



Following are the tentative topics for our December on-line meetings, using the Zoom platform. Please check the website closer to the date in case any changes have been necessary. Services take place on Sunday at 10:30 am unless otherwise noted.

Interested in a Beacon 'Open House' on Christmas Day, December 25th?

Would you like to connect with other Beaconites on Christmas day? We want to know if there's interest in our organizing a couple of online 'open-houses' so people can enjoy an informal visit with others from the comfort of your home. We are also looking for 2-3 friendly hosts to commit to 1.5-2 hours. If you are interested, please let Meg know by Tuesday, December 8th: minister@beaconunitarian.org or 778-870-9015.

DEC 6 **Having the Holiday Blues** *Rev. Meg Roberts*

Come hear stories, readings and music to help us explore how we are feeling about this month's winter holidays. What will support our spiritual growth and our emotional health in this year like no other we've known? Have a candle on hand if you would like one as part of our ritual sharing.

DEC 8 **Stresses and Holidays** **Tuesday, 7-8:30 pm** *Colin Chow*

Registered Clinical Counsellor Colin Chow will facilitate a Zoom session about the stresses we might be feeling as we move into the holiday season and will work collaboratively with us to make meaning from this uncertainty. For more information see page 6. Registration required.

DEC 13 **What the Dickens!** **A (UU) Christmas Carol** *Ashley Cole, the RE*

Department and you

Join us for our annual whole-church holiday pageant. Our tale this year will be the classic, well-known story of Ebenezer Scrooge, a man whose heart was changed toward goodness in the course of one extraordinary night. This play is told primarily by a core group of narrators & actors but has opportunities for whole church participation. Come and join the fun!

DEC 20 **Love Actually** *Service Leaders:* *Susan White, Heather Brown*

In this year's holiday season, which traditionally celebrates peace and joy, it is perhaps love that we need most. And it's love, actually, that holds us in community. Come celebrate together with a little tenderness, a little poignancy, a little humour and a lot of love (and music).

DEC 24 **Christmas Eve Service** **7 pm** *Rev. Meg Roberts*

With inspiring stories and music of the season, we reflect on what it means to connect and be in community. What does this holiday mean to you? Bring friends and family to this service as well as anyone else who might like to be in a community on this holiday eve.

We hope you'll stay after the service for an online social hour—our coffee hour team will host this time of conversation and connecting. Have on hand your favourite treat and drink to enjoy!

DEC 27 **Movement** *Marilyn Medén* Moving from one year to the

next, inspired by words and music, we dance in body, mind, and soul. In the privacy of our own homes, we are unrestrained, and unrepressed.

Musings by Meg

The wisdom of Dr. Bonnie Henry, BC's Provincial Health Officer, is recognizable:

Be kind, be calm, be safe.

It's on front lawn signs, t-shirts, plaques, buttons, even on limited edition BC Transit Compass passes. In a June 28 interview on Global News, when asked where this mantra came from, Dr. Henry smiled and said, "It really was a bit of a compilation, you know. I was trying to figure out how we could get the message across that we need to be in this together and that we need to understand where other people are coming from. We are in this storm, the same storm, but we're not all in the same boat. And by supporting each other and doing what we need to do together is how we'll all get through this storm."

In a time of great uncertainty and rising numbers from COVID-19, having Dr. Henry's presence, wisdom and expertise has benefited BC in how we've been weathering this pandemic storm so far. In the regular COVID-19 briefings, I have seen her humility as she recognizes that they are learning as they go, as are we all.

I think these words fit with our **December theme, the third Unitarian Universalist principle: we affirm and promote acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations.**

Be kind: It takes time, patience, and effort to understand where other people are coming from. It is part of accepting one another. We're not all in the same boat. Some are impacted significantly more than others—both in our congregation, in the larger community and in our world. When we understand others, we can feel more compassion. That can spark our kindness. But even when we haven't come to understand each other,

bringing kindness to others as well as ourselves helps us weather the storm.

