

GROWTH

This month we are reflecting on the theme of growth. How has your faith grown this year? What inspires the growth of your hope? When has your understanding of reality grown? What have been your recent growing pains? How do we grow our compassion in times of crisis?

OCT 7 **Spiritual Maturity**
Rev. Debra Thorne
The beliefs we held as children often change as we grow and gain life experience—or they will if we remain engaged. Spiritual growth means we are intentionally testing and refining what we know of life, meaning and reality. When did you last check if your beliefs were current?
Children & Youth: The children discover there can be multiple answers to big questions. Youth will explore Unitarian Universalism as a living tradition with deep historical and theological ‘roots’, as well as ‘wings’ of change and creativity.

OCT 14 **Fishing Tips**
Rev. Debra Thorne, Ashley Cole, Board Members and the Beacon Choir
If you always fish in the same place and in the same way and get no fish what kind of fisher are you? Maybe it’s time to try something new, like the other

side of the boat, or new tackle? This first Pledge Sunday we figure out how to fill the boat with lots of fish! A service for the whole family that includes plenty of music and creative play.
• Choir sings.
Children & Youth: This morning is a whole church service, there will not be a separate Religious Exploration program.

OCT 21 **Music Makes Us**
Guest: Patti Powell
Service Coordinator: Susan White
Anne Lamott writes “...music is about as physical as it gets: your essential rhythm is your heartbeat, your essential sound, the breath. We’re walking temples of noise, and when you add tender hearts to this mix, it somehow lets us meet in places we couldn’t get to any other way.” Patti Powell, singing instigator extraordinaire, director of four community choirs in metro Vancouver and soloist with City Soul

Choir, will join us once again in song.
Children & Youth: The children are invited to experience wonder, awe, and reverence for life, particularly in its emergence through birth or new beginnings. Youth explore Unitarian Universalism’s theology of love.

OCT 28 **Carry the Flame (and more Fishing Tips!)**
Rev. Debra Thorne and the Beacon Choir
Our chalice flame burns as a symbol of the inherent worth and dignity of every person, and as a symbol of religious freedom and social justice. Although the flame itself is weightless, it takes strength and courage to carry it. Beaconites carry the flame by supporting the ideals of compassion and respect, of joy and justice for all; with the hope that this flame will transform lives.
• Choir sings.
Children & Youth: Spirit Jam Sunday.



Minister's Message

The powers of light and dark are shifting their balance. The light is waning and the dark increasing. The earth offers up her growth to us in abundance of vegetables and fruits and grains. The harvest is upon us. Now is the time to gather all the growth of the year, and to thoughtfully lay it in store for the winter.

This is a time for thinking about and planning for the future. It is the time for this community to think about next year and what you want to accomplish. It is the time when the Pledge Committee is tasked with coming to you and asking that you consider your financial contribution or pledge to keep Beacon going. Let's be clear that the boat doesn't float by itself! It takes a huge amount of energy by a lot of people to create the first class Sunday Services you are nourished by. It takes lots of plan-

ning and commitment to create the meaningful and spirited programs for you and your family. This is a small but ambitious community and you can feel it as a buzz in the air on Sunday mornings. We are happy to be together. And for some people who can't be with us, just knowing we are all together gives them comfort and a sense of connection.

I continue to reflect that this community is a healthy, vibrant and welcoming congregation for liberal spiritual values. You walk your talk and often are singing as you walk!

Beacon has about a hundred people who identify as being part of this community. Just over two-thirds of those people contribute financially. Of those, a very small percentage carry over 50% of the load. They carry the flame of Beacon with great love and commitment for which I, and I'm sure

you, are deeply grateful. Beacon would not be able to function without the generosity of every single person who contributes financially. There is not too big or too small a contribution that you can make.

I am grateful for every person who pledges because it is the salaries for the Minister, the Director of Religious Exploration, the Choir Director and Accompanist that are the greatest budgetary portion.

Thank you for thinking about Beacon's future and making the commitment of time, money and love.

Warmly,

—Rev. Debra



Rev. Debra Thorne



We Carry the Flame

Vision, Growth, Creativity, Delight are our themes this fall, and 'We Carry the Flame' is the theme for this year's pledge drive. We carry the flame, and we are the ones responsible for the spiritual and financial growth of Beacon.

Our vision is to secure Reverend Debra at three quarter time, grow our congregation with creativity and by December be delighted with our reaching out, connecting, inspiring, and transforming beyond ourselves to many others. This is the opportunity you can be part of.

