Please join us online!

All services are online at this time. We meet at 10:30 am on Sundays unless otherwise noted. Please register to attend on Zoom—enter your name and email address, and the Zoom link will be emailed directly to you. We are using the same Zoom link from week to week, so you only have to register once to be able to attend all the Sunday morning services.

March Services

MAR 6

The View from Space

Rev. Brian Kiely
The rash of billionaires

taking their ecstatic 10-minute thrill rides has brought back the excitement of space flight. The first astronauts discovered humbling insights in their journeys back in the 1960s. In this service I will use the words of those flight pioneers to focus on the enlightenment of space exploration.

MAR 13

Singing in the Shower

Rev. Brian Kiely
I was one of those kids told

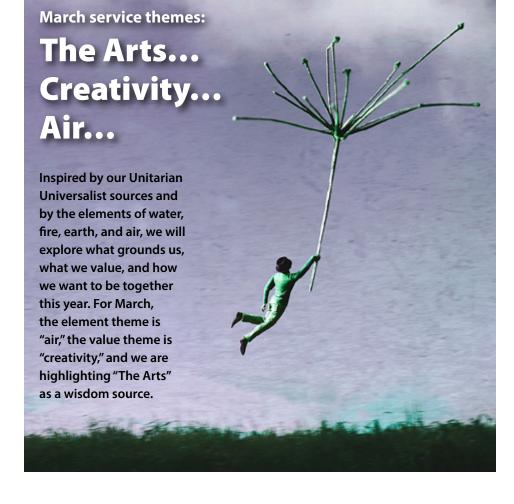
to just mouth the words in the elementary school pageant songs. I never drew, because I didn't think I could. I never risked writing a story outside of an English assignment. I was afraid to be shamed by critics. I thought art was something to be judged by others. It's not.



Going From Woke to Wise

Speaker: Sukkvinder Vinning (a multifaith series video)

There are far more woke people than



ever before, yet we still struggle with conflict in this world, often with well intentioned woke people. It is not enough to be woke. We must cultivate wisdom, the practice of putting our knowledge into action and learning from our results. The Sri Guru Granth Sahib (the holy religious scripture of Sikhism) contains wisdom from many traditions and cultures, and in this spirit, we will be focusing on teachings from Passover, Easter and Vaisakhi, to explore how to shift from woke to wise. Participants are encouraged to be familiar with the term 'woke' and the

history of Passover, Easter and Vaisakhi as the service will focus on the teachings rather than historical context.



Born in BC, Sukhvinder Kaur Vinning is a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Consultant. She works with decision makers

to build cultures of equity and respect with diverse colleagues, staff, clients and stakeholders. She is passionate about de-colonizing societal systems and is developing non-colonial systems and relationships with Indigenous communities. Sukhvinder has years of experience in fostering trust and understanding, and collaborates with partners from diverse backgrounds to catalyze positive social change rooted in leadership of self. She is working on how to respond to climate change in a

non-colonial way and create measurable change. She brings an extensive interfaith background to her work.

MAR 27

Foolish Sunday

Brian Kiely and others
On this Sunday closest to

April Fool's Day, we'll share music, storytelling, and playful joy. Although

we live in difficult times, we can keep our sense of humour. Bring a joke to share and come join the fun!

Note: Brian says he needs your help with this service, so if you would like to contribute a song, a story, a poem or even a charming cat video, please let him know at brikie@aol.com.



April Services



Ideas, Ideals, and Ideologues

Phillip Campbell

The world today seems to be rife with clashing ideologies—perhaps it always has been. People are willing to risk relationships, jobs and life itself for ideologies that move them so much they feel they must impose them on everyone else at almost any cost. Today we will look at how ideas become ideals and how idealogues develop from ideals.

APR 10

Admitting Courage

Rev. Brian Kiely
What does it take to be cou-

rageous in our own lives? I don't think we give ourselves enough credit.



Wisdom from Hinduism

Rev. Abhi Janamanchi (a multifaith series video)



The Rev. Abhi Janamanchi currently serves as Senior Minister of Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church in Bethesda, MD.