Be calm: What spiritual practices will help you to cultivate calm this winter? With my mindfulness meditation app, I'm learning how it is not just about cultivating calm when I'm in a quiet environment on my own—it's about cultivating calm when I'm in the eye of the storm. It is practicing bringing myself back to that inner calm place when I am flustered, uncertain, anxious, angry, or frightened. Sometimes it works more than at other times. And that is okay. It is accepting the reality that is in front of me and around me and cultivating calm within me. That helps me have the peace of mind to make decisions, to see the person in front of me when they are sharing how they are right now (whether they're in person or on Zoom!).

Be safe: That means maintaining the requirements of the Provincial Health Officer's orders and employing best practices from the Centre for Disease Control, even when we'd rather not during the holidays—when we would so much rather gather and celebrate as we always have. Yet if we remember that we believe in our interdependence, that all people's worth is the same as ours, then it isn't just about what I want and need right now or what you want and need. It is about what we all need together to be safe. So, who needs my support right now to be safe? In these holidays, are there ways I can offer support to others (and they can choose if they accept it or not)? Do I have resources I can share with others as part of how I celebrate my holidays this year?

What do Dr. Henry's words mean to you? How will you apply them in your life this month? During the holidays? I hope you'll send your ideas to me and let me know if I can share

them with others in our *Beacon This Week* email updates.

We are in this storm together. By accepting one another and cultivating our spiritual growth, we can help one another make this month a time for connecting, caring and inspiration. I wish you and those dear to you good health and well-being this month and in the year to come.

In the spirit of life,

Rev. Meg Roberts



Rev. Meg Roberts

How to reach me:

Because I'm working half-time from home, here's how best to reach me:

- My regular Beacon days for meetings are Wednesdays and Thursdays. To support emotional connection and physical distancing, I'm available for appointments via Zoom or phone.
 - On weekends when I lead Beacon's Sunday service, I also work Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays—focusing on service preparation those days as well as other work. I will respond to emails and phone calls on those days as well. (This month, that is Dec.4-6 and Dec.11-13.)
 - Mondays and Tuesdays are my regular days off.
 - **From Dec. 26 – Jan. 5, I will be off work** (for holidays and some time off in lieu for over-time worked earlier this year). If you need assistance during that time, please email board@beaconunitarian.org or if you would like pastoral care support, please email pastoralcare@beaconunitarian.org.
 - I can be reached via email: minister@beaconunitarian.org and on my cell at 778-870-9015. I will respond as soon as I'm able. If it's an emergency, please leave a message on my phone.
- I look forward to connecting with you.

Board Bitz

What a year we had. We were just getting to know our new Minister, Rev. Meg Roberts, when boom, a global pandemic hit. It all happened so fast. Beacon's Sunday Services at Sapperton Hall and all of our in-person gatherings were cancelled in March and Sapperton Hall was taken over by the Royal Columbian Hospital as an extension of their Emergency Department.

Rev. Meg and the Worship Services committee 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 during Joys and Sorrows, and we sang our hearts out at home (while muted, of course!). Our Director of Religious Exploration, Ashley Cole, and the RE Committee worked hard helping families and children stay connected with each other and with Beacon. 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 with Sasamat Camp, but unfortunately, this year Sasamat had to be cancelled due to COVID-19. That doesn't mean that we didn't have fun though. In June we had a big Online Kitchen Party for long-time Beacon member Donna Hamilton, who was moving to New Brunswick to be closer to her children and grandchildren. The silver lining in this whole COVID thing is that Donna is still attending services from the other side of the country. Others who have moved away are also joining us once again for Sunday services because the world is so much smaller online.

Online platforms like Zoom and Facebook allowed us to stay con-

nected in new and interesting ways. In July and August we continued to meet online for all our regular clubs and met every Sunday morning at 10:30 for Theology Brunch. Beacon's Telephone Tree kept us in touch with each other over the summer.

By the time September rolled around we were all professionals at this online stuff. We had 23 people show up for our online Start Up Gathering to explore Beacon's purpose for the upcoming Church year. We looked at Beacon's vision statement and decided that in this time of self-isolation Beacon's top priority should be to *Connect with Compassion and Respect*. With this in mind we brainstormed ways to meet this purpose with programs, gatherings, and fun family events. One of those fun events was the People's Eco Challenge that we did in October.

