

Canadian Unitarian Council Nation-Wide Summer Services

This summer the Canadian Unitarian Council is supporting weekly national worship services. Each service will be hosted by a different congregation or group. All services will begin at 1:00 PT unless indicated otherwise below. Please register for each service at: <https://cuc.ca/events/sunday-summer-services-series/1593964800/1593972000/>

The CUC's Zoom has a capacity of 1,000, so if you find yourself unable to enter the service, even if you're pre-registered, head on over to the CUC's YouTube channel.

Although Beacon won't be meeting for our own services, we hope that you will take advantage of the other Beacon groups that will continue to meet throughout the summer. Please check this newsletter for other information and our website calendar: <http://beaconunitarian.org/index.php/calendar-alternate/>

JUL 5 1 PM
Religion and Disruption
North Shore Unitarian Congregation

JUL 12 9:30 AM
Victims of Genocide
Unitarian Church of Edmonton

JUL 19 1 PM
National Youth Service: Celebrating life in a time when life is limited
Youth



JUL 26 1 PM
Lessons from the Playground:
Reflections from RE teachers
Unitarian Church of Montreal

AUG 2 1 PM
To Get to the Other Side
Young Adults

AUG 9 1 PM
Fredericton Universalist History
Unitarian Fellowship of Fredericton
This service will focus on the connections between the UFF and the one time Harvey Universalist Church

AUG 16 1 PM
Reverence for Weird Things
Saskatoon Unitarians

AUG 23 1 PM
Parable of the Plumber
Grand River Unitarian Congregation, Kitchener, Ontario
The Tao teaches, "Where the cup is useful is where it is not." So what are we to do when our cup "runneth over"?

AUG 30 1 PM
Nature in the 6 Sources
Westwood Unitarian, Edmonton

Musings by Meg

This is going to be an unusual summer. Like some of you, I spend time away in the summer – usually spending my summer holidays in Montreal (my other heart-home) housesitting for friends. This year, considering the pandemic, I will be staying closer to my Vancouver home. So, in my planning, I asked myself: What is it that makes summer precious to me? How can I still attend to some of these desires and still keep my own and others' health uppermost in my mind. Here are some of my answers:

Spending more time outdoors. I am lucky to have a balcony that overlooks green trees, so I plan to spend time there relaxing and reading. I want to check out some local parks that are less popular and go at off-peak days and times to avoid the crush of others

looking to connect with nature.

Slowing down and doing less. I love having time to just putter around, doing what I feel like doing at any given time without booking up my days. Some scheduling of time with family and friends (online or with physical distancing) is definitely needed, but not too much, otherwise it's not very renewing.

Getting creative and connecting with the creativity of others. I'm thinking of taking a painting class online. I want to do tours through museums and art galleries – whether that ends up being online or in person, depending on what's open. I plan to get to know the work of artists from a wide variety of cultural backgrounds as part of my own learning and supporting of their work.

What is your summer going to be like? Are you working? Are you retired? Are you between work? Are you out of school? Whatever your reality, I hope you consider what makes summer important to you and find creative ways of getting those desires met.

I'll be on holidays in July and on study leave the first three weeks of August. I'll be back responding to emails and attending meetings as of August 24. Then I look forward to reconnecting. I hope you and those dear to you are well and stay well this summer.

In the spirit,

—Rev. Meg Roberts



Rev. Meg Roberts

Summer Pastoral and Lay Chaplaincy Support

While Rev. Meg Roberts is on holidays in July and study leave first three weeks of August, Beacon's Pastoral Support Team and Lay Chaplain are available to provide you with the care and support you need.

This summer between July 1–August 24, if you need a **pastoral call or visit** contact Laura Redmond (604-939-9310 or Judy Villett (604-329-9792) or email pastoralcare@beaconunitarian.org. If any Beacon member needs a **memorial ceremony or a wedding**, or any of the many ceremonies that we can provide, please contact our lay chaplain, Sue Sparlin (778-319-7827) or email ceremonies@beaconunitarian.org.

