



# North Shore Unitarian Church

*BELONG WITH HEART. THRIVE IN SPIRIT. ACT IN SERVICE.*

## February, 2012

### UPCOMING SERVICES

Feb. 5, 10:30 am:  
How to Change Your Life: III

Speaker: The Rev. Stephen Atkinson  
Co-ordinator: John Slattery

Third in our series of services inspired by *How to Begin (Changing Your Life)* by the late Rev. Dr. Forrest Church of All Souls Church, Manhattan, today we'll look at the next two steps: 'Begin with those who are closest to you,' and 'Begin by turning the page.'

Feb. 12, 10:30 am:  
Quest University: A Unitarian  
Universalist Experience

Guest Speaker: Caleb Raible-Clark  
Co-ordinator: Vandy Savage

Our guest speaker is well-known to many members of NSUC, as he is a dynamic young adult leader within the Pacific Northwest UU community. He chooses to attend Canada's only private university, Quest U in Squamish. Caleb will speak about the similarities in philosophy, teachings, struggles and cultural/historical context of both revolutionary institutions: Quest and Unitarian Universalism.

Feb. 19, 10:30 am:  
Act in Service Sunday

Speaker: The Rev. Stephen Atkinson  
Co-ordinator: Rob McGregor

In the 2010-11 church year, the creation of a new team of volunteers specifically working on the volunteer and service life of our church was one of the results of our Mission Into Action work. Today we will look at how spirituality, leadership and service are intimately related to each other. We will also recognize volunteers for our church and present the newly-named Mary Segal Lifetime Service Award for 2012.

Feb. 26, 10:30 am:  
Big Difficult Words: Faith

Speaker: The Rev. Stephen Atkinson  
Co-ordinators: Dani Cooper and Vandy Savage

Next in our series focused on better understanding religious words that might bewilder us is this one on Faith. Is faith a word used only to refer to believing in something for which there is no proof, or can it also have a place in a rational and realistic view of the world? Is this even an either/or question?

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### Mission Statement

THE MISSION OF NORTH SHORE UNITARIAN CHURCH IS TO EMPOWER PEOPLE TO LIVE WITH GREATER DEPTH, MEANING AND PURPOSE. WE WELCOME ALL TO OUR CARING COMMUNITY, FOSTER SPIRITUAL GROWTH FREE OF DOGMA, AND INSPIRE ACTIONS IN THE SERVICE OF LIFE.

## FROM THE MINISTER



### The Reverend Stephen Atkinson

This morning I dropped my car off at the dealership for maintenance work. I bought out the lease last summer and have intended since then to have it checked out as fully as I would have had to if I had finished the lease and returned the car. Over the years, I've had oil changes and the usual checks that come with those, but I've not done much more than that. I've never rotated the tires or adjusted their alignment. Never had the brakes checked. Never changed a belt. I have had at least 2 new pairs of wipers put on, however, because I can actually see if I can see or not; anything under the hood or outside the passenger compartment that I can't see I can too easily ignore or forget about.

You may have noticed the 'last summer' phrase in the first paragraph. Six months between making a decision like that and acting upon it is about average for me – at least with respect to inconvenient things like dropping a car off early in the morning and having someone else get me to the church and then back to the shop when it's ready. And also with respect to things I don't understand well – like engines – or things that are good enough – like both my scratched fenders, which look eerily similar although they're the result of two separate failures of grace in the realm of parking spots. I don't live expecting miracles but I *can* live in hope that concrete is less abrasive than it looks. I won't tell you how long I've been driving around with those scratches.

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### Office Hours:

Thursday 5:30 to 7pm;  
Friday 1 to 3 pm; Other  
times by appointment.

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As I was sitting in the waiting area for my drive to church, I got thinking about maintenance in general. Almost immediately I was pondering spiritual maintenance. (Because you actually pay me to think like a minister, I make sure I do that sometimes... ) I wondered how many people think more about their car being in good running order than their internal lives. Not that I can't do that myself, if not with respect to my poor car, certainly in respect to other things I more readily see as needing attention.