October also brought us a very successful pledge drive. Our treasurer, Heather Brown, has been crunching the numbers and has created a Budget for 2021. Because of your generosity Beacon continues to thrive. **There will be a congregational budget meeting on Sunday, December 6th, after the service, to vote on this budget.** A copy of the budget will be sent out by email, or mail, so that you can have a look at it before the meeting. Please plan to attend and practice our 5th Principle!

Thank you to all the staff and volunteers who have kept our community running smoothly during this exceptional year. Thank you to Rev. Meg Roberts who has proven to be our rock during these difficult times. Thank you as well to our Director of Religious Exploration, Ashley Cole, who continues to work with families in our congregation during this time of quarantine. You have all been indispensable.

As we wind down this amazing year, keep an eye on our weekly email, *Beacon This Week*, for information on special services and events including our annual Christmas Eve service.

From all of us on the Board have a wonderful Holiday Season and a very Happy New Year.

— David Kristjanson, President



David Kristjanson

Please Support the Share Food Bank!

The Share food bank is in need of extra support during the winter season when they distribute gifts for children and extra hampers at Christmas time. Over the last three years Beacon has supported the food bank very generously—on average providing \$1700 yearly to support families in need. But this year, our contributions are much lower. **Please dig deep to continue that outstanding support on Dec. 6th, our last collection this year.** Remember donations of \$20 or more are tax receiptable.

During COVID, donations to the food bank need to be mailed to John Hagen for forwarding to Share, or mailed directly to *Share Family and Community Services* at number 104 - 3020 Lincoln Avenue Coquitlam BC, V3B 6B4. For further information their phone number is 604-540-9161. Thank you for supporting neighbours in our community through your donations to our local foodbank.

Thank you, John Hagen

The People's Ecochallenge wrap-up!

The People's Ecochallenge is over! Together your team of sixteen Beacon members:

- saved four pounds of CO₂
- completed one advocacy action
- spent over 2000 minutes exercising
- spent 442 minutes learning about sustainability and eco-justice
- ate 85 meatless or vegan meals
- spent 2,609 minutes outdoors in nature
- composted 20 pounds of waste
- saved 76 gallons of water

In total we earned 3,094 points and ended up with a ranking of 103 out of 467 teams worldwide! Way to go, Beacon!

Here are some of the comments from participants:

- Elizabeth C.: I learned that we need to find new things to replace things we use now—such as new plastic wrap. I use the waxed cloth ones but they can't be put in the refrigerator. I use the plastic ones but they are 'plastic.' I hope they come out with more hemp products as I think that will help a lot.
- Marilyn M.: The Ecochallenge gave direction and was habit-forming for my desire to meditate, walk more, and be more grateful.
- Reverend Meg: I enjoyed being part of Beacon's Ecochallenge team and

reading each other's comments. The challenge helped me firm up practices such as more vegetarian meals and following through on daily exercise. The 21-day challenge really can help build new habits!

At our Ecochallenge Party, we celebrated our accomplishments and thought about doing the Ecochallenge again next fall. Perhaps with a Metro-Vancouver Unitarian Team.

