



# The Beacon

Beacon Unitarian Church

Volume 33, Number 4, April 2015

Sunday Worship Services and Religious Education Classes are held at the **Sapperton Pensioners' Hall, 318 Keary Street, New Westminster.** Services start at 10:30 a.m.

The theme this month is **courage**. The English word 'courage' comes from the French word 'cœur' which means heart. In moments of courage we indeed need heart, our human heart, to stay the course, to take our stand and to speak our truth. This month we turn to the Christian and the Muslim religions for stories of courage, and we face with heart our own lives at moments of life and death.

## Sunday April 5, 10:30 a.m.

### *The Courage of our Convictions*

**Rev. Debra Thorne**

We celebrate Easter with the stories of two men who did not waver in their convictions to act from their hearts. Jesus of Nazareth and (Unitarian) Norman Capek stood up for the respect and dignity of all people and both died for their convictions. Their stories inspire us to a renewal of hope as winter turns to spring and the flowers return.

Please bring a flower to contribute to Capek's Flower Communion.

### **Foodbank Collection.**



## What's Inside...

Beacon Small Groups.....	page 5
Board Bitz.....	page 3
Board Nominations.....	pages 6, 7
Calendar.....	page 12
Circle Dinners.....	page 5
Climate Change sessions.....	page 9
Coffee Host info.....	page 8
Learning Opportunities.....	page 9
Meet CUC Rep.....	page 2
Minister's Words.....	page 2
Notice of AGM.....	page 3
Religious Education .....	page 4
Sasamat info.....	page 8
Sharing the Plate 2014/15.....	page 11
Sharing the Plate 2015/16.....	pg 10, 11
Spotlight.....	page 8
UUMOC statement (C51).....	page 11
Youth Group Update.....	page 12

## Sunday April 12, 10:30 a.m.

### *Demystifying Islam: A Canadian mother's perspective*

**Rev. Debra Thorne**, with Guest Speaker **Taslim Jaffer**

In the wake of recent events on Canadian soil and around the globe, a Muslim Canadian mother shares her concern regarding the misinterpretation of her faith. Her talk explores the ethics of a peaceful religion and addresses some myths perpetuated by fear, with the intention of sharing tools to help us face this confusion with courage.

*Taslim Jaffer is a writer and public speaker, who brings together the worlds of creativity, spirituality and social change. Her work is driven by her belief that we are all capable of contributing solutions that will better the lives of our families and communities. Taslim also enjoys reading her poetry on stage, hosting a monthly writing group in White Rock, and raising money and awareness for causes close to her heart.*

*Taslim lives in South Surrey and shares this adventure with her husband and three children.*

**There will be a discussion with Taslim upstairs after the service.**

**Deadline for the May Beacon  
April 15, 2015**

**Please send to:**  
[Newsletter@BeaconUnitarian.org](mailto:Newsletter@BeaconUnitarian.org)

## Sunday April 19, 10:30 a.m.

### *Anyone Can Slay a Dragon*

**Rev. Debra Thorne**

'Anyone can slay a dragon, she told me, but try waking up every morning and loving the world all over again. That's what takes a real hero.' writes Brian Andreas, creator of StoryPeople. Heroes are found in everyday stories, facing life, facing death, facing the bully, facing climate change or the eroding of democracy. Where do we get the courage to face our dragon?

### **Choir sings today.**



## Sunday April 26, 10:30 a.m.

### *Courage and Transformation*

**Michael Bradshaw**

Michael Bradshaw, a former Beaconite, has been specializing in Family Law with a subspecialty in Child Protection Law for many years and has acted for many parents whose stories provide many moving examples of courage. He has worked with clients/parents who are mentally handicapped, who suffer from mental disorders or addictions, whose children have profound special needs, and who often have few supports in their lives. He will share portions of these stories and some transformational outcomes that have sprung from displays of their courage.

**Coordinator: Joan Morris**  
**Choir Sings today.**



## From the Minister's Desk

The Beacon community is unique in an important and obvious way. We are an intergenerational community in a world where this is less and less available. Today many families are spread out across the globe so children don't easily have access to their grandparents. Children have their specialized activities in gyms and community centres where they interact with only their own age group.

Some senior citizens live full-time in communities that are isolated from younger people, especially children. I was travelling recently with my 88 year old mother on the ferry to Vancouver Island. She was completely captivated by the children walking, running and playing on the ship. This experience was richly fulfilling, she told me, because she lives in a senior's building where she rarely has the pleasure of seeing children playing.

