Beacon Unitarian Church

Volume 33, Number 2, February 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.

Some of the most challenging, perplexing and important questions we could ask ourselves are: Who am I? Who are we? To be aware of one's own identity is empowering: having your identity taken from you is incredibly disempowering. This month, we will explore personal, cultural and institutional identity. (Remember to check the Beacon web page for the theme broadsheet with inspiring readings, questions to live into, spiritual practices, movies to watch and much more.).

# Sunday February 1, 10:30 a.m. Breaking the Gender Barriers Rev. Debra Thorne

Since Audrey Hepburn wore a suit and David Bowie donned eyeliner the western world had been re-evaluating gender lines. External images and the roles played by men and women have become a vibrant cultural conversation. Can we begin to envision a world where there are no gender clues?

Special Guest Choir: Out in Harmony Foodbank Collection.

# Sunday February 8, 10:30 a.m. *Identity and Disability*Sita Sahasrabudhe

Sita will speak of identity and disability. This poignant speech will enhance your understanding of what it is like to live with a disability, and how it impacts one's self identity. Prepare to have a new lens and perspective on identity as Sita tells her story of struggling with severe Epilepsy - a seizure disorder.

Sita recently acquired her Bachelor's of Social Work degree in Ottawa, Ontario. She hopes to be an advocate for people with disabilities, in addition to being a case manager. Sita lives in New Westminster with her two parents, and adorable Chihuahua Pug mix, JoJo.

Coordinator: Marilyn Medén

# Sunday February 15, 10:30 a.m. Pssst! What's a CUC?

#### Rev. Debra Thorne

In 2015 the Canadian Unitarian Council, the network of Unitarian congregations in Canada, is seeking a new identity. What do Canadian Unitarians stand for and how are we going to use that identity to make this society more just, more democratic, more inclusive, and how does Joni Mitchell fit into the picture?

Following the service there will be a congregational conversation on the CUC visioning process.

Choir sings today.



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# Sunday February 22, 10:30 a.m. Different Like Me

#### **Anna Isaacs**

Being different from others is something we all have in common. It can make us feel valued or isolated, truly whole or deeply divided. What does us being different together make possible?

Anna is a UU from Victoria who has recently retired from young adult status. She moved to Victoria to go to university and has been there ever since. Through Unitarianism she has explored her interest in dialogue, facilitation, and leadership. She currently works in a group home for disabled adults.

Following the service there will be a short discussion of the topic, for those interested.

### Coordinator: Joan Morris Choir sings today.



Deadline for the March Beacon February 15, 2015 Please send to:

Newsletter@BeaconUnitarian.org



# From the Minister's Desk

## **Turning Towards the Future**

'Turning Towards the Future' is the name of a paper written in 2014 describing the conditions for change that the Canadian Unitarian

Council faces. This time in the journey of the Canadian Unitarian Council could be described as a watershed moment, when the conditions are just right to renew the goals and sense of purpose of our Council.

Canadian Unitarians are being called upon to imagine boldly what we stand for and how we will step forward. Last October Audrey Taylor (Beacon Board Member) and myself attended one of the visioning workshops that was presented at the Fall Gathering in Victoria.

In a packed room of people representing Unitarians from every congregation in British Columbia, we were challenged to find the words and images that will define our movement for the future.

It was hard work. Surprisingly so! It was also surprising to me that there was a lot of consensus in the room. One area that we agreed on was the need to communicate to those beyond our communities where they can find us and what we Unitarians stand for. People were passionate about our justice-making, joyful, and respectful Unitarian communities. It was acknowledged over and over again that we really needed to get the word out there.

Together we looked at the statements created by the CUC Board, RE educators, ministers and young adults in November 2013, who were asked the question: What

should the Canadian Unitarian community look like in five to ten years?

In Victoria we reflected on the following statements that the teams came up with. 'Unitarians in Canada are: Theologically Alive, Spiritually Grounded, Embodying our Principles, Boldly Inclusive, Beyond Congregations, Deeply Connected, and Technologically Current.'

