



# THE BEACON

BEACON UNITARIAN CHURCH

SUMMER 2010, VOL 28, NO 7

*Regular Sunday Worship Services and Religious Education Classes at Sapperton Pensioners' Hall in New Westminster will resume in September. We offer several informal services over the summer.*

## SUNDAY, JULY 11, 11 A.M.

### *An introduction to Peter Mayer*

Come and listen and learn some Peter Mayer songs. Peter is a Unitarian song writer. You may know him as the writer of Blue Boat Home. At this summer service we will have time to learn more songs written by this talented man.

Location: Atha home in Abbotsford. Bring something for potluck lunch. For address: 604-852-8012 or [gatha@shaw.ca](mailto:gatha@shaw.ca)

## SUNDAY, JULY 25, 10:30 A.M

*Come sing with us and share some poetry*

### **Denis Probst**

Location: Probst residence. Call for address. 604-936-0618



## SUNDAY, AUGUST 8, TIME TBA

*Blessing the animals*

**Service offered by South Fraser Congregation, which Beaconites are most welcome to attend:**

Bring your pet to share the fellowship of the congregation with a special recognition of the place of pets in our lives. Rev. Trish and Renie McRae will lead this service.

Email Mona Milne at [monami@shaw.ca](mailto:monami@shaw.ca) for details

**Deadline for September Newsletter**

**Sunday August 15, 2010**

Please send to [<donna-h@telus.net>](mailto:donna-h@telus.net)

## SUNDAY, AUGUST 22, 10:30 A.M.

### *Music in the Summer*

Come join us to sing some new and mostly old favourite hymns, or bring your instrument and play along. There is no audition for singers or players; we welcome you as you are. There will be hymnbooks, including the "Joyce Poley" books. If you've hungered for more than three hymns at a service and would be just as happy singing as listening to the sermon on a beautiful August morning, this is the service for you. If you don't know all our hymns, it's a wonderful opportunity to get comfortable with a few more of our musical treasures.

Please join us after the service for beverages and conversation and a potluck lunch. Call Peggy Lunderville for any questions or further information.

Location: Lunderville residence – 604-522-3001



## SUNDAY, AUGUST 29, TIME TBA

*Sharing our stories*

**Service offered by South Fraser Congregation, which Beaconites are most welcome to attend:**

An informal gathering time to deepen our knowing of each other. This will be followed by a potluck lunch. Led by Rev. Trish.

Email Mona Milne at [monami@shaw.ca](mailto:monami@shaw.ca) for details

### **What's inside.....**

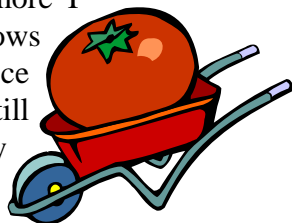
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## KATIE'S RUNNING COMMENTARY

*Reverend Katie Stein Sather*



June heralds the coming of summer holidays, and vacations for some of us. As a child, my holidays were oh-so-precious! I was a good student, and enjoyed school, but the summer time was almost sacred. A time for just being, playing on the farm with my cousins who lived next door. A time for focusing on 4-H and my projects: my Holstein calf, my horse—and all the training necessary not only to lead them around—the calf, but also get the horse to go through its paces properly. It was a time away from bookish pursuits and my normal routine, and the older I got, the more I helped on the farm by milking cows and bringing in the garden produce and canning and freezing it. I still treasure this time away from my normal routine.



Summer is a time for being outside, both enjoying the good weather and working in the garden. I'm learning not to take the opportunity of either good weather or ability to work in the garden for granted. I'm learning I have to be intentional about what I want to happen over the summer. Planning for my canoe trip starts early now—just setting the date with my friend makes it so much more likely that it will happen. I want to avoid that vague sense of disappointment come September that I could have done more with my precious summer.

Life as a whole is like that too. No surprise there. It's just the doing of it that seems to pass us by so easily. Why does it seem so easy to get so caught up in the minutia of daily life that we forget to see what we *want* to do with our lives? Or is it that declaring goals for our lives is too difficult? Or too much like tempting fate?

One of the things I will do this summer is go to a family reunion, the first one since my father died three years ago. I want to ask my elders—an aunt, an uncle—about their lives. What had they hoped to accomplish? What are they most proud of? How would they like to be remembered?