Mental Health Resources suggested to the Pastoral Care Team:

We know that people have different needs, and will have different experiences, so we ask you to follow what feels appropriate for you and your family. We aren't able to guarantee the quality or experience you will have, or how quickly these agencies can respond to your needs. We do want to offer you some resources that we hope may be of use.

1. **"No, How Are You, Really?"** Acceptable answers to this suddenly complicated question," [article by May Pang](#).
2. **"How to be Your Best in Times of Crisis"** [A TED Talk by psychologist Susan David](#) (recommended by a therapist). Susan shares wisdom on how to build resilience, courage and joy in the midst of the coronavirus pandemic. She offers ways to talk to your children about their emotions, keep focus during the crisis and help those working on the front lines.
3. **Kelty's Key** - a free on-line service funded by Vancouver Coastal Health. You can tailor it for: anxiety, chronic pain, complicated grief, depression, family support, insomnia, panic, substance abuse.
4. **Little Oaks Psychology** have a series of free resources they called "crisis and isolation supports" and include free 20 min consults, weekly group parenting workshops, free online therapy groups for teens & youth and more.

More resources can be found at <http://beaconunitarian.org/index.php/resources-for-covid-19/>.

Board Bitz

What a year! We started the church year with a brand new minister and ended the year with a brand new way of doing Beacon. Who would have ever thought, last September, that we would be doing all of our Sunday services, programs, and clubs online when we finished the year in June?

In mid-March we were forced by a global pandemic to stop meeting at the Sapperton Pensioner's Hall. Well, after missing just one Sunday service, Beacon was back. Rev. Meg and Worship Services created a whole new way to do church and we all learned a lot about technology in a very short time. We lit our own chalices at home, we learned how to mute and unmute to do Joys and Sorrows, and sang our hearts out at home (while muted, of course!) We even had our AGM online. Beacon, being Beacon, continued to Connect with Compassion & Respect, Inspire Learning and Spiritual Growth, and Transform through Joy and Justice. What a success!

June usually starts out with Sasamat Camp. Unfortunately, Sasamat had to be cancelled this year due to COVID-19, but that doesn't mean we didn't have any fun in June. We had a big Online Kitchen Party for long time Beacon member Donna Hamilton, who is moving to New Brunswick to be closer to her children and grandchildren. Marylke Nieuwenhuis put a lot of hard work into tracking down Beacon members from the past to visit and tell us their stories about Beacon and about Donna. Marylke even came up with a nice surprise for Donna. She secretly asked everyone to wear something with a design created by Donna. That was pretty easy to do since almost everyone owns something created by Donna. We will miss you very much Donna, but hopefully,

with Zoom, you will be able to join us for Sunday services from time to time.

Over the summer, as we get some well deserved rest and relaxation, we will be holding some online Beacon Meetups to keep you connected. Lunch Bunch will continue online every Thursday at noon thanks to Anne McLeod. A new version of Theology Pub will meet every Sunday at 10:30 am, but since we are meeting in the morning, the name has been

We will be meeting in August and, with guidance from health authorities, make a decision on how we will be meeting for Sunday services in September. We will keep you informed.

changed to Theology Brunch. Many thanks to Franci Louann for organizing this interesting discussion group. After Theology Brunch there will be an online, country-wide, Canadian UU Summer Service series at 1:00 pm. Film Club will continue to meet every Friday at 7:00 pm. Watch the film on YouTube during the week and then meet us on Friday evening to discuss it. Thanks to Nancy Rupert for creating this fun group. Book Club also continues to meet over the summer on the fourth Thursday of each month at 7:00 pm. Check the Beacon

Website www.beaconunitarian.org and 'Beacon This Week' for information on all these events.

The board, the Coordinating Council, and the COVID-19 task force will continue to monitor the COVID-19 situation over the summer. We will be meeting in August and, with guidance from health authorities, make a decision on how we will be meeting for Sunday services in September. We will keep you informed.

