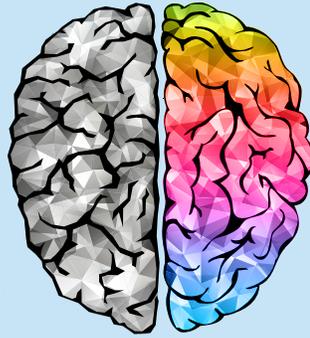


Wholeness

The theme this month is WHOLENESS and it can literally mean everything! It can mean all-togetherness, or integrity, or right action. We might think of the wholeness as in our own health, the health of the community or the health of the planet. It can mean the wholeness of life from birth to death. We'll touch on all these ideas this month.



APR
28

Ain't Fun? Not Sustainable!

Rev. Debra Thorne

Very Special Guests: The Wilds! Holly Arntzen and Kevin Wright
The Wilds join us to celebrate Year 1 of the 'Living with Less Plastic Initiative'. Creating and building a renewable energy future is both practical and spiritual, in every sense of the word. Singing together is a powerful, pragmatic way to help motivate and sustain our collective efforts. "If it ain't fun, it's not sustainable!" Talk is not enough; we need to take bold, coordinated, comprehensive action if we are going to rebuild communities, and transform the culture to become fossil free. Together we will sing our future into being! This is a service for all ages. The Wilds is led by singers/songwriters Holly Arntzen (vocals, dulcimer, piano) and Kevin Wright (vocals, percussion, sax). They are the core members of the Artist Response Team (ART), which produces a steady stream of Voices Of Nature school music programs and community concerts throughout western Canada and beyond. Full bio on page 10.

- Beacon's AGM follows the Service
- Children & Youth:** Whole church service today.



APR
7

Growing Whole

Rev. Debra Thorne

Growing whole is a lifelong project. Individuation is the lesson. Jungian James Hollis says, "While revering the mystery of others, our individuation summons each of us to stand in the presence of our own mystery, and become more fully responsible for who we are in this journey we call our life."

Children & Youth: The children will discuss public witness as a way to show one's faith by working for a just world. The youth will reflect on the importance of understanding and explore different ways to attempt to understand.

APR
14

The Fry Creek Wilderness Camp of the North West Wilderness Society of the Unitarian Church

Guest Speaker: John Doyle

Service Leader: Susan White

A beautiful campground (boat access only) awaits you at the base of the Purcells on majestic Kootenay Lake. There is no electricity, no running water and artfully created pit toilets. Unitarians and other like minded

families have been enjoying "Camp" since 1966.

John Doyle is the current Camp Director of the Fry Creek Wilderness Camp. His family has been going to Camp every summer since 2000 to enjoy the unspoiled beauty of the Kootenays.

Children & Youth: Debra will speak to the children and youth about good-byes in this special 'Farewells' Spirit Jam.

APR
21

Frozen Birds and Pink Rabbits: Death and Beyond

Rev. Debra Thorne

In Pagan folklore the Goddess Ostara compassionately brings a frozen bird back to life. Her magik, though, inexplicitly transforms the dead bird into a rabbit. Grateful for its renewal this bird-turned-rabbit produces pink eggs! So, is death really what we think it is? Are you ready for the unexpected?

- The Choir sings

Children & Youth: Both children and youth will participate in our annual Easter egg hunt! Depending on the weather it will either be at the park or in the downstairs hall.

Minister's Message



Rev. Debra Thorne

Spring is here and I am sure we are all feeling the joy of longer days, packing away our winter coats and boots, digging into the gardens and feeling the energy rising. At

the same time there are environmental catastrophes, cyclones, flooding and fires, and there are human beings spreading hatred through acts of unspeakable violence. We are affected by all of this and some days we need to just do something other than avoid it all. I know for myself it feels so much better to do even the smallest thing. Write a letter, sign a petition, reach out to a neighbour, or light a candle and say a prayer for our earth and all her beings.

Last month I took your cards to the three Islamic groups in New Westminster, the Islamic Charitable Projects Organization, the New Westminster Musallah and the Queensborough Musallah. These are not large mosques but rather small and poor Islamic communities. I think of how Beacon hasn't a building of its own

and yet has riches of people and passion. These groups have small spaces and I am sure, like Beacon, they are focused on sustaining their communities. I wonder what Beacon has to offer these neighbours of faith, how might we build the bridges between our communities. We have begun. What might be next?