Born and raised in southern India, Abhi moved to the US in 1994. He is a third-generation member of the Brahmo Samaj, a Unitarian Hindu reform movement with ties to Unitarian Universalism. Abhi graduated from Meadville Lombard Theological School, Chicago in 1998. Abhi has been actively involved in international interfaith and multicultural work for over two decades including serving as President of the International Association for Religious Freedom (IARF).

Not Unhappy
Rev. Brian Kielv

Our culture seems hell bent on having us live in sunshine and happiness all the time. Is that possible? Or even a good thing to desire?

The Invasion of the Ukraine (Feb. 27/22)

here is war in the Ukraine. Russia has attacked, unprovoked. While the odds favour the numerically superior invaders, latest reports speak of strong resistance that has surprised the attackers. Russian leadership is now inviting peace talks. Whatever happens next, there are already tragedies of death, suffering and displacement that have occurred and likely will grow in numbers.

The invasion was ordered and guided by an antagonist we have always known to be strong and ruthless. But now world leaders wonder about his stability. And with his rais-

ing of nuclear preparedness status, tensions run high.

The apparent instability of this man is frightening as is the seeming weakness of his advisors, unwilling or unable to dissuade him. But there

is courage in places: around the world, and most significantly in Russia, vigils and protests are taking place, people are in the streets. Thousands of Russian protestors have been detained. Ukrainian determination to protect their land seems strong. Enormous international condemnation cannot be ignored.

But we do not have a clear idea of the ending yet, and it is easy to conjure up even bigger nightmare scenarios. That's frightening. We hold each other and wonder how far will this go.

We have been here before. 9/11 shattered our illusions of safety like a thrown rock spidering glass. Almost exactly two years ago Covid-19 descended on our society like a plague.

Both times many were frozen by fear in the face of uncertainty. The same uncertainty emanates from eastern Europe today. Like 9/11 and Covid, we knew it was happening, but we had no idea how far it would go, how it would change our lives, and if we could rebound.

Perhaps you felt helpless for a

Doing good

anywhere is

something. Think of

it as lighting a candle

in the darkness.



Rev. Brian Kiely

time. I did... each time... for a while. Then some measure of calm returns. No one can carry on in an adrenaline fuelled crisis state for very long. We adapt to a different kind of normal, one with airport screening and now face masks.

What will the normal be after this

unprovoked attack on Ukraine? We just don't know. Some of us are afraid this morning.

But the problem is not being afraid. The challenge is carrying on in the face of fear. The task ahead is to decide

what to do once we have named that fear Where can we find hope? Where is the chalice light?

First, we must remember to breathe and relax the muscles. Few good choices emerge from the grip of anxious paralysis. Fear is the first thing we must overcome. After that, steps can be taken, strategies defined, courses of action planned. But first we have to control our fear as nations, as political leaders and as individuals.

Then what?

We can hold good wishes for the people in Ukraine, but that only goes so far

We can contribute to supporting refugees who are escaping the war, and help provide humanitarian aid where it is needed.

We can understand that government sanctions take time to work.

Continued on page 3

For assistance with Beacon matters during this time:

- For practical and administrative matters, please contact
 Rachael Greenland, Beacon's
 admin support person: adminsupport@beaconunitarian.org.
- For congregational matters, please contact the board co-presidents Susan Tarras and Regina Ogmundson, president@beaconunitarian.org.

For pastoral care:

In addition to Beacon's pastoral support team, Rev. Brian Kiely is available and willing to offer pastoral support virtually. To set up either a phone or Zoom appointment with him, please call 780-970-2641 (long distance) or email (brikie@aol.com).

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
- · needing help with errands
- if you, or someone you know, would like us to drop off one of the Beacon Caring Quilts

We will do our best to be of use in ways that meet Beacon's Communicable Disease Plan protocols as well as being within BC's Provincial Health Officer's guidelines for social contact. To reach the whole team: pastoralcare@beaconunitarian.org or phone one of us directly: Judy Villett: 604-521-1191, Laura Redmond: 604-939-9310.

Board Bitz

he mood at our last Board meeting was one of hope and optimism—optimism that the pandemic would resolve to the point where we can meet in person again

and *hope* that whatever happens in the outside world, we will find ways to keep our beloved community together.*

Reverend Brian Kiely
has been guiding Beacon
for a month now and
we are so thankful for the ways he
shares his gifts to make our community stronger and our weekly worship
services more meaningful. His presence and wise words at our last board
meeting were much appreciated.

