



FEBRUARY 2009 Newsletter

North Shore Unitarian Church

...finding meaning together

A liberal religious community serving greater Vancouver from the North Shore

Sunday Morning Services Services start at 10:30 am

UPCOMING SERVICES

I am committed to preaching regularly here, but occasionally, unusual events converge, and February is like that for me. When Feb 1st was set aside as a lay-led service last June, the Artarians quickly picked it up. This year's Winter Retreat for Western Canadian UU ministers was moved to a weekend to allow community ministers to attend. Feb 8th I'll be on Bowen Island all morning. Rev. Jane Bramadat from Victoria, and I exchanged pulpits last June so she will be speaking Feb 22; I'm visiting the Nanaimo Fellowship that day. This is an unusual month. (Stephen Atkinson)

February 1: *"Following the Light"*

Speaker: Jilly Watson,
Co-ordinator: Rob McGregor

The Artarians will focus on the words and paintings of Emily Carr, Robert Genn and Marilyn Mylrea in an exploration of the expression of spirituality in art. This service will be a kaleidoscope of joyous music, artistic images and wonderful words.

February 8: *"How to Be a Man"*

Speakers: Kerry Burke, Doug Sabourin,
Co-ordinator: Vandy Savage

One take on men's development is that shaming messages – from society, media, other men – 'teach' what manliness is – and definitely what it is not! Our two speakers describe experiences of being contemporary men, including dealing with shame.

February 15: *"Love and Evolution"*

Speaker: Rev. Stephen Atkinson,
Co-ordinator: Andrea Berman

The 200th anniversary of the birth of Charles Darwin is two days before Valentine's Day, the day before this service. We will look at the intersection of love and the process of evolution.

February 22: *"The Underside of Nice"*

Speaker: Rev. Jane Bramadat, First Unitarian Church of Victoria,
Co-ordinator: Vandy Savage

The Reverend Bramadat's perception that Unitarians (and Universalists) are uncomfortable dealing with the concept and reality of evil. Her presentation takes a personal look at evil.... the underside of nice.

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Mission Statement

The mission of our church is to provide an inclusive, caring community whose values and programs inspire and celebrate lifelong spiritual inquiry and growth, and whose actions further justice, peace, and environmental sustainability.



North Shore Unitarian Church

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From the Minister REVEREND STEPHEN ATKINSON



Often we hear how busy life is these days when time-saving devices and increasingly efficient machinery suggest that we should have more time and leisure than ever in the past. How does that happen? Does faster computer technology somehow influence societal expectations, so that we're all expected to process faster and faster with increasing capacity? Too bad we can't go into "Sleep" mode just by pushing a button.

This rush seems most pronounced for parents; frequently both now work full-time; commute in different directions, separated from community just enough that institutions are much more reliable and available for children than sitters, neighbours or relatives. Expectations of what children will need in order to be prepared for an even more complicated future drive intensified schooling and specialized programs; the attractiveness of being well-rounded, healthy, and accomplished drives children into year-round athletic and aesthetic activities – often competitively. Why add 'winning' to the list of expectations?

Is there a real difference between the stress of good and bad economies? In one, the drive is to

grow, earn, enlarge, prosper; in the other, it's survive, maintain, reduce, save. Both seem anxiety-driven.

Although a move towards health maintenance and illness prevention seems logical and wise, we now look at a plate of food and assess the nutrients in it, not to mention possibly harmful chemicals; we calculate its caloric intensity or carbohydrate index. Where and how was it grown? Eating is becoming a long-range strategy, rather than a pleasurable necessity.

The fact is that all of these things are important. Jobs, income, education, skills, talents, teamwork, health, sustainability – all of these and more are extremely important realities of life to deal with and to master. It often feels like too much, so the question becomes, "What is enough?" Did our parents and grandparents ask that question, if in a different context than ours?

Since I arrived here, I've been asking myself, "What is enough?" What is enough work? How many tasks, goals or projects are enough? Have I read or rewritten enough? Visited enough? Personally, it's "Have I slept enough? Eaten enough (or too much)? Rested, meditated or played enough?" I can swing between thinking too much is not enough, and too little is more than adequate, so I'm even suspicious of my day-to-day answers!