At Beacon, we have the increasingly rare bounty of an intergenerational community. Yet we have our challenges too. The downstairs space is a challenge when we are all in it. The adults want to use the space for conversation, which means being able to hear each other. The children want to use the space to play, which means

being able to move and vocalize freely. These two different ways of interaction sometimes clash into each other and then the beauty of being an intergenerational community turns sour.

I believe we can turn the sourness into sweetness. We can do this by thinking about how we want to create this intentional intergenerational community. We can do it by talking together during coffee hour about how we can connect with the youth and the younger and the older children. We can experiment with how we set up the tables and chairs downstairs. We can get to know someone new and introduce them to one of the children or youth that we know.

I would like to see all of us getting to know each other more, and finding new ways to interact on Sunday morning. I would like to see us create a covenant together: A covenant for an intentional intergenerational community. In the months ahead I will be asking for your help and your ideas on how to strengthen our diverse, joyful and respectful intergenerational community.

With love,  
Debra



## Opportunity to meet our CUC representative

On April 22 @ 6 pm there will be a potluck dinner and opportunity to meet **Joan Carolyn**, the Canadian Unitarian Council (CUC) Program Development Coordinator for Western Canada. Joan is new to this position and is eager to meet and get to know all Unitarian congregations west of Thunder Bay. She will share with us the resources that are available to Beacon and how she might support our needs as we grow.

Location: Lundervilles'

Bring a dish to share

Please RSVP to [minister@beaconunitarian.org](mailto:minister@beaconunitarian.org)

### Beacon Unitarian Church

#414, 552A Clarke Road, Coquitlam, B.C. V3J 0A3  
[info@BeaconUnitarian.org](mailto:info@BeaconUnitarian.org)

#### Consulting Minister:

Rev. Debra Thorne [minister@BeaconUnitarian.org](mailto:minister@BeaconUnitarian.org)

Lay Chaplain: Marilyn Medén

604-469-6797, [m.j.meden@telus.net](mailto:m.j.meden@telus.net)

Choir Director: Charlene Dubrule

604-464-3992, [char4myc@shaw.ca](mailto:char4myc@shaw.ca)

#### Board Executive:

Terry McComas, Nancy Rupert, Audrey Taylor, Carol Woodworth

Trustees: Peggy Lunderville, Jane Shoemaker, Rob Warner

Connections & Membership Jean Donaldson 604-461-0056,  
[donaldsj@telus.net](mailto:donaldsj@telus.net)

Care & Concerns: Renée Spakowsky 604-463-8086

Beacon Editor: Donna Hamilton [newsletter@BeaconUnitarian.org](mailto:newsletter@BeaconUnitarian.org)

Beacon Distribution: Tom & Uta Poiker

[BeaconUnitarian.org](http://BeaconUnitarian.org)



## Board Bitez

From your Board Executive

### AGM

Please join us for our Annual General Meeting on April 19 following the service. Although only members can vote, this is an opportunity for everyone to have their voices heard.

### Sapperton Days

On June 14, 2015 the community of Sapperton will be holding its annual festival. Beacon Unitarian would like to host a table, and we are looking for people to help share who we are with our neighbours. If you enjoy talking about our principles and our welcoming congregation, please consider helping. Email board member Nancy Rupert at [nancy.rupert@gmail.com](mailto:nancy.rupert@gmail.com).

### Fall Gathering

The Unitarian congregations in Comox and Nanaimo will be hosting our CUC-BC fall gathering. Watch this space for more details.

### Coffee Hour

We are still looking for more people to help with making tea and coffee and with clean-up afterward. Many hands make light work! Contact Sue Sparlin. ([sue.sparlin@shaw.ca](mailto:sue.sparlin@shaw.ca)).

### SOAP

Just a reminder that the space we rent is owned by the Sapperton Old Age Pensioners Association, and that if you are over 50 you are welcome to join. If you are interested in attending their meetings, contact Peggy Lunderville for more information (604-522-3001).

### Climate Change Committee

Our dedicated trio of Marilyn, Terry and Teresa continue to educate on the issue of climate change. If you haven't yet attended a session, please consider joining them on Wednesday evenings in April at 7 pm at First United Church in White Rock. There is no charge for this event.

Our next regular Board meeting will happen Sunday, April 12th from 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm at the Lundervilles'. If attending, please RSVP to Peggy at 604-522-3001.

### Soup Lunch

There will be a soup lunch on **April 19** after church, before the AGM. To contribute, please contact Peggy Lunderville at 604-522-3001, or [plunder@gmail.com](mailto:plunder@gmail.com).