What is the money used for? Your pledge supports our worship and music programs, our religious exploration program, programs for members and friends, community outreach, and our connection to the CUC. Our budget reflects our mission and vision.

Should everyone pledge the same amount? We place a high value on diversity in our congregation—diverse views, backgrounds, and experiences. Included in this diversity is a diversity of economic circumstances. All of us support our church at individual financial levels.

How much should I pledge? Some people plan to contribute a percentage of their annual income. You will see examples on the "Giving

Inside Beacon

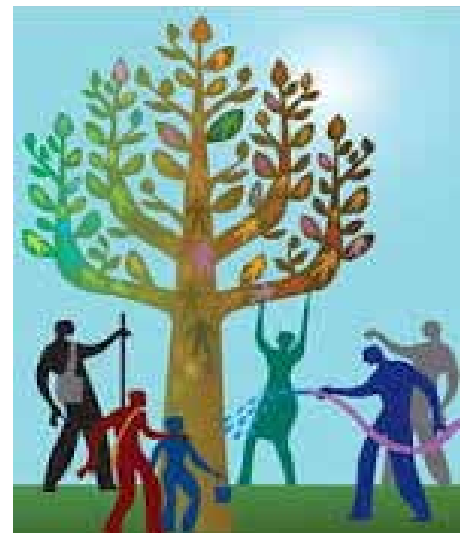
Chart”, which will be included in your pledge package, being emailed out on Tuesday October 9th.

What about the money I put in the collection plate? Some people use the Sunday offering to make their pledge payments. If the offering can be associated with you, e.g. your personal cheque, or in an envelope with your name on it, whatever you put in the offering will be counted toward your pledge.

What if my financial circumstances change during the year, if I lose my job or have a financial emergency?

Lives are not static. Contact the Minister or the Treasurer, Carol Woodworth, if you need to adjust your pledge.

—Marilyn Meden and Nancy Rupert



Board Bitz

September has flown by quickly. There was just so much going on. Our 2018/19 Startup Gathering on September 1st at Centennial Community Centre was a huge success. We had lots of people and lots of fun. Those of you who missed it, make sure that you mark your calendar for next year. We played some silly games and had some serious discussions about how we are going to grow our congregation and what it means to be welcoming.

This year there will be a big focus on Social Media and Communications. There has been a committee formed and things are starting to happen. At our last board meeting we were challenged to come up with a short, bold, (pithy), statement on who we are. What would yours sound like?

For those of you that want to keep up on what is happening at Beacon, and in the larger Unitarian community, please check out the Beacon Unitarian Church Facebook page (www.facebook.com/groups/2386663707/) and the Metro Vancouver Unitarian Community page on Facebook

(www.facebook.com/MetroVancouverUnitarianCommunity/).

An important part of growing and being welcoming is having enough key people to make sure that things run smoothly. This fall we welcome Jen Baetz, who will be working alongside Sophia Girardi in the nursery as well as Eden and PJ Patten who will assist Ashley Cole with Religious Exploration. These are important roles and we are excited to have these caring and dynamic individuals working with our children and youth.

Another important role in our community is being filled this year by Judith McLean. There was a beautiful installation ceremony on September 16th to affirm and recognize Judith as one of our Lay Chaplains. Welcome Judith.

Along with welcoming new people, we sometimes also see valued friends move on. Unfortunately for us, Audrey Taylor has made the decision to move to Victoria to be closer to her family. She will be missed very much by all. Audrey had been a huge part of Beacon, and an important



David Kristjanson



Donna Hamilton

member of the board. We have all been inspired by her dedication, care, and thoughtful work. We wish her all the happiness in the world in her new home on the Island.

Now we move onto October. That means turkey, pumpkins, and pledges. This year's theme for pledge drive is 'We Carry the Flame'. We, as a congregation, make Beacon happen. Pledge drive Sundays this year are October 14, 21, and 28. We urge you to give generously, as you always do, so we can continue to be a community that CONNECTS, INSPIRES, and TRANSFORMS.

— 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... We already have two entries on our list: 'Vy's Pho' in Fort Langley allows people to bring their own take-out containers (thanks Joan M), & 'Better Meals' packages their frozen dinners in compostable containers (submitted by Jane S). Drop me a line at teresa.a.morton@gmail.com to tell me about what is happening in your community.