I ask my colleagues these questions: "What is enough? Enough for a minister to do in one week?" I also ask, "What is enough for a church to take on in, say, one year?" None of them and so far none of my reading seems to have a ready answer.

Our church is a going concern; it feels rewarding to get going after a period of transition. Given how our location influences us as a socioeconomic sample, we're no doubt proportionally over-

populated with high achievers. Does that make us an over-achieving congregation? How does that fit with all the aspects of our operations that need to be organized, firmed up or even built from scratch?

For many churches, a building project is all-consuming. Having a clear sense of purpose to inform a new building is essential. Also crucial is maintaining community ties through times of transition, such as the Discovery Circles that will be offered again soon. Ensuring that everyday operations run smoothly is also necessary. Growing our congregational infrastructure – a resilient volunteer base, solid financial footing, effective communication, and so many other things – all of this is essential. But at what point do we come to 'enough' – enough for now, at least; enough for this month, this term, this year? I'm just asking.

OFFICE HOURS:

Wednesday office hours: Fridays 1 to 3pm starting Nov 7th. Office hours will continue to include Thurs 5:30 to 7pm and Sat 1:30 to 3pm; as before, you may arrange to meet with him at other times by appointment.



Don't forget... Sunday announcements can often be included on the yellow insert in the Order of Service if you send them to the Office by Thursday afternoon.

President's Message

SUE FORBES



You're doing what? When? Why didn't you tell me? ARGH!!!!!!!

"Surprised people behave badly!"
Rev. Laurel Hallman taught me that.

Her caution stayed with me. Perhaps because I remember how badly I used to behave when Barrie would give me short notice that he was off on a long business trip. That left me alone to juggle my job and four young kids. It wasn't easy without time to plan.

Barrie soon learned that the less notice he gave me the worse I behaved! But he *also* learned that telling me about every trip before it seemed likely to happen only created unnecessary angst for both of us. Fortunately he got good at discerning the "sweet spot" (or sweet time) when it made sense to share what might happen.

Your church leaders sometimes share Barrie's dilemma! It's a fine balance to know what to say when, especially when it concerns emotionally charged issues like the sale.

We don't want to get you excited about every possibility until we

have enough facts to decide whether it's real or not. On the other hand, we don't want to sit on information to the point where it seems we're hiding something, or that presses the congregation to make urgent decisions on important matters.

But sometimes, despite our best efforts, we *are* pressed. A real life example may be Seylynn, which by now you've likely heard about. It's the Hynes Developments Inc. (HDI) project located just below and west of the highway as it veers south to the Second Narrows (near the Capilano University exit). We've recently decided to actively investigate a *potential* opportunity for us to be at the heart of this new community—on the prominent SW corner.

We first mentioned Seylynn at our congregational meeting in September. We couldn't say much about it then, as the New Building Task Force (NBTF) hadn't even begun its investigation. In the meantime, HDI continued to slate the SW corner for commercial/mixed use.

However, late in the year we began to sense there *might* be a fit between our dreams and Seylynn. Meanwhile HDI asked the District of North Van if they would allow public assembly use for that corner. The District (whose serious reservations related to parking) gave HDI the OK in December, at which point HDI invited us to seriously consider becoming a key element in the community.

Holidays intervened, but in early January we had several thought-provoking meetings. I can only speculate on what's happened since I wrote this on January 15

(newsletter deadlines being what they are).

I do know, however, that *if* this development looks promising, we all might indeed feel pressed, once again, to make important decisions quickly. Despite our best efforts, sometimes that's just how life works.

Whatever the outcome, I can assure you that the board and the NBTF do try to find that "sweet spot," and share *what* we know *when* we know enough. We also conduct our due diligence to the best of our abilities, and strive to make reasoned recommendations in the best interests of the whole congregation, of which we are a part.

Sue Forbes, President, NSUC Board of Trustees

UPDATE OF STEPHEN'S 2009 AWAY SCHEDULE

Feb 6 - 8: Western Canadian UU Ministers' Retreat, Rivendell, Bowen Island.

May 15 - 22: Canadian Unitarian Council Annual Meeting and Canadian UU Ministers' Spring Retreat, Thunder Bay.