### Notice of Annual General Meeting

**Sunday April 19**, after the soup lunch. All members and friends of Beacon are welcome to attend.

Agenda includes:

- Annual reports of President & committees
- Report of Financial Reviewer & 2014 Financial Statements
- Appointment of 2014 Financial Reviewer
- Report of Nominating Committee & Election of 2015-16 Board and Nominating Committee
- Selection of the Sharing the Plate Charity for 2015-16.

Only current members in good standing who joined prior to Feb 19 are eligible to vote.



# Beacon's Religious Education Corner

by Laura Redmond

## World Religions

The wisdom of world religions has been our focus for the last two months.

*Children's Community* (4-7 year olds) has learned wisdom from the Buddhist and Hindu traditions. The *Seekers* (8-13 year olds) have heard stories and songs from North American Aboriginal traditions, and have practiced a meditation from the Buddhist tradition.

## Compassion

In addition, the Seekers learned about kiva.org and made loans to four entrepreneurs in developing countries. After helping the youth group to prepare for their "Love in Action" project (distributing 200 lunch bags in the Downtown East Side) we explored the concept of compassion. Compassion can be defined as the emotion that one feels in response to the suffering of others and that motivates a desire to help.

I learned that compassion can be cultivated, and that there are emotional and even physical benefits to purposely cultivating compassion. One way to develop compassion is to imagine "walking a mile in someone else's shoes". We experimented with imaginatively adopting someone else's body and life circumstances for a few minutes so that we could experience life from a different perspective.

## Knitting: A Meditative Practice

Since three Seekers had already brought their knitting to class, the group decided that a knitting class would be fun. Charlene Smith, an award-winning American journalist, has this to say on the subject of knitting: "...knitting is a craft more should try. It is a meditation, and a stress reliever, science tells us that it

lowers cholesterol, and improves brain function. I knit in lectures because it improves my concentration. Next time you see a knitter, contemplate on how peaceful she or he looks, and how they seem to create an island of tranquility around them. We've forgotten how simple it is to create peace within."

With one knitting class under our belts I think it will take at least two more Sundays of practice before any meditative benefits are realized! Since teaching knitting depends on one-on-one instruction, I welcome helpful knitters to come and join us (email or call Laura Redmond to arrange a visit).

## Intergenerational Service May 3<sup>rd</sup>

On May 3<sup>rd</sup>, the RE classes will join the adults for a fun and inspiring intergenerational service based on the story "The Goddess Blesses All Forms of Love" by Starhawk. It is a story arising from the Pagan tradition and the celebration of Beltane. The story will include a Maypole dance/ritual. Special thanks to Sandra Shaw, Donna Hamilton and Allegra Sloman for donating ribbons for our portable Maypole, and to David Hamilton for the wooden pole.

In preparation for this presentation, we will be learning more of Pagan traditions and wisdom during the month of April.

## Family Night

On Saturday, March 28<sup>th</sup>, 5:30-8:00 pm, Peggy Lunderville will host a potluck Family Night with egg decorating and games. All are welcome to attend.

Laura Redmond

## Bookkeeper wanted for Religious Education (RE) Committee

### Duties:

- Attend monthly RE committee meetings (generally first Thursday evening of the month near Poirier and Austin in Coquitlam)
- Submit receipts and expense forms to the board and reimburse co-directors as needed
- Help plan the RE budget and submit to the board once a year
- Time commitment: Approx. 3 hours per month including the meeting.



## Beacon's Small Groups

If you'd like to meet with Beaconites in a warm and supportive environment, check out our small groups.

**Lunch Bunch** - meets every Thursday at noon. For information contact Sally Frith 604-942-0751.

**Book Club** - usually meets the evening of the third Thursday of each month - next meeting April 16. This month's book is "*Morning River*" by W Michael Gear - a novel of the great Missouri Wilderness, set in 1825. **This is an open group so please feel free to join us if a particular title interests you.** For meeting location and other information call Bev Lock at (604) 525-6791.

**Choir** - Choir meets Tuesdays, 7:30 - 9:00 p.m. at Miller Park School. Choir info: call Charlene 604-464-3992.

**Theology Pub!** Meets Wednesday April 8 at 7 pm in the back room of the Heritage Grill, 447 Columbia Street, New Westminster. What could be better than an informal conversation on matters of the spirit while quaffing beer?