Thank you to Rev. Meg, Worship Services, and Ashley Cole, for creating all of the wonderful services this year. Thank you as well to sound tech Tyler Ewasiuk, pianist Ming-Xuan Chung, choir director Sylvia McDonald, and the choir. Much appreciation to administration assistant Rachael Greenland, the board, committee members, and the volunteers who kept everything running so smoothly. A final thank you to everyone who attended Beaconservices this year. Without you, none of this would have ever happened.

Enjoy your summer, stay safe, and keep in touch with one another. We will see you on September 13th for our first Sunday Service of the new church year.

— David Kristjanson, President



David Kristjanson

Calling all crafters! The Pastoral Support Team is grateful to Donna Hamilton for donating a big box of fabrics left from her various design projects for Beacon. We are getting ready to make another Caring Quilt and some tote bags. This community building project will happen sometime in the coming year. Anyone from age 12 and up is invited to participate. Is anyone interested in preparation and planning? Please contact Judy Villett at jvillett@hotmail.com or 604-329-9792 if you can help.

Stay Connected Over the Summer

We had our last regular worship service on June 21st. However, that doesn't mean you have to fall into a Beacon withdrawal syndrome. There are lots of ways to stay connected during the summer. For instance, you could just pick up the Beacon Directory and randomly call someone, anyone, and say hello. Or connect with the Theology Pub or the film club via Zoom.

Or, if you want someone to call you, you can give your name to Joyce Gudaitis and she'll put you on the list to receive a well-being call during the summer (we have some folks lined up to make calls like this).

We don't yet know whether we'll be continuing Zoom church in September or will be meeting in a Covid-Safe modified arrangement at Sapperton Hall. But whatever it is we shall persevere. Because we care and we're stronger together.

For a handy reference list of contacts over the Summer, check this out:

- Beacon General Information: Board Member message phone 778-791-7952
- Film Club: Nancy Rupert
- Theology Pub: Franci Louann theologypub@beaconunitarian.org
- Lunch Bunch: Anne McLeod at 604-528-8489.
- Pastoral Care: Laura Redmond, Judy

Villett, pastoral-care@beaconunitarian.org

- Donations: Heather Brown treasurer@beaconunitarian.org
- Lay Chaplaincy: Sue Sparlin for weddings and memorials ceremonies@beaconunitarian.org
- Beacon's FB group page can be used for communications to everyone.

—Sue Sparlin



Sue Sparlin

Living with Less Plastic: Just Good News

For this SUMMER message, I'm focusing on the good stuff! No laments, no persuasions, no harangues, just positive environmental news.

From Greenpeace: Desjardins divests its green fund from fossil fuels

Desjardins, the largest association of credit unions in North America, took a major step in cleaning up its green SocioTerra funds and portfolios last weekend. For a long time, 5% of the supposedly "green" account (worth \$4.6 billion) was invested in fossil fuels.

From Goodnewsnetwork.org: Amazon Forest Win

A victory in a decades-long court battle provided relief for a special part of the Amazon rainforest and for the Ashaninka indigenous people who live there, as their 1990s lawsuit against illegal logging interests finally

ended with a public statement of apology and a \$3 million award for compensation.

Forestry companies and their legal teams acknowledged the "enormous importance of the Ashaninka people as guardians of the forest, zealous in the preservation of the environment," in their official apology which claimed regret "for all the ills caused."

"The case will define hundreds of thousands of cases on massive environmental crimes in Brazil," Antonio Rodrigo, the attorney for Ashaninka, said according to Latin Post.

From Clean Energy Canada: Catching the Bus

Electric buses tick all the boxes. They reduce pollution, improve the air quality and health of our communities, and visibly demonstrate climate action in motion. They offer cost savings over their lifespan because the electricity used to power them costs much less, and they have fewer main-

tenance needs than a diesel-powered bus.