June 22 - 28: UU Ministers Association Ministry Days and Unitarian Universalist Association General Assembly, Salt Lake City.

June 29 - July 22: Vacation in New Brunswick and Ontario.

July 23 - Aug 12: Study Time On-Call in Vancouver.

Aug 13: Back to work full-time.

Nov 11 - 16: UU Ministers Association Convocation, Ottawa, ON.

Adult Religious Education

Although we have no firm dates yet, several interesting events are planned as part of adult programming.

Most likely early in March, we will host a talk by author Douglas Todd, award-winning *Sun* columnist, on his new book, *Cascadia: The Elusive Utopia—Exploring the Spirit of the Pacific Northwest*. Here “. . . leading writers, historians, bio-regionalists, pollsters, scholars, economists, philosophers, eco-theologians, literary analysts and poets explain how the Pacific Northwest is nurturing a unique ‘spirituality of place,’ which could become a model for the planet.”

We also hope to have a one-evening discussion of the new film *Milk*, using a brand-new curriculum put out by the U.U, and we should soon have dates for the End of Life series of classes.

On January 21st, we hosted Dr. Charles Barber in a talk on the upcoming Vancouver City Opera production, *The Emperor of Atlantis*. Performances are February 1 (2pm) and February 4, 7, 9 and 11 (8pm), 2009 at The Norman Rothstein Theatre. See the poster on the A.R.E. bulletin-board for further information.

The Building Your Own Theology class, with Reverend Stephen Atkinson, started January 13th. Those of us meeting once a month to practice “living by heart,” using Reverend Laurel Hallman’s workbook of the same name, have been enthusiastically sharing, memorizing, and discussing poetry and meditation.

Here is the poem we have been sitting with for the month of January:

Talking to Grief

by Denise Levertov

Ah, Grief, I should not treat you
like a homeless dog
who comes to the back door
for a crust, for a meatless bone.
I should trust you.
I should coax you into the house
and give you
your own corner,
a worn mat to lie on,
your own water dish.

You think I don’t know you’ve been
living

under my porch.

You long for your real place to be
readied

before winter comes. You need
your name,

your collar and tag. You need

the right to warn off intruders

to consider my house your own

and me your person

and yourself

my own dog.

INVITATION TO OUR *NEW UU* PROGRAM

Rev. Stephen Atkinson

New UU is an opportunity for anyone new or almost new to North Shore Unitarian Church to gather together and learn more about each other and this community. Attending this session is an excellent way to consider what place you want this congregation to take in your life and how you’d like to be a part of it.

Meeting others who are relatively new can be an excellent way to connect with people here; this happens every time and can help make the community feel more like your own. You’ll also have a chance to speak together about what it’s like to be new and how you might be dealing with that in your lives. And there’s fun to be had, too.

Besides that, Lynn Sabourin, our part-time Membership Director as well as our Director of Religious Education, and I will present information about the history of this church and of Unitarian Universalism as a whole. We’ll talk about our principles and sources, and ways in which various backgrounds and beliefs come together to create our diverse and open church. If you’ve had any questions about membership – its benefits, responsibilities, and how to join – we will explain that in this session. There will be lots of time for your questions and to share your responses to your new experience here.

Even if you’re already a member or long-time friend, *New UU* can be a place to be reminded about basics, perhaps to learn something new, and also to get to know those who are currently interested in our congregation.

Lynn and I look forward to welcoming you that morning. To register, please contact her (604-926-1621; lsabourin@nsuc.ca) or sign up on the sheet in the downstairs hallway. Child care will be provided, but you must ask for it when you register.

Date: February 28, 2009

Time: 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Location: Fireside Room

Beverages and snacks provided

Social Responsibility Committee

Meeting: Potential new members, or the merely curious, always welcome. Sunday, March 22, 12:15, Sanctuary. Next meeting:

WARM YOUR WORLD AND WARM THE WORLD FOR OTHERS: Don't be left out of the February quilt raffle. Yes, Pat Meyer has again generously donated one of her highly prized quilts to directly benefit WISH (see below). Tickets will be available during the month of February after Sunday service and perhaps in the office during the week.

