



The Beacon

Beacon Unitarian Church

Volume 32, Number 3, March 2014

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.

Art as Spirituality is the Sunday Service theme for March. Art is a wide descriptor that includes painting, dance, sculpture and music... art is the outward expression of the creative energy of the universe expressing itself through the human imagination. - Rev. Debra Thorne

Sunday March 2, 10:30 a.m.

God in Everything: The Art of Emily Carr

Rev. Debra Thorne & Sue Sparlin

Emily Carr was a restless soul driven by the need to paint the world of the deep dark forests and the First Nation's villages in British Columbia, which were quickly disappearing. She says of her paintings, "If spirit does not breathe through, it is lifeless, dead, voiceless. The spirit must be felt so intensely that it has the power to call others in passing, for it must pass, not stop in the pictures but be perpetually moving through, carrying on and inducing a thirst for more and a desire to rise."

🎵 **Food Bank collection.**
🎵 **Choir sings today.**



Sunday March 9, 10:30 a.m.

Art as Spirituality

Allegra Sloman

Art as Spirituality - a far-ranging examination of art, spirituality, craft, taste and decor, which will drop you off back inside your own home, metaphorically speaking.

Coordinator: Sally Frith

Sunday March 16, 10:30 a.m.

Body as Prayer

Rev. Debra Thorne with Tannis Hugill

Our body is the home of our creative imagination and the source of our heart's yearning. When we allow the body's natural rhythms to move us we connect our heart, mind and spirit. This wholeness is our wholeness. Today we have an opportunity to meditate through movement and breath, to sing and explore the stories our bodies want to tell.

Tannis Hugill MA is a movement therapist and spiritual director working in Vancouver. She sits on the board of Movement Matters and the planning committee of Women's Spirituality Celebration.

🎵 **Choir sings today.**

Sunday March 23, 10:30 a.m.

Making Art

Joy Kirkwood

Making art can be a nourishing way to explore and express one's spirituality if play and delight are brought into the process. Joy will share in image and word ways to free oneself from the tyranny of "I am not an Artist" and to embrace creativity as a birthright. As Pablo Picasso said: "Every child is an artist. The problem is how to remain an artist once you grow up".

Coordinator: Marilyn Medén
Good Times Band plays today.

Sunday March 30, 10:30 a.m.

Exploring the "Cave of Forgotten Dreams"

Rev. Karen Faser-Gitlitz

In 2010, filmmaker Werner Herzog gained access to Chauvet Cave in southern France, home to the earliest known images painted by human beings. In the flickering light, horse, mammoth and bear come alive again after 32,000 years, a tribute to the observation, imagination and mark-making ability of our ancestors. This morning we explore mark-making as a spiritual practice, a way of making connections between our inner life and the world around us.

Coordinator: Joan Morris

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Deadline for the April Beacon
March 15, 2014

Please send to:

Newsletter@BeaconUnitarian.org



From the Minister's Desk

We are at a historic moment in Beacon's congregational life. Last month we began the visioning and mission statement process. We want to imagine the future, name that vision and then create the steps to make it real. We are starting with the questions, "Why does Beacon exist?" and "Whom do we serve?" Adding to these questions we are being asked to risk imagining a vibrant, relevant future for the congregation. What will our purpose look like and how will the general public know who we are?

Recently our sister national association in the United States, the UUA, has been going through a similar process. In their research they discovered that Unitarian congregations are seen by the general public as progressive and inclusive. To a lesser degree I think in Canada Unitarians are seen similarly. The UUA research also indicated that a younger demographic found it hard to differentiate Unitarians from liberal Protestant denominations because of our similar worship style, unclear messaging, aging membership, and lack of clarity about our beliefs. I see this information as a challenge to us, to be included as part of the defining of our mission.

What is commonly known of new members is that they arrive at our doors having found us through the Internet; they know what we stand for (if we have put it on our web-page), they are looking for spiritual nourishment, and they want to actively contribute to social justice initiatives.

I believe Beacon is in a good position to make available spiritual deepening and social justice as part of what we do for ourselves and the larger community. In fact this month three of our members have created a course on climate change, called 'Climate Change Changes Me' that is being hosted in collaboration with Saint Barnabas Anglican Church. It begins March 8.