Back in January, I shared with you an initiative seeded by my colleagues Samaya Oakley and Marion Stewart, called *One More Light*. I invite you to continue to light your candle or LED each night when you feel that the world is hurting or people are scared. As you light your chalice each evening, speak aloud this prayer knowing that you will be joining with Unitarians and Unitarian Universalists, across the world, who are doing the same. Here are the words again.

As I light this chalice, I center Love in my heart.
May Love be the vantage point from which I see the world clearly; all our wounds, sadness and pain.
While I sleep tonight I send my Love into the world to all who need refuge, hope, and support.

May my Love join the love from others across the world; as we gather strength, determination and resilience.
Here is one more light shining brightly for love.

In the growing light of spring may the light in the world also grow. May we each have some part in that growth.

Warmly,
Rev. Debra



Celebration of a Living Life: John Hagen

You are invited to a celebration of the living life of John Hagen, a founding member of Beacon who has continued to be deeply involved over the years. This joyful and illuminating gathering, this celebration for him to enjoy, will help us to know him better. It will take place after church on April 14th from noon until 12:45. John's friends in the Lunch Bunch, Book Club, and Humanist Group will provide tea and a light lunch.



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

Lay Chaplain:
Marilyn Medén,

604-469-6797
ceremonies@beaconunitarian.org

Choir Director:
Angela Zhang
choirdirector@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, Heather Brown

Connections & Membership:
Joan Morris
joanmorris@telus.net

Religious Exploration Director:
Ashley Cole,
dre@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's newsletter.

Board Bitz

Well, we thought that this winter would never end, but here we are in spring time. That means warmer weather, new leaves, and the Beacon Annual General Meeting. Make sure to join us after the service on Sunday, April 28, 2019 to have your voices heard. We will be voting in new Board Members and choosing Beacon's 'Sharing the Plate' recipient for the 2019/20 Church year. There will be a soup lunch so bring your appetite. The AGM agenda and annual reports will be emailed out by April 18th.

Michael Scales and Sue Sparlin have graciously agreed to be our Beacon Delegates to the CUC AGM on May 11th. They will be attending on line, via Zoom, to vote on the bylaw changes and resolutions that we discussed after Church on February 24th. Thank you to all who attended that meeting and thank you to Sue and Michael for representing us at this important event.

Thank you as well to every one who showed up for our Congregational Conversation after Church on

March 3rd, and many thanks to Janet Pivnick for putting the whole thing together. There was a big turnout and we had a great conversation about what went well with our last Ministry, what we want to see more of, or less of, and changes we might like to see in a new Minister. Of course, everyone was in agreement that Rev. Debra will be a hard act to follow. All that valuable information was added to the Congregational Record that we were required to fill out and put on line for our Minister search.

Another big thank you goes to our Director of Religious Exploration Ashley Cole and the RE committee for working so hard to keep things running smoothly since Eden and PJ stepped down as our Religious Exploration Support Teachers. We are currently looking for someone to teach the older children on Sunday mornings and take on the position of Youth coordinator. If you think that you, or someone you know, might be a good fit for this position, check out our ad on Indeed! <https://ca.indeed.com/job/youth-coordinator-5be0a5ee779618ab>

Notice of Annual General Meeting: Sunday, April 28

The agenda includes:

- Report of Financial Reviewer & 2018 Financial Statements
- Report of Nominating Committee & Election of 2019–20 Board and Nominating Committee
- Selection of the *Sharing the Plate* charity for 2019–20.

All members and friends of Beacon are welcome to attend, but only current members in good standing who joined prior to Feb. 28, 2019 are eligible to vote.

Our final thank you goes to all of you who show up every Sunday to make coffee, stack chairs, sing in the choir and do all the little jobs that make it possible for us to “connect with compassion and respect, inspire learning and spiritual growth, and transform through joy and justice”. We couldn't do it without you.

— David Kristjanson and
Donna Hamilton, Co-Presidents
board@beaconunitarian.org

Religious Explorations

Well it is finally here! The birds are chirping, the flowers are budding and I have naps by the waterfront on my mind. Spring has arrived.

As we are still searching for a new support teacher, this month we will continue to invite volunteers to help us carry out our Religious Exploration programming. If you or anyone you know may be interested in helping to teach please reach out to me at dre@beaconunitarian.org or talk to me on Sunday mornings.