SUNDAY SOCIAL OUTREACH FOR FEBRUARY: *WISH Drop-In Centre Society.*

Each Sunday, the collection plate serves as our opportunity to support specific, worthwhile causes. The *WISH Centre* operates in downtown Vancouver, dedicated to helping the often forgotten female survival sex workers, within a nurturing and non-judgmental environment.

In addition to meeting essential needs by serving nutritious, hot meals, providing showering facilities, dispensing make-up, hygiene items, and clothing, WISH offers on-site nursing care, referrals to detoxification centres, rehabilitation houses, and shelters for over 150 women per night. Our programs, including Literacy and a Learning Centre have been hugely successful in providing opportunities to participants to consider and develop alternatives to their present high-risk life styles.

Guided by a 15 member volunteer Board of Directors, a cadre of dedicated volunteers, and a committed staff, WISH's underlying philosophy is one of recognizing the

innate dignity of every woman and affording her the respect she inherently deserves. We seek to build self-esteem through unconditional acceptance, friendship, empathy, compassion, and humour. (www.wish-vancouver.net)

COLLECTION BINS:

During the month of February, both bins will be used to collect Wish List items for homeless men and women: particularly gently used, warm clothes (gloves, socks, toques, boots, shoes, coats, etc.), toiletries (toothbrush, toothpaste, comb, bandaids, hotel freebies), and gently used blankets. See Wish List posted on the bins for more suggestions.

FOOD COLLECTIONS: Food banks are greatly in need and donations can now be made directly at all Safeway, SaveOn, and Extra Foods stores, as well as the West Vancouver Library. We are no longer collecting food downstairs.

ENERGY METER: Perhaps you've heard that appliances still draw power, even when turned off? Ever wondered how much? John Duffy has donated an energy meter to the church library, available for check out. Simply plug the meter into the plug and plug the appliance into the meter. Find out just how much draw that instant-on TV takes when turned off, or your computer when turned on, or your cell phone charger even not connected to a cell phone. It may be a big surprise. The West Vancouver Library has additional meters to loan. Many thanks, John, for making this available!

CLIMATE CHANGE CAFÉ:

The next opportunity for groups to attend a climate change café is February 18. If you are a North Shore resident, why not pull together a small group (3-6) of neighbors or fellow congregants to

launch an exploration of reducing your carbon footprint. The invitation is available on the Social Responsibility board. For more information, or if you have questions, please contact Linda Vance (604-921-4688) to receive the detailed invitation.



Sing with the Universal Gospel Choir

Experience spontaneous community in song at the Universal Gospel Choir Community Sing on February 15th at 2:30 pm in the Sanctuary at the Unitarian Church of Vancouver. This is an opportunity for audience and choir to sing together, with an open mike for anyone who would like to solo! It's like karaoke, only with a live back-up chorus of 100+!

Tickets are \$15 and available through the choir line at 604-737-1545. All ages are welcome! No charge for children 6 and under. Proceeds go to help the choir with its ongoing outreach work including an upcoming free concert and lunch at the First United Mission in the downtown eastside.

Directory Updates

February

Marianne Blumenstiel new email: bluma@shaw.ca

Linda Eterman new email: lindaeterman@gmail.com

Bare Bones News from the Board

NSUC's official board meeting minutes are posted on the bulletin board. What follows is a bare bones summary of some issues we dealt with in January:

- We discussed some intriguing recent developments on the real estate front. By now you will know of the budding possibility for us to move to a highly visible site in the Seylynn development. We sense it's worth investigating. In the interim, Hynes Developments continues to pursue the rezoning of this property.
- We finalized our budget, which by now has been presented and likely approved at our annual budget meeting. Again, the board would like to thank all those who contribute generously to NSUC. You clearly place a high value on supporting our collective journey to discover meaning together.
- We recommended that Montessori be given an additional extension, to October 28, 2009. This gives them flexibility with regard to their anticipated move into new facilities at Mulgrave School.
- We finalized the combined board evaluation of Stephen Atkinson's performance in his first year of ministry. It was a useful process all around.
- We resolved that when requests are made to sell small quantities of books, crafts, and other such items at the church that the Treasurer be responsible on a case-by-case basis for making or delegating the decision as to the percentage of revenue that the church is to receive. This will streamline and speed decision-making.
- We approved the Social Responsibility Committee's list of

organizations that will receive our financial outreach support in 2009. The Committee has developed a thorough selection process that made our job easy.