I am offering training in worship coordinating April 3 (7-9 pm) for anyone who is interested in contributing to our Sunday services. (see page 9)

The Mission/Vision process continues this month with small group conversations: the times are listed below. Please sign-up for one of these Dessert Dialogues and make your contribution to the direction of Beacon's future.

Warmly,
Debra Thorne

Dessert Dialogues Schedule

Feb 28 (Friday 2 pm) Burnaby
 March 1 (Saturday 4 pm) Port Moody
 March 5 (Wednesday 7 pm) Burnaby/New West
 March 6 (Thursday 4 pm) Coquitlam
 March 7 (Friday 7 pm) for Youth Group
 March 9 (Sunday 4 pm) Coquitlam
 March 13 (Thursday 7 pm) Port Moody
 March 14 (Friday 2 pm) Burnaby
 March 16 (Sunday 4 pm) Pitt Meadows

To attend one of the sessions, sign up at church, or email Debra at Minister@BeaconUnitarian.org

These will be small groups of 4 - 6 people plus Debra and a member of the mission/vision team. For more information see page 3 of this newsletter.

Beacon Unitarian Church

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604-469-6797, m.j.medén@telus.net

Choir Director: Charlene Dubrule

604-464-3992, char4myc@shaw.ca

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Our Mission - Vision Program

We launched the Beacon Mission – Vision Program last month with a thought-provoking all-congregation workshop. There we came up with ideas, words and images for our vision of the Beacon future based on our dreams and values.

This month we enter the second stage of the process, which is coming together in small groups to talk about how we create that vision; this is called creating the mission statement. Our objective is to create a pithy mission statement that will shape our future and that every member of Beacon can get behind and communicate.

The groups will meet in people's homes for conversation over dessert, hence "**Dessert Dialogues**". They will take place from February 24 to March 16. Sign-up for one after Sunday service or contact the minister at minister@beaconunitarian.org

After March 16 the third part of the process begins, which is the word-crafting of the mission statement. The first draft of the mission statement will be presented to the congregation on Sunday, April 6.

To guide you through this process let me remind you of the some words from the second skit last month:

Captain Jack: Well, me hearties, allow me to attempt to enlighten you. Vision is the horizon -- your dream of what the world can be. For example, do you know what vision my ship -- the Black Pearl -- represents for me?

Old Salt: Free Caribbean cruises?

Salty Junior: A tax write-off? A floating casino?

Captain Jack: No, my fine fellows. What it represents for me is freedom... the freedom to go wherever I wish, whenever I wish. For your good ship Beacon, the vision is why you -- and it-- exist. Your mission is how you achieve the vision. Put it another way -- the vision is what you want, and the mission is how you get there. You live the mission to achieve the vision. When you want a vision, look to the horizon ---- put a man in the crow's nest and tell him to look to the horizon.

Salty Junior: But in which direction?

Captain Jack: In the direction of your **purest dreams, your highest ideals, and shared purpose**. Those are worthy, but tricky, waters.

Old Salt: But what if the crew disagree about the best way of getting there?

Captain Jack: Then negotiate. Follow the covenant of right relations... Something worth searching for always involves some risks -- even danger. But you can come through it safely if you follow the covenant.



Scenes from one of the skits presented in February



President's Ponderings

At church on Feb 16 Rev. Debra asked us to begin thinking about our vision for Beacon's next ten years. On Saturday, Feb 22nd we completed the first workshop. This is a bit confusing and somewhat chaotic. I want the answer now! But I'm told that this process is supposed to be a bit chaotic in the beginning, in order to allow all possibilities to float to the surface. I am told to "trust the process." Well (breathing deeply) I will do my best. I trust Rev. Debra to lead us through this. I trust everyone in our Beacon community to do their best along the way. And I have seen enough in my years as President to trust in the process. Now, to move my ego aside, learn to speak my truth, and then let it go. I am willing to embrace change. We have all been moving

in this direction for several years. I believe we are ready for it.

