



On July 4th Beacon members joined the Al Rabaiis in welcoming four more members of their family at the Vancouver Airport.

September Service Theme:

Belonging

SEP
8

The Annual Water Ceremony—Beacon Belongs to You

Rev. Meg Roberts

Beacon's program year starts again with this special service and I am lucky to be starting with you as Consulting Minister. The annual water ceremony service is for all ages: we pour water from various sources into one common bowl, symbolizing the re-gathering of this community after a summer break. If you want, identify where the water comes from (whether from a favourite place or from your tap at home), **then briefly share about the spiritual significance of the water for you:** How does it connect you to what you value and with the web of life? How do you connect it to this community? This is a community that

belongs to you, whether you are here for the first time or for all of Beacon's 36 years. (You can either bring water from your summer experiences or use the water we provide.) I look forward to seeing you there and creating together this ritual of belonging.

SEP
15

Belonging: Keeping, losing, gaining vital connections

Guest Speaker: Raneem Al Rabaai, Syrian youth

Service Leader: Marilyn Medén

Raneem Al Rabaai will speak for herself and we will also hear Mohamad's story (her brother). Their stories will lead us to our own.

SEP
22

Repentance and Return: The Meaning of Teshuvah

Guest Speaker: Rabbi Laura

Duhan-Kaplan

Service Leader: Janet Pivnick

Back by popular demand—Rabbi Laura joins us again, this time to

share the meaning of this very holy time of year in the Jewish calendar. Jews open the New Year with ten days of *teshuvah*—repentance and return. Repentance requires both inner and interpersonal work. We'll discuss the Biblical origins of *teshuvah* along with some contemporary psycho-spiritual interpretations.

SEP
29

How can I belong when what I believe isn't what you believe?

Rev. Meg Roberts

As Unitarians, one of the principles we affirm is "acceptance of one another, and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations." How do we do this when we each draw from different sources for our inspiration? How can we relate to one another when there are such differences? I'll propose some ideas and methods that may help, and I look forward to hearing what works for you.

Musings by Meg

September has always felt to me like the time for new beginnings—with so many years going to school, this cycle is embedded in me. For congregational life, it is also the time when various Unitarian Universalist congregations re-gather after a summer break. Some of you, like me, will be newer to this community. (You might also be new to Unitarian Universalism as well.) Others have been around for a while, and there are those who have known Beacon since its beginning 36 years ago.

The theme for this month is belonging. What contributes to feeling like I belong—whether with my family, my friends, or within a Unitarian community? What we do together as individuals and as a group can create an environment that is welcoming and inclusive. What helps you feel like you belong in this congregation, just as you are? What have you seen here at Beacon that has helped you and others feel they belong?

I have experienced, and heard from others, how welcoming Beacon can be. That has been my experience as well when I attended Beacon

Sunday services in the past. Yet I know, even when I try to be inclusive and welcoming, there are still blind spots where I may not recognize the diversity that exists within the person in front of me—and if I do recognize it, I may not know how to respond so I can be inclusive. That diversity may come philosophically, spiritually, or politically. It could come from sexual orientation or gender identity—or culturally, or due to our various abilities, or income level. I would appreciate it if you are willing to share with me what it means to you to belong and what I and this community can do to help include you.

This is my first newsletter column as consulting minister, and I feel very honoured to be working with you at Beacon this year. If you would like to reach me, here is my contact information: Email: mroberts@uuma.org; Cell Phone: 778-870-9015.

In this ½-time position, over the coming month I will get a sense of the flow of Beacon's monthly scheduled events. Then I will post my office visiting hours via the email "Beacon's Weekly Update" as well as on the

website, so watch for those updates. I am also happy to have you contact me to meet at other times as well.

I also want you to know I'm here to offer pastoral care with an open heart and listening ears. That may be when you:

- have something that is troubling you
- are celebrating something
- are feeling confused about something and want someone to talk to
- want to figure out how to engage in the life of this caring congregation this coming year
- and any number of other reasons that are part of your life

I am part of Beacon's supportive pastoral care team so please reach out and connect with me and with them (see article in this newsletter for their contact info).

I look forward to learning from you, and with you, how to cultivate an accepting place of belonging here at Beacon.

In the spirit of life,

—Rev. Meg Roberts



Get to know your new minister!