**Youth Group** meets next at 7 p.m. on April 10.

For further info contact

[minister@beaconunitarian.org](mailto:minister@beaconunitarian.org)

**Soul Matters** groups meet once a month to explore the theme of the month. The next daytime group meets on Wed Apr 8 at 1 pm, and the evening group meets on Thurs Apr 9 at 7 pm. Send an email to [minister@beaconunitarian.org](mailto:minister@beaconunitarian.org)

**Simply Pray** is a small group that meets once a month for the whole church year, to explore the many varieties of prayer. The next session is April 15 at 7 pm. If you are interested in attending send a message to [minister@beaconunitarian.org](mailto:minister@beaconunitarian.org)

**Humanist Group Meeting** - Sunday, March 24, 7:30 pm at the Astoria, Port Coquitlam. **Music** – What it does for us as 'consumers' and as performers – discussion leader: John Slattery. For further info contact Marilyn Medén [m.j.medeen@telus.net](mailto:m.j.medeen@telus.net) or Joy Silver [odetojoy@telus.net](mailto:odetojoy@telus.net)

## Circle Dinners - save the dates!

If you are a relative newcomer to Beacon, have you wondered how to get to know some of the other folks? And if you have been around for a long time, you may have wondered how to get to know some of those new faces we are seeing on Sunday mornings.

Let me introduce you to Circle Dinners – which are a wonderful way for new and not so new church goers to get to know each other better.

A circle dinner is a planned get together with 6-8 people (children included) who share food and conversation. These dinners would be held **Saturday April 18** and **Saturday May 23**, (and continuing again in the Fall) and would include as many Beacon folk as would like to attend. Hosts would determine the menu, with everyone contributing food for the meal.

Each month you will meet different folks. This is also a good time to invite a hesitant spouse or an interested friend to a Beacon event. There is no set agenda at the dinner – it's purely social.

Donna Hamilton & Joan Morris will do the organizing, and collecting names of those willing to participate. Hosts will be assigned dinner guests and will personally invite you to their dinner, 2 – 3 weeks before the event.

For more info or to sign up, contact Donna ([donna-h@telus.net](mailto:donna-h@telus.net)) or Joan ([joanmorris@telus.net](mailto:joanmorris@telus.net)). (You can also sign up at church)

## Nominating Committee Report

The Nominating Committee puts forward the following nominees for the 2015-2016 Board of Trustees:

**Rob Warner** for a two year term as Trustee (returning for a second term on the Board)

**Bev Lock** for a two year term as Trustee.

The other Board members are continuing in their present roles (presented in alphabetical order):

**Terry McComas, Audrey Taylor, and Carol Woodworth** will be completing their two year terms as officers of the Executive of the Beacon Board.

They have agreed to continue with the model of collaborative leadership and shared responsibilities as they

undertake the duties of officers, as defined in the Beacon By-Laws.

**Peggy Lunderville, Nancy Rupert and Jane Shoemaker** have each completed their terms on the board and will be leaving after the AGM on April 19.

*Note: At this time there will be one vacancy on the Executive (as Nancy Rupert is leaving) and there will be 2 vacancies for trustee positions.*

Nominating Committee members: Marilyn Medén, Joan Morris, Marylke Nieuwenhuis and Nancy Rupert (Board representative).

### **Bev Lock** - Trustee, two year term

Bev was a member in early days of Beacon, but work took her away to other places. We warmly welcome her return.

Bev has been retired for a year and a half from teaching, a job she loved. Retirement is a work in progress. She spends a lot of her time being Nana to two little girls in North Vancouver and two boys and a girl in Comox.

She enjoys conversations, movies, and long walks with friends. Bev spent three weeks last summer travelling across Canada by train, driving through the Maritimes and visiting Quebec City.

She discovered Unitarianism many years ago in Maple Ridge. Since then this connection has provided a very stimulating and supportive community in which to ask life's big questions. A few things she is grateful for: singing wonderful, familiar songs, participating in meaningful rituals, and listening to the thoughts and feelings of others during services, courses, workshops and retreats.



### **Rob Warner** - Trustee, two year term

Rob is descended from a long line of Unitarians. His great, great, great, great ??? grandfather Elam Warner was one of the first Unitarians to move to Canada, circa 1805. Rob grew up in the hills near Huntingville, Quebec where the first Unitarian Church was built in Canada. At heart, Rob is an old-school, New England Unitarian: humble ... heavy on the humble ... knows lots of bad jokes ... reads history, science-fiction, psychology, geography, engineering, etc.