To do maintenance one has to assess function. For some time, my spiritual practice has been very spotty; I loved my 'old' practice that involved creating the right space, acting out elements of ritual and liturgy, both repeated and spontaneous prayers and silent meditation; it was a multi-sensory experience. Although it isn't suiting me now, I keep feeling stuck about getting back to it instead of moving into whatever new practice is waiting, perhaps right under my nose. Sometimes practice needs to be very intentional, demanding that we accommodate it; other times, it needs to be very available and accessible, perhaps even quietly constant or easily spontaneous. It's not that one is more serious and the other superficial. They simply require different forms of dedication.

Huh – the sun just came out and is shining in my office window. Not that we must see some Universal

Intent behind that circumstance. But it can be helpful, simply, to interpret such a little thing as if it is a reminder that Light is still there, is always there. Whether messages from the universe have a source or not, being open to seeing, hearing, finding, reading them within random events allows us to respond from a deeper part of ourselves. In a way, that is a spiritual practice – living in readiness to feel connected with all that is – in a state of optimism that we are not alone.



### Do You Know...

about how Pastoral Care is available at the church? First, pastoral care is the offering of understanding, support and counselling keeping in mind one's spiritual life and the deeper demands on us within our web of responsibilities to others and to life itself. Stephen is available to meet with individuals, couples and families to look at problems that they may have. Pastoral care is different from therapy; Stephen is ready to inform those in need of the latter about other resources, although only your doctor can refer you directly to a psychiatrist or mental health clinic. Pastoral care is time-limited, partly to be clear that it is not intended to be therapy, but Stephen is glad to see anyone in our community – members or not – who feel a need to speak with him.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Don Gayton

### FINDING THE VALUE OF LIVING LIFE WITH MEANING AND PURPOSE

Part of our beloved community's mission is to “empower people to live with greater depth, meaning and purpose.” This month I wanted to relate a personal story about one way this congregation has helped me do just that.

I am a high tech guy. I've always loved designing electronics and software (in high school I designed and built my own computer.) After I got my degree in Electrical Engineering in 1983 I went to work for a local electronics development company where I got paid to do what I loved. They were developing the latest thing – first car phones, then paging systems, then wireless devices and integrated messaging systems. I did very well there, rising from Junior Design Engineer to Vice President of Engineering by the tender age of 31, then on to Senior V.P. of Research and Development and Chief Technology Officer. At the peak I had over 250 engineers working for me. I had big money, a big office and did big travel but it all came crashing down in 2001 with the collapse of the tech bubble. The board of directors decided to cancel the program I was in charge of (developing a smart phone, which would have been the first of its kind if it hadn't been cancelled, but that is another story) and so I was out.

Around that same time my wife and I joined the NSUC. Soon after joining I went to a men's retreat. At the men's retreat I began to realise how much of my personal identity was now tied

up with being an executive and at the same time I came to realise how much more I was than that. Later, through my men's group and speaking to people in this congregation, I observed and came to appreciate other ways of being that didn't involve a big pay cheque. In fact half of the men in my men's group weren't even fully employed, but they weren't bums – they had tremendous meaning their lives and were making a real difference. I also met many people at August Eliot who were following their passion on not much money and loving it.

Experiencing these real people living their dreams (and with the encouragement of my amazing wife, Beth) gave me the courage to quit the high tech world and focus on my new passion for renewable energy. I went back to University and graduated last fall with a Masters in Clean Energy Engineering from UBC. So I am restarting my career at age 50 and loving it! I don't have the big pay cheque but I have a feeling of purpose I haven't felt in a long time.

Without this church I'm not sure I would be where I am today. However the change didn't happen from listening to a sermon from the pulpit or reading one of our many inspiring books. It came from interacting with the people here, hearing their stories and seeing them living their lives with meaning and purpose that gave me my inspiration. Hopefully by living my dreams I can pass it on and inspire others to live with greater depth, meaning and purpose as well.

### NOTABLE FEBRUARY DATES

4<sup>th</sup>, 1529: Twenty four years prior to Michael Servetus being burned at the stake in Geneva, Ludwig Hetzer is executed in Constance, Switzerland for denying the Trinity. Hetzer believes God 'the Father' is the only true god, and that Jesus is entirely separate and lesser. This is an example of unitarian theology arising spontaneously in a variety of places in those times as individuals read and interpret the Bible for themselves.