In September and October, there will be small group meetings in order to meet and get to know Rev Meg Roberts. We will offer various locations, days, and times so that hopefully, most folks will be able to attend. These will be small groups, in a Beaconite's home. Please contact Donna Hamilton for further info, and to let us know if you would be willing to host one of these groups, donna-h@telus.net.

As I am new to your church community, I look forward to getting to know you better. To create opportunities for this, I invite you to meet with me and others in small groups of 5 or 6. I hope to hear about what drew you to Beacon and what you value about this community. I also want to hear what you envision might happen this coming year—it may be something that Beacon already does and it may be something new. Beacon's vision to Connect, Inspire and Transform offers us lots of options! Watch for more details in September's weekly email updates and in Sunday written announcements.

—Rev. Meg Roberts

Board Bitz

We hope that everyone has had a wonderful summer with lots of rest, relaxation, and possibly an adventure or two. We didn't have regular services during the summer months, but we sure had some great get-togethers that kept us in touch with our Beacon friends. We had 'Poetry, Prose, and Music' in July and 'Sunshine, Singing, and Socializing' in August. We also had an exciting time at our table at the New West Pride Street Festival on August 17th. Thank you so much to all those who organised, volunteered, and attended these events.

Our next exciting event is a wonderful opportunity to gather with our new Minister, Rev. Meg Roberts, at the Beacon 2019/20 Start up Gathering on August 31st. It is from 10 am to 2 pm at the Justice Institute, 715 McBride Blvd, New Westminster. We will be having a potluck lunch about halfway through, so please bring some sandwiches, a salad, or dessert

to share. Everyone is encouraged to come. Further information will be sent by email.

We are pleased to tell you that Ming-Xuan will be our accompanist every Sunday this year. Also, we are delighted to welcome Sylvia McDond as our new choir director. In order to have Ming-Xuan accompany the choir rehearsals, choir night has changed to Monday.

A note to committee chairs that proposed committee budgets are due on September 22nd. Please submit to: board@beaconunitarian.org.

Our first service for the new church year is on September 8th. Don't forget to bring a bit of water to the service. More information in the service description on the first page. We are looking forward to seeing you all again.

— David Kristjanson and
Donna Hamilton, Co-Presidents



David Kristjanson



Donna Hamilton

You're Invited!

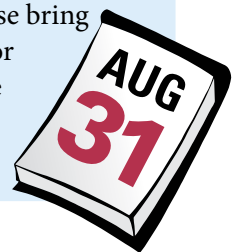
Beacon's 2019–20 Church Year Start-Up Gathering

When: Sat. Aug. 31, 10 am–2 pm

Where: Justice Institute, 715 McBride Blvd, New Westminster

Who is Invited: YOU! And your best Beacon friend—parent, child or grandparent.

Potluck Lunch: Please bring a salad, sandwiches or desert to share. More details to come via email.



Picking up the Gauntlet: Extending a Hand in Fellowship to our Christian Neighbours

In her last service at Beacon, Reverend Debra issued us a challenge to open our minds to Christian theology, open our hearts to those among us who hold Christian beliefs and truly live out our third principle by being welcoming to people of all faiths including Christianity. We now have an opportunity to take up her challenge.

On October 6, Sapperton Pensioners' Hall is not available for the Beacon service. The Worship Committee is coordinating excursions to Christian churches within the area that Beacon serves so that we can educate

ourselves and reach out in fellowship, building bridges not walls.

Here's how it will work. If there's a Christian church that you would like to attend that has a Sunday morning service, let someone on the worship committee or our minister know. We will create a sign-up sheet for your chosen church which will be at the greeter's table through the month of September. Ideally, we will have small groups of 3–5 people going to each identified church but you can also go on your own.

If there is interest in the congregation, we will organize an opportunity

to share our experiences later in the month.

To start us off, I am interested in going to the New West Community Church, a Baptist church a block from Beacon that also has a 10:30 a.m. service: <https://www.newwestcommunitychurch.com>. There will be a sign-up sheet for this church at our first Sunday service in September.

We look forward to embarking on this journey of learning together.

—Janet Pivnick for the Worship
Services Committee (Nancy Rupert,
Heather Brown, Marilyn Medén,
Susan White, Tyler Ewasiuk)

Religious Exploration Program Update

Hello everyone and welcome back! I hope you are well and enjoying these last dog days of summer.