We conversed, we listened, we wrote the words we liked on walls full of paper, we wrote down the words that we didn't like, and sent the whole process back to the Toronto offices of the CUC to be added to the results from the other Regional Gatherings, as well as the contributions from congregations sea to sea. The final vision for the future of the Canadian Unitarian Council will be revealed in Ottawa next May. At least that is the plan!!

Beaconites will have an opportunity to contribute to this important conversation after the February 15 service. Audrey Taylor and I will lead the conversation and then pass along your thoughts on the vision for the future of the Canadian Unitarian Council.

\*Please read the whole of 'Turning Towards the Future' at

http://cuc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/CUC-Board-Discussion-Paper-2014-Feb.pdf

With love, Debra



## Beacon Unitarian Church

#414, 552A Clarke Road Coquitlam, B.C. V3J 0A3 info@BeaconUnitarian.org

#### **Consulting Minister:**

Rev. Debra Thorne minister@BeaconUnitarian.org

**Lay Chaplain**: Marilyn Medén 604-469-6797, m.j.meden@telus.net

Choir Director: Charlene Dubrule 604-464-3992, char4myc@shaw.ca

#### **Board Executive:**

Terry McComas, Nancy Rupert, Audrey Taylor, Carol Woodworth **Trustees**: Peggy Lunderville, Jane Shoemaker, Rob Warner

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BeaconUnitarian.org



# Board Bitz

From your Board Executive

As we journey along in January, the Board Executive can report that there is not much to report this month! We had a fairly uneventful budget meeting that demonstrated how well Beacon does the fifth principle (conscience and democracy!)

We have a number of new faces joining us at services on Sunday—if you are reading this for the first time, welcome! In the words of the Phillip Phillips's song the choir has been singing this past month, "although this wave is stringing us along, just know you're not alone, 'cause I'm

gonna make this place your home".

I hope you are feeling at home at Beacon!

There is a new member ceremony coming up on Sunday, Feb. 15<sup>th</sup>. If anyone is considering becoming a member of our congregation, please contact the minister at minister@beaconunitarian.org



# Report from our Treasurer

It was an unusual budget process this year. Due to the momentum toward growth in many areas in our congregation and the enthusiasm of our committees to support that growth, we had an initial budget that showed a deficit of over \$13,000. The Board felt it was an unsustainable budget and asked the committees to reduce their requests wherever possible. The Stewardship committee asked congregants to increase their pledges, if possible. Both congregants and committees stepped up to the plate!

Many committees, but especially Music and Worship, reduced their budgets and several congregants increased their pledges. The result was a budget that forecasted a deficit of just over \$2,000. At the congregational budget meeting, the members voted to increase the accompanist time to cover every Sunday service. This increases the forecasted deficit to just over \$2,800.

Right after the budget meeting, a couple of people offered to contribute even more to our coffers! What a grand congregation we have!

# Report from the Stewardship Committee

- The average pledge total for the past four years was \$67,168 (2011-2014)
- The pledge for this year was \$74,180 at the time the budget was presented.
- Eight members increased their pledges by \$4,380 after the call went out.
- All members responded to the stewardship drive.
- 84% of the members pledged.
- Members pledges increased by 16% this year over last year.
- Six members reduced their pledges from last year.

Sue Sparlin (for the Stewardship Committee)

# Beacon's Religious Education Corner

by 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
- Help plan the RE budget and submit to the board once a year
- Time commitment: Approx. 3 hours per month including the meeting.

The Religious Education committee has been blessed with the help and support of Susan Tarras for many years, providing us with bookkeeping services. Due to other commitments she will be resigning from this role by the end of June. We thank her for her many years of service and participation. In consequence, the RE committee is hoping that a volunteer will step forward to help us with bookkeeping. Please contact Laura or Amber if you are able to help.

#### **Growing Attendance**

Growing attendance in the RE program has resulted in enough children to form two classes. Last Sunday, after our joys and sorrows ritual, we broke into two groups, 4-7 year olds and 8-12 year olds. Both groups will be using a program called RE Express as a starting point for lesson material. Written by Lynn Ungar of the Unitarian Universalist Church of the Larger Fellowship (clfuu.org) the theme for this year is "Wisdom from World Religions". We will test this new arrangement of church school until the March break, and re-assess at that time.