9<sup>th</sup>, 1791: The Essex Street Chapel in London is the first Unitarian 'congregation' in Britain, founded in 1774 when it is illegal to dissent from the beliefs of the Church of England. On this date, the Chapel establishes “The Unitarian Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge and the Practice of Virtue by the Distribution of Books.” I wonder what kind of discussion this triggered over coffee that Sunday.

13<sup>th</sup>, 1730: Josiah Wedgwood is born in Staffordshire, England. He becomes a pivotal potter both because of his unique designs but also by ensuring that the production lines of his factory reduce the likelihood of accidents and work in a much cleaner way than prior customs. He is a strong Unitarian who uses his increasing wealth for good.

15<sup>th</sup>, 1748: Jeremy Bentham is born in London, England and goes on to become a famous political and moral philosopher. He is known for 'utilitarianism', which we today might think of as situational ethics. In this point of view, the value of an action is governed by what it leads to, in particular whether it creates happiness through augmenting pleasure or reducing pain. Under a pseudonym he publishes a significant work on Unitarianism, and leaves a large bequest to University College. This is one of the first to admit any student who can pass the entrance exam and pay tuition, regardless of religion, race or class. It becomes one of the few schools that Unitarian students can attend.

## CHILDRENS PROGRAM



Lynn Sabourin

**W**e are off to a wonderful start to 2012 with the energy of so many new families; we are glad to have you with us!

In the two Spirit Play classes, the children have had two general lessons; one on the six sources of our Unitarian Universalist (UU) faith, the roots of our beliefs. These include:

- our sense of wonder; we learn by asking why.
- women and men of long ago and today whose lives remind us to be kind and fair; we learn by hearing their stories.
- all the world's religions; we learn from many cultures.
- Jewish and Christian teachings that tell us to love all others as we love ourselves; we learn from our past history.
- the use of reason and the discoveries of science; we learn by using our minds.
- the harmony of nature and the sacred circle of life; we learn by knowing we are a part of nature and the cycles of life.

They also heard about the Flaming Chalice, the symbol of Unitarian Universalism.

Thanks to Melissa Kelly, Tricia Edgar, Jennifer Williams, Jilly Watson and

Jacki Blair for signing up for this semester as storytellers and door-keepers.

The 7 & 8 year olds in the Primary class continue to look at UU Super Heroes. They heard the stories of Clara Barton, a Universalist, who overcame her shyness to tend soldiers on the battle fields during the U.S. Civil War and subsequently founded the American Red Cross. Canadian Unitarian, Vilhjalmur Stefansson, was an Arctic explorer who learned from the Inuit people how to live in an extreme environment. The children learned about his profound respect for the natural world and the native people who lived in harmony with it.

We have Elizabeth Cheng and Joanna Vaughan to thank for teaching this term.

The Windows and Mirrors class of 9 & 10 year olds had a session which focused on socio-economic class and the sometimes not so subtle ways that we become aware of differences. They heard the story "Yammani and the Soji" about a society where the very reverent, supposedly religious leads neglect to value workers they consider to be of a low class. A similar theme was explored in looking at images of injustice using Charles Dickens' *Oliver Twist* as an example. One young wise thinker in the class expressed the opinion that often it is just our laziness that keeps us from doing what needs to be done to make the world a better, more just place. Indeed!

Thanks to Juliana Leahy and Kit To for leading this class.

Our 11-12 year olds continue with Dan Leahy and their Traditions with a Wink program. They explored what prayer means to others and to

us as UUs. They looked at hymn #123, Spirit of Life, as an example of what some might consider a prayer. On Martin Luther King Day, they heard the story of Rev. James Reeb, a Unitarian minister and civil rights supporter who was beaten to death at the time of the march in Selma. Standing up for what you believe in is not always easy and some pay the ultimate price.



### Talent Show

On Sunday, February 12 we will be having our annual Talent Show from 7-8:30 pm in the church sanctuary. This is an all ages event you won't want to miss. If you will be in the audience, practice your clapping and bravo-ing. Performers will be dancing, singing, playing instruments, or displaying a talent we didn't even know about before. There are always surprises.

Before the TALENT SHOW bring a dish and beverage to share and join us downstairs for a

POTLUCK SUPPER starting at 5 pm. For more information about either event call Lynn Sabourin at 604-926-1621.