This year in Beacon there are a few changes in RE that I wanted to share with you. Most importantly we have hired Alex Dragan in the role of the religious education support teacher (REST) AND as the youth coordinator this year. We have combined these positions in the hopes to provide more continuous care to our amazing youth! Some of you may recognize Alex as she has been working in the nursery last year.

As Alex will be working alongside the youth, I will now be teaching the younger age group on Sunday mornings. Thank you all for your support in this transition.

As for the year ahead, we have plenty planned in religious exploration, which I will share more of in September. Until then I look forward to catching up with you all very soon!

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



Ashley Cole

Living with Less Plastic New West

In June we presented our findings to the New Westminster's Environmental Advisory Committee. The Committee, based partly on our input, prepared a motion recommending the banning of plastic bags and styrofoam in takeout containers.

In July we met with New Westminster Councillor Nadine Nakagowa and had a good discussion about the need for new approach to our use of plastics in the food supply system.

And in August (the 26th) the Environmental Advisory Committee's motion will be put to the Council as a whole! Watch for our report on how the Council votes on the motion.

It is great to have such progress in a short time!

—Teresa M, Allison G, Marilyn M



Teresa Morton

Let's Connect

Another church year is about to begin; our chance to re-connect with old friends and new. This fall will be an especially exciting time as we connect with our new minister, Rev Meg Roberts.

Welcome to all who come through our doors.

There are many ways to connect aside from attending our Sunday morning services; why not join one of the many groups that meet monthly. Check the weekly bulletin and this newsletter for all the possibilities.

For newcomers:

If you are new to the church and want to learn more, watch for Beacon's "Getting to Know U" gatherings where you can learn more about Beacon, Unitarian history and chat with our minister. More information will be available through the weekly bulletins sent by email.

Be sure and sign your name at the greeter's table to receive the weekly bulletin.

See you in church!

—Joan Morris
on behalf of your Beacon Connecting and Membership
Team: Phil Campbell, Joyce Gudaitis,
Susan Tarras, Sue Sparlin, Rev Meg Roberts.



Joan Morris

Family Games Night

What: Beacon Family Games Night

When: Saturday, September 28, 2019 at 5:30 pm

Where: Amber Strocel's home, 2972 Robson Drive, Coquitlam

Bring: Pot luck food contribution, tabletop games, your children

RSVP/Questions: amber@strocel.com or 604-613-4532

Join other Beacon families for a fun and laid-back evening. There will be a pot luck dinner (home cooking not required!), games for all ages, and a chance to socialize and get to know other parents and families in a relaxed setting. If you have a game to contribute, please bring it along. Your RSVP is appreciated, but not required.



Beacon Programs

We invite you to explore these great ways to connect to the Beacon community and yourself!

The Humanist Discussion Group meets the last Sunday of the month, 7:30 pm at *The Astoria Retirement Home* (2245 Kelly Avenue, Port Coquitlam). The topics are always interesting and provoke much discussion. Please contact Marilyn Medén if you would like any further details, m.j.meden@telus.net or 604-469-6797. The next meeting is Sept. 29th at 7:30 pm.

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 Monday evenings, at 7:30 pm, usually at Miller Park School. Contact choirdirector@beaconunitarian.org for more info. All voices welcome! The first rehearsal is Monday, Sept. 2nd, 7:30 pm at Peggy and Tom Lunderville's home.

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 Joan Morris (joanmorris@telus.net) 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).

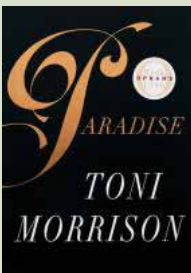
Help out on Sunday mornings as a Coffee Host contact Joyce Gudaitis (joyceg@asrsoft.com), **or sign-up as a Sunday Morning Greeter** (contact Susan Tarras, starras@telus.net).

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

Settlement 2: The Settlement 2 task force is organizing the settlement of four further members of the Al Rbaai family. Please contact Peggy Lunderville for meeting times and dates: prlunder@gmail.com. All are welcome.

Book Club meetings are held on the 4th Thursday of each month at 7 pm. For meeting location details contact John Hagen, ajhagen@telus.net.

