Religious Explorations

This November, RE programming will be a blend of a few lovely things. We will be continuing with our regular programming, where we are learning about what it means to be Unitarian Universalist; we will have a percussion Spirit Jam Sunday with Susan White; and finally we will begin preparations for our upcoming winter pageant that will take place mid-December.

This year's play will use the reader's theater format (like last year). The theme is the solstice, and the story is told from the perspective of a tree.

There are still some opportunities to assist with set design and costumes which would help Ashley tremendously! Do you have any fabrics or old theater costumes you are willing to part with? These might be very useful to us! Send Ashley an email at dre@beaconunitarian.org if you think you might be able to help!

As many of you know, Eden Fine Day Patten is the new Religious



Eden Fine Day Patten



Ashley Cole

Education support teacher. Here is some background information on Eden. She lives in New Westminster with her husband PJ, and her two boys, Travis and Julian. She is singer/songwriter and has been performing professionally for the last 25 years. She has recently embarked on a brand new career as a financial planner. Eden is new to Beacon, having joined in 2017. She's thrilled to be a part of the Beacon community!

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

How do you make a community hall into a sacred space?

Every Sunday morning, we have the opportunity to take a blank slate—the upper floor of Sapperton Old Age Pensioners Hall—and make it into a space that welcomes the community and invites worship. Would you like to put your creative talents to use and be part of a team that infuses our space with warmth and touches of beauty?

Contact David Kristjanson:
davidhardy@telus.net.



**Beacon
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Traveling Chalice: Bring Home the Light

Families and households alike are invited to sign up for the opportunity to take home the *Traveling Chalice*, housed within a gratitude box. The chalice comes with plenty of readings and suggestions for how to use it through out the week. For more information contact Ashley Cole.

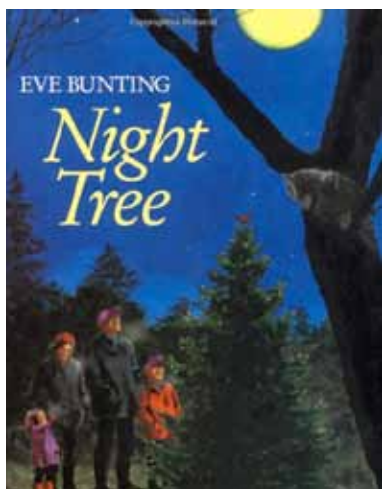


Notice Board

Could your self-care routine benefit from some variety?

Interested in experiencing an **energy healing treatment**? Laura Redmond is taking the Integrative Energy Healing program at Langara College and requires volunteers to practise the treatment techniques she is learning. "My experience with these techniques is that they are capable of providing gentle support for your general health and well-being." Contact Laura at lauraredmond2@telus.net for more information.

Upcoming Events



Night Tree Party & Advent Wreath Social

Date: Saturday, December 1, 2018

Time: 5:30–8:00 pm

Place: Home of Peggy Lunderville (Close to Gaglardi exit on Hwy. 1)

Phone: 604-522-3001

Bring: A contribution of food for the potluck dinner. Warm clothing and a flashlight for decorating an outdoor tree.

Who: *All welcome, all ages.*

RSVP: Peggy Lunderville, 604-522-3001 or prlunder@gmail.com.

If you forget to RSVP, please come anyhow!



Christmas gifts for our feathered and furry friends

“Night Tree” is a story by Eve Bunting that tells of a family’s annual Christmas tradition of making edible ornaments for neighbourhood wildlife, and using them to decorate a tree in the forest. At our party, you can string cranberries and popcorn on thread, or add peanut butter and seeds to pinecones. After, we’ll go outside and hang our ornaments on a tree and sing carols in the moonlight.

Advent Wreath

Join us in making an advent wreath out of cedar boughs and candles. The advent wreath becomes an important part of the Sunday morning services in December. Please plan on joining us for this special celebration!



The Beacon Religious Exploration (RE) program is taking orders for the 2019 issue of the Multifaith Calendar.

The Multifaith Calendar offers insight into the world’s major faiths—a window that gives not only accurate information on each of the major holidays and festivals, but detailed historical information of these faiths and their relationship in time.

Beautiful and varied artwork, on the theme of “Connections”, illumines each month.

Calendars sell for **\$15.95**, with \$6/calendar going towards the Beacon Youth Group. To order, please speak to, or email Ashley Cole (dre@beaconunitarian) by December 9th. Pick up your calendar on either Sunday, Dec. 16 or 23.

Makes a beautiful Christmas gift.

**Order by
Dec. 9th**

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. 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, October 28th, 7 pm:** Marilyn Medén will introduce discussion of *Homo Deus: Are we the gods of our planet?* Marilyn will explore directions we are moving in and how technology, our invention, may be taking over the role of god. It is not necessary, but if you wish, prepare by reading *Homo Deus* by Yuval Noah Harari.

Sunday, Nov. 25, 7 pm: Luc Beaudoin will present *Pleasure vs. Manifold Motivation*. We will contrast the dominant theory of motivation, according to which human behavior is ultimately driven by expectations of pleasure and pain (hedonism, utilitarianism) with architecture-based motivation (ABM). According to ABM, the human mind produces manifold *top-level* motivators. A summary and readings will be published on CogZest (<http://CogZest.com>) including some by Luc Beaudoin, E. Tory Higgins and Gilbert Ryle.

Please contact Marilyn Medén, 604-469-6797 or m.j.meden@telus.net for more details.

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.

Join the Beacon Choir for musical fun and skill development. Choir rehearsals are on Tuesday evenings, at 7:30 pm, at Miller Park School. Contact choirdirector@beaconunitarian.org. All voices welcome!