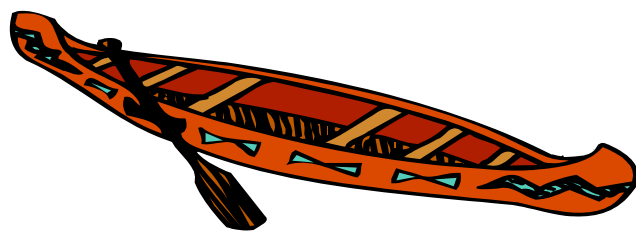
We can ask all these questions about Beacon too. What has our life thus far been like? Where would we want to be going? Just over a year ago, we articulated our vision for Beacon—and so much has changed since then.

We said:

“Beacon is a vital, connected and growing liberal religious community of all ages with”

- a secure home base in the Tri-Cities
- a strong fiscal foundation
- a strong, multi-faceted ministry
- a shining presence in the community and a beacon to the world.

My question is: what would you like us to do that would make us a brighter Beacon?



### BEACON UNITARIAN CHURCH

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Phone : 604-939-2213

**Email:** BeaconUChurch@shaw.ca

**Minister:** Reverend Katie Stein Sather, 604-460-8948

**Lay Chaplain:** Sue Sparlin 778-397-1442

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**President:** Sue Sparlin

**Treasurer:** Kathleen Johnston

**Trustees:** Gary Atha, Allegra Sloman

**Caring & Concerns:** Karen Greenland <klgreenland@telus.net>  
or 604-464-5671

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**Secretary:** Carol Becken

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



## PRESIDENT'S PONDERINGS

*by Sue Sparlin*

In the past few weeks we have said good-bye to three long-time members. Nina Jacobs and her daughter Ella have moved to Florida. Marcy and Jim Green will be moving to Vancouver Island at the end of June. Tina Santing moved to the States to live near and be cared for by her sons.

As these losses are felt throughout our church body we must surely grieve, but at some point we may choose to remember what blessings we have received from our association with them and remember that these blessings continue in us if we elect to act on them.

We have welcomed four new members this year as well: Elizabeth Keller, Paul Caspell, Carol Woodworth, and Audrey Taylor.

It is not unusual in a church our size to gain as many

members as we lose every year. However, if we want to do so we can change that trend and begin to grow. I hope we do. Each person who comes to us brings gifts that we can accept and value, or we can brush by the possibility that each new person presents for us. I know Beacon as a giving and generous people. My wish is that we recognize that we are a receiving and grateful people as well.

This could be a pivotal year for Beacon and we will need all of us being truthful and kind and generous and grateful and open to make it all that it can be. The new energy coming into the Choir through the hiring of Marnie Jennings and the enthusiasm of the Board for fundraising and outreach activities suggests a new vitality for Beacon Unitarian Church.

If Camp Sasamat this year is any indication, Beacon has a wider reach than the four walls of the Pensioners Hall. Let us celebrate the potential of the new year.

## REPORT FROM THE BOARD

*from Sue Sparlin*

1. We have hired Marnie Jennings to be our Choir Director for the 2010-2011 church year.
2. The Choir requested and the Board approved a \$200 bonus out of the Choir Fund to be paid to Marnie for her work on the Cabaret.
3. The Board sent out a request by email and at Church for a special collection to send Marnie to the UU Musicians Network in Madison, WI this summer. As of June 13, \$610 of the \$1,000-\$1,200 needed has been collected.
4. We have appointed Kathleen Johnston as our Treasurer. She will fulfill the duties of Treasurer as noted in our Constitution and By-Laws.
5. We have also hired Hugh Morrison for a small sum per month as a financial consultant and bookkeeper. He will help coach Kathleen in all the vagaries of being a Treasurer and using the accounting software.
6. We have discontinued the Beacon phone number for a substantial savings. Rev. Katie is receiving the few phone calls that come in for Beacon.
7. We are looking for two more members to join the Board as members at large. These two positions can be filled by appointment for the time between now and the next AGM.
8. As noted at the AGM, the reports of the three Task Forces are available from the President, Sue Sparlin, to any member on request. The full reports are significantly longer than what was printed in the AGM report.
9. The Choir Cabaret generated more than \$1,000, to be split between the Choir Fund and the Operating Fund of Beacon.
10. The Silent Auction generated bids of more than \$2,400 to go into the Operating Fund.
11. The Board liaisons have been reorganized so that each Board member is a liaison to similar committees and action groups: Governance, Worship, Life Long Learning, Outreach, Membership, and Stewardship.

