



# The Beacon

Beacon Unitarian Church

Volume 33, Number 7, Summer 2015

Regular Sunday Worship Services and Religious Education Classes at **Sapperton Pensioners' Hall, 318 Keary Street in New Westminster, will resume on September 6, 2015.** We offer informal services over the summer.

Some connections are made slowly: under the ground like roots reaching to take hold. Some connections are made in the blink of an eye: like the love for a new child or a new bicycle. Communities are a web of connections made both fast and slow, that hold and sustain and nurture. This month we are taking care of our connections to each other, our own lives, our earth and all her creatures.

## Sunday July 5, 11:00 a.m.

*Poetry! Prose! Music!*

**Marilyn Medén** will lead this service at The Astoria Retirement Home on Kelly Ave. in Port Coquitlam. It will be on the patio unless it's raining, in which case it will be in the common room. After the service we will have a pot luck lunch, so you are invited to bring some food to share.

If you like, bring a poem or short prose that has influenced you, or you simply enjoy, from your own work or someone else's. If you know someone you would like to invite to share a poem, short prose, or music, please do invite them. This is a rather informal service, but I do try for some structure, and really appreciate knowing ahead who is going to read or play, so I can prepare a plan and even add readings as necessary. Please contact Marilyn [m.j.medeen@telus.net](mailto:m.j.medeen@telus.net) 604-469-6797



## Sunday August 16, 11:00 a.m.

*We Are All One*

**Rev. Debra Thorne**

We are all unique and precious. Wherever you are on your spiritual and personal journey you are welcome. Join us for a gentling, a quieting and a deepening time under the trees.

*A summer service under the trees in Tipperary Park, New Westminster, entrance for cars from 4<sup>th</sup> Street off Royal Avenue. Parking on Fourth Street, meet at the Friendship Garden.*

## Sunday August 23, 11:00 a.m.

*Summer Singing Service*

**Peggy Lunderville**

Come join us to sing some new and mostly old favourite hymns, or bring your instrument and play along.

- any hymns
- any instruments/musicians
- any who love to sing
- potluck afterwards

Welcome Unitarians and friends.

*Near Caribou Park. Take Gagliardi exit from Hwy 1, take Caribou S to top of hill. Call Peggy Lunderville for any questions, further info, or exact address: 604-522-3001*

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## Deadline for the September Beacon

**August 15, 2015**

**Please send to:**

[Newsletter@BeaconUnitarian.org](mailto:Newsletter@BeaconUnitarian.org)





## From the Minister's Desk

### Growing our Spiritual Gardens

The Beacon community has experienced a full year of growth and change; many of the leadership are looking forward to some rest and some time to renew and recharge the batteries. Whether you are a busy Beaconite or just plain busy with your life, consider that your body and spirit need to be taken care of. We need to attend to our gardens, metaphorically speaking.

We need to rest in the shade of the trees in the garden, feel the wind on our skin, and the warm earth beneath our feet. We need to reconnect with our roots, nurturing them with water and silence and friendship.

We might need to rediscover what we planted this year, and take the time to see what has grown up. There may be an opportunity to weed out the habits or behaviours that have taken up too much space and crowded out the more delicate fragrant parts of our selves.

I can see that I need to take away the constant crowded pressures of 'too many details' and 'not enough time', and replace them with some water elements, like flow and trickle. I might even build a small stream in my garden that I can splash and play in. And I know I want to savour the colours. I want to create an oasis of

colour in my garden to attract the finches and bees and hummingbirds.

If our gardens are ready we can do some additional planting, or redesigning. What element needs to be brought into your garden this summer? Consider the possibilities of adding some peace, hope, healing, reconciliation, resilience, playfulness, or even a little joy.

My garden will have a labyrinth in one corner, so that I can walk its contemplative path each day, connecting mind and heart and body.

What will you include in your garden? A grove for grieving? A hiding place for healing? A dais for dancing?

Have fun in your garden this summer. Take good care of it. Take good care of you.

We will meet together again in September, to explore and grow in the Beacon garden.