See the Report: [Catching the Bus: How smart policy can accelerate electric buses across Canada.](#)



Teresa Morton

And from Greenpeace again: You (Greenpeace members) convinced MPs to speak up for a green and just recovery

More than 3,300 people visited our (Greenpeace) page on May 27th, answering our call to tell key Liberal MPs to speak up publicly in favour of a green and just recovery.

Rachel Bendayan, Outremont MP in Montreal, and Joël Lightbound, Louis-Hébert MP in Quebec city, have both answered your call by the end of day.

—Teresa Morton

Living with Less Plastic New West
Teresa.a.morton@gmail.com

Religious Exploration (RE)

This newsletter article is the last before our summer break. I will be off work from Beacon until August 15th. Considering current events, it seems like such an odd time to take a break and yet it is one I appreciatively welcome. Like most of you, I have been engrossed by the current protests and demonstrations in the United States and Canada following countless preventable deaths at the hands of police. George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Chantel Moore, Regis Korchinski-Paquet amongst countless others from days, weeks, months, years and centuries past. And of course all of this ongoing tragedy amongst the backdrop of a global pandemic which disproportionately affects Black, Indigenous, and other people of colour.

My heart is broken. And as I continue to learn about the many ways my own white skin affords me privileges I take for granted everyday, I try to consider the ways I can best support the needs of this community. How can we embed anti-racist work in all that we do? In moments like these I ground myself in the Unitarian Universalist principles: the inherent worth and dignity of every person;

justice, equity and compassion in human relations; and the goal of world community with peace, liberty and justice for all.

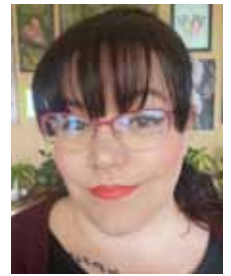
As we transition into summer, into a gradual and phased re-opening of our immediate circles and larger economy, I encourage you to engage in continued learning and commitment to anti-racism work in your own life and the life of your family. Think of ways to embed anti-racist work in things you already do and ways you already connect. Are you part of a book club? Consider buying and reading books about and by black, Indigenous or other non-white artists. Do you buy particular products for your family or yourself? Consider sourcing similar products from black, Indigenous, and other people of color (BIPOC) instead. Do you feel comfortable calling up or writing to your local government official? Send them a note expressing your concern and your suggestions for change. And so on.

Of course police brutality and systemic racism cannot be solved in a single statement, Sunday service or one time donation, but like everything else we practice, we must begin

somewhere. We must put one foot in front of the other as this is how we learn to walk. We are all on a spectrum of learning and unlearning about the world around us. Nobody knows everything but together we know a lot. And together we can shape our world for the better.

Recently I watched the June 2nd UUA Black Lives Matter prayer vigil (which you can still watch on youtube) and was inspired by many of the voices that shared. In particular I was inspired by the artist Melanie DeMore, and ever since I have been listening to her songs on Spotify—especially the song *Sending You Light*. Before you continue on your way I encourage you to [listen to it](#), breathe deeply, and take in the message of the song, "I'm sending you light, to heal you, to hold you...I'm sending you light, to hold you in love." May it be so. Take good care,

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



Ashley Cole

Thank You!

Thank you so very much to all those who attended the BeBeDoLe “kitchen party” that we had on Saturday (June 13). It was fun to see so many former Beaconites there—I was so blessed to be able to work with them all—we did have some good times together! Thanks to each of you for your kind words—it is making it feel so much more real, now. Not that severely downsizing and selling my house didn't already feel real—but I've been trying to ignore the wrench it is going to be to leave this community. And this leads me to thank you so much for the gift of the framed photo of the whole congregation—it is lovely. I will carry you all in my heart—you say that I've been a big part of Beacon, but Beacon has very definitely been a big part of me!! Luckily, I will still be able to attend the services—somewhat remotely!!