—Teresa Morton

Teresa.a.morton@gmail.com



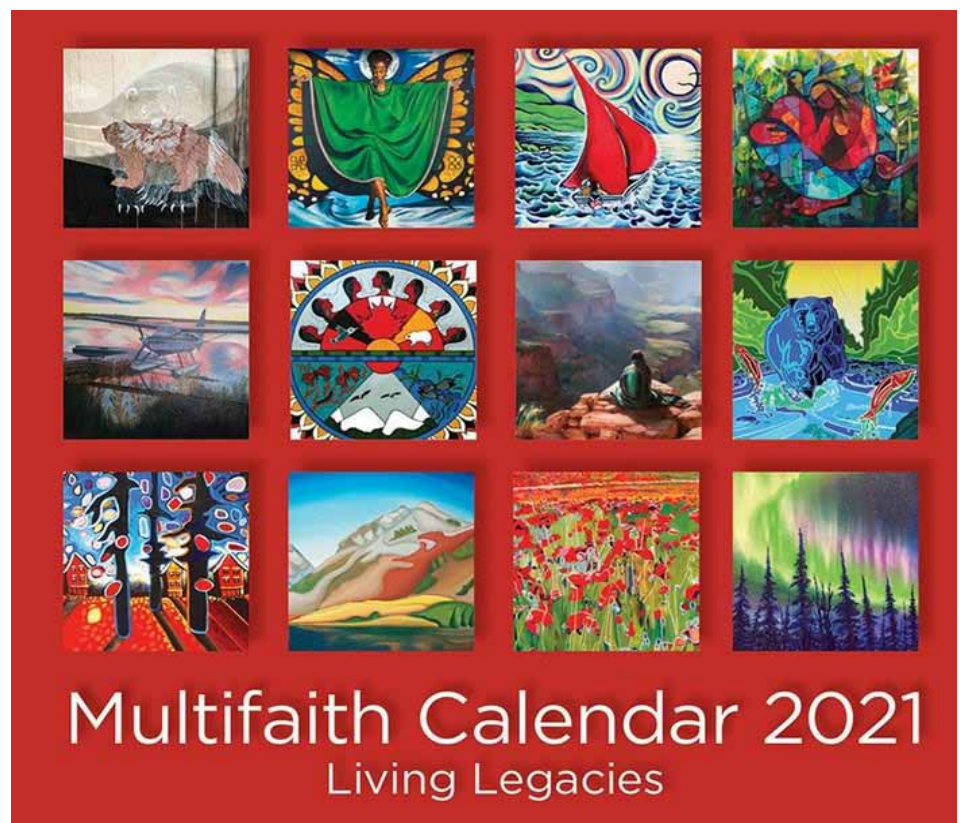
Teresa Morton

Children and Youth Religious Exploration (CYRE)

Hello everyone! I am looking forward to the virtual holiday pageant on December 13th—a multi-age pageant based on the classic tale *A Christmas Carol*! There will be opportunities for audience participation and lots of fun singing so make sure to mark it in your calendar.

As for Religious Exploration programming, you can find more information on the Beacon website under the Programs tab > Religious Exploration for Children and Youth. The Children & Youth Religious Exploration (CYRE) Committee continues to send monthly mail-outs to registered families with some suggested UU programming you can do from home. You can find electronic versions of those program newsletters on the Beacon website.

And finally, we are happy to share that we will be selling the multi-faith calendars again this year! The calendars are \$15 each. If you are interested in purchasing one or



would like more information please contact Bette Goode.

Take good care,

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

Profile: Denis Probst and Mary Kendall

Many of you might be wondering how Beaconites Denis Probst and Mary Kendall are faring during this time of COVID. Denis, who turned 98 in September, has been a respected elder at Beacon since its beginning and used to attend services regularly with his friend, Jane Shoemaker. He also enjoyed hosting the Humanist group at his *Astoria* seniors' residence. Sadly those two ways of connecting with his community are not available to him right now.

We have a deep and long-standing relationship with Denis and Mary. Denis was our son's elder in the Secret Buddy programme at Beacon almost three decades ago. Over the years we have enjoyed regular visits and conversations with both Mary and Denis, often over a delicious and elegant dinner at *The Astoria*. We also attended many of Denis' concerts when he sang with, and was MC for, the *Astoria Songsters*.

COVID has made such indoor visits impossible. However, *The Astoria* has offered creative and safe ways for us to continue to visit and connect with each other. Once a week, Denis and I meet in the back foyer of *The Astoria*. All COVID protocols are scrupulously followed. Denis greatly enjoys classical music so I bring along my sound system and we listen to and discuss a variety of classical pieces. I have my computer at the ready to answer any of Denis' questions about the music. He is astute, perceptive and curious. Our last time together was spent listening to one of his favourite composers and pieces, *The Goldberg Variations* by Bach.

This week, I will bring along a boxed set of four CDs called *300 Years*



of *Classical Music*. We are both eager to listen to and explore together *The Age of Baroque*, *The Age of the Classics*, *The Romantic Age* and *The Age of Modern Composers*. We hope that COVID is long over by the time we reach the end of these CDs!

Denis also enjoyed listening to an old CD by Harold Brown who was the beloved pianist at the 49th and Oak Unitarian Church. Denis knew Harold well.

Once a week, Bill phones Denis at *The Astoria*. They never seem to run out of topics of conversation as Denis continues to listen to CBC radio and is curious about all current events. He is also full of delightful and entertaining stories of his life in England and here in Canada. Often Bill brings along poetry to read for him.