If you know of any one interested

in applying for the paid youth position (<https://ca.indeed.com/job/youth-coordinator-5be0a5ee779618ab>) please reach out to David Kristjanson.

This month is jam packed. Easter is on the 21st and we will be having our annual Easter egg hunt. The following Sunday we will have a gardening spirit jam! The children are almost finished the *Signs of Our Faith* curriculum in which they have learned about the practices and symbols of Unitarian Universalists. The youth have chosen a different curriculum from the one they started out the year

with—they have just began the first couple of lessons of the *Heeding the Call* curriculum in which they will explore social justice as an extension of UU faith.

All very exciting! Sending you warm thoughts of spring blooming!

—Ashley Cole (she/her pronouns)
Director of Religious Exploration,
Youth Coordinator
dre@beaconunitarian.org



Ashley Cole

Nominations for 2019–20 Beacon Board of Trustees

The nominating committee—Nancy Rupert, Rob Warner, Donna Hamilton and Rebecca Burns—are pleased to present you with the nominees for the 2019/20 Board.

David Kristjanson

Co-president, first year of second 2-year term



David grew up in Coquitlam and moved to the West End of Vancouver in the 1970s to live in the safety of the gay ghetto. He

found the ghetto safe but confining, so he moved to Commercial Drive in the 1980s, followed by Main Steet, Gastown, Richmond, and many places in between. He now lives in New Westminster. “Spiritually, I have always been looking for somewhere to fit in. I have problems with most traditional religions, but see value in parts of all of them. I lean towards Buddhism (I meditate daily), and the ideas of love, forgiveness and charity found in the Christian tradition. I feel like I have found a real spiritual home at Beacon”.

Donna Hamilton

Co-president, first year of second 2-year term



Beacon Church has been my spiritual home and a vital part of my life since my family and I joined in 1983.

During that time, I have held many volunteer positions. I am also a long time attendee and supporter of Eliot Institute, where our family has been meeting Unitarians for family camps at Seabeck WA each year for almost 35 years.

I worked as Beacon office administrator for a couple of years, until in 1990, I took textile and design courses at Capilano College. I then spent many

years making and selling items for UUs with my own chalice designs – including the design of the Beacon chalice logo, the choir shirts, church hangings, and stoles for many ministers.

I am especially glad to be a member of Beacon – where I have been the recipient of much support over some difficult times. With my long time membership at Beacon I feel I represent a little of the Beacon history perspective. At the same time, new blood, with questions and new points of view is so important—a mix of old and new seems a good way to go. I am thus eager and willing to do my part in helping to keep Beacon the vibrant, musical, liberal congregation which it has always been.

Janet Pivnick

Secretary, first year of first 2-year term



I started coming to Beacon in January 2016, having dabbled in Unitarianism for 15 years. At Beacon, my quest for spiritual

growth found a landing place. I became a member at the end of 2016 and jumped in with both feet, getting involved in every opportunity for learning and serving that I could find.

During the past two years, while I have been a Board trustee, I have been part of the facilitation team for the Truth, Healing and Reconciliation Reflection Guide program for adults; served as a mentor in the Coming of Age program; helped to organize the Metro Vancouver Unitarian Gathering; served as Worship Services Committee Chair; and been part of the Service Leader team.

Always curious to learn more about this wonderful faith, I also took service leader training offered by Rev. Debra, took the basic training for Lay Chaplains, attended the CUC Conference in Hamilton, attended various CUC sponsored workshops and webinars, and attended the Build Your Own Theology program this past fall. I am so appreciative to the Beacon community for providing me with these opportunities to grow and to deepen.

Serving on the Board for the past two years has given me opportunity to learn more about the running of a church—the policies that serve to guide, the conundrums that must be worked through, and the diverse perspectives that need to be considered in order for good decisions to be made. It has been a huge pleasure to serve as part of this dedicated leadership team. As Beacon moves into a time of ministerial transition, it would be my honour to serve as part of the Executive Team of the Board of Trustees in the role of Secretary, to help provide leadership as we find our way to the next chapter of the Beacon story.

Heather Brown

Treasurer, first year of first 2-year term.



I found out about the Unitarian Faith at an open house in 2005. When I looked into the nearest Unitarian church it turned out to be

Beacon—five minutes down the road from where I live in Port Coquitlam. The first service the family went to was Christmas Eve. We were welcomed with open arms and the children were

soon attending the RE program—Hannah was seven and Callum was nine. We all got a lot out of Beacon from the warm community, fun events and the chance to be creative.