—Donna Hamilton



Beacon Programs

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

The Humanist Discussion Group (meeting online)

likes to think about and discuss our common humanity, and our place as individuals and collectives in this dance of life. We are a group that welcomes different points of view and discusses a wide range of ideas. We meet the last Sundays of the month, via Zoom. If this piques your curiosity please contact Marilyn Medén by email (m.j.meden@telus.net) or by phone at 604-469-6797. The next meeting will take place on September 27th.

Theology Pub (Online)

Theology Pub will meet weekly during the summer on Sundays at 10:30 am, via Zoom. To contact Franci Louann, the facilitator, email: theologypub@beaconunitarian.org or call 604-837-7613. See box below for more information.

Book Club meetings are held on the 4th Thursday of each month at 7 pm and are now online. For Zoom details contact John Hagen, ajhagen@telus.net. **July 23, 2020: *Deer Hunting with Jesus: Dispatches from America's Class War*** by Joe Bagaent. *Facilitator: Susan Tarras.* See box on page 7 for more information.

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.

Join the Beacon Choir for musical fun and skill development. Contact choirdirector@beaconunitarian.org for more info. Note: Choir practices have been suspended until further notice.

Lunch Bunch meets every Thursday at noon, year-round, currently via Zoom. Bring your own lunch and share in lively and topical conversation. Contact Anne MacLeod at 604-528-8489 for the Zoom link.

Online Beacon Film Club

Join us for a fun night! Similar to the book club, the procedure is to view the film in advance, and then come to a Zoom meeting to chat about it.

The films selected are all available from YouTube for a rental fee (from \$0 to \$6.99). They may also be available for streaming from other internet sources, so if you have a subscription to a streaming service, do check there first. To rent a film from YouTube, just search for the title in YouTube and look for the video that has a blue "Buy or Rent" box next to it.

We will meet to talk about the film at 7 pm on Friday evenings via Zoom. Please email Nancy Rupert (nancy.rupert@gmail.com) for Zoom meeting details. Each week a new person will "host" a film they've chosen. Bring your popcorn and your opinions.

Film Line-up for July

July 3: Dead Again (Nancy hosts)

July 10: The Umbrellas of Cherbourg (Franci hosts)

July 17: The Hurricane (Hank hosts)

July 24: Roman J. Israel, Esq. (Judy hosts)



Theology Pub becomes Theology Brunch?

No, we're still not going 'out' together this summer, alas... miss you, too. But we've chosen a new time slot, one that you're used to—Theology Pub will meet at 10:30 am on Sundays in July and August. Arrive via Zoom after 10:15. We welcome PJs, bedheads & brunching if you haven't had breakfast. As you know, seating is not a problem. All come. If we have more than usual, we can divide into separate rooms for discussions.