I am reminded of a mighty stream that seeps over the land, with no river bank to contain it. The stream feeds some fields and drowns others, but it has no real force. Take that same stream and give it strong river banks, and that force can be harnessed to generate energy, to move mountains, to propel change. We are that stream. The visioning process will create our river banks.

I am a pacing parent, pregnant with possibility, anxious for a good outcome, preferring to skip the birthing process, but willing to go through it with you all holding my hand.

Sue Sparlin
President, Beacon Board of Trustees

Board Bitz can be found on page 7



2014-2015 Nominations for Beacon Board of Trustees

Each February, your elected Nominating Committee is tasked with recruiting Beacon members for the Beacon Board of Trustees in the coming year. Each person nominated is elected for a two-year term at the Annual General Meeting in April.

Being a Board member is interesting, enjoyable, and important work for the Beacon community. This year we have several positions to fill, including that of President as Sue Sparlin completes her term. If you would like to be considered for a position on the Board or to recommend someone, or to know more about Beacon's nominating process, we invite you to talk to a Nominating Committee member.

Jane Shoemaker, Anita Hagen, Marilyn Medén, and Joan Morris

NOTE: Deadline for Sharing the Plate Nominations is Sunday March 2nd

Forms to nominate your favourite registered charity are available on the Greeters table (pink pages), or email sue.sparlin@shaw.ca to get one sent to you.

On the form you will be asked to cite the principle the group represents in the world and describe their work. They must do most of their work in the Beacon "catchment area." The congregation will be asked to choose one from three presented at the AGM in April. If only one nomination comes in, then that will be the one.

Beacon's Religious Education Corner

by Laura Redmond

Emotional Literacy

The children's version of the 3rd Unitarian principle is: **Yearn to Accept and Learn About Ourselves and Others** (Yellow Promise). In March we are continuing to learn about our emotions—a vital part of ourselves, and others.

Not surprisingly, there are a few different perspectives on the important topic of emotions.

In January, Luc Beaudoin presented a story he had written in which he explained how we each have an emotion machine (in our brain)—and sometimes that machine gets “rattled”. Luc's story was based on the **Acceptance and Commitment Therapy** view of emotions and he gave me some background information on this approach to working with our feelings. Firstly, it is important to accept our emotions, and helpful to be able to observe them as part of us but not the whole of us. To start, you can notice where you feel an emotion in your physical body, and whether the feeling is getting stronger, getting weaker, or staying the same. Practising this type of observation can result in us accepting our feelings—we don't have to like all of them, but neither do we have to be afraid of feeling them. We accept them as a part of ourselves, or our experience for the moment, allowing them room to be. After acceptance and allowance comes the action of refocusing on something that you value, and moving in that direction, for example: building good relationships with friends and family; working on hobbies; or all kinds of play—joking, moving, exploring, competing, directing, collecting, creating, and telling stories.

In our Sunday school class we are reading from a book called *Happy, Sad, & Everything in Between*. As in the “Acceptance and Commitment Therapy” approach to emotions, the author, **Sunny Im-Wang, Psy.D.**, brings our attention to the physical component of emotions—the physical feelings in our body. For example, anger may be experienced as heat, tightness, and/or a shaky voice. When emotions don't feel good, or when they are working against our greater good, we may opt to feel something different—but how do we get there?

After learning to recognize and be aware of various physical signs related to emotions, we can focus on relaxing the body and simplifying our thoughts. The emotions may have started out affecting the body, however now the physical can affect the emotions—because our bodies and minds are connected.

The relaxation exercise presented in the book might be a good addition to anyone's self-care routine, and it goes like this: “Breathe nice and slow... Feel your breath going slowly in and slowly out... Feel the slow, steady rhythm of your breath... Notice how your back feels... Notice how you can hear your heart beating as you keep paying attention to your breathing. Now let's gently move our heads around in a circle, nice and slow... now the other way. Now pay attention to your breathing again. Notice that you feel more relaxed when you pay attention to your breathing.”

A bonus of feeling relaxed and calm is that now you might come up with great ideas for dealing with the situation that first triggered the emotions.

Upcoming “Playlet”

In addition to our segment on emotions, we are preparing to present “Los Mariachis Mexicanos”, based on the familiar folk tale “The Brentown Musicians”. This will be presented in two segments as the “Story for All Ages” part of the services on March 2 and 16.