## How to make learning fun

The 8-12 year old group started with a brainstorming session on how to make learning fun. Ideas were: go to the park, be in nature, form a book club, hands-on experience, games, and activities with the youth. Specific activities included knitting or learning to knit, and making torches. We also discussed ways for everyone to be heard and be safe. There is significant interest in creating a tent in which to hold our class, either indoors or out. This might turn out to be an interesting project for the children!

The 4-7 year old class has decided that they would like to have a regular show and tell time. They also unanimously requested more games and more crafts. And they re-iterated their love of our weekly snack time. Who can blame them?

### Family Washroom at Sapperton

Families with babies and toddlers may want to take note of the washroom located at the rear of the main meeting space. Look for the door with the "Koala Kare" sticker. There is a locking door, a change table and a dedicated diaper pail.

#### Youth and Social Justice Funds

We would like to thank everyone who purchased a multifaith calendar in 2013 or 2014, resulting in the amount of \$225 to be used for social justice projects. On February 15th, the youth will visit the older children in class to discuss the KIVA lending program (kiva.org) and to invest the money with various loan applicants from around the world. After that, the children will help the youth make sandwiches that the youth will distribute later that afternoon to the homeless in the downtown Eastside

Over the next few months the youth will be preparing for a youth-led Sunday service scheduled for May 10th. They are developing a "Spoken Word" presentation, in slam poetry style – something to look forward to!

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank youth group member Meghan Rupert for her faithful support of the nursery, providing child care in conjunction with Peggy Lunderville.

#### Thank you

Finally, we would like to express our thanks to all Beacon members for your continued support of our young people. Thank you for your important part in their journeys.

Laura Redmond

# 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** - meets the evening of the third Thursday of each month. The next meeting is on February 19. This month's book is "Dance of the Dissident Daughter", by Sue Monk Kidd. This is an open group so please feel free to join us if a particular title interests you. For meeting location and other information please call Bev Lock 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 February 11<sup>th</sup> at 7pm 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?



**Soul Matters** groups meet once a month to explore the theme of the month. The next daytime group meets on February 11at 1 pm, and the evening group meets on February 12 at 7 pm. Send an email to minister@beaconunitaian.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 February 18 at 7 pm. If you are interested in attending send a message to minister@beaconunitarian.org

**Humanist Group Meeting** -The next meeting will be January 25, 7:30 p.m. at Astoria House, Port Coquitlam. The topic for this session will be: freedom of the press and respect for religion. The recent events in Paris have brought this issue into sharp focus. What do you think about all this? What are likely to be repercussions from these events? Might we be gearing up for another installment of security vs personal freedom? Discussion leaders: John Slattery and Joy Silver. For more info, please contact Marilyn Medén 604-469-6797 or Joy Silver 604-941-2606.



# PROUD TO SUPPORT



# Share Food Bank Project @Beacon

Our first Food Bank Sunday of 2015 is February 1.

Let us reflect on why and how Beacon supports SHARE Food Bank. Over 10 years ago Beacon spearheaded a Food Bank Depot at Como Lake United Church and volunteers have staffed it ever since. Sandy and Cathy Burpee inspired this social action and were our wonderful leaders over the first decade.

Our congregation continues to hold monthly Food Bank Sundays to make donations of money and food. The need is greater than ever. Please support our fruitful partnership with the SHARE Society. If you make a donation of \$20 or more you will receive a charitable tax receipt. Please make cheques payable to SHARE Food Bank.

Anita and John Hagen, Food Bank Volunteers

## .Soup Lunch

There will be a soup lunch on Feb 22 after church. To contribute, please contact Peggy Lunderville at 604-522-3001, or plunder@gmail.com.