Our co-president, Regina
Ogmundson, is investigating ways to
implement multiplatform services,
so that those who have been joining
from afar and those who are unable
to attend for various reasons can still
be part of our community once we
return to in-person services. If you
or friends and family have taken part
in hybrid services elsewhere and can
share details about equipment set up
or other ideas, please let Regina know.

We will be consulting with the

Beacon community and the Sapperton Board to help us decide when to return to in-person services. We'll need to recruit and train many volunteers to serve as greeters, collec-

tion counters, readers, presenters and other roles before this can happen. All are welcome and encouraged to share their unique gifts.

Our annual general meeting is scheduled for

Sunday, April 24 and John Hagen will be presenting nominations for *Sharing the Plate*. Before then, our nominating committee will be searching for new board members to take the place of members who have completed their service. Serving on the board is an enlightening experience if you are wondering what it takes to keep Beacon functioning.

In other news, our storage locker cleanout is complete. Thanks to everyone who participated and to those who are storing Beacon materials in their homes. An updated directory of Beacon members and friends is in the works, and we will soon have a video teaching us how to better use our church database, Breeze.

The signs of spring—snow-drops and sunshine—are becoming apparent as we move forward through March to the equi-



Joyce Gudaitis
Board Member at Large

nox, the day of dark and light, day and night, in equal balance, toward the day we are together again and can share hugs as well as words. As someone once said, "spring is a lovely reminder of how beautiful change can truly be."

> —Joyce Gudaitis, Board Member at Large

*If you are wondering about the distinction between hope and optimism, here is an interesting explanation. https://www.theatlantic.com/family/archive/2021/09/hope-optimism-happiness/620164/

Invasion of Ukraine (Cont'd from pg. 2)

My 18 year old son told me this morning that he can't do anything about Ukraine, so he will turn to our local community. He has decided to volunteer at the Food Bank. Doing good anywhere is something. Think of it as lighting a candle in the darkness.

And perhaps most importantly, we can remember that we have been here before; after 9/11 we re-established an altered but manageable normalcy. And we have mostly learned how to live in a Covid-19 world. Fearsome nightmares fade in the light of dawn, no matter how long it takes for dawn to arrive.

And then, when fear recedes, we will do what we have always done, rebuild, look ahead, seek to grow a more principled and moral world on the other side.

In the meantime, I ask the leaders of Joys and Sorrows to drop one stone for the Ukrainian people and another for us all coming out the other side.

—Brian Kiely, brikie@aol.com



We are investigating

ways to implement

multiplatform

Please Support the Share Food Bank!

During this time of pandemic, donations to the food bank can be mailed directly to *Share Family and Community Services* at number 104 - 3020 Lincoln Avenue Coquitlam BC, V3B 6B4. Phone: 604-540-9161. Thank you for supporting neighbours in our community through your donations to our local foodbank.

Family Ministry

s we say our goodbyes to our resourceful and talented Director of Religious Exploration, Ashley Cole, at the end of February, the question of "what's next" looms. Thankfully Ashley prepared her monthly themed mailouts in advance and Beacon's RE Chair, Bette Goode will continue to send them out to families through June.

Still, we are left with the dilemma of how to reach out to families with children and youth and share the gifts of our beloved community with them in the future. Beacon is not alone among Unitarian churches in seeing a decline in the involvement of young families. Not only are the demands on these

families greater than ever but the old paradigm of morning "Sunday school" may not be meeting their needs.

Last spring some of us were discussing with Reverend Meg how to reach out to families and the idea of a Family Ministry with a community outreach component was born. We had our first meeting last September, but life had other plans in the form of increasing COVID concerns and Reverend Meg's illness. We are planning to reconvene the Family Ministry team this month and will be researching ways to reach out to families. We hope to organize some family friendly programs in late spring or early summer, perhaps reaching out

to the communities where we live and raising the profile of Beacon in the process. Thanks to a generous grant from the West Bequest Foundation and



Joyce Gudaitis Board Member at Large

some other targeted donations, we even have some funds. If you would like to be part of this Family Ministry effort you can contact Joyce Gudaitis, RE liaison to the Board (joyceg@ asrsoft.com) or Bette Goode, RE chair (bjgoode@hotmail.com).