As I write this, people all over the world are working to clean the beaches. The Great Canadian Shoreline Clean-up, the Canadian version, highlights the health of our oceans, lakes & rivers, an event that has been happening for 22 years! A common pollutant is plastic (wrapping, bags, containers, Styrofoam) and Greenpeace is collaborating on an initiative to inform the producers of the plastic that their product is polluting the environment. The plan is that this will force the manufacturers to reduce the plastic they use, change the packaging design, or use a compostable packaging material.

—Teresa Morton



Better Meals delivers meals in biodegradable containers for environmentally friendly disposal (bettermeals.ca).

Let's Connect



Joan Morris

I was so impressed on our first Sunday back after the summer to hear stories of all the wonderful connections during the "water ceremony service".

People met with friends and family as they travelled in, over and around water. Childhood memories of lake swimming, paddling with adventurous companions in

northern waters, swimming with new friends all centred around our wondrous lakes and rivers.

Some shared stories of travels across our country connecting with family history and meeting up with relatives for the first time. Others likened their experience of sailing on the ocean to a metaphor comparing life with its calm or blowing winds and choppy or quiet waters.

And then, another metaphor of water "drowning the clock of time" which had wakened the newly retired teacher for 40 years. Congratulations Michael and good luck with your journey of connecting to your new "life plan".

Many told about their relationship to our earth via their gardens which needed daily watering. A move to a new community and new lifestyle for one family provides them with opportunities for new friendships and connections.

Now that we are back at church there are opportunities for everyone to get together at Circle dinners (Sept. 29th), and for new folk to connect at a Getting to Know U session. Weekly events for meeting up with other Beaconites include: Choir, Lunch Bunch, and Sunday services. Monthly events include Book Club, Humanist Group, Soul Matters, and a new series "Building Your Own Theology" facilitated by Rev. Debra. See pages 6 and 7 for more info.

Happy Connecting!

—Joan Morris for the Connecting and Membership Committee: Phil Campbell, Joyce Gudaitis, Susan Tarras, Rev. Debra



Beacon Unitarian Church

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Deadline for article submissions is the 15th of the month, for inclusion in the following month's newsletter.

Religious Explorations

The theme for October is 'Growth' and in many ways the Beacon Board has tirelessly been working, with vision, for the growth and flourishing of our little Beacon community. I am most excited to share with you that there has been the creation of a support teacher position for the RE Sunday programs!! We are lucky enough to have both Eden and P.J Patten to share the role of Religious Exploration Support Teacher. A big welcome to them both for stepping into this role!

This year in RE, the programming will focus on Unitarian Universalism—what it is, and our place in it. The *Signs of our Faith* curriculum suggests that we think about religion as the practice of being faithful to what we love. In order to do this, we must decide what we love and do our best to live that love faithfully every day. *Signs of Our Faith* guides children to do their best to live faithful lives every day. It presents fourteen traits or values that most Unitarian Universalists love, including the quest for knowledge, reverence for life, supporting

one another on our faith journeys, and public witness. Children examine how their lives do and can exhibit these traits and values, and come to understand that their faith is a living faith whose histories and teachings are fortifications for living faithfully in a complex world.

The youth will be working through curriculum called *A Place of Wholeness*, which explores the principles, values, and theologies of Unitarian Universalism. This will give them the opportunity to examine their faith journeys to better understand themselves in the context of Unitarian Universalism.

In addition, the youth will be partnering with North Shore Unitarian Church in the *Coming of Age* program. Through a series of work-

shops, the process of mentorship, and individual reflection, youth create their own religious/spiritual credo.

And finally we will continue to host Spirit Jams once a month in which members of the Beacon community are invited downstairs to share their skill, talent or passion with the whole RE. Each of these Sundays is a 'jam,' for example a gardening jam or a song composing jam. Want to Jam with us? Let Ashley know.

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



Ashley Cole

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

Interested in experiencing an **energy healing treatment** for yourself? 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.



Just Announced! A Special Workshop with Tandi Rogers, the Unitarian Universalist Director of Congregational Life



Tandi Rogers

Saturday, Nov. 17th

(Details of time and location to come. Workshop will take place during the day.)

Tandi will offer a workshop for South Fraser and Beacon congregations on looking at the reason and purpose of church through a different lens.