Both children are at university now, and I have had the opportunity to further grow in the Beacon community by joining the Worship Services Committee and starting to be a service leader. Giving a reflection was a high point for me!

It is a natural progression that I become involved with the Beacon Board as Treasurer. This is the position I held during my years as an active member of the Parent Advisory Council at my children's school. Ian, my husband, was a great help then. He is an accountant, able to help streamline things, and is a whiz with an excel spreadsheet!

Elizabeth Campbell

Trustee, second year of first 2-year term



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

restaurant as his bookkeeper.

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

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

John Hagen

Trustee, second year of second 2-year term



I am a long time Unitarian and a charter member at the formation of Beacon Church in 1983. Throughout this time I have been active in

various ways within our congregation.

In earlier years I held a number of positions on the board and its executive and also served on the worship committee. I am excited and still impressed by the vibrancy and commitment of our present leadership and hope I can make a positive contribution.

Carol Woodworth

Nominating Committee



My previous board experience includes the past five years on Beacon's board and before that, six years on the board for the

Ridge Meadows Child Development Centre. I had the pleasure of working with Audrey Taylor when she was the Executive Director of the centre.

In my career as a speech pathologist, I always worked as part of a team: at the Child Development Centre in Surrey; the Asante Centre for Fetal Alcohol Syndrome; and in the Maple Ridge School District. One of my school district responsibilities was the coordination of a committee that selected students to receive assistive technology. This gave me many years of experience using a consensus model to make decisions.

I was raised Unitarian by my parents in Kelowna and continued that contact by mail membership in the CUC.

I am very appreciative of the hard work of the original members of the congregation who brought Beacon into existence and of those who have kept Beacon going so that it was here for me when I began attending 10 years ago.

Karen Greenland

Trustee, first year of first 2-year term



I joined Beacon with my daughter, Darcie, around 2006. I have been a previous Beacon Board member, a Coffee Hour

Coordinator and a member of the Connecting and Caring Committee for many years in the past. Because of travel and family matters, I have not been as active the past two years, but it is my time to get involved again.

I have sat on other Community Boards and was very active in Parent Advisory Councils when my children attended school. I am very interested in children's rights and their well being as a part of our larger society.

I look forward to serving on the Board and being part of a collaborative team that supports the Beacon congregation to thrive and enrich the lives of others, as they enrich their own, through active service to the larger community.

Editor's Note: Karen Greenland is a proud supporter of Access Youth Outreach Services Society (this organization was the recipient of one of Beacon's first Sharing the Plate collections.) Karen writes: In my soul, I still remember the pain and confusion of relationships, of making choices, of learning who my authentic self was as a teenager. I wish the Outreach Bus could travel back in time and be there for me then.

Sharing the Plate Candidate Organizations for 2019–20

Under Beacon's "Sharing the Plate" [STP] program, one-half of the open collection taken each Sunday service is donated to a local charity. The STP policy requires that the Beacon membership annually select the following year's STP recipient through a vote at the Annual General Meeting in April.

Guidelines for the Sharing the Plate Charity

- The charity should have their principal activities in the Lower Mainland, preferably in the New Westminster/Tri-Cities area;
- be a relatively small charitable organization, one which will be positively impacted by the amount of the *Sharing the Plate* contribution;
- not have a formal affiliation with a religious organization or political party; and
- be willing and able to come to Beacon in September 2019 to tell us about their work, and come again in May or June 2020 to receive the cheque if they are selected as our new STP recipient.

The STP committee offers the following three charities for selection of the STP recipient for the 2019–20 church year. The charities are listed in alphabetical order. Please familiarize yourself with the information included below, so that you can make an informed decision at the AGM.

New West Hospice Society

The New West Hospice Society is dedicated to building a grassroots hospice initiative from the community level up, based on the Compassionate City model. Founded in 2016, a major underlying purpose of the New West Hospice Society is to acknowledge and affirm that dying, death and grief are natural parts of the life-cycle. The overarching mission of the NWHS is to provide services, and to facilitate processes for those experiencing end-of-life and bereavement. They envision a city in which dying, death and bereavement are normalized and where community bonds enable each other to live to their fullest in their communities during illness and dying, and through bereavement.