During his travels, Rob learned to speak English and French along with a bit of German, a bit of Spanish and a bit of Japanese. As a young man, Rob tried his hand at construction, soldiering, sailing and repairing helicopters. A career in the skydiving industry brought him to Pitt Meadows in 1999 and he joined Beacon shortly thereafter.



BOARD MEETING

More nominees on page 7....

## Nominees continued....

**Terry McComas** - member of the Executive, second year of two year term

Trained as an Analytical Chemist, I worked for a decade in Health & Welfare Canada's illicit drug lab, where I provided analyses of seized materials, together with paperwork required by the Courts and, if requested, expert testimony on the analysis.

After that time, I could no longer endure the work, as I have always believed that substance abuse, while self-destructive, should be the decision of the abuser, rather than the Government of Canada. So I resigned and explored other aspects of our Criminal Justice System, as a volunteer - simultaneously teaching literacy at Burnaby Correctional Centre for Women, serving on the Crisis Intervention Team with Surrey RCMP Victims' Services and mediating diverted cases, with Community Justice Initiatives.

Although I am relatively new to Beacon, my Board experience includes 6 years as President of the Delta Naturalists' Society, together with 2 years as a member-at-large on the Board of the Royal City Humane Society.

I know all Beaconites to be agreeable people but, were it not so, my 2 years as a volunteer mediator and 5 years as Case Manager and mediation trainer with Community Justice Initiatives - a youth and adult diversion program - might give me insights.

But, above all, I think my most relevant qualification is a deep sense of appreciation for the instant community of friends and colleagues that Beacon has provided me. It is my privilege to serve.



---

**Audrey Taylor** – Member of Executive, second year of two year term

I have served on the Beacon Board of Trustees for 3 years. The first year I was a trustee and then I served as Treasurer. Previous to my work with the Beacon Board, I spent close to 30 years as Executive Director for non-profit health & social service agencies in BC.

During that career, I reported directly to volunteer Boards. I also served as a Director on the North Island Regional Health Committee and one year as the chair of that committee, as well as on the Board of the North Island Crisis & Counselling Centre. I served for 1 year on the Board of the BC Branch of the Canadian Mental Health Association.

I think more importantly I have been daughter, sister, granddaughter, daughter-in-law, wife, mother, grandmother, hippie, farmer and housewife. The Unitarian principles speak directly and personally to me. I cherish the Beacon community and truly appreciate the welcome and trust I experience in your midst.



---

**Carol Woodworth** - member of the Executive, second year of two year term

My previous board experience includes 6 years on the board for the Ridge Meadows Child Development Centre. I had the pleasure of working with Audrey Taylor when she was the Executive Director of the centre.

In my career as a speech pathologist, I have always worked as part of a team: at the Child Development Centre in Surrey, the Asante Centre for Fetal Alcohol Syndrome and in the Maple Ridge School District. One of my school district responsibilities was the coordination of a committee that selects students to receive assistive technology. This has given me many years of experience using a consensus model to make decisions.

I was raised Unitarian by my parents in Kelowna and continued that contact by mail membership in the CUC. I am very appreciative of the hard work of the original members of the congregation who brought Beacon into existence and of those who have kept Beacon going so that it was here for me when I began attending seven years ago.





## Beaconites in the Spotlight

This is an occasional column about performances or exhibits which feature our Beacon friends, and it is up to you to send your notices to include in the Beacon! Please send to [Newsletter@BeaconUnitarian.org](mailto:Newsletter@BeaconUnitarian.org) by the 15th of the month.

The **New Westminster and District Concert Band**, whom many of you have enjoyed at previous performances, is presenting its annual concert at Evergreen Cultural Centre on March 30 at 7:30. **John Hagen**, trumpeter, invites you to enjoy a splendid evening of varied music from around the world. John has tickets, or you can order them on line at the link below. Check it out. John will appreciate you telling him you plan to attend.

<http://evergreenculturalcentre.ca/event/around-world-80-minutes/> Box Office 604 927 6555

**Sue Sparlin** is performing in "Rabbit Hole" in North Vancouver at Hendry Hall from April 10 through April 25. Here is the link to the description of the play, map to the venue, and ticket sales:

<http://www.northvanplayers.ca/nowplaying.html>

### Coffee Hour Hosting Opportunity

Would you benefit from the practice of radical hospitality? Can you imagine yourself spending an hour or two on Sunday morning thinking about your fellow congregants and making a pleasant space for them to connect with one another?