Tandi writes, preaches, and speaks widely about growth and religious innovation, and teaches Religious Education for a Changing World at Meadville-Lombard Theological School. She is a founder of the Growing Unitarian Universalism blog. Two of her meditations appear in *Becoming: A Spiritual Guide for Navigating Adulthood*, edited by Rev. Kayla Parker and *Restored to Sanity: Essays on the Twelve Steps by Unitarian Universalists*, edited by Ken and Cathlean. Tandi is especially passionate about congregational polity in the 21st century, covenant, faith formation and multigenerational communities. She is known for her creative reframing and sparky questions and love of collaboration. She is both ordained to the UU ministry and a Credentialed Religious Educator, master level.



Building Your Own Theology Part Two: Explore

Beginning with an introduction to the six sources of our UU faith, this program focuses on various theological questions to help participants understand and articulate their own belief system. Each class will examine key issues in religious inquiry such as truth and authority, theological diversity, spirituality, justice, suffering, death, immortality, and the idea of beloved community. This program builds on *Building Your Own Theology Part One*. It is not necessary to have done Part One to participate in Part Two.

Facilitated by Rev. Debra Thorne, sessions begin on October 17th and run Wednesdays at 7pm until December 12th. The class will run with a minimum of 8 participants. If you would like to sign up for this class contact Rev. Debra at minister@beaconunitarian.org.

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. Gatherings are held four times a year—three times each summer and once over New Year's Eve—in the beautiful Pacific Northwest. The seven-day July and August Eliot camps and 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 Eliot in general, visit www.eliotinstitute.org. For information about this winter, click on Winter Eliot (at the top of the list) on the right side. Or, talk to Donna Hamilton donna-h@telus.net about Eliot at any time! (And I understand that Jason will also be directing the camp choir.)

—Donna Hamilton



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, Sept. 30th, 7 pm: John Slattery will present on “the inherent worth and dignity of every person,” our first Unitarian principle. What exactly does it mean? And is it as absolute as it suggests? John has written a short essay on this subject which suggests that a careful analysis of these words may take us in some surprising and not always comfortable directions. Let’s see if you agree.

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.

Please contact Marilyn Medén, 604-469-6797 or 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. 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 October is *Mercy Among Children* by David Adams Richards. For meeting location details contact John Hagen, ajhagen@telus.net.

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 ‘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 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, sundayschool@beaconunitarian.org, for more information.

The Lunch Bunch

The Lunch Bunch is an informal weekly gathering of people who like friendly conversation along with their lunch. Various regulars host each week, meeting every Thursday at noon. Participants bring a brown-bag lunch and the host provides tea. If your work schedule allows it, drop in! New people are always encouraged. Contact Anne MacLeod at 604-524-2434.



The Lunch Bunch on the deck of Laura Ramsay’s 6th-floor home. Photo by Jane Shoemaker.



Webinars offered by the CUC

Roundtable: Sustaining Practices for Volunteers: Sharing Our Wisdom

October 20, 9:30–11 am (Pacific Time)
Welcome to this opportunity to share your congregation’s wisdom regarding supportive environments for volunteers. In addition to resources shared within this roundtable, ideas and resources from the two 2018 summer workshops, *Serving With Spirit: Sustaining Practices for Volunteers*, will be sent out prior to the meeting. There is no cost to participate.

<https://cuc.ca/events/sustaining-practices-for-volunteers-sharing-our-wisdom/1540038600/1540045800/>

Webinar: Fostering Congregational Stewardship

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/>)

Receipting for Income Tax Purposes

October 24, 4:30–5:30 pm (Pacific Time) Cost: \$10

Information will be shared as to why tax receipts are issued, what is required by the Canada Revenue Agency, and some special situations where the receipting process is different. There will also be comments about not accepting gifts and why this may be the right thing to do under certain circumstances.

Financial Records

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.

Are you ready for the Referendum Vote on Proportional Representation?

NOW is the time to get informed! Join us at the Sapperton Pensioners Hall for a

Panel Discussion about the Referendum on Electoral Reform Wednesday, October 10th at 7 pm

The moderated panel presentations and an audience question period will start at 7 pm (doors open at 6:45 pm)

Guest panelists:



Suzanne Anton, QC:
Director of the **No BC Proportional Representation Society**; Formerly Attorney General and Minister of Justice for BC



Gordon A. Long:
Writer, Editor, Publisher, and activist for **Fair Vote BC**

Moderator: Rev. Debra Thorne

“We must hold tight to the belief that democracy requires active participation.”—Rev. Thorne