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CORNER**

*by Karen Gosetti*

Summer is upon us with RE greetings to light your way. A special treat highlighting the artistic talent of the young children in RE was the puppet show performance by Charlotte, Max, and Sophie with additional puppets and sculptures by Hannah S. and Ella. The RE program also came together to perform at the June 20 Intergenerational Service with “Stone Soup”, a funny story of a community’s soup making.

Thanks to Franci Louann who shared her passion for poetry at a recent RE class. Here is a poem created by Franci and some of the poems created by the RE children. May these poems and photos (taken by Elva!) of the children in RE classes take us into the warmth of the new season.

To a happy, healthy, and heart-filled summertime to all!

*Karen*



*RE Classtime with Franci Louann*

**WHAT I LIKE/LOVE ABOUT RE Classes**

Group poem by Beacon Unitarian Children

Play time  
Sharing  
Snack time

Joys and sorrows  
Truth-telling

Story time  
Painting  
Art time

**RE group poem**

*by Beacon Unitarian Children*

fabulous colours  
shimmer on the lake;  
deer jump –  
SPLASH!

**CHARLOTTE’S NIGHT**

*(Variation on the RE group poem)*

fairy dust  
shimmers on the lake;  
as they jump –  
  
splash . . .



*Ella’s poetry recitation with Franci Louann*

**CHALICE**

this chalice is large and wide

this chalice is firm and solid

this chalice is round and inviting

this chalice is comforting and supporting

this chalice is full to the brim with ideas

this chalice has room for you

and me

and all of good will

Franci Louann [floann@telus.net](mailto:floann@telus.net) 1990's  
 the flaming chalice is the symbol for Unitarianism  
 this poem was published on the South African Unitarian website in 2003\*  
 \*www.unitarian.co.za



*Ella's poetry recitation*



*Charlotte's artwork*



*Elva (far left) and Gary (far right) with Heimdal, Olivia, and Hannah at OWL class*

**Reflection on RE**  
*by Hannah Brown*

It opens my heart  
 It opens my soul  
 It opens my mind

I learn new things about myself

I learn new  
 stories and about other people

I laugh and make new friends

I sing, I dance  
 I laugh, I play

It opens doors for me  
 It makes me think

It is an hour of my  
 life I don't want to live without

**SMALL GROUP MINISTRY**

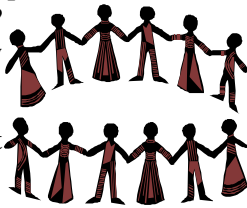
Have you been wanting to find a small church group where you can meet regularly with Beacon people in a stimulating, warm, and supportive environment? Newcomers are always welcome. For a start, try out...

**Lunch Bunch** – meets every Thursday at noon, contact Ivy Hubbard 604-527-9990.

**Choir** – Choir rehearsals will begin again in September. 7:15 Tuesdays. All welcome. Watch for more info in the September newsletter, as we will be meeting in a different school. For info call Hamiltons at 604-944-

**Family Night** - will begin again in September.

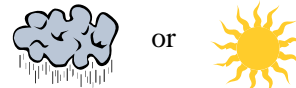
**Humanist Group** - 7:30, June 27, at Poiker residence. Please confirm location with the Poikers before you come. Host Luc Beaudoin. Topic: How to use play and imagination to improve our cognitive enjoyment and cognitive fitness. We are an open group and everyone is welcome. Contact Anita Hagen for more info: 604-521-1335. Meetings will resume in September.



**Annual Women's Potluck Dinner**

**Ladies, Set Your Calendars**

You are invited to our Annual Women's Dinner



Thursday, July 15<sup>th</sup>  
6:00 – 9:30

At Joy Silver's Home  
#52 – 3190 Tahsis Avenue  
Coquitlam  
604 941-2606  
RSVP by July 14<sup>th</sup>

Please phone Joy to let her know that you're coming and what you would like to bring towards the meal. Joy will have salmon and chicken to share. Barbeque will be on!

**Summer: Auction Items**

**CONCERT AND GARDEN TOUR: August 9**

Don't miss this annual performance featuring David Hamilton and Derek Darling, plus enjoy the beautiful gardens of John and Satya Doerksen. Monday evening, August 9, 7:00 p.m. Cost: \$10 person. Home of Satya & John in Surrey. 604-584-6895 for address and directions.