They aim to achieve this mission and vision through a commitment to adopt the tasks of the Compassionate City Charter and by using a 'neighbour helping neighbour' approach with partner organizations to support those at end-of-life to live as fully and comfortably as possible in locations that are conducive and appropriate to this goal.

The New Westminster Rent Bank Programme

The New Westminster Rent Bank (NWRB) is a housing stabilization program geared towards low-income residents of New Westminster who are experiencing a temporary financial crisis.

The NWRB can offer a low-fee, short term loan to low income individuals and families that live in the City of New Westminster and are at risk of eviction or essential utility disconnection due to a temporary shortage of funds.

The New Westminster Bank supports the intent and purposes of the first two of our Unitarian Principles: The inherent worth and dignity of every person; and justice, equity and compassion in human relations.

My Artists Corner (MAC)

MAC is a group of artists who live with mental health issues. The MAC vision is to: Make art, Be well. The MAC mission is to empower individuals to explore their artistic potential on their journey to mental health and wellness.

MAC provides a safe and welcoming environment, high quality instruction and promotes artists' work in the community at large. Here are two testimonials from members of MAC:

Shelley: "My artists corner" is a community based, member-run art program that brought me from a broken woman to a thriving and healthy person through the power of creativity and artistic pursuit. I am empowered by my own creative spirit, which may not have developed without the passion of the program directors at MAC and ECHO.

Anna: MAC is what I need—quietness, safety, regularity and order. It lets my brain go into discovery mode, and my eyes and hands love everything about paint, and I get power in me. ... I let my feelings travel by paint to paper, and I think about someone having a painting in their home/office that I created—how can I describe this feeling?

Let's connect: A Beacon Mystery

Last month I highlighted some of the volunteer work of Jane Shoemaker, after gleaning details of her involvement at Beacon through the *Let's Connect* survey. Here's another Beacon member who has written about her involvement in Unitarianism in that survey.

Our 'mystery volunteer' has a history of 40 years with at least 4 different churches across Canada and many different ministers. Perhaps the most meaningful experiences for her have been social justice walks under Unitarian banners. She recalls walking for peace, gay rights, abortion, and the very moving experience of holding the Beacon banner at the Eugene Oregon PNWD* meeting along with all the other churches in the district.

She has attended several AGMs, enjoying the lively workshops. Sermons from ministers, professors, well-travelled lay people, lawyers and others have stimulated her interest and curiosity. She attended summer fam-

ily camps at Naramata† and Seabeck Washington, and found them "rich with delightful opportunities for connecting with friends at coffee hour".

She is an avid scrabble player and will play anyone, anywhere!

This member takes to heart what she learns at Beacon and shares her issues and concerns with senior friends and politicians. She describes taking her questions to town hall public meetings where she will "ask important pointed question and watch the verbal dance." She likes to "make them curious and make them think and question. It often works out—"wow!"—and reinforces my Unitarian principles."

Immobility, poverty, aging and ill health have created barriers making it very challenging for her to maintain her active involvement. But she continues to address issues with heart and conviction. Lately she has been gathering signatures on her petition to lobby the provincial government

for improved home housekeeping services for seniors which have been greatly reduced in recent years. She is one who looks for solutions and isn't hesitant to contact local and provincial authorities to find answers.

Have you guessed who the mystery Beaconite is? You are correct if you have figured out it is Renee Spakowsky. Sign her petition and sit with her to hear her stories about her many experiences over the years as a Unitarian.

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

*PNWD was the Pacific NorthWest District connecting the western provinces and US states before the Canadian Unitarian Council formed the Canadian Western Districts.
†Naramata, just out of Penticton BC, held Unitarian Family Camps for 8 summers from 2002–10; and Seabeck Washington is the location for the annual Eliot camps for Unitarians.

SAVE THE DATE:
Saturday,
May 4th



Circle Dinners

Our next Circle Dinners will be held Saturday, May 4. These popular potluck dinners bring together small groups of Beaconites and their friends to share an evening of good food, good conversation and good company. Each dinner has about six to eight participants, and would be held in somebody's home, day or evening, or even in a restaurant! It is a wonderful way for newcomers to get to know some Beaconites, and for seasoned Beaconites to get to know the newcomers! And a good time is had by all! Families welcome.

If you would be willing to host in your home, please contact Donna

(donna-h@telus.net) or Joan (joanmorris@telus.net).