Then volunteer to be a coffee hour host. Just one Sunday a month would make a big difference to the welcoming experience of fellow Beaconites. Contact Sue Sparlin [sue.sparlin@shaw.ca](mailto:sue.sparlin@shaw.ca) or Karen Greenland [klgreenland@hotmail.com](mailto:klgreenland@hotmail.com)



### Coffee Host Training

**Sunday, April 12, after church:** Coffee Host Training. Join Karen Greenland and her coffee host team in the kitchen downstairs. Learn how to make coffee and tea, what to do with the money, how to wash dishes, all the stuff that is involved in coffee hosting. And learn how the practice of hospitality aids in the spiritual growth of those who volunteer.

Contact Sue Sparlin [sue.sparlin@shaw.ca](mailto:sue.sparlin@shaw.ca) or Karen Greenland [klgreenland@hotmail.com](mailto:klgreenland@hotmail.com) for more information.



### Unitarian Family Camp June 5-7, 2015

Set in the natural splendor of Port Moody's Belcarra Regional Park, the camp offers swimming, boating, hiking, climbing, children's programming, workshops for youth/adults, campfires and other fun communal events. Heated cabins with electricity. Meals provided. *Note: You do not need children to attend Family Camp!*

**Registration deadline: April 30** Adults: \$145; Children: \$130

Download a brochure/registration form at  
[www.beaconunitarian.org/sasamat.html](http://www.beaconunitarian.org/sasamat.html) or

see Laura Redmond or Peggy Lunderville for a brochure or more information.

**Blues and Jazz Harmonies** with  
Alison Nixon

Saturday, June 6th,  
10-11:30 am  
1:30-4 pm



**Prose Poetry** with  
Franci Louann  
Sunday, June 7th,  
1-3pm



**Climbing Wall or High Ropes Course**  
Sunday, June 7th,  
1-3 pm, 3:30-5 pm



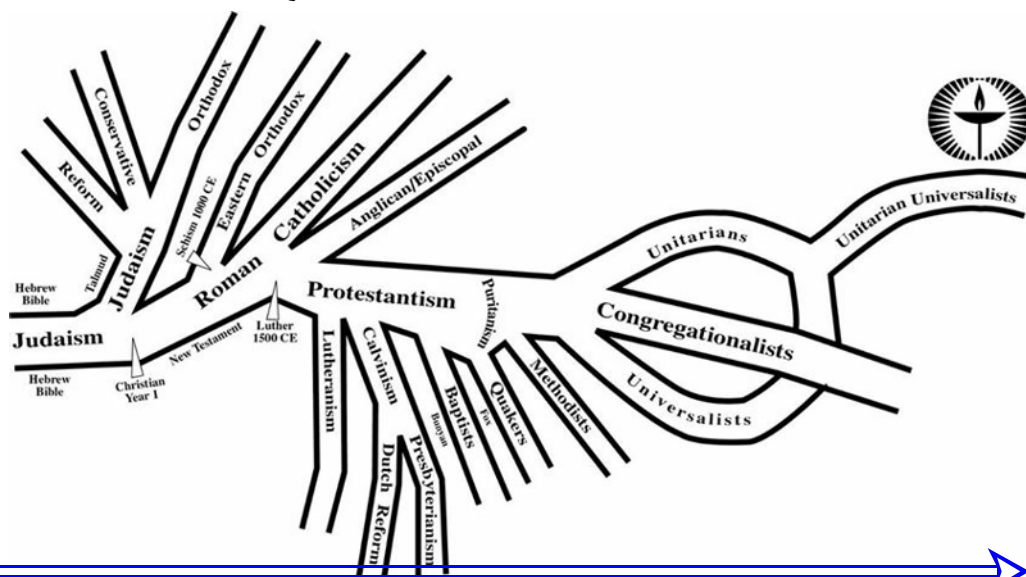


## Lots of learning opportunities!

**Rev. Phillip Hewett** will lead a six-week course based on his revised book *The Unitarian Way*, and exploring all aspects of what it means to be a Unitarian.

Starts April 7. Tuesday nights 7:15-9pm Fireside Room at the **Unitarian Church of Vancouver**, 49th & Oak.

Register in office. (604-261-7204)  
By donation. Phillip will have copies of his book available for purchase (\$20), but it is not essential for participants to have a copy.