- We endorsed volunteer coordinator John Duffy's plan to initiate a process to help people find fulfilling ways to contribute their talents to NSUC. It's all part of our vision to have a church that works! (Ahhhh... doesn't that sound reassuring?)
- We approved another chunk of the comprehensive Human Resources Manual developed by the Personnel Committee. Once approved, the manual will be public to both employees and members alike.
- We had to defer what promises to be an interesting discussion on church files, administration, etc. We know this is important work, but we just ran out of time, which is symbolic of a question posed in this month's minister's column.

We ended the meeting in an upbeat frame of mind, dreaming about a church that works in a good location with a plan to achieve an inspiring purpose! Not bad . . . for a meeting.

Sue Forbes, President



BOARD POSITIONS OPEN

Your nominating committee (Liz Moffitt, Lesley Giroday and Justin Webb) is preparing a slate of officers to stand for election for your Board of Trustees for 2009-2010. Several current talented and dedicated Board members have agreed to let their names stand again.

We need to fill five positions on the Board of Trustees and seek suggestions from the congregation regarding these five open positions. These positions are:

Three Members-at-Large (two for a two-year term and one for a one-year term), Secretary and Vice-President Denominational.

The Secretary takes minutes of Board meetings, mails-out to the congregation and assists in running Board and congregational meetings; ideally a computer-savvy individual who writes well and knows meeting procedure.

The VP Denominational manages our relationships with other congregations, the CUC and the UUA. This person needs to be prepared to make a multi-year commitment as there is an successive path from that position to VP Congregational, and then to President, in subsequent years. We are recruiting more committed and skilled folks to complement those already working for us in these important times as we prepare for the potential sale of our current property and a move! If you are interested, or know someone you think is qualified for our community on the Board, please let us know. Liz Moffitt 604-924-1449, lmoffitt@capilanou.ca ; Lesley Giroday 604-983-2208 lgiroday@ratcliff.com ; Justin Webb 604-922-1261 justin.webb@bell.ca

Children's Program

COORDINATOR: Lynn Sabourin



While December's overly abundant snow may have crimped a few people's style, it did not affect the enthusiasm with which the cast of our annual Christmas play performed. *The Grinch in UU-Ville* was part of the December 21 service and it was wonderfully done.

With Jasha's costumes, props and scenery (done with Gord's skilled help), Erika Mayall's directing, Elizabeth Cheng's music, and the talents of our multi-generational players, we were treated to a wonderful holiday gift. Kerry Burke played the Grinch to perfection, Maddy Gilbert was masterful as Max, the dog turned reindeer, Cara Cooper was cute as Cindy UU, a role she has wanted since she was a wee UU, and Barb Moore as Narrator, kept the story moving along superbly.

Sharon Selby and Sharon Bowen took charge of the youngest UUs: Karoline and Callia Moore, Christopher and Matthew (the Mouse) Cheng, Teya Sharir, Zoe Golay, Gemma and Matthew Selby, Ethan Gill, Emily Motherwell Richardson, Sofia Osborne, Angelica Goode, Mariana Pope, and Kendry Travers. Aisha and little Laila Kasim-Parkinson sang a song that brought tears to our eyes and

Barrie Forbe's rendition of "You're a Mean One Mr. Grinch" had us all laughing. Behind the scenes Ryan Duffy and Ariel Sharir were stagehands par excellence. What was really heart-warming was how the kids all looked out for one another, in addition to learning their lines and lyrics to the songs. Thanks to all the parents who worked with their children and got them to rehearsals. I will have pictures on the bulletin board in the Rod Stewart building; if you missed the service you'll want to see them.

We are into our Winter semester and as part of our Faith-in-Action, the Children's Program is joining in the Youth's project of raising funds for the Heifer project. Samaya has a display on the bulletin board in the downstairs hallway and has issued a challenge to the congregation to match the Youth's \$300 contribution. We are taking up the challenge - who knows how many heifers, water buffalo, sheep, goats or trees we may be able to fund for families in developing countries.