Happy Summer All!  
Debra

**P. S. Minister is away through JULY – For emergencies call Rev. Thorne at 604-626-8006**

### Job Posting

Beacon is looking for a new Co-director of Religious Education. This is an excellent opportunity to positively impact the children of our church community while continuing your own growth and learning. Teaching experience helpful, but enthusiasm and desire equally important. This is a part-time paid contract position.

See the Job Description on the Beacon website: [www.beaconunitarian.org/post.html](http://www.beaconunitarian.org/post.html) for more information.

### Beacon Unitarian Church

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[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.medén@telus.net](mailto:m.j.medén@telus.net)

**Choir Director:** Charlene Dubrule

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

#### Board Executive:

Terry McComas, Audrey Taylor, Carol Woodworth

**Trustees:** Rob Warner, Bev Lock

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

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

## Board Bitz

From your Board Executive



The Board met for the final meeting of this church year, on June 2.

We reviewed the past year and its rewards and challenges and confirmed that Beacon is doing very well, especially for a congregation that is small AND growing.

We decided to hold an extra meeting specifically to look at long-range sustainability planning. That meeting will take place on September 1. Carol will host.

We confirmed that the annual Leadership retreat will be held on September 5 from 10 am to noon, followed by a potluck lunch. The event will be held at Jean Donaldson's residence, in her amenities room. Anyone and everyone interested in the coming year at Beacon is encouraged to attend. We will send out more information in an email a little closer to the date. If you are not on the Beacon group email list and wish to be included, please consult with Debra. The Board will meet in the afternoon, following the leadership session.

Again, adjusting to the limited number of directors to perform all the necessary tasks, Rob was asked if, in September, he would take over the task of closing each Sunday, rather than that task rotating between directors. Rob readily agreed, with the understanding that he may have knee surgery in the summer or fall and we will find a replacement for him while he is recovering his mobility.

We had a discussion about the plans for shipping large amounts of U.S.A. Coal to B.C. and either loading it on to large ships in an expanded coal terminal at Fraser Surrey docks, or loading it on to barges and shipping it up the inland waters to Texada island, and shipping it overseas from there. It was decided that Terry will craft a public statement to be presented to the congregation for anyone who wishes to sign it and it will also be sent to other Unitarian congregations in BC for their consideration.

Our next regular meeting will be on August 5. If you wish to attend this meeting as an observer, or wish to make a presentation to the Board, please let Debra know.

## Sharing the Plate 2014-15

NEW VIEW SOCIETY, Port Coquitlam



This June will mark the end of our submissions to the Beacon Newsletter. We have enjoyed being able to share a bit of our world with your congregation these past months. It has also been such a pleasure to learn about Beacon through the newsletter and our visits. On behalf of our members, our staff and our Board of Directors, I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you for choosing New View Society to be the recipient of your Sharing the Plate Program. We feel so very honoured to have been selected for this generous offering.

Mental health issues continue to rise in our ever changing, fast paced world. It gives our society great com-

fort to know that there are people around us like the members of Beacon who are supporting us in our efforts to bring light and hope to those who are living with a serious mental illness. Once again, thank you Beacon!!!

We would like to invite you to join us on **Tuesday, June 30** for our **Annual General Meeting**. It will be held at our Clubhouse at 2050 Mary Hill Road in Port Coquitlam starting at 6:30 pm. There will be a light BBQ following the meeting. This is a great opportunity to hear about our society's year in review as well as our plans for the future. Everyone is welcome!

[www.newviewsociety.org](http://www.newviewsociety.org)

## Beacon's Religious Education Corner

by Laura Redmond

### Sunday School Wrap-up

As the school year wraps up, I'd like to extend a big thank you to the Beacon Community for their support of the RE program.

The year started with a splash—our in-gathering/water ceremony included a water fight in the parking lot! We welcomed new students. We reviewed the Unitarian principles in the form of promises—promises that we make to one another so that we get along and do what is right. Our Christmas pageant celebrated the “Return of the Light” and reminded us to choose gratitude and peace, as we enjoyed the beauty and ritual of walking a candle lit labyrinth.