### SECRET BUDDIES



For those of you involved in the Secret Buddies program- don't forget to put clues in your mailbag each week.



Samaya Oakley

*WE ARE ALL  
SPARKS OF THE  
DIVINE FLAME*

- Hildegard of Bingen

## Sparks of a Divine Flame

In my studies I have become fascinated with Hildegard of Bingen who lived from 1098 to 1179. She was a remarkable woman, a true pioneer in many fields. At a time when few women wrote, Hildegard, known as “Sybil of the Rhine”, produced major works of theology and visionary writings. When few women were given respect, she was consulted by and advised bishops, popes, and kings. Her quote that “we are all sparks of the divine flame” is one that takes on new meaning at this time of year for me. On my walks between my studies, I notice how the buds are starting to appear on the trees and I’m eagerly looking for fresh signs of spring to start to pop up. This divine flame that feels like it’s been dormant for a while seems to wake up in February. Hildegard’s work with healing plants would, I’m sure, lead her to the same conclusion if she were to live in Vancouver at this time of year.

I also notice that many times we seem to give lip service to the idea that we are all sparks of a divine flame, or have inherent worth and dignity to put it in other terms. And yet how often do we put it into practice. In my work with youth, I’ve often

observed that when I’m shopping with them, they are often followed by store detectives just because they are youth, or that adults will cross the street when they see a group of youth walking down the street towards them. What is it that causes people to react in this way? Do our fears of the “other” take over and the unknown looms larger than life? Instead of seeing the budding and potential of the divine spark walking down the road toward them, people instead choose to see dangers that are conjured up in our own mind – and therefore, miss the potential to be touched by an infectious smile, or a moment of connection. My challenge to you this month is to go out and find the divine spark in people you meet as you make your way through the day. Greet them, make eye contact (if appropriate), and help to increase the connection that this divine spark can create in all of us, for when we fail to see that divine spark, injustices occur. Additionally, take some time to consider your understanding of injustice. Pick up a copy of a local newspaper or check an online news source. Which stories are about injustice from your perspective? Unitarian Universalists have a long history of working for justice. Do any examples of social justice work come to mind?

## Boys Advance and Girls Retreats

If you have a child who will be between the ages of 9 and 12, you’ll want to reserve these dates on your calendar now. The mission of each of these events is empowerment through learning how to cook, clean and be in community with each other.

The Boys Advance will be held either the weekend of April 20-22 or the 27-29. Registration forms will automatically be sent to those families who sent boys last year. Additional registration forms will be available in the Rod Stewart building later this month. For more information about the Boys Advance please contact Andrea Fast at 604-988-5199 or

[andreafast@shaw.ca](mailto:andreafast@shaw.ca).

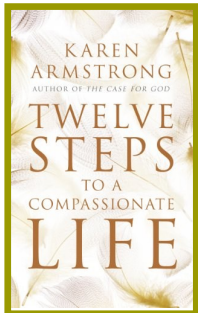
The Girls Retreat will be held the weekend of June 24 to 26. Registration forms will automatically be sent to those families who sent girls last year. Additional registration forms will be available in the Rod Stewart building towards the end of March. For more information, please contact Samaya Oakley at 604-323-4341 or

[chalicinsamaya@gmail.com](mailto:chalicinsamaya@gmail.com)

## Our Whole Lives

For families who have children in Grades 5 and 6, don’t forget to mark your 2012 calendars with this year’s dates! This year’s parent orientation sessions will be held on Tuesday, March 27<sup>th</sup> and April 3<sup>rd</sup> from 7:00 to 8:30 pm. The program begins for children on Tuesdays from April 17<sup>th</sup> through to June 5<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 to 8:00 pm, or at another agreed-upon time by the parents at the parent orientation.

**Moving into 2012 with Heart, Mind, Spirit**



**Karen Armstrong Reading Group: *Twelve Steps to a Compassionate Life***

Two book groups from NSUC have begun reading Karen Armstrong's *Twelve Steps to a Compassionate Life*, following a study guide from her Charter for Compassion site. Our plans are to continue meeting twice monthly until June, with one time slot at noon after church and another at 7 pm on Tuesday evenings.