# Notes from the connections committee

# Getting to know U!

New to Beacon? Keep this date open: Sat., February 7, 2015 10 am-2pm

This is an opportunity to meet others who are new to Beacon and perhaps new to Unitarianism in a relaxed day of conversation and questions. There'll be a little Unitarian history thrown in as well. 'Getting to Know U!', is just that, an opportunity to get to know both you and this U(nitarian) congregation.

Lunch will be provided and childcare will be available. Location: Glenbrook Park Amenities Centre, 76 Jamieson Court, New Westminster.

If you are interested in attending please contact either Joan Morris (<u>joanmorris@telus.net</u>) or Rev. Debra Thorne (<u>minister@beaconunitarian.org</u>) for more information.

# New Member Ceremony - Feb 15

If you would like to officially join Beacon Church, please contact Debra at minister@beaconunitarian.org.

Membership in our church is both simple and difficult. It is simple because all that is required is to sign our membership book; you will have joined with a people who strive to live in loving and respectful relationship with each other. It is difficult because that simple act carries with it complex meaning. That act means one has made a decision to join a community searching for truth with no promise of success. This church holds no set creed upon which everyone agrees. What we do affirm is that we must be respectful and accepting of each other in our varied understandings of the religious life and that we must take responsibility, personally and corporately, for the world we live in and the life we lead.



# Sharing the Plate 2014-15

**NEW VIEW SOCIETY**, Port Coquitlam

The wonderful thing about a new calendar is the perceived promise of more time. Time for one to reflect on the past year, experiences gained, and maybe even a plan for a change. For some it may bring a sense of gratitude for more time to pursue one's hopes and dreams. New View Society's Clubhouse calendar highlights member activities of every kind; opportunities for rehabilitation, socializing, employment, and self-discovery.

In addition, in February we will be co-hosting a Mental Health and the Workplace seminar for business owners, our 12-week Family to Family support course begins again, and Donna Bonertz will offer a 2-Day Mental Health First Aid course.

These wonderful events give the community a chance to come together to learn more about mental illness and how we can all do better to support those around us who may be living with a diagnosis. Maybe your 2015 resolution is to get involved, learn something new or take up volunteering? We just might be the place for you! To find out more about us just visit our website at <a href="https://www.newviewsociety.org">www.newviewsociety.org</a>

# 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 by the 15th of the month.

# WILD **HORSES**

Ten Lines or Fewer 45 Poems by Franci Louann



#### WHATEVER HAPPENED TO FRAN WORKMAN? a mini-auto-bio

edited by Janet Vickers

## From Purple Poppy Press

We are happy to publish **Franci Louann's** 'Wild Horses' as an eBook. The original was conceived in 2006 as a collection of 250 poems, here we present 45 of those. The selection for the eBook was made by the Author in December 2014.

The way each poem poises me on the high diving board then walks away so I take the plunge myself—this is poetry as an art. ...signing up for your fan band.

Sho Wiley, Vancouver BC

Franci's poems have won prizes from Pandora's Collective, the Burnaby Writers' Society and the Surrey International Writers' Conference. A longer poem won her first prize in the Vancouver Folk Music Festival Memorable Moments contest, up against prose. She was The Canadian Unitarian's poetry editor for five years. A compulsive 'resourceress' regarding poetry events in Metro Vancouver, she received the World Poetry Volunteer Media Award in 2007. She was World Poetry's Ambassador to New Zealand and Australia 2009-2010, and their first Peace Ambassador.

Franci has captured here, some of those wild creatures that got away, and we can open any page and run with them awhile.

Janet Vickers, Lipstick Press, Gabriola Island BC

http://purplepoppypress.blogspot.ca/2015/01/upcomingtitle-wild-horses-poems-by.html?spref=fb





#### Dear Poets,

It's already that time again—The CanU is planning for the ACM issue, due out early March. The theme of the conference is Seeking Justice in a Changing Land, in case that inspires—but not necessary as a theme for the poem.