### Bible as Literature Series

Monday, April 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm

**Hebrew Biblical Poetry** – bring your own favourite Proverbs, Psalms or other poetic pieces from the Old Testament

**Location:**

Astoria Retirement Residence, Port Coquitlam

**Moderator:** John Slattery

For info or address, call John at 604-941-2606

### Theologians' Cafe

Tuesday, April 14, 10:00 am

*Theologians' Café* at the Glen Pine Pavilion (1200 Glen Pine Court off of Glen Drive, Coquitlam)

**Religious Fundamentalism** – What is it? Where does it come from? What are its implications?

**Moderator:** John Slattery

## Climate Change Changes Me

We are very pleased to announce the next series of "Climate Change Changes Me!" is to take place in White Rock in April! This series is the result of a partnership among

- \* Peninsula United Churches
- \* South Fraser Unitarian Congregation
- \* Beacon Unitarian Church.

It will be part of the 'Community Builders' program presented by the Peninsula United Churches.

"Does climate change affect the way you eat? Use energy? Get around? This four-part workshop will explore what climate change is and how it is changing the way people do things around the world and right here in White Rock. Most importantly, this workshop will provide options for finding our democratic voice and creating change in ourselves and our communities."

FREE, Wednesday evenings (7pm) at 15385 Semiahmoo Avenue, White Rock. (First United Church)

- \* April 8 - Causes, & Energy
- \* April 15 - Transportation
- \* April 22 - Food
- \* April 29 - Finding Our Democratic Voice.

## Sharing the Plate Nominations 2015-16

Thanks to all who took the time to complete a nomination form for the charity of your choice. All the nominations we received were worthy, inspiring organizations.

Narrowing the groups from six to three turned out to be fairly straightforward using the criteria established on the form (some groups were a bit outside our church area, or seemed like larger charities that wouldn't be as impacted by our donation, or had not committed to visiting Beacon twice.)

Therefore, your three nominated charities for 2015 are, in no particular order:

### **New Westminster Homelessness Coalition's "I's on the Street" program**

The New Westminster Homelessness Coalition (NWHCS) brings together individuals, groups and organizations who are working to end homelessness in New Westminster. Members meet bi-monthly to share the work of their member organizations and to implement programs that may assist individuals in need of housing and support. Clients served come from all walks of life, men, women, children, seniors, the addicted and mentally ill. One of their mandated statements is that they will engage and empower clients to become self-supporting and productive.

**I's on the Street** is a job entry program providing employment in the form of street cleaning in the uptown and downtown of New Westminster. Workers are treated with dignity and respect as they gain skills and confidence. This program may lead on to long-term employment and in the meantime provides experience and a wage. The NWHCS raises all of its funding through local businesses and organizations to support its work. These include: the Downtown and Uptown Business Associations, VanCity, The City of New Westminster and an annual dinner during Homelessness Action Week in October.

### **Burnaby Seniors Outreach Services Society (BSOSS)**

This is a non-profit organization in which peers support the emotional well-being of seniors. The purpose of the society is to promote seniors' independence, self-esteem, and the achievement of individual goals.

Since their inception in 1987 as a non-profit, charitable organization, BSOSS, through their peer counselling and related activities, has been providing emotional support and encouragement to older citizens of Burnaby, assisting them to enhance their quality of life, to develop problem management strategies, and to maintain the greatest level of independence and dignity possible.

The society is directed by a volunteer Board, all of whom are seniors, coordinated by part-time staff, and functions with a dedicated corps of service volunteers.

BSOSS funding comes primarily from special fundraising activities, membership dues, a small Community Gaming grant, and donations from individuals and community organizations.

BSOSS services are currently the Senior Peer Counselling Program and the Family Caregiver Support Program.

This charity supports the UU principles of the inherent worth and dignity of every person, and justice, equity and compassion in human relations.

The nominator states that in the short time she has been involved with the BSOSS, she's discovered they impact the lives of over 500 seniors every year in Burnaby and New Westminster. Most of these seniors are experiencing serious health, financial and/or mental health problems and their circumstances, which are widely varied, mean that they "fall between the cracks" of our beloved social safety net.

Continued on page 11.....

## Sharing the Plate 2015-16 continued

### Rivershed Society of BC

Rivershed BC is a non-profit organization whose chief activity is education, awareness and stewardship of our riversheds. Their mission is: To protect, conserve and restore the health of BC riversheds in this generation.

Their Guiding Values:

- We are a part of the natural environment which sustains all life.
- Individuals can make a difference and we encourage them to be leaders in their communities.
- We value collaboration and partnerships with other groups and individuals who share our concerns and believe in our mission.
- We value the wisdom and experience of the First Nation peoples.
- We value scientific research.
- We value the transformational impact of experiential learning.
- We live in hope that we can protect, conserve and restore our riversheds back to health.