Thank you

We are grateful for a guest visit from Denis Probst in February, who gave us some tips on speaking in front of an audience. Rule #1: speak a little slower than usual! (I can see how that relaxation exercise might come in handy to help us achieve that end.)

Thank you all for your ongoing support and encouragement of the RE program,

Laura

The **youth** have been busy planning upcoming events. Due to a scheduling conflict, their February **Bake Sale** has been moved to March 2, after church. They have some yummy recipes that sound irresistible! We're all looking forward to their lip-smacking treats!!

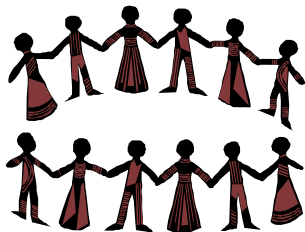
At right: 50 bagged lunches, p&j sandwiches, juice and chips, ingredients donated by Superstore, made by Danae, Hannah and Teddy. And 200 socks, taken to the corner of Gore and Hastings, and all gone in under an hour.

Good deeds, good connections, good memories.



Affinity Groups

Beacon's "Affinity Groups" include several small groups which are always equally welcoming to newcomers and seasoned Beaconites. So, if you'd like to meet with Beaconites in a warm and supportive environment, check out our small groups.



Choir - Tuesday rehearsals, 7:30 - 9:30 p.m. at Miller Park School. New members most welcome. For more choir info: call Charlene 604-464-3992.

Humanist Group Meeting We are an open group and you are welcome. Next meeting is on Sunday, March 30, 7.30 pm at Astoria House, Port Coquitlam. Contact is Joy Silver 605-941-2606 or odetojoy@telus.net

Lunch Bunch - meets every Thursday at noon; for information contact Ivy Hubbard 604-527-9990.



Our Caring Community

by Rev. Debra Thorne

After the January 26th Sunday service twenty people gathered to discuss the future of the Caring Committee. This committee, although it has no chairperson at this time, is still functioning thanks to Renée Spakowsky and Naomi Kerr, who, along with myself, continue to make sure that our members who need flowers, cards and hospital visits get them.

The conversation went far beyond our immediate circumstances. We began with sharing our personal experiences of care that had been received. Sue told us how important it was to have help with cleaning the cat litter when her knees were unable to bend. Another member recounted how important it was to receive the Healing Quilt after an operation. We all acknowledged that the Beacon community has many ways of expressing its care.

Next we offered suggestions for the future. One suggestion is to have a designated care-team person in each geographic area where there are Beacon members. This person would be the contact person for their area for those who were in need of care. They would also keep the minister informed of members in their area who needed a pastoral visit whether at home or in the hospital. (If this is something you see yourself doing please contact the minister.)

Another idea is to save the leftover soup from our soup lunches, freeze it in single portions and then, when requested, deliver the soup to a member in need.

If you are drawn to be a member of the Caring Committee, or know someone who needs some Beacon love, or see yourself as a contact person for your area, please contact either Renée at 604-463-8086 or myself at minister@beaconunitarian.com



"Climate Change Changes Me!" - Seminar Series.

Are you concerned about climate change? Do you want to learn more? This **free**, seven-week series of discussions will explore the entire subject, from whether climate change is real and threatening, to what we can do about it, personally and as communities, on a local scale and beyond. Networking opportunities with like-minded people will be offered, as well as strategies for feeling less overwhelmed or discouraged. Our talks will have no scientific jargon and are aimed at lay people, like ourselves, who want to understand the complexity of the subject, so we will have speakers with expertise. We invite you to join us.

Hosted by Beacon Unitarian & St Barnabas Anglican.

To register, or for more information, contact climatechange@beaconunitarian.org.

Dates: March 8 - April 12 & April 26, 2014

Times: 3:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Location: St. Barnabas Anglican Church, 1010 Fifth Avenue, New Westminster

Beacon's Climate Change Team - Terry McComas, Marilyn Medén, Teresa Morton

Board Bitz

By Sue Sparlin

2013 Tax Receipts:

Our Treasurer, Audrey Taylor, has issued the tax receipts for 2013. If you did not pick yours up at church she will mail them to you.