—Joyce Gudaitis, Board Member at Large

More on the Canadian Plastics Pact (CPP)

here is a global movement to tackle plastics pollution, and Canada is one of the participants! You can visit plasticspact.ca to see the latest developments and the members of the Canadian Plastics Pact (CPP), including Save-on Foods, Unilever, Spud.ca, and the Recycling Council of British Columbia.

The CPP, launched just over a year ago, has three priorities: 1) Reduce, reuse, collect. 2) Optimize the recycling system. 3) Use data to improve the whole system.

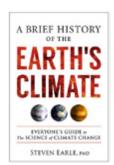
As well, there are four ambitious targets to be reached by 2025, only 3 years away:

- 1. A list of unnecessary or hard-torecycle plastics and then elimination of these products.
- One hundred percent of plastic packaging designed to be recyclable, reusable or compostable.
- 3. Fifty percent of packaging to be recycled or composted.

4. Thirty percent recycled content across all packaging products.

Their planning for more systemic changes by 2035 touches on a CIRCU-LAR economy for plastics in Canada. This would also require a lot more reusable packaging to be used. This is something we have advocated for, especially in the food supply chains.

An additional tool for those of us working on reducing our plastics consumption is the Plastic-Free Ecochallenge hosted in July by peoples. ecochallenge.org. I intend to participate and would love to have some company!



Resource

Jane Shoemaker recommends: A Brief History of the Earth's Climate, Everyone's Guide to the Science of Climate Change,

published in 2021 by New Society Publishers: 189 pages, soft cover, \$19.99. "Please, let them <u>not</u> say, in 20 years or 50 years, that



Teresa Morton

although we knew, we did not do enough" is the call to action with which earth scientist and author, Dr. Steven Earle, closes his preface.

Envirobee schedule

Please join us after the service on Sunday, March 6 and Sunday, April 3 to share information and encouragement on the subject of climate justice. Your ideas and support are needed and welcomed.

—Teresa Morton lessplasticnewwest@gmail.com

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. As a group we welcome different points of view and discuss a wide range of ideas. We meet the last Sunday of the month at 7:30 pm, via Zoom.

On Sunday, March 27 John Slattery will introduce *Toleration*, *Humanism and Religion*. Reason, freedom and tolerance are the cardinal virtues of modern humanism. It is the third of these that we will explore. Is "tolerance" really deserving of its 'sacred' status in this particular trinity? What about acceptance and welcoming? Or do these concepts (especially the latter) push the bounds of humanism too far? Let's discuss this. And while we're at it—how are religion and humanism related? The answer is complicated.

On **Sunday April 24** Earl Morris will **introduce the classic book** "**Getting To Yes**" by Fisher and Ury of the Harvard negotiation project. This book explores an effective and kind way to resolve differences.

If you would like to receive regular emails from the Humanist Group, please contact Marilyn Medén at humanist@beaconunitarian.org.

Theology Pub (Online) continues to meet by Zoom on third Sundays at 1 pm—March 20th and April 17th. Members of our email list receive a reminder a week before the meeting, including topic information. If you would like to join the group, contact Franci Louann or David Kristjanson at theologypub@beaconunitarian.org.

Book Club (Online) meets the 4th Thursday of each month at 7 pm. Newcomers and drop-ins are always welcome! For Zoom meeting details and all enquires, please contact John Hagen bookclub@beaconunitarian. org. See box on page 7 for more information.

Film Club (Online) meets every Friday at 7 pm. See the box on page 7 for more information.

Lunch Bunch (Online) meets every Tuesday at noon, year-round, currently via Zoom. Bring your lunch and share in lively and topical conversation. Contact Laura Ramsay at 604-816-5331 for the Zoom link or check the Beacon This Week email. Newcomers are welcome!

The Beacon Choir has been temporarily suspended due to COVID-19. Please contact <u>choirdirector@beacon</u> unitarian.org for general information.

'Getting to Know Beacon' New to this community? Want to learn about our Sunday services and other programs? Join members of the Connecting Committee for a one-hour short introduction. You can ask questions and meet other newcomers. Contact the Connecting Committee chair, Sue Sparlin, at connecting@beaconunitarian.org.