In November, Denis was a featured performer at *Crossroads Coffeeshouse* which Bill organizes and MCs. Denis did a 15-minute recitation of a variety of his favourite poems and was met at the end with a standing ovation.

When going through Denis' CD



collections recently, Bill found a recording done several decades ago of Denis reciting many of his favourite poems. At this month's poetry

meeting at *The Astoria*, attendees were treated to the voice of a younger Denis, presenting several of his favourite pieces.

Mary continues to read voraciously! I

regularly bring her books from the library. She has read every Danielle Steel novel ever written and is always open to trying new authors and releases. She attends a weekly art class and continues to make beautiful creations. Since she tells me that "she is running out of space in their small apartment," she has given away more than 30 of her art pieces to friends, relatives, *Astoria* residents and many of the people at their seniors' home who take such good care of her and Denis.

We admire Mary and Denis' courage, good humour, resilience and optimism in these difficult times of uncertainty.

—Kate Smith and Bill Marshall

Beacon Programs

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

The Humanist Discussion Group (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 who welcome different points of view and discuss a wide range of ideas. We meet the last Sundays of the month at 7:30 pm, via Zoom. However there is no meeting in December. If you are interested, but have not been receiving emails about the Humanist Group, please contact Marilyn Medén by email (m.j.meden@telus.net) or by phone at 604-469-6797 for information and Zoom link.

Theology Pub (Online) meets the third Sunday of the month at 1 pm via Zoom. Our themes will complement those of the monthly service themes. Shortly before the meeting Franci will remind the T-Pub members of the Zoom link and offer an inspirational thought. Franci offers blessings for your holiday season. Please contact her for more information or to be added to the email list: theologypub@beaconunitarian.org.

Book Club (Online) meets the 4th Thursday of each month at 7 pm (3rd Sunday in December). For Zoom details contact John Hagen, ajhagen@telus.net. **Thursday, Dec. 17: *Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine*** by Gail Honeyman facilitated by Carol Woodworth. See box on page 7 for more information.

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

Stresses and Holidays

Beacon 90-minute online meeting with Counsellor Colin Chow

Tuesday, December 8, 7:00 – 8:30pm



Colin Chow

The holiday season can bring their own special “joys and sorrows”. With the pandemic, there is added uncertainty to this year’s holiday season that goes beyond whether the turkey is cooked properly, or remembering which relatives cannot be seated next to each other. Lockdowns, social disconnection, financial worries and fear of illness are stoking up uncozy fires that are causing many of us to feel sad, scared, anxious, depressed and a deep sense of grief and loss.

As a follow up to Rev. Meg Roberts’ “Blue Holiday Service” on Sunday December 6th, the Beacon Unitarian Church is inviting Registered Clinical Counsellor Colin Chow to facilitate a ZOOM session about the stresses we might be feeling as we move into the holiday season and to work collaboratively with us to making meaning from this uncertainty. In this 90 minute session, Colin will lead with a short presentation, but the focus will be on hearing and responding to the experiences and narratives of all who register for this session.

Colin is a long-time resident of New Westminster and has worked with many faith communities, independent/public schools, post-secondary art/college/universities in his work as a Registered Clinical Counsellor, Educator and University Faculty. He is excited to be working with the Beacon Unitarian Church for this session on Tuesday, December 8 from 7 to 8:30 pm.

Please RVSP to Meg by Monday, December 7th, 12 noon: minister@beaconunitarian.org or phone 778-870-9015. Then we can email you the Zoom link and other information.

Groove Dance (Online) is a simple and fun way to move 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 EVERY BODY. A facilitator guides you through a few simple moves, helps you to connect to yourself and the music, and the rest is up to you. Simply explore and enjoy the pleasure of moving to music your way. See the [three minute informational video](#). Join other Beaconites in this fun form of community dance. Classes will be held Mondays at 5:30 on Zoom. Please contact Janet Pivnick janpivnick@gmail.com to receive the Zoom link or for more information.

Attend ‘Getting to Know Beacon’ (to learn more about our Sunday services and programs) or a **‘Getting to Know You’ session** (for conversation with our minister and Connecting Committee, and to learn more about Unitarianism and ways to be part of this community). If you are interested in attending the next session of either, please contact Rev. Meg Roberts: minister@beaconunitarian.org or 778-870-9015.