MINI TEACHERS and HELPERS RETREAT

We got so much out of our retreat at the end of August, that we are having a mini retreat on February 7, 9:30- 4 pm at the home of Gail Lehman and John Biasucci. All teachers, past and present, assistants, Children's Committee members and supporters of the Children's Program are invited to a day of sharing wisdom, worship, game playing, treasure hunting and reflection. Let's recharge our batteries during this coldest part of the year and have some fun in the process. RSVP to Lynn 604-926-1621 or email her at lsabourin@nsuc.ca

POTLUCK SUPPER

Everyone is invited to a potluck supper downstairs at the Church on March 1, 5-7 pm. Bring a dish and beverage to share and join us for food, friends and fellowship.

After supper join us for our annual.....

TALENT SHOW

7-8:30 pm. in the sanctuary.

Polish off your dance shoes, your fiddle, your guitar, limber up your voice or practice your magic, because we have a stage and an audience waiting for you. North Shore Unitarian Church's annual Talent Show on March 1, will give you a chance to let out your inner ham and entertain the most appreciative audience in the world.

Those of us in the audience will be practicing our hooting, hollering and clapping. Come and be part of what is always an interesting evening!

There will be a sign-up poster in the downstairs hallway, so don't be shy.

"The Grinch in UU-Ville"



Youth Program

COORDINATOR: Samaya Oakley



The *youth community* has always been strong, as long as I can remember anyways. Youth gatherings, local, regional, and national are places of coming together, of uniting in our difference.

Lately our group is finding more ways to improve our community. There is a Chaplaincy Training coming up at the Vancouver Church. Chaplaincy training is a conference held to teach youth, adults and young adults to hold staff positions at conferences. The Chaplain is there as someone to talk to if you're having a problem or a really good time. All are welcome to attend and experience a life altering education opportunity with the region's youth.

Our local youth are also getting involved in the NSUC. Some of us are planning on attending the focus workshops about our new building and our youth worship committee has recently grown by a few members. We have also been fortunate enough to have two new potential youth advisors. We are thrilled to have Anne Drouet and Paul Symons checking us out.

On February 15th we are also holding an Open House from 7 pm to allow members of the congregation to see how the youth group works. We will be holding a

question and answer period youth style and lots of fun activities. All are welcome.

Yetta Gram

Our Whole Lives

For parents of children in Kindergarten or Grade 1, you'll be happy to know that we are offering the Our Whole Lives program for this age bracket. In this program children and parents look at a variety of developmentally appropriate issues as anatomy, ways to keep bodies healthy and safe, families, how babies are born and family celebrations.

There will be two mandatory parent sessions on Tuesday, March 3 and 10 from 7:00 to 9:00 pm.

Please let Samaya Oakley know if you have any questions or are planning on attending. 604-985-5620 or oakleyfam@shaw.ca

Intergenerational Games Night - February 28, 7 pm

The youth group is hosting an intergenerational games night. Come and play games with the youth. We start at 7:00 pm. Tickets are \$10.00 per participant 12 and older. You can purchase your ticket from the youth serving coffee on Sunday morning.



Camp Sasamat 2009 June 5-7

An opportunity for relaxation, reflection, and spiritual renewal.

Chat with friends new and old, enjoy nature, and take part in activities in a cooperative atmosphere. Optional Choral Workshop with Alison Nixon featuring lively and soulful Gospel and African-American style pieces.

Download a registration form at:

www.beaconunitarian.org/sasamat_brochure_09.pdf

Early bird registration deadline: Feb. 28/2009



Bulletin Board

"A Little Sunday Night Music"

Sunday February 1st, 2009

North Shore Unitarian Church

8 PM Tickets \$25 ea

Come and enjoy a fabulous evening of fun, folk, gospel, jazz, and funk music featuring a trio of divine divas:

Kathryn Nicholson, Dawn Pemberton and pianist **Diane Lines** (from the Universal Gospel Choir)

All the proceeds of this concert will be going to support an upcoming volunteer work project in Tanzania, Africa.

Kathryn and her son Scott will be traveling to Bagamoyo, Tanzania in June 2009 to do a month-long stint of volunteer work with adults/children with HIV and children who have been orphaned by this terrible disease. They will be working with Cross-Cultural Solutions - a non-religious organization which oversees volunteers working in health care and social service in many different countries around the world.

