



The Beacon

Beacon Unitarian Church welcomes you to our 2022/23 church year!

This year will be filled with amazing opportunities for connection, inspiration and transformation. Our Sunday services will be multi-platform: in-person at Sapperton Hall and broadcasted live via the internet. Services start at 10:30 and end approximately one hour later. There will be a time for socializing after the service. You are invited to fill out the [Beacon Connecting Form](#) for more information. We look forward to connecting with you and getting to know you!

**SEP
11**

The Annual Water Ceremony

Worship Services Committee

Beacon's program year starts again with this special service. At this annual, all-ages ceremony we pour water from various sources into one common bowl, symbolizing the re-gathering of this community after a summer break.

**SEP
18**

"If you're a church, then how come...?"

Rev. Brian Kiely

For a lot of us explaining Unitarianism can be a challenge, especially when people ask with their own ideas of what a church should be. Today let's explore some of the basics we hold dear.

**SEP
25**

Lifelong Learning

Rev Brian Kiely

Learning is a key element in practicing a liberal religion. Ideas must always be tested. In these days of social media lunacy and conspiracy gone wild, it's even more important to maintain our own thoughtful integrity.

**OCT
2**

Sociocracy

Service Coordinator: Marilyn Meden

Eight Beaconites have found a wise method of decision making. It allows us to make decisions using consent rather than majority voting. It goes a long way in producing good decisions by encouraging different points of view and having checks and balances. The method is 'Sociocracy'. It's inclusive and connecting. We will enjoy sharing this method with you on Sunday, October 2nd.



Minister's Message

Well, Beaconites, I'm back... sort of. As you will probably know by now, Rev. Meg's doctors have delayed her return until October, and even then, they want her to come back gradually.

What does that mean? Well, I will serve this September as I did in the Spring, doing two services this month and sitting with the Board as well as the Worship and Pastoral Care teams. And I am available to any committee that asks.

In October and November, if all goes to plan, Meg and I will split the duties as she gradually ramps up her work load.

We have discussed it and have a plan.

So here I am! And I'm happy to be here, even if I am sad I can't join your in-person services... in person.

I suppose that makes it an unusual start to the year, but then, there has been nothing 'usual' for a long time.

So, I'm here. Contact me if you need anything and I look forward to

seeing you in church (in some form).

Take care,

—Rev. Brian Kiely



I'm happy to be here, even if I am sad I can't join your in-person services... in person.

Beacon presence at Pride Festival, August 13/22



Photo courtesy of Susan White

For assistance with Beacon matters during this time:

- **For practical and administrative matters**, please contact Rachael Greenland, Beacon's admin support person: admin-support@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 (briekie@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: email pastoralcare@beaconunitarian.org or phone Judy Villett at 604-521-1191 (after Oct. 7), or Laura Redmond at 604-939-9310.

Board Bitz

Susan and I hope that your summer was restorative and relaxing. Perhaps we can share stories after our September service.

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to be a backdrop in our lives. Many members received at least three vaccines and are comfortable at in-person gatherings. This is encouraging news for our society and our congregation. We will return to services at Sapperton Hall on September 11, 2022. Please wear a mask while inside; the chairs will be spaced according to the office of the Provincial Health Officer and Sapperton Hall guidelines.

We are a small congregation but we have strong volunteer leadership. The Personnel Committee was very busy at the beginning of the summer. The hard work paid off. All contracts were completed by mid-July. The Worship Committee coordinated informal summer services where it has been

lovely to have our Beacon community gather together in person. At the New Westminster Pride Festival, a committed team of Beacon members set up a welcoming table for conversation (see photos on pages 2 and 4).

Sapperton Hall approved Beacon's installation of some permanent wiring for our multi-platform Sunday services. Deepak and Tyler have installed the wiring, and we thank them very much for their time, effort, and patience in doing the work. This should prevent hiccups while transmitting in-person services to members who need to stay home. Deepak and Tyler coordinated with Bev and the Sapperton Hall Board; we certainly hope to have a smooth transition to multi-platform services.

We are delighted that Rev Meg Roberts will soon be with our Beacon congregation. She will be gradually returning to work. During this

transition Rev. Brian Kiely will be available to assist Meg, the Worship Services Committee, and the Board.