**A POTPOURRI OF POETRY ON THE LAWN** with Denis Probst.

August 15, 1 pm. \$10 per person, room for more! Call Denis 604-936-0518

**SUMMER DINNER AT HAMILTONS:**

Donna and David invite you to come enjoy a lovely meal in their cedar-lined sun-room on August 21 at 6 pm. Dinner will probably involve chicken, wine, home-grown raspberry something for dessert & fun company. \$25 per person. 604-944-3113



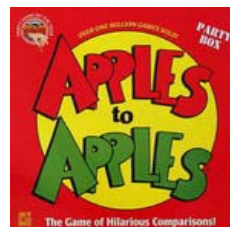
**VOYAGEUR CANOE TRIP, August 29, 10-1pm,**

with Rev. Katie Stein Sather on the Fraser River starting at Fort Langley, in a Voyageur canoe. Lunch, paddles, life jackets and steerswoman provided. \$30 per person, room for 3 more (kids OK). Call Katie at 604-460-8948 for booking & location.



**GAMES NIGHT AT THE HAMILTONS!**

Saturday, September 18 We will have small groups playing games for awhile, break for refreshments, AND then we can do large group games, such as hilarious Trivial Pursuit or Apples to Apples. \$10 per person. Donna and David Hamilton - 604-944-3113



## BEACONITE WINS CANADIAN UNITARIAN COUNCIL (CUC) AWARD at the ANNUAL CONFERENCE & MEETING (ACM) held recently in Victoria

by Phillip Hewett

### RALPH GREER

The Knight Award, in memory of Victor and Nancy Knight, is given each year to a person who has, like them, made a significant contribution to our national movement in Canada. The selection is made by those who have been previous recipients of the award. As we approach the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the Canadian Unitarian Council, it is appropriate that we give this recognition to one who was active both in working towards that event and in maintaining the organization in its early years. Ralph Greer joined the Ottawa church in 1944, transferring to Vancouver in 1953. He was first elected to the Vancouver church board in 1954, and was also chair of the committee struck to acquire adjacent property for church expansion to meet the needs of the growing congregation. He participated in the board decision in January 1955 to approach other congregations in Canada with a proposal for a national Canadian organization. After favourable responses were received, this was followed up a year later by the circulation of a prototype of a national Unitarian newsletter. This was edited by Ralph, and his wife Ethel co-ordinated the printing, stapling and mailing of 2500 copies, so this was a family effort. The congregation's Annual Report stated: "We hope we have taken on something that will remain alive and spread Unitarianism in Canada." A Unitarian Liaison Committee was established to continue this publication; the next issue, by now named the Canadian Unitarian, was issued from Toronto.

In 1956 Ralph became vice-president of the Vancouver church board, and also chair of the search committee to find a new minister. In 1957-58 he was president, subsequently moving to a position as member-at-large, chairing the finance and nominating committees for several years. In Canada's centennial year, 1967, the CUC published a Centennial Yearbook, giving an account of the history and current condition of the movement in Canada. The editor was Ralph Greer. In his introduction he posed questions that are still

relevant as we consider Unitarians in Canada today: "Where do they come from? What importance do they have – to one another, to religious liberals elsewhere, and to Canada? How have they influenced Canadian life and society and how has it influenced them? Finally, how will they and their country interact in the future?"

In that same year, 1967, Ralph was elected as BC representative on the CUC board, and began work as chair of the arrangements committee for the following year's annual meeting, which was coming for the first time to Vancouver. His report following that meeting again raised a question that is still relevant. He felt that there were too many workshops competing in the same time-slots; there could have been a process for selecting those which seemed most significant for the occasion. It was at that point, too, that Ralph was elected vice-president of the CUC, a position he held for the following year. He was then re-elected to the board as a member-at-large, but was also appointed to the executive committee, which consisted of the board officers and which met more frequently than the full board could afford to do in those cash-strapped days. In his final year, 1970-71, he worked on fund-raising to alleviate these financial problems.

Mary Lu MacDonald, whose term on the CUC board ran concurrently with Ralph's, said of him that his was "a voice of calm and reason and experience in a somewhat chaotic period of our development as a national organization." Those who have known him over the years would confirm that this was characteristic. Never one to make precipitate judgements, when he quietly expressed his views they commanded attention. His respect for others did not depend in the slightest upon whether or not they agreed with him. The Beacon church, of which he was a charter member and to which he gave its name and served in various roles, held a celebration in his honour last month, marking his continuing participation at the age of 95.