The Tuesday night book group will continue to meet throughout the spring including at 7pm on Feb. 7th, 21st, March 6th and 20th. Anyone may join the group at anytime by picking up a copy of Karen Armstrong's book which is now available in paperback. For more information, call Pat Brand at 604-925-1930.

**FOR ALL PROGRAMS:**

see the HMS bulletin board at the base of the stairs for info and sign-up sheets. Check weekly Orders of Service for updates.

Office registration:  
604-926-1621.

**Cultures and Religions of the North Shore**



Instructor: Harold Rosen – Master's Degrees in Religion, Philosophy & Education

<http://www.interfaitheducation.org/>

This course offers two complementary views of cultures and religions of the North Shore: 'respect for diversity' and 'working toward unity'. We select several traditions that played key roles in North Shore history. After a beginning look at Coast Salish and Sto:lo spirituality, we briefly survey Western Christian faith traditions, highlighting liberal Protestantism. We provide an overview of East Indian faith traditions, highlighting Sikhism. We glance at Asian faith traditions, mentioning Buddhist, Confucian and Taoist influences. And we sketch Middle Eastern faith traditions, with some attention to Jewish, Zoroastrian and Islamic influences. This selection of themes will enrich our quest for a more cooperative and unified society. Introductory orientation provided in the first session and review in the final meeting.

To be offered on six Tuesday evenings in the Fireside Area, February 7-March 13, from 7 to 9 pm. Course fees of \$60 for the whole course and \$15/session on a drop-in basis.



**A Conversation for US Expats about Tax Filing Requirements with Jim Stephenson**

**Offered on Sunday, February 26, in the sanctuary at 12:15 pm.**

While the US Government is doing its best to scare its citizens living abroad (with quite a bit of success), for most expat citizens, the filing requirements are fairly straightforward. Jim has researched the issues, prepared his own returns, and is prepared to share what he has learned.

This session will cover the basics of what needs to be done and how to do it. Maybe you can eliminate your worries and go back to complaining about dysfunctional federal politics. Disclaimer: this conversation is not intended to replace consultation with a professional.

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

 **Please remember** to clean up the church space you have used for meetings or social events. Put the sound equipment away, wash any dishes used, return tables and chairs to where you found them, and dispose of garbage. Thanks!

## SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

"Rev. Atkinson would like to thank the congregation for their generous contributions in December to the Pastoral Discretionary Fund"

### Outreach for February: WISH Drop-In Centre Society.

The WISH Wellness Centre operates in downtown, east side Vancouver. It is dedicated to the needs of female sex workers, seeking respite from their lives on the street. Wish embodies our first principle ('The inherent worth and dignity of every person') by reaching out to offer sanctuary, within a nurturing and non-judgmental environment. WISH depends upon non-governmental funding for nearly half of their Wellness Center operations.

Continuing, from their website: "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 120 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 lifestyles.

"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](http://www.wish-vancouver.net)

## DISCOVERY CIRCLES

We'll be running a 2<sup>nd</sup> series of the small group experience we call Discovery Circles here at NSUC, starting later in February, for both anyone interested in joining and those who want to continue. We're just concluding a batch of 8 bi-weekly 2 hour long sessions, which began in October, attracted 40 participants in 4 groups - each with a trained facilitator - and covered a variety of 'meaty' topics.

This type of ministry offers the opportunity to build relationships of trust and friendship with others in the church based upon spiritual practice, specifically deeper listening and sharing. Groups are open to everyone, including those brand new to our community. This format allows for more spontaneous sharing from the heart than for topical discussion; this emphasis in turn fosters trust, resulting in deeper and wider connections among participants.

For this upcoming 6 session set of Discovery Circles, set to conclude in May, congregants have the option of forming a new group, continuing with or joining an existing group, or switching to a new timeslot - depending on the level of demand.

**NOTE:** We will be seeking new or returning facilitators for each group we form - training and ongoing support provided. And we require a minimum of 8 people in order to form a circle.

Sign up sheets will be posted shortly - downstairs across from the soup line-up. Make sure you indicate the days/times of the week you would be available. You can also contact Coordinator Andrea Fast or Debbie Leslie at the church office. We'll do our very best to accommodate you.