Summer is quickly coming to a close and the Board will soon plan for 2023. All committee chairs are asked to submit their 2023 budgets before mid-September to allow sufficient time for our Treasurer to complete the Beacon Budget.

Beacon is an involved, caring community. We step up, do the work, and follow our Beacon Mission: Connect, Inspire, and Transform.

I look forward to seeing you all in September, at our multi-platform services!

—Regina Ogmundson
Co-President



Regina Ogmundson
Co-President

... and a good (Zero) time was had by all!

In July the Metro-Van Unitarian Zero Waste circle held a mini-conference on easy, everyday suggestions to reduce our waste. While one focus of the session (held on Zoom and in person at the Vancouver Church) was the Ecochallenge for a plastic-free July, many other aspects of Zero Waste were also touched upon.

You can watch the video of our session at the following link: <https://vancouverunitarians.ca/zero-waste-mini-conference-held-at-ucv-plastic-free-july-ecochallenge/>

Each of the four Lower Mainland Unitarian Churches had a turn to share their favourite hints for a greener, simpler life! We heard about green cleaning products, plastic-free laundry soap, returnable take-out

containers and the ways in which growing your own vegetables can greatly reduce the plastic containers for salad greens for instance.

I talked about Beacon's letters to grocery store chains; the progress being made in Canada with the Canada Plastics pact (<https://plastic-spact.ca/>), as well as the UN treaty on plastics pollution.

A concluding session touched on the use of 'pee wipes' and hints on becoming comfortable with reducing the use of toilet paper!

Zero Waste Book Club

Starting in September, the Metro-Van circle is launching a monthly book club with the first presentation about 'The Day the World Stopped Shop-

ping'. Join us at <https://vancouverunitarians.ca/zero-waste-book-group/> on Saturday, September 10th from 10–11am.

Envirobee for October

My first Envirobee of the new Church year will take place on Sunday, October 9th after the service. Please join me to chat about all things environment, including the People's Ecochallenge for 2022! (Our 2021 team came in second in Canada, so I'm hoping for lots of participation this year too...!)

—Teresa Morton
lessplasticnewwest@gmail.com



Teresa Morton

Family Ministry

The Family Ministry/Religious Exploration (RE) Committee is very excited to welcome back families, old and new, to return to in-person services on September 11th. This fall we will be basing our RE program on the *Tapestry of Faith* materials, which you can explore at <https://www.uua.org/re/tapestry>. Our temporary minister, Rev. Brian Kiely, is familiar with the program and highly recommends it.

Until we determine how many children will be attending the program, and their ages, we are holding off on hiring an RE teacher and will be asking members of the congregation for volunteer help. Family Ministry team members will put the RE kits together and will support other volunteers. If you are interested in helping, please get in touch with Bette Goode at bettegoode@gmail.com (Note that Bette will be away from September 6 to 25 and will not be able to respond until after September 25th). We are

also hoping to increase the number of multigenerational services this year. If you would like to help with this project, David Kristianson and the Worship Committee would love to hear from you. In addition, we will have tables set up at the back of the church and/or in the nursery with child and youth friendly activities.

If you are interested in helping with the Religious Exploration program, please get in touch with Bette Goode.

The other focus of our Family Ministry work this year will be to restart our outreach to families in the larger community who may not be familiar with our UU values and principles. This idea originated in the summer of 2020 before Rev. Meg's medical leave and we were planning

a series of programs for parents, including workshops on "rearing kind, caring and resilient children" and "fostering children's sense of justice, wonder, and connection" (from the CUC website on Religious Exploration) as well as introducing the OWL program (Our Whole Lives sexuality education) and other topics.

In addition, we were looking into holding in-person multi-age programs focused on environmental and social justice activities. Financial support for this initiative came from a grant from the West Foundation and targeted donations from members. The ultimate goal is to raise awareness of the ways in which Beacon can support strong families.

— Joyce Gauditis



Joyce Gauditis
Member at Large

Beacon's welcoming table at the 2022 New Westminster Pride Day Festival.