If you are interested in offering additional support for this project, please contact Kathryn at 604 929-6534

Our church is proud to support Kathryn's volunteer work by providing the Sanctuary without charge.

Mark your calendars now - you won't want to miss this!!!

Movie and Pizza

JOIN US EVERY 3rd FRIDAY



February 20- 6 p.m.

In the Fireside Room

FRENCH NEW WAVE (rolls in)

Starting in 1959, a strident rebellion against established methods of feature filmmaking was proclaimed by certain French *cinastes*. They coined the term *auteur*, arguing that the film director, not the producer or studio should be credited for making bodies of work with an internal coherence. They brought to light the contributions of such directors as John Ford, Anthony Mann, and Alfred Hitchcock (Hitchcock in fact was the first director to free himself from the authority of the Hollywood moguls). Most of these new French filmmakers were former critics, and in their films they quoted and critiqued the dominant cinema while making films clearly distinct from each other. The most radical was Jean-Luc Godard. My favourite of his early films is *Contempt* (1963) with Jack Palance and Brigitte Bardot.

So I can estimate how much pizza will be needed, please use the sign-up sheet posted in the hall downstairs if you plan to attend. For further information please contact Brett Enemark (604-984-2503) benemark@shaw.ca.

Volunteer Spotlight

Each month we feature a different volunteer opportunity.

Adult Religious Education Committee

Support lifelong learning by helping the ARE Committee to deliver courses and talks on a variety of interesting topics. Committee members work together to select topics, recruit course leaders or speakers, advertise events, and coordinate logistics. The Committee meets once per month. Volunteers can also support ARE without attending monthly meetings by, for example, providing hospitality at ARE events or publicizing ARE events among local newspapers. To learn more, contact volunteer coordinator John Duffy at 604-980-1239 or ARE Committee chair Marcia Stephenson at 604-922-3739.



Choir News

NOW IS A GOOD TIME to join the choir if you've been thinking about it. We are off to an exciting start with a folder full of new music to learn. And the concert in the works for May is going to be a big one. Hints: St. Andrew's Wesley Church, new music from composer Karl Jenkins of *Armed Man* fame, 150+ voices. Mark May 30th on your calendar to save the date.

Notices & Events

Artarians

The paintings in the sanctuary this month are the work of Artarian Gordon Davis. Gordon paints for leisure and enjoyment. He uses lots of colour, no clouds or dull greys, and his theme is always happiness and joy. Gordon has exhibited in many shows in the last 15 years both through clubs and galleries. The Artarians are a group of North Shore Unitarian artists. Biographies of the artists can be found at the back of the church. We are an active and fun committee who is always looking for new members. If you are interested please contact Jilly Watson at 604-947-9604 or jilly.watson@shaw.ca

Cares and Concerns

Unitarians are by-and-large an independent-minded lot. We do not always remember easily that there are times in everyone's life that it is okay to accept help and comfort. If you, or someone you know, are shut-in, ill, experiencing loss or family crisis, or anything else that the Care and Concerns committee might help with, please give us a call. We can phone, visit, provide a casserole or baking, or help find other resources in the Church or the community. (If you call for someone other than yourself, please ensure you have permission.) We are Mary Segal 604-987-9676, Jill Chilton 604-929-5829, Dianne Mylrea 604-980-6908, Hilda Pezzaro 604-980-9864, Vicki Cowan (rides to Church) 604-987-7959, Candace Parker (Food for the Soul) 604-984-2503, and Anne Mayall 604-982-0643.

Book Club

We will meet on Thursday February 19th in the Fireside Room from 10 until noon. Anyone who has read *Three Cups of Tea* by Greg Mortenson and David Oliver Rein is welcome to attend. For further information phone Norma Elrod at 604-929-3102.

Library News – Read On

Big, beautiful Valentine's Used Book Sale after the Sunday service February 1st and 8th. Bring your friends and neighbours to shop. We need Book Sale volunteers, especially for set-up and clean-up. Please call Nora at 925-6111.