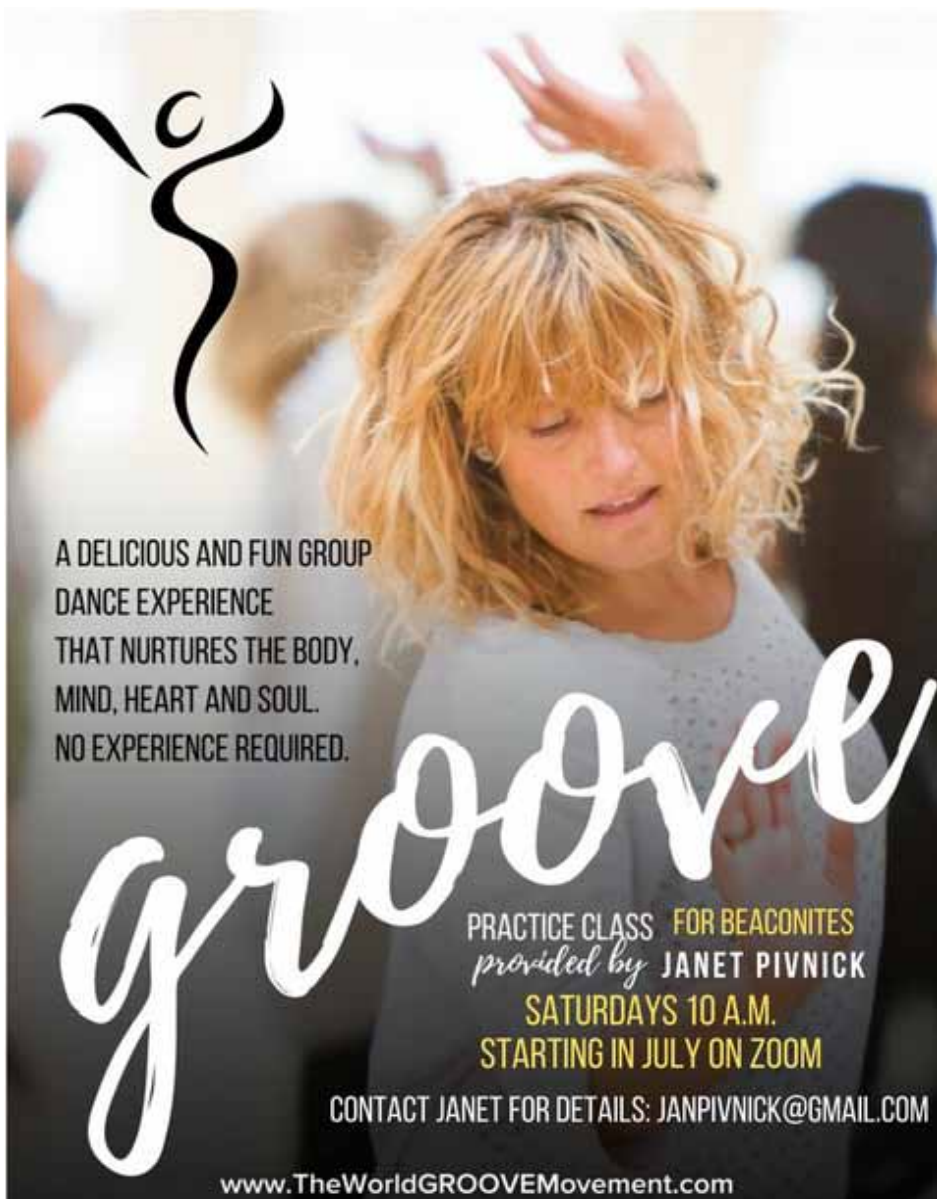
In June we will have finished our studies of our Unitarian principles and sources. I have ten topics for consideration—more than enough for the summer. I'll send one out each week, in time for some research if you want to do that. (Unitarians like to talk, yes?) Some of you may wish to 'stay for church'—the trans-Canada Unitarian services, most of which will start at 1 pm.

If you'd like to join our email list, let me know at theologypub@beaconunitarian.org.

—Franci Louann, Facilitator



Franci Louann



GROOVE Dance – Coming this summer for Beaconites and Friends

Groove dance is a simple and very fun way to enjoy moving your body. You don't need to have any dance experience. You don't need to have a particular fitness level or body type. Groove dance is for EVERYBODY. A facilitator guides you through a few very simple moves, helps you to connect to yourself and the music, and helps the group to unite in the movement. The rest is up to you. There's no wrong way to groove. Simply explore and enjoy the pleasure of moving to music your way.

Classes will be held Saturdays at 10 am on Zoom. Start date TBA. Please contact Janet Pivnick janpivnick@gmail.com if you'd like to be included on the mailout to receive more information.

A note from Janet: I have completed facilitator training but will not be doing my practicum to become a full-fledged facilitator until we are able to have in-person dance classes again. For now, let's learn and practice and play together!