Photo courtesy of Janet Pivnik



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 September 25th, Phil Campbell will present the topic of 'sin' for discussion. Sin is a concept that has been used to encourage people to abide by societal norms. In some religions it has taken on a more mystical meaning where there are absolute laws that are considered to be universal. One's compliance with these laws determines what happens to one in the afterlife. It is a concept that has survived for millennia and has contributed to societal cohesion. In a time of competing ideologies and radically different interpretations of what constitutes a sin, is it time to retire the concept altogether? What would take its place? How do we create enough societal cohesion to be functional? More questions will certainly arise.

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

Theology Pub will meet on the third Sunday of the month at 1 pm. The format of gathering—virtual or in-person—is yet to be decided. 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 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 enquiries, please contact John Hagen bookclub@beaconunitarian.org. See box on page 6 for more information.

Film Club (Online) meets every Friday at 7 pm. See the box on page 6 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 con-

versation. 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 choirdirector@beaconunitarian.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.



Please Support the Share Food Bank!

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.

Rising Together

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 risingtogether@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 September

Sept. 9: *Life of Pi*, introduced by Pauline Atwood

Sept. 16: *Cabaret*, introduced by John Hagen

Sept. 23: *Best in Show*, introduced by Lindsay Udem

Sept. 30: *The Color Purple*, introduced by Marilyn Medén

Movies in October

Oct. 7: *The Imitation Game*, introduced by Janene White

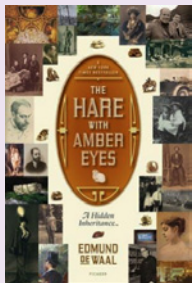
Oct. 14: *Shirley Valentine*, introduced by Susan Tarras

Oct. 21: *Bohemian Rhapsody*, introduced by Michael Scales

Oct. 28: *The Art of Running in the Rain*, introduced by Donna Webb

Beacon Book Club

Thursday, Sept 22, 2022



The Hare With Amber Eyes: a Hidden Inheritance by Edmund de Waal, 2010. Book: 354 pages. Audio: 10.5 hrs.

Presenter: Sylvia McDonald

Genre/Subject: Memoir, Art Collections, Collectors and Collections, Netsukes

Summary: Edmund de Waal is a world-famous ceramicist. Having spent thirty years making beautiful pots—which are then sold, collected, and handed on—he has a particular sense of the secret lives of objects. When he inherited a collection of 264 tiny Japanese wood and ivory carvings, called netsuke, he wanted to know who had touched and held them, and how the collection had managed to survive.

And so begins this extraordinarily moving memoir and detective story as de Waal discovers both the story of the netsuke and of his family, the Ephrussi, over five generations. A nineteenth-century banking dynasty in Paris and Vienna, the Ephrussi were as rich and respected as the Rothschilds. Yet by the end of the World War II, when the netsuke were hidden from the Nazis in Vienna, this collection of very small carvings was all that remained of their vast empire. — Publisher

For Zoom meeting details and all enquiries, please contact John Hagen bookclub@beaconunitarian.org.

Thursday, Oct 27, 2022



Nothing But the Truth: a Memoir by Marie Henein, Signal, c. 2021 Book: 266 pages Audio: 7 hrs. 52 min.

Presenter: Susan Tarras

Genre/Subjects: Autobiographies, criminal defense lawyers, women lawyers

Book Summary: A memoir by Canada's top (and most controversial) defense lawyer, *Nothing But the Truth*

weaves Marie Henein's personal story with her strongly held views on society's most pressing issues, legal and otherwise. Her story, as an immigrant from a tightknit Egyptian-Lebanese family, demonstrates the value of strong role models—from her mother and grandmother, to her brilliant uncle Sami who died of AIDS, to the late and legendary Eddie Greenspan, Marie learned the value of hard work, being true to herself and others, and never compromising because of her sex. Ms. Henein shares here her unvarnished view on the ethical and practical implications of being a criminal lawyer (i.e., forget work-life balance, it's a myth in this line of work), and how the job is misunderstood and even demonized. As she turns 50 and struggles with the corrosive effect on women of becoming invisible, Marie doubles down on being even more highly visible and opinionated as she deconstructs, among other things, the otherness of the immigrant experience (Where are you really from?) — Burnaby Public Library Catalogue

John Hagen's 90th Birthday Celebration

Many Beaconites were delighted to join John, his friends and family at the Royal City Curling Club on August 19th to help celebrate his 90th birthday. In honour of John, special music and speeches were presented, including the following words by Marilyn Medèn.