In the fall, we tried a dinner at a restaurant—this allowed someone to host, who may not have room in their own home to do this. It was a success, and we'd like to offer it again. If you would like to try hosting at a restaurant, please talk to Donna or Joan—the choice of restaurant would be key—not too expensive, but not too noisy!

We will send out email invitations early April to folks who have participated in the dinners previously. If you've never been to a Circle Dinner, and would like to try it sometime, just drop us a note— at our email addresses—and we'll add you to the list!

—Donna (donna-h@telus.net) and Joan (joanmorris@telus.net)

Plastic Groceries: We are speaking out...!

Supermarkets are slow to get the message, but the furor is building! Greenpeace is collecting signatures on their petitions to increase the plastics-free options in grocery stores (100,000 signatures went to Trader Joe's) and you can add your voice to the clamour. Sign the Greenpeace petition here: https://act.greenpeace.org/page/36787/petition/1?locale=en-US&fbclid=IwAR1nQo5tkFZ3XBe_EELA3t-iiLTSJT6zF2DeOgCHLBts-G1wywxvtklh4aWg

And check out the Trader Joe announcement of their response to the Greenpeace petition here: <https://www.traderjoes.com/Announcement/Index/packaging-improvements>

For a great overview of the plastic groceries situation in Canada (including some inspiring examples from a British grocery store) watch the recent CBC Marketplace video

here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n5Qbi_dB3Qo

Plant-based packaging solutions do exist (<https://www.id8agency.com/blog/2018/04/27/five-plant-based-materials-for-sustainable-packaging/>) and offer exciting options for replacing, for example, plastic wrap. There are additional considerations for us to address, such as how to get the cellulose film back into the compost; whether we should be growing plants for packaging rather than food; and how to prevent contamination of plastics that truly are headed for recycling. Food for thought!

For some local inspiration, see the photos of a recent '#Plastics Attack' grocery shopping trip (Superstore) in Vancouver (Zero Waste Vancouver) where reusable containers were featured: <https://www.facebook.com/greenpeace.canada/photos/pcb.10157948566119796/10156796654759961/?t>

ype=3&theater

Alison G., Debra T. & Teresa M. are starting to gather info and contacts so that we can ask the Save-On Foods (Columbia Street) and the Choices Market (10th Avenue) for help with plastic-free options. Specifically, we want to be able to bring our own containers for bulk products, to suggest a 'plastics-free' aisle as a place to start, and to change buying incentives that require you to purchase apples, for example, in a plastic bag in order to qualify for a lower price. During April you will hear more from people who've made changes for living with less plastic!



Teresa Morton

—Teresa Morton

May 31 - June 2, 2019

UNITARIAN FAMILY CAMP

CAMPSASAMAT.COM
EARLY BIRD DEADLINE: APRIL 15, 2019

Choir Workshop Director
Kathryn Nicholson

Speaker
Gabi Harvey
Tale of a South American Traveller

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, 7:30 pm at *The Astoria Retirement Home* (2245 Kelly Avenue, Port Coquitlam) to discuss a wide range of current topics.

April 28: Earl Morris will introduce a discussion on Jesus of the Jesus Seminar. Was Jesus as brilliant as his admirers think? Or are they projecting their own ideas on how one understands his sayings? All this from a Humanist point of view! Please contact Marilyn Medén if you would like any further 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. See the sidebar for details on this month's book. For meeting location details contact John Hagen, ajhagen@telus.net.

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.

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). More details on page 7.

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).

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

Transition Listening Circle March 31 & May 26, 12–1 pm

After the service there will be a Transition Listening Circle hosted by the Pastoral Support Team. Meet in the Nursery Room at 12 noon for one hour. This is an opportunity to speak about your feelings and response to Rev. Debra leaving Beacon. To encourage freedom of expression, Debra will not be in attendance at the circle.

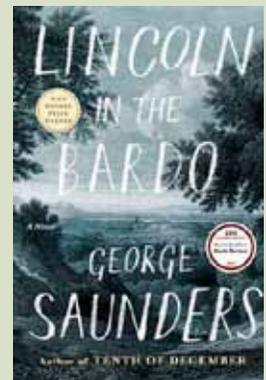
Beacon Pastoral Care Team

The Beacon Pastoral Care committee, headed by Rev. Debra Thorne, consists of Judy Villet, Beth Connelly, Stacy Finch, and Laura Redmond. If you or someone you know is in need of pastoral care please let one of these people know.