'Getting to Know You' If you've been to a few of our services and want to take the next steps, we look forward to getting to know you, and you us. Join fellow Beaconites to learn about Unitarianism and various ways to be part of this community. Contact our Connecting Committee at connecting@beaconunitarian.org.

Soul Matters Sharing Circles

Soul Matters is a small group that meets once a month (virtually at the moment) during our program year to explore and experience how Beacon's monthly theme can be woven into the tapestry of our days. For February the service themes were prophetic people, courage and air. Our group will meet on Wednesday, March 2nd, 1–3 pm, to discuss the February themes.

On Wednesday, April 6th, 1–3 pm, we will share our experiences of the arts, creativity and air—the themes for March.

Newcomers are always welcome! Interested? Contact Laura Redmond to receive the theme packet that we use as the starting point for our reflections: soulmatters@beaconunitarian.org.



Rising Together Connects
Black, Indigenous, and People
of Colour (BIPOC) UU Youth
(14–19 yrs) and Emerging
Adults (18–24 yrs)

This group gathers every two months for themed worship, discussions, and workshop-style activities. Join us for a chance to meet other BIPOC Unitarian Universalists across Canada and nurture our community with the aim of affirming each other and ensuring we have a confident voice in the broader UU community. See cuc.ca/events and email rising-together@cuc.ca for more information or meeting dates and times.

Beacon Film Club

Fridays, 7 pm (Online)

The idea behind our club is to view a film in advance, and then come to a Zoom meeting



at 7 pm on Fridays to chat about it. The Zoom link is in Thursday's *Beacon This Week*.

The films selected are all available from YouTube for a rental fee (from free 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.

For more information, please connect with Marilyn Medén: filmclub@beaconunitarian.org.

Movies in March

Mar. 4: *Ordinary People*, introduced by Karen Hamilton Mar. 11: *Ghost Writer*, introduced by Rhea Kikkert Mar. 18: *Million Dollar Baby*, introduced by Elizabeth Campbell

Mar. 25: The Descendants, introduced by Michael Scales

Movies in April

April 1: *Hidden Figures*, introduced by Janene White **April 8:** The *Pursuit of Happiness*, introduced by Rhea Kikkert

The movies for the remaining dates in April will be announced on our website and in the weekly *Beacon This Week* email.

Beacon Book Club

Thursday, March 24, 7 pm (Online)



Dutch House: A Novel by Ann Patchett, published by Harper Collins, c. 2019, 337p.

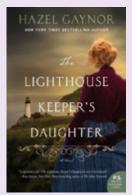
Facilitator: Gail Thomson Subject and genre: Historical fiction, Domestic fiction, Dysfunctional families, Poverty, Forgiveness

Awards: Finalist for the

2020 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction

Summary: At the end of the Second World War, Cyril Conroy combines luck and a single canny investment to begin an enormous real estate empire, propelling his family from poverty to enormous wealth. His first order of business is to buy the Dutch House, a lavish estate in the suburbs outside of Philadelphia. Meant as a surprise for his wife, the house sets in motion the undoing of everyone he loves. Cyril's son Danny and his older sister Maeve are exiled from the house where they grew up by their stepmother. The two wealthy siblings are thrown back into the poverty their parents had escaped from and find that all they have to count on is one another. (Source: BPL catalogue)

Thursday, April 28, 7 pm (Online)



Lighthouse Keeper's Daughter: A Novel by Hazel Gaynor, published by William Morrow/Harper Collins, c. 2018, 385 pg. Facilitator: Marilyn Medén Subject and Genre: Historical fiction,

Subject and Genre: Historical fiction Biographical fiction

Summary: 1838: Northumberland, England. Longstone Lighthouse on the Farne Islands has been Grace Darling's home for all of her twenty-two years. When she and her father rescue shipwreck survi-

vors in a furious storm, Grace becomes celebrated throughout England, the subject of poems, ballads, and plays. But far more precious than her unsought fame is the friendship that develops between Grace and a visiting artist. Just as George Emmerson captures Grace with his brushes, she in turn captures his heart.