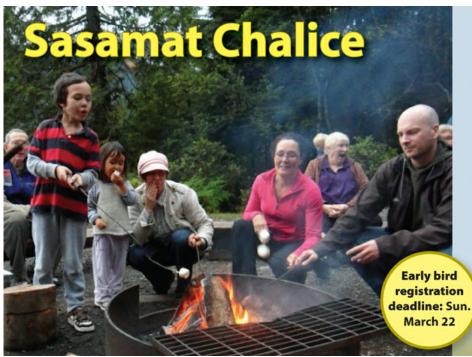
Please send up to three poems to poetry@cuc.ca by February 5. You will be informed whether one of your poems is selected or not. Thank you for your time and your talent.

all the best Janet Vickers Poetry Editor, Canadian Unitarian

#### **Translations:**

CanU = Publication of the Canadian Unitarian Council

ACM = Annual Conference and Meeting of the Canadian Unitarian Council, usually held Victoria Day weekend (May). The next one will be held in Ottawa, May 15-17, 2015



## **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, choral/voice and writing workshops for youth and adults, campfires and other fun communal events. Heated cabins with electricity. Meals provided. Note: you do not need children to attend Family Camp!

#### Early bird registration deadline: Sun. March 22

Early bird rates: Adults: \$130; Children: \$123.
Register early, save, and
help out the planning committee!

Download a brochure/registration form at www.beaconunitarian.org/sasamat.html

talk with Beacon members

Laura Redmond or Peggy Lunderville
for more information.

# Youth update

The Beacon Youth Group had a great time practicing archery at the Royal City Archers on January 17. They were joined by youth from the Vancouver Unitarian Church and the North Shore Unitarian Church. Fourteen youth in all enjoyed shooting bows and eating pizza afterwards. It was an opportunity to discover that there are more than a few Unitarian youth in the Lower Mainland. There are plans to get the three churches together again for a social justice project.



In February the Beacon Youth are mentoring the older children on how to donate to KIVA, something the youth did as children and now will pass on their experience. The Kiva mentoring project will last through 2015. Also this month the youth will once again be making lunches and distributing them to the Downtown Eastside of Vancouver on the Valentine's Day weekend. This project is called 'Love in Action'.

# **Take a Mindful Journey with UUs to the Hill Towns of Italy**July 26 to August 4, 2015.

Experience the enchanting hill towns of Tuscany and Umbria, view the awesome landscapes, admire the incredible art, taste the wine, enjoy fresh pasta, and all the delights this area of Italy offers us. Spend three nights in Florence, and three each in the hill towns of Siena and Assisi, staying in charming accommodation. We'll explore Cortona, made famous by the movie "Under the Tuscan Sun", and have lunch in a typical osteria. The Renaissance architecture designed by a humanist Pope in Pienza will be a treat. We hope to meditate to Gregorian chanting at the Abbey St. Antimo that dates from the 12th century. The hill towns of San Gimignano, Montalcino, Montefalco, Bevagna, and Spoleto are also on our itinerary. We'll learn each town's stories from its art, food, and inhabitants.

Because we are booking small monastery guest house accommodation, we need to make deposits by **February 1, 2015**. Please see the itinerary and costs at <a href="http://nuuc.ca/spiritual-growth/spiritual-growth/spiritual-practice/mindful-journeys/">http://nuuc.ca/spiritual-growth/spiritual-practice/mindful-journeys/</a>

Or email Beverlz@me.com < mailto:Beverlz@me.com > for more information.

Neighbourhood UU Congregation, Toronto

# Unitarian Opportunities on the Island

## **Our Spiritual Journeys**

Vancouver Island Unitarian Spiritual Retreat Friday evening to Sunday afternoon

**April 24-26, 2015** 

At the beautiful

Cowichan Lake Outdoor Education & Conference Centre (1h30 from Victoria, 1h from Nanaimo)

Take time away from the busyness to reflect on your spiritual journey: where you've come from, where you are now, and explore what your next steps might be. We offer opportunities for small group sharing, contemplative practices, worship services, time for your own rest and renewal, as well as time to play and get to know one another better.