The Beacon Choir has been temporarily suspended due to COVID-19. Please contact choirdirector@beaconunitarian.org for more information about the choir.



Pastoral Support Team

Your pastoral care team wishes you a happy and healthy holiday season. If this is a challenging time for you please know that we are here for you.

Beacon's Pastoral Support Team encourages members and friends to reach out and let us know if you, or someone you know, has a specific need. For example: wanting emotional or physical support of some kind; illness at home or in hospital; in self-isolation and needing help with errands. Also, let us know if you would like us to drop off one of the Beacon Caring Quilts, so that you can wrap yourself in the compassion and care of this community. We can do our best to be of use in ways that meet recommendations around social contact from BC's Provincial Health Officer. —Rev. Meg Roberts (778-870-9015), [Laura Redmond](mailto:Laura.Redmond@beaconunitarian.org) and [Judy Villett](mailto:Judy.Villett@beaconunitarian.org) pastoralcare@beaconunitarian.org



Let us know if you would like us to drop off one of the Beacon Caring Quilts, so that you can wrap yourself in the compassion and care of this community.

Soul Matters Sharing Circles

Led by Rev. Meg Roberts, the next session is planned for **Wednesday, December 2nd** as we reflect on our Unitarian principle, "right of conscience and the democratic process" (November's theme). We have two groups: 1:00–3:00 pm or 6:30–8:30 pm. If you would like to try it out, please contact Rev. Meg Roberts (minister@beaconunitarian.org, 778-870-9015) for Zoom access information. The participant info packet is available on Beacon's web site ([see resources link at top left](#)). You can join via computer/smart phone/tablet or via regular phone. All are welcome.

Beacon Film Club

Fridays, 7 pm (Online)

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, search for the title in YouTube and look for the video that has a blue "Buy or Rent" box beside it.

We will meet to talk about the film at 7 pm on Friday evenings via Zoom. Please email Marilyn Medén (m.j.meden@telus.net) for Zoom meeting details. Each week a new person will choose and "host" a film. Bring your popcorn and your opinions.

Film Line-up for December

Dec. 4: *Some Like It Hot*, introduced by Janene White

Dec. 11: *One Last Deal*, introduced by Donna Webb

Dec. 18: *Love Actually*, introduced by Franci Louann

Beacon Book Club

Thurs. Nov. 26, 7 pm (Online)



Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine

by Gail Honeyman,
Penguin Random House
Canada,

c. 2017, 327 pp.

Facilitator: Carol Woodworth
Genres: Scottish, Women's Fiction, Literary Fiction

2017 Costa Debut Novel Award

Quirky Eleanor struggles to relate to other people and lives a very solitary life. When she and the new work IT guy happen to be walking down the street together, they witness an elderly man collapse on the sidewalk and suddenly Eleanor's orderly routines are disrupted. This is a novel about loneliness and how a little bit of kindness can change a person forever. *Source: Wikipedia*

More info about the book club at: <http://beaconunitarian.org/index.php/book-club/>. For Zoom meeting details contact John Hagen, bookclub@beaconunitarian.org.

What Does Green Mean?

We should be proud to read of the accomplishments of James Marshall, a young man who passed through Beacon's program for children and youth. His parents, Bill Marshall and Kate Smith, were long-time members of our church.

James was a Green Party candidate in our recent provincial election. He ran for the riding of Vancouver West End.

James must be considered a rising star in the Green movement. He has written a book, entitled *What Does Green Mean?*, with the subtext *The History, People, and Ideas of the Green Party in Canada and Abroad*. It was published in 2019 by Victoria's Friesen Press.

We can hope that our Beacon environment contributed to the development of his way of thinking.

—Jane Shoemaker

A letter to Beacon from James Marshall:

Hi Beacon community!

My folks let me know about the very kind words that were shared about me by Jane, and I'm very touched. I definitely think that the experiences in Beacon's youth program so many years ago had an effect on me and helped guide me on the road to getting politically active.

In particular, I've noticed how similar the Unitarian Universalist Principles are to the guiding values in the Charter of the Global Greens. The Unitarian principles call for the inherent worth and dignity of every human being; justice and equity; the value of the democratic process; a goal of peace and liberty; and a respect for the interdependent web of existence. The Greens also chose six principles to guide their decision-making when they drafted their charter: ecological wisdom, sustainability, social justice, participatory democracy, non-violence, and respect for diversity.