Growing attendance resulted in sufficient numbers to divide the children into two groups. Starting in January, the younger children—calling themselves *Children's Community*—heard stories from various religious traditions including Judaism, Hinduism, Buddhism, Paganism and Christianity. The older children, choosing *Seekers* as their name, made talking sticks while hearing Aboriginal stories; made Kiva loaves, and sandwiches for *Love In Action*, while exploring the concept of social justice; and learned how to knit as part of an exploration of meditation practices.

Drawing on Pagan traditions, we celebrated the beginning of summer in early May with an intergenerational service featuring a Maypole dance. Our script was based on a story by Starhawk, *The Goddess Blesses All Forms of Love*, and reminded us of the importance and power of love, in all of its manifestations.

### Camp Sasamat

In June, many of our children had the chance to attend Unitarian Family camp at Lake Sasamat. Families from the four Unitarian churches in the Lower Mainland met for a weekend of fellowship, music and fun in the outdoors.

Depending on age, the children's program included games, art projects, archery, kayaking, wood chopping, fire building, a climbing wall and high and low ropes courses. Adults could join in the climbing,

as well as participate in a choir workshop and a writing workshop. Choir workshop participants explored jazz harmonies and learned *Java Jive* under the encouraging and enthusiastic direction of Alison Nixon.

The following description of the writing workshop developed in response to an exercise suggested by Franci Louann, the workshop leader... *“have the feeling I'm in paradise sharing thoughts and impressions on the wide, shaded porch of Helm Lodge. Framed in green, reflecting azure sky, Lake Sasamat sparkles in the sunlight. Suddenly, stiff papers fly in a warm breeze. Pine scented air lifts my spirits. The airwaves are awash with prose poetry.”*

...



*Flying high on the high ropes!*

Continued on next page

## Religious Education Corner *continued*

**Blessed** (another bit of writing from the writing workshop)

Early morning and two families of geese permit me to share the campfire ring with them. Do they notice the sun colouring the dock and beach as it slips over the ridge encircling the lake?

*I am so lucky... so blessed...* I easily notice the beauty and goodwill all round me—the reflection of the tree tops dividing and merging on the rippled surface of the lake; tiny floating debris creating a fairy ice on now still water; shafts of light manifesting in the scant mist. The guardian goose has relaxed a little now, one leg is tucked up, and his head rests on his back.

...

The hot weather, cool lake and a floating log resulted in the following adventure:

**Moose** by Charlotte Moon

The “Rock” is “our” rock, behind Cottage X at Camp Sasamat. “Moose” is a log that has a bush at one end.

To start, we wedged Moose between our Rock, and a smaller rock next to ours—it became our personal dock. We would all walk out on the Moose Log, and after about 6 or 7 people, it would start to sink. So we would all get wet, then get off. Also it would roll terribly, so we would all fall into the water at the same time.

Next, Charlotte V., Antonio and I climbed on Moose Log and Miranda was pushing it out a little ways and then pulling it back. We begged her to push it out farther, so she did. Well, the water was too deep and she couldn’t get us back. And somehow the current or the wind or a lake monster pushed us a tiny bit farther out. So, there we were, 6–7 metres out from the shore on a rolling log—feeling a bit terrified half the time—how were we going to make it back to the shore?

Eventually, the lifeguard saw us and came along in his motorboat. He said, “You guys aren’t actually allowed to swim here, because I can’t watch you from the beach, so I need to ask you to go back to the rock.” So we all swam back to the rock except for Kieran (who had just came) and Antonio who wanted to go kayaking. The lifeguard took them in the motorboat back to the main dock. When I was back on our Rock, and the motorboat was about to leave, I called out, “By the way, are we in trouble?” Luckily we weren’t.

...

Wishing Beacon families and the entire congregation a fun, safe and relaxing summer. Sunday school will recommence on September 6—remember to bring in some summer water for the first meeting. A family night is tentatively planned for September 26.

~ Laura

## PRIDE FESTIVAL NEW WESTMINSTER

This event is on Saturday August 15. Beacon will have a table at the festival and you are welcome to drop by and hang around for a while.