Thursday, September 26, 7 pm



Paradise by Toni Morrison
Facilitator: Marilyn Medén
The novel tells the story of the tension between the

men of Ruby, Oklahoma (an all-black town founded in 1950) and a group of women who lived in a former convent seventeen miles away. More details at <http://beaconunitarian.org/index.php/book-club/>

Soul Matters Sharing Circles



How goes it with your soul? Are you finding the deeper connections between what you believe and how you act in your day-to-day life? Do you want to explore issues that matter with like-minded people? The Soul Matters Circles are small groups that meets once a month to explore how the congregation's monthly theme can be woven into our lives. Our first meeting of this program year will be in October and we will be discussing September's theme of Belonging.

If you are interested in being part of a Soul Matters Sharing Circle this year (whether you've attended many in the past or you are new and want to try it out), please contact me and I can send you more information: Rev. Meg Roberts (mroberts@uuma.org, 778-870-9015).

Wear your name tag!

Why do we want you to wear name tags? Because we have all agreed that we want Beacon to be a welcoming place for everyone, newcomers included.

It is easier for a newcomer to feel comfortable with the Beacon group, if they can easily see our names as we welcome them to our midst. And if they come back for more Sundays, as we hope they will, they do not have to be worried about remembering people's names—our names will be visible.

Also the Beacon congregation is growing and no longer does everyone know everyone else's name on sight. This is not a problem if everyone who has one, is wearing their name tag.

So, that's why we are placing an emphasis on name tags. Please help us! Let us know if you need a name tag—just send an email to Susan Tarras (starras@telus.net). And wear your name tag each Sunday! —Susan Tarras

Celebratory dinner to support our refugees

A celebratory dinner for the Al Rbaai family will take place at Sapperton Hall on Saturday, September 14. Doors open at 5 pm, dinner at 6 pm. Tickets to cover the expense of catering: Adults \$15 (suggested minimum donation); Children under 12 \$10 each.

A collection will be taken to help bolster our Beacon refugee fund as we welcome our four new members of the family who arrived on July 4, 2019. They have rented a house together with the original family in Coquitlam. The children will attend local schools. Donations over \$20 can be receipted for tax purposes.

The dinner will be catered by Tayybeh, who did such a delicious meal for us when we welcomed our first half of the family. We will also be asking for potluck donations, especially appetizers and desserts, to defray the cost of the dinner. We hope Taghreed will make some of her usual delicious contributions.

We hope everyone can come to meet the family and if there is anything we can do to make it easier for you to attend please let one of us know, or contact our new minister who will be happy to help.

—Peggy Lunderville (604-812-5939, prlunder@gmail.com)
and Lisa Girardi



Answering the Call of Love: Building Community through Song with Rev. Jason Shelton

September 27–29, 2019, Unitarian Church of Vancouver

Cost: \$65 (register before Sept. 15 for a \$15 discount)

Saturday lunch available if pre-ordered for \$10* (*There will be a vegetarian option but we are not able to accommodate special diets.)

Jason Shelton is a dynamic and inspiring UU minister, musician and consultant. Join us for this exciting workshop! Rediscover musical treasures from our hymnals; share new Jason Shelton repertoire; sing as part of the workshop choir during the Sunday morning service at the Unitarian Church of Vancouver; and hear Jason's perspectives on creating a truly welcoming community and developing an authentic UU musical repertoire

Registration is now available in two ways:

1. Print out the registration form from the church website (vancouverunitarians.ca) and return it to the church office (there are also registration forms available in the office.)

2. Register at Eventbrite.ca. Please note that this involves a service fee of about \$5. Visit Eventbrite.ca and search "Jason Shelton" and "Vancouver".

Open to anyone who loves to sing! For more information check the UCV website (vancouverunitarians.ca) or email Donna Brown (quinnbrown44@gmail.com).

The Rev. Jason Shelton served as Associate Minister for Music at the First Unitarian Universalist Church of Nashville from 1998–2017. In addition to Jason's work as a com-



poser (The Fire of Commitment, Answering the Call of Love, Life Calls Us On, and many more!), he is an active choral conductor and worship leader, and an advocate for using music as a means of creating community in multi-faith, multi-cultural environments. Formerly a Franciscan brother, Jason received an MDiv from Vanderbilt Divinity School in 2003 and was ordained to the Unitarian Universalist ministry in 2004.

Resource to Share Unitarianism

Rev. Steven Epperson wanted an easier way to explain Unitarianism to others. He wanted to include the richness of UUism's historical roots, the challenges of living the faith, and the benefits it offers to those who choose to do so, but in a way that is accessible to people. Epperson was inspired by a sermon he read and decided to ask his ministerial colleagues to help out. The result is "What We Wish People Knew About Unitarianism Universalism" which can be downloaded from: <https://cuc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/What-We-Wish-People-Knew-About-Unitarian-Universalism-v4.pdf>



Excerpt: First, we're an unusual, pluralistic faith community.