John, Beacon, and Me

Eleven years ago, on a Saturday, I moved to Port Moody. I went to Beacon Unitarian the day after, and to Anita and John's for a Humanist meeting that evening.

Now ... we will jump to four and a half years ago! ... I had taken a bus to a Beacon presentation in the middle of Coquitlam. Its title was "Better than Chocolate". I had taken the bus there but hoped for a ride home. John volunteered to drive me. We talked. He asked me out. I invited him to dinner. And that was the beginning of the relationship. Beacon and John and I were a good fit.

We choose to watch the same television programs. We often like the same music. I have learned the names of many birds. I love his garden oasis. And, of course, we enjoy Beacon events together, for example, the Film Club. We watch those films together. Discuss them. Go to the meetings. And I stop him talking after five minutes ... as I do the others and myself!

We read the books for the book club in a similar way. And since we've watched the same movies and read the same books, we can have pretty good discussions!

The Humanist Group—we discuss the ideas in that too—such diverse ideas. Our next discussion will be about sin!

And then there are the Sunday services. John and Anita worked together on services and now John and I do. The last time we worked together was the service on July 10th. John played *Hymn to Freedom* in full strength on the trumpet, then added a mute and



John listening to the speeches at his party.



Marilyn at the podium.



Can you spot John in his junior high school band picture?

played it again as I recited the words. We worked together.

It is the working together that is important, and not only just to get things done. How many times have I, you, or anyone made a bad decision because we made it ... ourselves, without the more objective view of at least one other person? In my mind, decisions are always better made with the input of at least one "other person". John has been my "other person". The person who I can trust to give an honest opinion.

It is a very good relationship: John and me ... and Beacon.

— Marilyn Medèn.

Un-colonize Climate Justice: Kickoff Event

Wednesday September 7: 4 pm PT (2 hours)

Join us for the kick off of our congregational year focused on un-colonizing our climate justice movements. At this event you'll learn:

- the difference between colonizing, un-colonizing, and decolonizing
- how Western worldview is showing up within our climate actions
- how the Land Back movement is advocating for change.

We will be joined by one of the CUC Elders and guests, Arthur Hills of Emmanuel United Church in Waterloo, and Dave Skene of White Owl Native Ancestry Organization in Kitchener who participated in a Land Back exchange.

We highly encourage at least one person from each group/congregation to attend.

[Registration fee: \\$25. Proceeds go to pay our Elders and Guests. Registration deadline: Sept. 6th.](#)

FACILITATOR: Erin Horvath

Erin Horvath is the CUC's Social Justice lead. Erin has over 20 years of experience addressing injustices through community building, social entrepreneurship, environmental, arts-based and collaborative initiatives within the not-for-profit, private, educational, health, and community sectors, in particular with rural and First Nations communities in Northwestern Ontario. She served as a member of the Boreal Ontario working group for the Forest Stewardship Council and spent several years working as a Landuse Planner with two First Nations in Northwestern Ontario giving her unique experience with how the perspectives of colonial governments, settler environmentalists, and First Nations interact. Within her local climate justice movement and her work with the CUC she is eager to help people weave together their approaches to climate justice and right relations with Indigenous peoples in a way that is decolonizing and healing for people and the planet.



Taking Time to Reflect on the 8th Principle

Between July 4 and August 29, 2022, the Canadian Unitarian Council sent out a series of weekly, self-guided reflection series. They wanted to keep the national conversation going about how we live out the 8th Principle, personally and collectively.

The reflections are listed below. [Access them all here.](#) We invite you to reflect on the question or prompts contained in each reflection in whatever fashion works for you: while out for a walk, discussing them with a friend over coffee, journaling about them, or writing about them on social media.

- August 29, 2022: Practicing Accessibility
- August 22, 2022: Quest for Joy
- August 15, 2022: Growing Out of Our Comfort
- August 8, 2022: Beyond Identity
- August 1, 2022: 8th Principle: Canadian Unitarian Universalist Experience
- July 25, 2022: On Decision Making
- July 18, 2022: On the adverb "accountably"
- July 11, 2022: Not ALL about me?
- July 4, 2022: Anti-racism Work is Spiritual Work



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