## Beaconites in the Spotlight

This is a column about performances, exhibits or awards 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 15 of the month.

**Sue Sparlin** is performing in Rabbit Hole once again. If you missed it the first time – or want to see it again – it will be playing in North Vancouver at Hendry Hall for a \$10 ticket price on the evenings of July, 3, and 4 only. This is to raise money for the show to travel to Kamloops to compete in the Provincial TheatreBC community theatre festival. Call the theatre for tickets at 604-983-2633.

## Mystery Pals a Success!

Barely a moment after stepping off the Board, Nancy Rupert agreed to manage the Mystery Pals Program. Rev. Debra had suggested a number of ways that the Beacon congregation could strengthen the experience of being a growing intergenerational community; one of these ways was the Mystery Pals program.

For three weeks each pair of 'Pals' secretly sent messages to each other before and after a Sunday service. Then on the final week Nancy gave each person a puzzle piece and they had to find the corresponding puzzle piece. When they did

the person holding it was their Pal. Following this discovery the Pals had to come up with three uncommon things that they shared, and then they could claim their ice-cream cone!

The Mystery Pals program was a great way to get to know new members or members of the community that were much younger or much older than the people one usually hung out with. Many thanks to Nancy for pulling it all together.

I love these pictures Debra sent - everybody looks so happy with their new pals!



Save the Date!!

*Heart to Heart:*



*Bringing compassion,  
discovery and social justice to life.*

**The First Unitarian Fellowship of Nanaimo  
and**

**Comox Valley Unitarian Fellowship**

invite you to the

**B. C. Fall Regional Gathering**

October 2-4, 2015

at the

**Grand Hotel**

Nanaimo, British Columbia



Save the date!

Stay tuned for more information!

## 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** - Lunch bunch is held every Thursday at a member's home (or, in the summer, sometimes in a park). We bring our own brown bag lunch and the host supplies the tea. We discuss many things; there is never a specific topic being lead. It's just for fun and companionship.

Sally Frith is the coordinator; she can be reached at 604-942-0751. Anyone wishing to be on the email reminder list please contact Sally.

**Book Club** - The Beacon book club will meet on the following dates this summer:

- July 16 - God's Dog by Diego Marani
- August 20 - The Seville Communion by Arturo Perez-Reverte

Call Bev Lock (604-525-6791) for meeting location. All are welcome.

Books are not yet chosen for the fall, and meetings will be held on the second Thursday of the month, a change from the previous schedule which was the third Thursday.

**Choir** - Choir meets on each Tuesday evening, at Miller park School. Choir will start again in the Fall. For info: call our director, Charlene Dubrule, 604-464-3992.

**Humanist Group Meeting** - Does not meet in July & August. Next meeting will be Sunday, Sept 27. We are an open group and everyone is welcome.

**Circle Dinners** - Circle Dinners will resume in the new church year. In the fall, dinners will be September 19 and November 21. For more info or **to sign up to be invited to future dinners**, contact Donna ([donna-h@telus.net](mailto:donna-h@telus.net)) or Joan ([joanmorris@telus.net](mailto:joanmorris@telus.net)).

## Beacon Calendar for Summer 2015

Sunday, July 5	<i>Poetry! Prose! Music!</i> , <b>Marilyn Medén</b> and others
Wednesday, August 5	Board Mtg
Friday, August 7	Worship Committee, 9:15 - 11:30
Saturday, August 15	New Westminster Pride Festival, Newsletter Deadline
Sunday, August 16	<i>We Are All One</i> , <b>Rev. Debra Thorne</b>
Sunday, August 23	Summer Singing Service, at <b>Lundervilles'</b>
Thursday, August 27	Connecting & Membership mtg, 1 - 3 at Jean's
Tuesday, Sept 1	Board Sustainability Planning, 12 - 4
Thursday, Sept 3	RE curriculum planning meeting 1:00
Friday, Sept 4	Worship Services meeting 9:30
Saturday, Sept 5	Beacon Leadership Retreat, 9 - 4
Wednesday, Sept 8	Board Meeting, 1:00
Saturday, Sept 19	Circle Dinners

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

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