Beacon Book Club Thurs. July 23, 7 pm (Online)

*Deer Hunting with Jesus:
Dispatches from America's Class
War* by Joe Bageant
Facilitator: Susan Tarras



After thirty years spent scratching together a middle-class life out of a “dirt-poor” childhood,

Joe Bageant moved back to his hometown of Winchester, Virginia, where he realized that his family and neighbors were the very people who carried George W. Bush to victory. That was ironic, because Winchester, like countless American small towns, is fast becoming the bedrock of a permanent underclass. Two in five of the people in his old neighborhood do not have high school diplomas. Nearly everyone over fifty has serious health problems, and many have no health care. Credit ratings are low or nonexistent, and alcohol, overeating, and Jesus are the preferred avenues of escape.

Deer Hunting with Jesus is a potent antidote to what Bageant dubs “the American hologram”—the televised, corporatized virtual reality that distracts us from the insidious realities of American life. (Source: Burnaby Public Library Catalogue)

More info about the book club at: <http://beaconunitarian.org/index.php/book-club/>.

For Zoom meeting details contact John Hagen, bookclub@beaconunitarian.org.



CUC Virtual Gatherings

Connect and Deepen Virtual Gathering (Online)

Saturday, July 11: 1 pm. [Please register in advance](#). Connect and Deepen is a regular small group ministry. We gather, virtually, for meaningful discussion, connection and reflection. If you are not connected to a local congregation, or just want the opportunity to explore spiritual topics within a guided small group we encourage you to join us.

Unitarians A – Z

Join John Sproule from Don Heights Congregation (Toronto, Ontario) for a light-hearted PowerPoint show on Unitarian, Universalist and UU biographies, with audience participation. Each show stands on its own.

- First edition: Every 2nd Tuesday, covering S onwards (Jul. 14, Aug. 11)
- Second edition: Every 4th Tuesday, finishing C and proceeding with DEF (July 28, August 25)

4:00 pm PT. [Zoom meeting link](#).

Gathered Here: Young Adult Check-In

July 6: 5 pm; July 23: 11 am; August 3: 5 pm; August 20, 11 am; August 31, 5 pm.
[Zoom meeting information](#).

Young Adult Informal HangOUTs

July 6: 6:15 pm; July 12: 1 pm. Join a casual social drop-in space for young adults (18-35-year-olds), hosted by YAs Micaela Corcoran and Camille Bousekla!

MAKE YOUR CHILD'S Future Bright



Future Bright is a FREE EFry program that helps parents and guardians access up to \$3,200 for their child's education through the Canada Learning Bond (CLB) and BC Training and Education Savings Grant (BCTESG). This money is free for you to claim for your child and you don't have to contribute any money yourself. Youth who have savings for their education are 50% more likely to attend post-secondary!



WHO IS IT FOR?

Canada Learning Bond

To be eligible a child must:

- Have been born in 2004 or later.
- Reside in Canada.
- PLUS, families with 1 to 3 children must have a net income under \$47,630 (for families with more than 3 children, contact EFry's Future Bright team).

BC Training and Education Savings Grant

To be eligible a child must:

- Have been born in 2006 or later
- Reside in British Columbia
- Be between the ages of 6 and 8

HOW DOES IT WORK?

Canada Learning Bond

- \$2,000 will be deposited into your child's Registered Education Savings Plan (RESP).
- Each child receives at least \$500 in their RESP to start.
- Each year that they are eligible, they receive an additional \$100 until the age of 15.
- If applying several years after your child was born, you will receive all payments owed to your child from past years.

BC Training and Education Savings Grant

- BCTESG will give children a free one time payment of \$1200 for children ages 6 to 8.

WHAT DO I NEED?

- Your Social Insurance Number
- Your child's Social Insurance Number
- 2 pieces of your ID (1 government-issued photo ID)

Don't have ID? We will work with you to get it!

APPLY NOW!

Apply online at www.elizabethfry.com/future-bright or contact EFry's Future Bright team at 604-520-1166 or email futurebright@elizabethfry.com



@EFryVancouver



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info@beaconunitarian.org

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