Interest Rates on the Building Fund:

The Board has passed the following resolution aimed at maximizing the interest rate we are able to earn on the Building Fund.

Resolved: that the Board direct the Treasurer and the President to move a portion of the Building Fund to one or more higher-interest bearing GICs after due notification to the congregation.

Once the President and the Treasurer have determined how much money to move they will report to the Board and the congregation prior to moving the funds. Currently the Building Fund is earning 1.1% annually. By moving some of the money we could add up to \$4,000 more into the Building Fund for the church.

Direct transfer now an option for your pledges:

Your Treasurer, Audrey Taylor, together with your President, Sue Sparlin, have arranged with our bank, Westminster Savings, to accept Pre-Authorized Payments directly from your bank into ours. This means you don't have to write a batch of post-dated cheques for your pledge, but rather, can have a specified amount taken directly out of your account each month. The Stewardship Committee will be telling you more about this. However, if you want to start it right away, see Audrey Taylor for the forms.

CUSJ Newsletters:

The Board has notified the CUSJ that Beacon no longer wishes to receive paper copies of their Social Justice Newsletter, in the interest of saving paper. We will ask that the online link to the CUSJ newsletter be listed in our Beacon newsletter and on our website. If you wish to receive a paper copy, please contact the CUSJ directly. In the meantime, we have a few of the most recent issues in paper at the Greeters Table. Terry McComas says they are "really interesting."

Nominations:

This is a second reminder that the Nominating Committee may be contacting you to ask you to serve on the Board of Trustees or on the Nominating Committee. You are encouraged to say "yes." This is a great way to serve your faith community and to foster your personal spiritual growth in the process.

New Stewardship Committee Forming:

The Stewardship Committee will operate year-round and will begin and end with gratitude throughout our church community. We will be responsible for fun things like congregational dinners and service auctions, special recognition awards, workshops of help and interest to our congregants and the public, and also encouraging pledges and supporting the pledge drive. This is a great opportunity to be in on the ground level to help create this new committee. Please see Sue if this tickles your fancy.

Sapperton Hall Rental:

Correction: Last month I said that the rental rates will be going up, but I made a mistake in the dollar amounts. The rates will be going up as of May 1 by an additional \$5 per hour for both the upstairs and the downstairs halls. As of May 1 the rates will be \$45 per hour for upstairs and \$40 per hour for downstairs.

Please be reminded that we are renters. We don't own the building. Therefore, if you are thinking of using the Green Room or the main hall upstairs for a brief meeting after church, you will need to notify Sue Sparlin in advance so she can properly pay Sapperton for our use of the building. We are regularly booked to occupy upstairs from 9:30am to 12:00 noon and downstairs from 9:30am to 12:30pm.

Board Opening and Closing of Sapperton Hall on Sundays:

The Board has gratefully accepted Terry McComas' recommendation that he do all the openings of the church on Sunday, thus freeing the rest of the Board members to do only the closing. Thanks. Terry!

CUC Delegate to the AGM in Montreal May 15-18, 2014:

Please contact either Rev. Debra Thorne or Sue Sparlin if you would be willing to represent Beacon as one of our two voting delegates to the Canadian Unitarian Council Annual General Meeting in Montreal this year. Sue and Debra were our delegates in Calgary last year. Debra will be going again this year but Sue may or may not be able to go if her play has to perform at TheatreBC Festival on one of the those days. It's a great chance to see democracy in action at the national level, meet other Canadian Unitarians, and participate in the workshops of the Annual Conference and be inspired.

Our next Board Meeting is Wednesday, March 12th at Lundervilles, gathering at 7:15 pm for a 7:30 pm start.
Members are welcome to attend as observers.

Apply now for UUCSJ trip to Haiti, May 10-17, 2014!

(Led by Rebecca Burns, Program Leader for UUCSJ, Beacon Unitarian Church, New Westminster, BC)

Apply now for a journey with the UU College of Social Justice!