Book Club meetings are held on the 4th Thursday of each month at 7 pm. The book for November is *In the Skin of the Lion* by Michael Ondaatje. For meeting location details contact John Hagen, ajhagen@telus.net.

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 '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

Sunday Dec. 2nd Budget Meeting and Soup Lunch



Soup lunches take place after the Sunday service in the downstairs hall. Please join us.

are interested in attending the next meeting on Friday, Nov. 16th.

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 Tarras, starras@telus.net).

Attend a Circle Dinner and connect with other Beaconites in a relaxed setting. For more information contact Donna Hamilton (donna-h@telus.net) or Joan Morris (joanmorris@telus.net). The next dinner is Nov. 24th.

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

Looking Ahead: Happy New Year!

You may think it is a bit early to decide how you will welcome the New Year on Dec 31, 2018. Over the years, I've found that by far the best way to celebrate the New Year is to attend Winter Eliot, at Seabeck, Washington. What is Eliot you say?

Part camp, part conference ... all magic! Eliot is an inclusive, all-ages vacation for families, couples, and individuals, for Unitarians and their friends. The five-day Winter Eliot feature interesting speakers for the adults and fun programs for children and teens each morning.

I'm so excited to tell you that the speaker for Winter Eliot this year will be well-known UU musician/composer, Jason Shelton. You may know him better as the composer of some favourites such as *Standing on the Side of Love* and *Fire of Commitment*, as well as arranger of the piano parts for many songs such as *Blue Boat Home*.

For more information about winter Eliot, visit www.eliotinstitute.org and click on Winter Eliot (at the top of the list) on the right side. Or, talk to me about Eliot at any time! —Donna Hamilton (donna-h@telus.net)





Webinars offered by the CUC

Webinar: Fostering Congregational Stewardship

Saturday, November 10, 9:30–11 am
(Pacific Time) Cost: \$10

Elizabeth Ann Terry, UUA Congregational Giving Specialist, will offer some ideas on cultivating generosity to help congregations sustain and support themselves financially. Participants will learn about options for raising and securing funds for their budgets and expenses, within a culture of generosity. Elizabeth is fascinated by the power of religious institutions to have meaningful impacts on their communities. She has been a witness to congregations who apply the principles of Asset-Based Community Development and Appreciative Inquiry and move

their congregations and communities into bright and purposeful futures.
<https://cuc.ca/events/annual-financial-campaigns-webinar/1541853000/1541860200/>

Financial Webinars with Clyde Harris, CUC Bookkeeper

Of interest to congregational treasurers, administrators, bookkeepers and presidents. Register online
(<https://cuc.ca/events/financial-webinars/1540409400/1540413000/>)

Financial Records

Wednesday, November 21: 4:30–5:30 pm (Pacific Time) Cost: \$10

This session delves into the necessity of financial records, what is acceptable to

Canada Revenue Agency, and some of the uniqueness of records for charities. Record retention will also be discussed. Beyond financial records, other records must also be kept; Clyde will explore how these records fit together for a complete picture of the charity.

Communications Webinar with Peter Bowden

Saturday, December 8: 9:30 am PST (to be confirmed)

Peter Bowden is a speaker, trainer, and coach recognized for his work with UU congregations. Join his group on Facebook at UU Planet Community. More information coming soon!

Faith in Action: The Plight of Yazidi Women and Girls

Urgent action is needed on behalf of Yazidi women and girls who are recent refugees to Canada.

Yazidi are an indigenous people of Iraq and a religious minority targeted for genocide by ISIS. In 2014, ISIS captured an estimated 6,800 Yazidi women and girls to enslave, gang and serial rape, and murder. In response to the genocide, the Canadian Minister of Immigration and Refugees, Ahmed Hussen, promised to bring Yazidi survivors to Canada and provide them with comprehensive trauma care. Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau, tweeted that the Yazidi would receive “the support they need” in Canada.

Recent investigative reports, including in The New York Times and Chatelaine, tell a different story. Testimony from refugees and community and health care workers in Canadian cities describes how the Yazidi women who came to Canada

are suffering severe post-traumatic stress symptoms, including daily re-living of rape trauma, without any therapeutic program of support. It doesn't have to be like this. Culturally-sensitive trauma care programs, such as the one created by psychologist Dr. Jan Kizilhan for Yazidi women and children refugees in Germany, are proving effective.

How to help:

- Learn and share the information: More information is available here; please share as widely as possible with individuals and organizations.
- Sign and share the petition: Sign Women's Refugee Advocacy Project's petition, and share it with other multi-faith, interfaith, and human rights organizations and members. The petition insists that the Canadian government keep its promise and provide safe housing and expert-guided trauma recovery care

for Yazidi women and girl refugees in Canada.

- Become an organizational co-petitioner: The CUC is a co-petitioner. To become a co-petitioner just email your congregation/ organization's name and location to wrapforjustice@gmail.com.
- Sign the petition [here](#).

Sources

- 1-2. Catherine Porter <https://www.nytimes.com/2018/03/16/world/canada/canada-refugees-yazidi.html>
3. Naomi Buck <https://www.chatelaine.com/living/yazidi-refugees-canada-dasni-family/>
4. Terry Pedwell <http://www.macleans.ca/news/canada/a-yazidi-familys-traumatic-first-days-in-canada/>
5. Rebecca A. Clay <http://www.apa.org/monitor/2016/09/yazidi-survivors.aspx>
6. Photo by Reuters, “ISIS kill us because of our religion” <https://www.christiantoday.com/article/isis-committed-genocide-against-yazidis-says-holocaust-memorial-report/70499.htm>

From the Women Refugees Advocacy Project via the CUC October newsletter.