CANADIAN  
UNITARIAN  
COUNCIL

### **Eliot Institute**

**Eliot Institute** is a both a camp conference *and* a vacation. It is a one-of-a-kind intergenerational experience of stimulating speakers, discussions, music, activities and worship for the whole family. Eliot is a **Welcoming Community** for individuals, couples, and families of all configurations.

This year's Eliot camp at Naramata BC runs from July 3 - 10, and features Barbara and Jaco ten Hove as the speakers. Their talk is titled GUUD NUUS: The Gospel of Our 21st Century Liberal Faith. They say: "Gospel means "good news" and Unitarian Universalism has lots of positive purpose to go around. Our contemporary UU message is grounded in an inspirational heritage, infused with inclusive theology, dedicated to community-building, and animated by excellent music. Come explore how all this can deepen personal lives, strengthen relationships and impact the world in powerful ways."

For over 60 years, Eliot campers have laughed and sung and talked and splashed and enjoyed nature's beauty together. And you're invited! Learn more at [www.eliotinstitute.org](http://www.eliotinstitute.org) and click on July at Naramata. Hope to see you there! For more information, speak with Hamiltons, 604-944-3113, or [donna-h@telus.net](mailto:donna-h@telus.net)

## **Social Responsibility Resolutions passed at the CUC Annual General Meeting**

**You can find the supporting statements and CUC letters to the Federal Government at**

**[http://www.cuc.ca/social\\_responsibility/CUCinActionJun2010.pdf](http://www.cuc.ca/social_responsibility/CUCinActionJun2010.pdf)**

### **Resolution on Affordable Housing**

**Championed by Reverend Steven Epperson, Minister of the Unitarian Church of Vancouver**

BE IT RESOLVED THAT delegates of the 2010 CUC ACM immediately call on all Members of Parliament to vote in favour of House of Commons Bill C-304: "An Act to ensure secure, adequate, accessible and affordable housing for Canadians"; and

- that Canadian Unitarians and Universalists be encouraged to write their MPs and campaign for the passage of Bill C-304;
- that the CUC Economic Justice Monitoring Group work with the Special Resolution Group to initiate an action plan for the Canadian Unitarian Council, its staff, Board and member congregations and fellowships to promote passage and implementation of a comprehensive, achievable national housing strategy;
- that copies of this resolution be forwarded to all member organizations, to the Prime Minister of Canada and to federal party leaders and to local and national media.

### **Resolution on Plant Breeders' Rights**


BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of the Canadian Unitarian Council write to the Government of Canada in the strongest terms requesting that it not bind Canada to any agreement which prevents farmers, world wide, from saving, storing and re-using the seeds which has been their birthright; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Canadian Unitarian Council urges its member congregations, communities and individual members to embark on letter writing campaigns to support maintaining seed sovereignty for farmers, and to engage in local action supporting such rights.

### **Resolution to support the Climate Change Accountability Act, Bill C-3 11**

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the CUC immediately expresses to Senators its support for the passage of the Bill in a timely manner, & that individuals and member congregations be encouraged to express to Senators their support for Bill C-3 11.

# July 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3 Naramata Eliot starts
4	5	6	7	8 Lunch Bunch	9	10 Naramata Eliot ends
11 <i>Music of Peter Mayer</i> Athas home in Abbotsford 	12	13	14 Food Bank  UUMN Conference starts in Wisconsin 	15 Lunch Bunch  Annual Women's Potluck	16	17 July Eliot at Seabeck starts
18  UUMN Conference ends	19	20	21	22 Lunch Bunch	23	24 July Eliot at Seabeck ends
25 <i>Songs &amp; Poetry</i> Probst home in Coquitlam 	26	27	28 Food Bank	29 Lunch Bunch	30	31



# August 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> Lunch Bunch	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> August Eliot at Seabeck starts
<b>8</b> <i>Blessing the Animals</i> , South Fraser	<b>9</b> Concert & Garden Tour, at Doerksens (Auction Item) 	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> Food Bank	<b>12</b> Lunch Bunch	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> August Eliot at Seabeck ends
<b>15</b> Poetry on the Lawn at Denis Probst 1 p.m. (Auction item)	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> Lunch Bunch	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> Dinner at Hamiltons, (Auction item)
<b>22</b> <i>Singing in the Summer</i> at Lundervilles home 	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> Food Bank	<b>26</b> Lunch Bunch	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> Voyageur Canoe Trip with Katie, (Auction Item)  <i>Sharing Our Stories</i> , South Fraser	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>				