We have wonderful new books in the library for children: "Amazing Peace" by M. Angelou, sponsored by Paul Symons; "Great Joy" by K. DiCamillo, sponsored by K. Moore; "Hope is an Open Heart" by L. Thompson, sponsored by N. Hostinsky; "What the World Eats" by F. D'Aluisio, sponsored by L. Pratt; "Berenstain Bears, Too Much Teasing", donated by Simon Duffy; "How the Grinch Stole Christmas" by Dr. Seuss, donated by J Ramsay and G. Latter; "Understanding Human Rights", "Being Special", "Handling Family Arguments" all three by J. Berry; "Earth Dance" by J. Ryder.

We thank our sponsors and donors heartily.

Grocery Sales Slips

Good news: IGA in Dundarave is participating in this program again. Please collect your sales slips from IGA, Extra Foods Park Royal, and Super Value in Edgemont Village, and bring them to the church. We earn an average of \$200 per year for the church with this program.

Staff & Board Directory

Minister:

Rev. Stephen Atkinson
satkinson@nsuc.ca

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Bookkeeper: Kay Welwood

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Morris, Jasha Ramsay-Latter,
Elizabeth McLin

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Mon, Tues,Thurs, Fri.

Newsletter:

Editor: Brett Enemark
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February

Be sure to check the weekly Calendar posted in church for building use, including private rentals and room allocation, and refer to the church calendar on our website: www.nsuc.ca for the most up-to-date information.

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
1 10:30am Sunday Service 11:30 am – Used Book Sale 12noon New Singers –Montessori 12noon Town Hall Meeting - Sanctuary 12noon Newcomers Questions & Answers - #305 7pm Youth Group (offsite) 8pm "A Little Sunday Night Music"	2 6:30pm OWL Jr. High -#305 7:30pm Meditation - Sanctuary	3 10:30 am Staff Meeting 3:45pm Yoga – Fireside 7pm – BYOT1 - Fireside	4 7pm Coordinating Council	5 12noon – "Living by Heart" – Fireside 6:15pm Chamber Ensemble 7pm Choir	6 9am – Purpose Group - #304	7 9am – BC YAC -#304 9:30am Teacher's Retreat (offsite)
8 10:30am Sunday Service 11:30 am – Used Book Sale 5pm Sunday Service Committee – Minister's office 5-7pm YAC (Fireside) 7pm Youth Group	9 6:30pm OWL Jr. High - #305 7:30pm Meditation - Sanctuary	10 3:45pm Yoga - Fireside 7pm – BYOT1 - Fireside	11 7pm NSUC Board Meeting - #304	12 10am Loving Kindness Meditation - Sanctuary 12:30pm Cronies - Fireside 6:15pm Chamber Ensemble 7pm Choir	13 6pm – 9pm Choir Workshop – Sanctuary	14 9am – 3pm Choir Workshop - Sanctuary
15 Newsletter Deadline 10:30am Sunday Service 12noon Staff Meeting - #305 5pm – Coming of Age (Fireside) 7pm – Youth Group	16 6:30pm Membership (Fireside) 7:30pm Meditation - Sanctuary	17 9am – Purpose Group - #304 10:30 am Staff Meeting 3:45pm Yoga – Fireside 7pm – BYOT1 - Fireside	18 7:30pm ProNova Ensemble Chamber Music - Sanctuary	19 10am Book Club - Fireside 6:15pm Chamber Ensemble 7pm Choir	20 6pm – Movie Night - Fireside	21 YAC Youth Chaplain training (offsite)
22 10:30am Sunday Service 12pm – New Building Focus Group (Sanctuary) 12pm – New Sounds Singers (Montessori) 1pm – Care & Concerns Card-Making Workshop (Fireside) 7pm Youth Group	23 6:30pm OWL Jr. High -#305 7:30pm Meditation - Sanctuary	24 3:45pm Yoga - Fireside 6:45pm Soup Kitchen at 1 st Baptist (carpool from NSUC)	25 7:15pm Children's RE committee -#304	26 10am Loving Kindness Meditation - Sanctuary 12:30pm Cronies - Fireside 6:15pm Chamber Ensemble 7pm Choir	27	28 9:30am New UU – Fireside 7pm Youth Intergenerational event

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