## Sharing the Plate 2014-15

NEW VIEW SOCIETY, Port Coquitlam

One of the many programs offered at our Clubhouse is our 50+ Program.

Diana Sinclair works closely with this age group. She really likes the way it offers our older members an opportunity to connect and have friendships. Diana believes without New View Society many of these members may not make the effort to venture out during the week.

The 50+ Program gives them an opportunity to belong. They enjoy the outings knowing if they are tired on the drive home they will be taken right to their door. Part of the program involves checking out the many resources in the community. It can be intimidating to go to a Community Centre alone. Going together as a group makes it so much

more social. Dogwood Pavilion, Wilson Centre and the Glen Pine Pavilion are regular stops.

One Monday each month the group enjoys time in the Clubhouse playing board games or making crafts. On the last Monday of each month there is a shopping trip. Walmart is always a popular choice as the pricing is fair and our members can shop for the large items that would be difficult to carry if they were riding public transit.

Diana says the van rides can be the best part of the day. Everyone visits during the drive while enjoying the scenery along the way. A complete listing of all our programs is available on the home page of our website by clicking on the Clubhouse Calendar! [www.newviewsociety.org](http://www.newviewsociety.org)

### The following statement comes from the Unitarian Ministers of Canada.

*"We, the Unitarian Universalist Ministers of Canada, wish to express our deep concern about Bill C-51, the federal government's so-called "anti-terrorism" bill. Bill C-51 is rooted in fear; fear for our safety and security, and fear of one another. Our faith as Unitarian Universalists calls us to a different response, a response rooted in recognition of our interdependence.*

*Granting extraordinary powers to CSIS - the Canadian Security and Intelligence Service - follows an ominous trend of undermining civil liberties in the pursuit of vague notions of security. In spite of a handful of high-profile acts of violence in recent months, the fact is that "terrorism" (a term which is rarely given a clear definition) is less threatening to Canada than the climate of fear that this bill promotes.*

*Genuine safety is not achieved by allowing unchecked power to security agencies. It is the product of dialogue, cooperation, and working together toward a shared vision of justice and equity for all people. Thus, we are called to live into and create this vision together."*



## Beacon Youth Group (BYG) Update

Last month three members of BYG went into Vancouver to see the movie 'Selma'. All three had heard Rev. Debra's service on the march from Selma to Montgomery and so knew that the Rev. James Reeb, who was one of the men murdered in Selma, was a Unitarian minister, even though the movie only described him as a 'priest'. The movie was powerfully told and brought up a lot of emotion. Afterwards everyone went to the food court to recover and talk about the experience.

Next Youth Group gathering is Friday April 10 and Lucy Stainsby is coming to teach 'spoken word'.



*Last month, the Seekers helped to make the lunches that the youth and Debra distributed in the DTES*

## Beacon Calendar for March 2015

Thursday, April 2	Worship Committee meeting 9:30 - 11:30
Sunday, April 5	<i>The Courage of our Convictions</i> , <b>Rev. Debra Thorne</b> . Foodbank collection
Wednesday April 8	Soul Matters Group One 1 - 3,
Thursday, April 9	Soul Matters Group Two 7 - 9
Friday, April 10	Youth Group meet 7 Sunday,
Sunday, April 12	<i>Demystifying Islam</i> , <b>Taslim Jaffer and Rev. Debra Thorne</b> , coffee host training
Wednesday, April 15	Simply Pray, 7; Newsletter Deadline
Thursday, April 16	Connections and Membership meeting, 1 p.m., Book Club 7- 9
Saturday, April 18	Circle Dinners, @various Beaconites' homes
Sunday, April 19	<i>Anyone Can Slay a Dragon</i> , <b>Rev Debra Thorne</b> , followed by Soup Lunch, followed by Annual General Meeting (choir sings)
Wednesday, April 22	Potluck dinner to meet CUC Program development Coord, 6 pm @ Lundervilles'
Sunday, April 26	<i>Courage and Transformation</i> , <b>Michael Bradshaw</b> (choir sings)

Wednesdays Apr 8 thu 29 Climate Change Changes Me, 7 p.m, First United Church in White Rock

Every Thursday at noon - Lunch Bunch, see page 5 for contact info

Every Tuesday at 7:30 - 9 Choir, see page 5 for contact info

Wednesdays April 1, 15, 29 - Beacon's days at Foodbank @ Como Lake United

For a full calendar of Beacon activities, go to our web-site <http://www.beaconunitarian.org/calendar.html>