1938: Newport, Rhode Island. Nineteen-years-old and pregnant, Matilda Emmerson has been sent away from Ireland in disgrace. She is to stay with Harriet, a reclusive relative and assistant lighthouse keeper, until her baby is born. A discarded, half-finished portrait opens a window into Matilda's family history.

As a deadly hurricane approaches, two women, living a century apart, will be linked forever by their instinctive acts of courage and love." (Source: amazon.ca)

For Zoom meeting details and all enquires, please contact John Hagen <u>bookclub@beaconunitarian.org</u>.

Archbishop Desmond Tutu: A life that made a difference

By Margaret Wanlin, President, CUC Board of Trustees



In 1975 I was an impressionable young person enroute to Lesotho with Canadian Crossroads International. I was to assist in a Red Cross Clinic, and later taught school in Thaba Bosiu. The route to Lesotho was via Johannesburg, South Africa. From the airport I travelled to the train station. I still remember the visceral feeling at seeing, in large white letters on the front of the station "Slegs Blankes," – Whites Only. The much less stately entrance around the side said "Slegs Nie Blankes" – Nonwhites Only.

I travelled by train to the South Africa/Lesotho border where there was a customs checkpoint. With a heavy pack on my back, I walked over to a line of jovial people—women with babies on their backs and parcels on their heads. They started to laugh and pointed to another wicket where there were no people and told me that was the line for whites.

Of course, I had heard and read about apartheid but seeing it first-hand and being a part of it was chilling. In conversations in Lesotho, people would acknowledge the poverty of their country but say with pride "but we don't have apartheid."

At that time Nelson Mandela was jailed at Robben Island. Desmond Tutu had just returned from Britain and was named as the head of St. Mary's Cathedral in Johannesburg, the first black person to ever hold that post. And so, his journey as an agent for change on a broader political stage began. Throughout the 1980s Tutu was a major figure in the struggle against apartheid. In 1984 Tutu became the Bishop of Johannesburg and was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

A common refrain for him was "Do not hate, let us choose the peaceful way to freedom." Soon he became the Archbishop of Cape Town, becoming the head of the Anglican Church in South Africa, the first black person in that role. From then on, he was fondly known as "Arch."

When the new (non-apartheid) government was elected in 1994, Archbishop Tutu was called upon to chair the South African Truth and Reconciliation Commission. At the end of the process the Deputy Chairman commented, "I don't think the commission could have survived without the presence and person and leadership of Desmond Tutu." I think the same could be said of the Chair of Canada's Truth and Reconciliation Commission Justice Murray Sinclair.

Tutu's vision for South Africa was of a "Rainbow Nation" with acceptance for all races. His acceptance of everyone also extended to people of



This photo was taken in 2013 in Capetown, South Africa with (l. to r.) Reverend Fulgence Ndagijimana, now a Unitarian Universalist community minister in Ottawa, then a minister in Burundi; Archbishop Tutu; and two former ministers of Capetown Unitarians, Roux Malan and Gordon Oliver. Oliver became a Unitarian minister after being the Mayor of Capetown 1989 to 1991.

all sexual orientations, a radical stand in South Africa at that time.

Here are a few quotes and thoughts from this exceptional man, Desmond Tutu:

- The spirit of ubuntu: A person is a person through other persons.
- I'm coming to believe more and more in the truth that everything I do has consequences. A good deed doesn't just evaporate and disappear.
- To forgive is not just to be altruistic.
- None of us comes into the world fully formed. We would not know how to think, or walk or speak, or behave as human beings unless we learned it from other beings. We need other human beings in order to be human. I am because other people are.



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Rachael Greenland, 778-791-7952 adminsupport@beaconunitarian.org

Board Executive: Co-Presidents:

Susan Tarras, Regina Ogmundson; **Treasurer:** Carol Woodworth; **Secretary:** Karen Greenland; **Members at Large:** Jane Day, Joyce Gudaitis, Peg Hinkley.

Connections and Membership: Sue Sparlin

Religious Exploration Director:

dre@beaconunitarian.org

Beacon Newsletter:

newsletter@beaconunitarian.org Production: Laura Redmond Proofreading: William Marshall and Catherine Smith.

Deadline for submissions is the 15th of the month preceding Sep. 1, Nov. 1, Jan. 1, Mar. 1, May 1, and July 1.