The UU College of Social Justice (UUCSJ) is accepting applications for upcoming trips to Haiti, Arizona/Mexico, India and Chicago, IL. The UUCSJ's experiential learning programs, grounded in UU theology and spiritual teachings, create transformative experiences and deep learning, with the goal of catalyzing justice in participants' home communities.

In **Haiti**, work with the Papaye Peasant Movement (MPP) to build houses for Haitian families displaced by the January 2010 earthquake and learn about how MPP is working for land rights, environmental sustainability and social justice for Haitian peasants. Apply by March 2 for the May 10-17, 2014 trip.

In **Arizona/Mexico**, explore the connections between our food system and pressing social justice issues, such as immigration. Apply by March 16 for the May 24-30, 2014 trip.

In **India**, the UUCSJ works with the UU Holdeen India Program (UUHIP)'s partner in their ongoing work for justice for tribal and Dalit communities in the region surrounding Mumbai.

In **Chicago**, work with the Restaurant Opportunities Center of Chicago to learn about labor history, the injustices of the restaurant industry and innovative organizing strategies.

For more information and to apply, go to <http://uucsj.org/journeys/haiti/>.



This summer, bring your friends and family to Eliot Institute at Seabeck

In the shadow of Washington's Olympic Mountains, on scenic Hood Canal.

For decades, Eliot's intergenerational camps have been attracting Unitarian-Universalists to this historic site, founded in the 1800's as a mill town. Plan your escape to Seabeck and enjoy historic charm with modern convenience.

In 2014, Eliot is offering a new and exciting 6-day program:

Creative Arts Eliot '14 August 9 – 15, 2014

Participants age 12 and above choose one of five morning workshops:

§ ***Mosaic Madness*** – taught by the well-known and prolific BC artist Liz Calvin

§ ***Painting Your Style*** – taught by the imaginative and inventive Sue Jensen

§ ***Photography*** – taught by expert and professional photographer Martin Waugh

§ ***The Eliot Writer's Colony*** – taught by the very talented and accomplished Lena Mejia

§ ***Service to Seabeck*** – led by Tim Hesterberg. Put your creative energy to work by making improvements to our beloved Seabeck Conference facilities and grounds.

Creative Arts Eliot '14 will also offer a morning children's program for those under age 12, who will make their own creative projects. Participants of all ages will have a choice of afternoon and evening activities including traditional and new Eliot activities.

REGISTER NOW TO CONFIRM YOUR CHOICE OF WORKSHOPS!

Start a new tradition for your friends or family: Come to Seabeck, with Eliot Institute, in 2014!

There's room for YOU!

Scholarships are available for those in need. Discounts offered for UU ministers and Directors of Religious Education.

Information www.eliotinstitute.org – 206.395.8111 (or talk to Hamiltons, 604-944-3113)

(There is also space for newcomers at the traditional July and August family camps at Seabeck.)

Worship Committee Workshop

Worship services bring us to Beacon. How do we decide our topics? What preparation goes on behind the scenes? Who gets to stand at the lectern and speak? What is worship at Beacon? Important questions. If they interest you, speak to Debra, (minister@BeaconUnitarian.org), Marilyn Medén, (m.j.meden@telus.net), or Donna Hamilton (donna-h@telus.net) to register to come and hear more at our workshop, April 3, 7-9 pm at Hamiltons in Coquitlam.

Anti-Racism Workshops

The first meeting for the anti-racism workshop was held February 19th, 2 pm, at Allegra Sloman's house. The second meeting will be on the subject of the "Indian Act" and other native issues, and will be held on Wednesday, March 5. Please contact Allegra at 778-735 -267 or 604-526-7901 to see if there are spaces available.