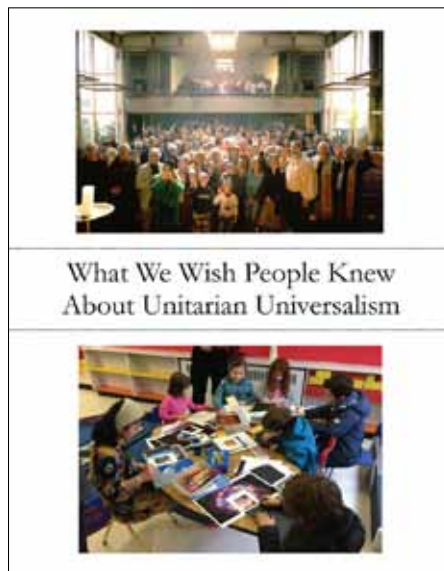
I wish people knew how unbelievably revolutionary and entirely soul-satisfying Unitarian Universalism is.

—Rev. Jane Bramadat

What makes us unusual, if not unique, is what I see as the main question all Unitarian Universalists must deal with which is, not what we believe (we all have the freedom to work that out for ourselves), but how the beliefs we hold inspire us to lead our lives differently than if those beliefs were not held and valued.

—Rev. Arthur Berman

This is one of the first things that attracted me to this religion; it has sustained me as a Unitarian Universalist over the years. I discovered, from my first encounter in Utah of all places(!), that a Unitarian Universalist congregation makes generous room for god-believers and atheists, for pagans, Buddhist-oriented meditators and wandering, non-ritualistic



agnostics alike. Over the years, I have met with you at the doors of death and presided at your memorial services. Each time, whether you've believed in a life after death, or not, whether you were pagan or atheist, or whatever, you have affirmed for me the power of this religion as something unique and precious.

—Rev. Steven Epperson



Gathered Here is taking a break for September - The Canadian Unitarian Council's monthly young adult check-ins will resume in October. If you have attended *Gathered Here* this past year, we'd love to hear from you. Please fill out this brief feedback form by September 16: <https://forms.gle/ywhc6aT-mA9bH3Dq98>

Curious about energy healing?

Laura Redmond is studying energy healing techniques and is offering free treatments to gain experience and deepen in her knowledge of this field. Sessions are approximately one hour in length and the client can sit in a chair or lie on a massage table (fully clothed). Contact lauraredmond2@telus.net to set up a free treatment or for more information.



**Beacon
Unitarian
Church**

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info@beaconunitarian.org

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Lay Chaplain:

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ceremonies@beaconunitarian.org

Choir Director:

Sylvia McDonald

choirdirector@beaconunitarian.org

Board Executive:

Co-Presidents:

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Donna Hamilton;

Treasurer: Heather Brown;

Secretary: Janet Pivnick;

Members at Large: John
Hagen, Elizabeth Campbell,

Karen Greenland.

**Connections &
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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.

Beacon Calendar: September 2019

Note: Calendar entries are truncated — view the complete entries on the Beacon web site calendar page.

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|----------------------|-----|-----|--|--|---------------------------|
| 1 | 2 7:30pm - Choir | 3 | 4 | 5 12pm - Lunch Bunch | 6 | 7 |
| 8 Theme: Belonging 10:30am - Church 11am - Choir sings | 9 7:30pm - Choir | 10 | 11 | 12 12pm - Lunch Bunch 7pm - Worship | 13 | 14 5pm - Syrian Dinner |
| 15 10:30am - Church 7pm - Newsletter | 16 7:30pm - Choir | 17 | 18 | 19 12pm - Lunch Bunch 1pm - Connecting & | 20 | 21 |
| 22 Committee Budgets 10:30am - Church 11am - Choir sings | 23 7:30pm - Choir | 24 | 25 | 26 12pm - Lunch Bunch 7pm - Book Club | 27 Workshop with Jason Shelton 5:30pm - Family | 28 |
| 29 Workshop with 10:30am - Church | 30 7:30pm - Choir | 1 | 2 | 3 12pm - Lunch Bunch | 4 | 5 |