When I went looking for my political home and a place to direct my energies, I found the Green principles to be familiar and already in alignment with the values that I'd been raised with. I'm now working hard to try to promote those values in the political world, just like Beacon tries to do in a spiritual way.

I wish all the best to everyone in the congregation! Take care and stay safe in this bizarre time in the world.

—James Marshall



Former Beacon youth, James Marshall was a Green Party candidate in our recent provincial election.



What Does Green Mean? The History, People, and Ideas of the Green Party in Canada and Abroad, written by James Marshall and published in 2019 by Victoria's Friesen Press.

Recollection concerning James Marshall

James attended French Immersion at Hillcrest Elementary School in Coquitlam. I taught James music in the primary grades. I remember him as a very keen, focused participant in all musical activities. Since I knew James' mother, Kate, even prior to his birth (she and I took Orff Music training together), I appreciated that he brought a rich background in music from home. Kate frequently reported to me that James shared every nuance of the music he learned in my classes, and I'm pretty sure he enjoyed all musical activities. I'm very gratified that James has continued to develop his musical talents, even into adulthood, and I hope that I, in some measure, encouraged his natural abilities.

—Ray Silver (former member of Beacon, and former husband to Joy Silver)

Where Are They Now? Do you know a former Beacon child/youth? Consider writing an article for the newsletter updating our community on how one of its "graduates" are doing.



Dismantling Racism Study Group Issues Report on Survey

Earlier this year the [Dismantling Racism Study Group](#) asked Canadian UUs to share their perspectives and experiences with racism in our congregations. After the events of the summer, interest in completing the survey surged and more than 831 UUs completed the survey.

The taskforce has been hard at work sifting through the responses and has issued the [DRSG Preliminary Report](#). Beverly Horton and Rev. Julie Stoneberg, co-chairs of the study group, point out that this first report simply outlines the responses without interpretation. The next phase of the work will include following up with the more than 150 respondents who offered to tell their stories, and then to begin the work of interpreting the results.

"We want to offer our deepest gratitude for the number of people who responded to this survey. After the events of this summer sharply focused our attention on issues of racial injustice we saw a significant number of additional responses. These additional responses enrich our work, although it also meant that this initial stage took much longer than anyone anticipated," says Rev. Julie Stoneberg.

"We are issuing this report along with an invitation for folks to



Photo: Priscilla Gyamfi

take a look at it and do some wondering about what it means," says Beverly Horton. "We do want to approach our next phase of interpreting and learning thoughtfully and mindfully, and with the understanding that the lived experiences of Black, Indigenous and people of colour in our congregations need to be at the centre of our way forward through this process."

The Study Group plans to release their next report to congregations at our National Conference in May. For more information about the Study Group and its work please [visit our website](#). And if you would like to share a personal story of your experience of racism, the Study Group would like to hear from you. You can contact them at dismantling-racism@cuc.ca.

For those who are interested in more conversation around issues of racism and inclusion please watch for upcoming [CUC events](#). A number of roundtables, workshops and discussions are planned, including an event for Youth and Young Adults of colour, workshops at our National Gathering and other events in the new year.

Regular Virtual Gatherings c/o the CUC

[Connect and Deepen—Virtual Gathering](#)

2nd Sunday of the month. If you would like to deepen your spiritual exploration, and form a connection with a welcoming small group, we invite you to attend Connect and Deepen. You can find more information about the group and their upcoming meetings by visiting the CUC website and following the CUC on Facebook.

"I was delighted to find another way to connect with others and share thoughts and experiences with them in an intimate setting. The themes and format of each session is thoughtfully chosen and provides a way to consider our lives in a deeper way, if only for a few moments. I always look forward to our next time together." – Jos Sharp

[Gathered Here: Virtual young adult community](#)

The monthly online gathering for young adults (ages 18–35) will meet on Thursday, December 10th, 11 am PT – <https://bit.ly/GHThursdays>. Together, we will find connection and create the opportunity to share what's on our hearts in a spiritually grounded and loving community.



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Deadline for article

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