For registration information: Rosemary Morrison (<a href="mailto:rsmrymorrison@gmail.com">rsmrymorrison@gmail.com</a>)

For more program details: Meg Roberts (<a href="mailto:mroberts@uuma.org">mroberts@uuma.org</a>)

Sponsored by the Vancouver Island Unitarian Committee

## "Listening With Heart: Basic Building Block for Community in Diversity!"



- § Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part. (U.U. 7<sup>th</sup> Principle)
- § "We experience ourselves... as something separate from the rest... this delusion is a kind of prison for us... our task must be to free ourselves... by widening our circle of compassion to embrace all living creatures and the whole of nature..."- Einstein
- § The art of creative understanding is like weaving a fabric from the many threads of silence, timing, inflection, intent and other non-verbal cues. It requires a delicate balance between assertiveness and receptivity. Listening is at the core."- Hwoshinsky

We welcome you to join the Unitarian Fellowship of Nanaimo for a day of exploring what it means to "Listen With Heart" as a base for community interaction. Ours is a fellowship of diverse interests, broad range of skills and eclectic mix of backgrounds. If our differences are not to build walls but bridges for our shared journey, then we need to practice deep listening to find the connections.

For more information please feel free to contact Rev. Samaya Oakley, 250-591-0410, minister@ufon.ca

#### **Presenters:**

Rev. Samaya Oakley, Developmental Minister, First Unitarian Fellowship of Nanaimo Joan Carolyn, CUC Congregational Development staff for Western and B.C. regions. Feel free to check out her bio at: <a href="http://cuc.ca/people/joan-carolyn">http://cuc.ca/people/joan-carolyn</a>

Date & Time: April 18, 9:30-3:30

Location: First Unitarian Fellowship of Nanaimo, 595 Townsite Road, Nanaimo, BC V9S 1K9

# Beacon Awards Gala Evening & Dinner

## Saturday, January 31st at Sapperton Hall

Join us as we celebrate our fellow Beaconites with a community potluck dinner. Children and youth are most welcome, and child care will be provided.

Help us make the evening fun by imagining funny awards and naming the recipients. For example, I nominate Sue Sparlin for the "Giving the Most Shameless Self Promotions" award. Or I nominate Denis Probst for the "Sitting in the Same Seat for the Most Sunday Services" award. Or I nominate Jacob Strocel for the "Wearing the most number of costumes to church." Have fun with it. Yes, you can nominate yourself! Submit your nominations and award names to anyone on the Stewardship Committee: Sue Sparlin, Susan Tarras, Carol Woodworth, or Anne McLeod.

Black ties and long gowns would be welcome attire if you want to dress up. Tiaras are optional!

Tickets will be on sale after church on January 25.

We want to make sure that everyone can attend, so if you would find it difficult to afford a ticket, just ask for a complimentary ticket – or pay what you can.

**Ticket Prices:** 

- Adults \$15 plus one potluck dish, or \$25 with no dish
- Children 6 to 16 \$5
- Family maximum: \$35 plus two potluck dishes or \$55 with no dishes.

# Beacon Calendar for February 2015

Saturday, January 31 **Beacon Awards Gala Evening & Dinner** (see above)

Sunday, February 1 Breaking the Gender Barriers with **Rev. Debra Thorne**, Guest choir Out in Harmony

Friday, February 6 Worship Committee meeting, 9:15 @Sally Frith's

Saturday, February 7 New to Beacon Workshop, 10 - 2 (see p. 6)

Sunday, February 8 Identity and Disability with Sita Sahasrabudhe

Wednesday February 11 Soul Matters Group One 1 - 3,

Thursday, February 12 Soul Matters Group Two 7 - 9; Board Meeting 7 p.m.

Friday, February 3 Youth Group meet 7 p.m.

Sunday, February 15 PSSST! What's a CUC? with Rev. Debra Thorne, choir sings, Newsletter Deadline

Monday, February 16 Music Committee meeting, 9:30 a.m.

Wednesday, February 18 Simply Pray, 7 p.m. (see p. 5)

Thursday, February 19 Book Club 7 - 9, Connections and Membership meeting, 1 p.m.

Sunday, February 22 Different Like Me with Anna Isaacs, choir sings, Soup Lunch, 7:30 Humanist Group

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

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

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