Excerpts from letters from former Beaconites **Gary & Elva Atha**, who moved to the Kootenays last year, written on January 1 and Feb 24. They are building a house, which was supposed to be ready before Christmas. They write: *It is beginning to look like we will be spending most of the winter in the old log house on our property.... Now the project is stalled at the lock-up stage due to the need for an electrical inspection. The government office in charge of inspections for the whole east Kootenay region is located in Cranbrook. Currently there is only one inspector on staff. Christmas and New Year holidays don't help, either.We are getting into the rhythm of our rustic life. We have incorporated maintaining a fire in the wood stove, heating water for doing dishes, etc, making ice for the cooler (courtesy of Mother Nature at night!), and cooking on the two burner camp stove (or on or in the woodstove) into our domestic chores. We have electric lights morning and evening via an extension cord from an inverter attached to our car battery!*

And by email late Feb: We lost our water supply about a week ago. There was another real hard cold spell and in spite of our best efforts our water line froze and remains that way. We are buying drinking water in town and melting snow on top of the wood stove for flushing the toilet and other non-potable uses. *(Picture taken last fall, but not much different now, except for snow!)*

On the plus side - Gary is in a play, Elva volunteers at a local thrift store, they live near their 2-month old grandson and sound very cheerful!



Sasamat Chalice



Early bird registration deadline: Sun. March 23

Unitarian Family Camp June 6–8, 2014

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 23
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
or
talk with Beacon members
Laura Redmond or Peggy Lunderville
for more information or a brochure.

Calling Beacon Musicians (all ages)

If you'd like to sing, either alone or in the choir, or play an instrument or percussion in Beacon's Spring Concert (May 4), please apply to Choir Director Charlene Dubrule by March 15 (char4myc@shaw.ca).

The overall theme of the concert is "the interdependent web". There is room for a number of solos, duets, etc, in addition to the Beacon Choir and the Good Times Band.

Please tell Charlene what piece you plan to sing/play, whether it's a solo, duet or other group piece, if it needs accompaniment (and what kind), and about how long it is. Your act should be no longer than 5 minutes.

Charlene and the Music Committee will decide on which acts are to be included, and may ask you for an interview or audition so we can get an idea of how your act will fit into the program. We will contact you once a decision has been reached.

Sharing the Plate 2014

Restorative Justice: Not only a response for candy theft

by Gurinder Mann



For quite some time restorative justice was considered by many as being applicable only for extremely minor offences committed by youth, such as stealing candy from a store. It is gratifying to see that restorative justice has overcome this image and is receiving recognition as a viable alternative for addressing diverse offences committed by youth or even some adults. As the referrals made to CERAs by the New Westminster Police Service, Coquitlam/Port Coquitlam RCMP and Port Moody Police Department serve to demonstrate, cases which involve various offences such as theft, mischief, assault, possession of stolen property, break enter & theft, and possession of drugs, among others, are being referred to restorative justice. Addressing crimes through a restorative justice approach as an alternative to the criminal court approach can not only save a tremendous amount of money, but also prevent individuals from re-offending at the rate they do when they are simply punished for their offences.

The Beacon Calendar

March 2014

- Feb 28 - March 16 Dessert Dialogues
- Sunday, March 2 *God in Everything: The Art of Emily Carr* with **Rev. Debra Thorne** (choir sings - Food Bank collection)
- Wednesday, Mar 5 Anti-Racism workshop
- Friday, March 7 Worship Committee meeting, 9:15 @Sally's
- Sunday, March 9 *Art as Spirituality* with **Allegra Sloman**
- Wednesday Mar 12 Board Meeting 7:30 pm @Lundervilles
- Sunday, March 16 *Body as Prayer* **Rev. Debra Thorne & Tannis Hugill** (choir sings)
- Wednesday, Mar 19 Anti-Racism workshop 2 pm
- Sunday, March 23 *Marking Art* with **Joy Kirkwood** (& Good Times Band)
- Sunday, March 30 *Exploring the "Cave of Forgotten Dreams"* with Rev. Karen Fraser-Gitlitz, followed by soup lunch
- Sunday, March 30 Humanist Group meets, 7:30 pm

Every Thursday at noon - Lunch Bunch, see page 6 for contact info

Every Tuesday at 7:30 - Choir, see page 6 for contact info

Wednesdays March 5 and 19 - Food Bank @Como Lake United

Every Saturday March 8 - 29 Climate Change Series, see page 6

Every Sunday at 10:30 - Worship Service at Sapperton Hall

Looking Ahead

Save the dates!

March 29 - Samaya Oakley's ordination (see February, p 2)

April 27 - Beacon AGM

May 4 - Beacon Choir Concert

June 6 - 8 - Sasamat Family Camp