The Book Club meets on Thursday, April 25 at 7 pm

Lincoln in the Bardo, a novel by George Saunders, c. 2017, 343 p.
Nominated by: Gail Thomson

February 1862. The Civil War is less than one year old. The fighting has begun in earnest, and the nation has begun to realize it is in for a long, bloody struggle. Meanwhile, President Lincoln's beloved eleven-year-old son, Willie, lies upstairs in the White House, gravely ill. In a matter of days, despite predictions of a recovery, Willie dies and is laid to rest in a Georgetown cemetery. "My poor boy, he was too good for this earth," the president says at the time. "God has called him home." Newspapers report that a grief-stricken Lincoln returns, alone, to the crypt several times to hold his boy's body. From that seed of historical truth, George Saunders spins an unforgettable story of familial love and loss that breaks free of its realistic, historical framework into a thrilling, supernatural realm both hilarious and terrifying. Willie Lincoln finds himself in a strange purgatory where ghosts mingle, gripe, commiserate, quarrel, and enact bizarre acts of penance. Within this transitional state—called, in the Tibetan tradition, the bardo—a monumental struggle erupts over young Willie's soul. (Source: BPL Catalogue)





THE WILDS

When Holly and Kevin sing and write songs together, think Joni Mitchell meets Bon Scott (of ACDC.) An unlikely combination, but one that

bears rich sounds, energy and a unique musical perspective. The sound of *The Wilds* is “Folk Pop to Rock Your World”—the folk/blues of Holly’s slide dulcimer, mixed with Kevin’s hard-hitting cajon and congas, and lit up by rich vocal harmonies, solid backbone bass and virtuoso guitar playing.

The Wilds (6-piece version) is featured in the 1-hour TV special about water conservation, called *Water for Life*, filmed at the fabulous Jubilee Auditorium in Edmonton and appeared on CTV-TWO in Alberta, and PBS out of Spokane. Watch it here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gMMJWh0kWk4>

Each year *The Wilds* can be found tromping up and down one watershed or another, singing their songs of salmon, rivers, oceans, climate change and social justice. They are currently doing the fourth annual *Rock the Salish Sea* Tour to coastal BC communities, working with local schools and producing major concerts, singing out for the inland ocean between Vancouver Island and the Mainland. *The Wilds* will be travelling to the Skeena in their *Up Your Watershed!* tour to Prince Rupert, Terrace and Kitimat singing out for wild salmon.

The Wilds live by the motto: *If it ain't fun...it's not sustainable!* (Guy Dauncey.) They sing our future into being... one song at a time. www.TheWildsBand.com

Walk the Talk

Saturday, April 6,
1–3 pm:

Support
Indigenous Human
Rights: Walk for
Bill C-262



JOIN: Join Kukpi7 Judy Wilson, Indigenous People’s Choice Award winning artist Cheryl Bear and others, as we rally support for the most important piece of legislation to ever come before Canada’s Parliament—Indigenous Human Rights! This event is InterFaith! Join representatives from various faith traditions who will express their commitment to this Bill.

URGENT PURPOSE: The Truth and Reconciliation Commission has called Canada to adopt and implement the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples as “the framework for reconciliation” (Call to Action #43). Bill C-262 will ensure that Canada’s laws are in harmony with the Declaration. But we need your help! 262 is in the Senate and it needs to get through committee and to 3rd vote in the next few months or it will not achieve royal assent. Please come out, grab your friends, invite your community and show your support for Bill C-262!

WHO: Everyone!!!

WHEN AND WHERE: April 6th, 2019 at 1-3 pm at 700 Hamilton St, Vancouver, BC (CBC Building)



Beacon Theology Pub

April, May, June

We’ll meet on third Sundays in the Back Room of the Sapperton District Taphouse (known as “The District”) at 421 E Columbia, just a few blocks east of Keary St.

We’ll aim to start at 12:30, hoping to have orders in and discussion started by 1 pm. The meeting room has one small step at the entry. Menu can be found at <https://www.sappertondistricttaphouse.com/>.

Talks will be based on our Beacon themes for each month: April 21 – Wholeness; May 19 – Curiosity; June 16 – Celebration. Mark these dates and invite anyone you think might be interested. Contact Franci Louann at flouann@telus.net or 604-837-7613 to express interest.

July and August could be different, when we won’t have services...maybe in a different location, maybe weekly, depending on interest and other planned Beacon activities.