**QUESTIONS?** For more information, to sign up to find out more about facilitating a group, contact the Discovery Circles Coordinator, Andrea Fast, [andreafast@shaw.ca](mailto:andreafast@shaw.ca) or 604-988-5199

## Taking Action on Homelessness: Meet, Eat and Write!

**Sunday February 12, 12:00 noon**

Room 304 Rod Stewart Building (bring your soup, we'll bring the cookies!)

Join the Homeless Action Group for our 3<sup>rd</sup> in a series of monthly letter writing campaigns to advocate for funding for affordable housing. Last month, we wrote to the Federal Government asking for a National Housing Strategy, and in November, we called for a review of the closure

of Community Living BC group homes. The Vancouver Church has been holding a "Meet, Eat and Write" campaign on homelessness and affordable housing for some time.

We will be meeting after the Sunday Service to write letters to the Provincial Government to advocate for a provincial plan to end homelessness. To find out more, or if you want to participate but cannot make the February 12 session, call Robyn Newton 604-985-3929.

## Congregation Approves Development Partnership with Darwin

Once again NSUC has stepped boldly forward to seek a new future. At the special congregational meeting held on Sunday, January 8, the congregation voted 97% in favour of teaming up with Darwin Properties to see once and for all whether we can get our property rezoned and find a new site on which to build or renovate a new and better church facility. The vote authorizes NSUC to enter into a Development Agreement with Darwin under which NSUC agrees to sell our Mathers property to Darwin for \$9,100,000, but conditioned both on our property being rezoned and on our finding and acquiring, with Darwin's help, a new church site satisfactory to NSUC.

At the meeting Oliver Webbe, President of Darwin Properties, and Darwin rezoning consultants Chuck Brook and Dan Walsh, spoke briefly about their backgrounds and why Darwin looks forward to partnering with NSUC to seek rezoning of our property and a new church site. They then answered many questions from the floor. After the Darwin representatives left, NSUC President Don Gayton gave the Board's reasons for recommending the proposed development partnership, and opened up the floor to general questions and discussion. Following discussion, the vote by confidential ballot was 98 to 3 in favour.

The next step in the process is for NSUC and Darwin to enter into the Development Agreement once it has been prepared by the lawyers. Simultaneously, Darwin, working closely with NSUC, will begin putting together a rezoning application for the church's property, and will help NSUC actively continue its search for a new church site.

Many thanks to the Board and to the

New Building Task Force for all their hard work in developing the Darwin proposal and bringing it to the congregation. And congratulations to the congregation for voting so strongly and courageously to pursue our dream of a new and better home for our beloved community.



## ACTIVE DEMOCRACY WORKSHOP

**Sunday, February 19,  
12:15 pm**

We can hear you asking, "What is active democracy?"

In the Canadian UU community right now, this term refers to the various ways that individual UUs and congregations decide together how to guide our Canadian Unitarian Council (CUC) into the future. In 2010, the CUC set up an Active Democracy Task Force to examine important questions. How and where do Canadian UUs make mutual decisions? How can congregations represent themselves at our national meetings? Who speaks for us both within our organization and to the public?

It is 10 years now since the Council separated from the Unitarian Universalist Association to become the sole guiding body for UUs in our nation. Those 10 years have been somewhat of a wild ride, given the many learning curves that individuals, communities, regions, CUC staff

and Board members have undertaken in order to create something new and effective. Virtually everyone who has engaged with the development of Canadian UUism has come to agree that changes must be made in how our widely dispersed community governs itself. To be frank, we at NSUC have felt separate from that process for a number of good reasons and have behaved accordingly, but we now have an opportunity to engage in this decision-making work to help the CUC become what we need, want and hope it to be.

The Task Force has created a workshop that each UU community will participate in so they can develop a clear understanding of what our issues and suggestions are. If you are concerned about the importance of an effective UU presence within our country, please come and offer your thinking.

Workshop leaders: Kathryn Nicholson, Vice President Denominational, and our minister.

## Clothing Swap for All Ages, All Sizes

**Saturday, Feb. 18th, 10am to 2pm**, with donations being accepted during the week leading up to the sale. With the \$10 entry charge you are welcome to take whatever strikes your fancy at no extra cost. We will be serving coffee, tea and light refreshments to revive your strength after “bagging some bargoons”, so plan to come early and shop till you drop!

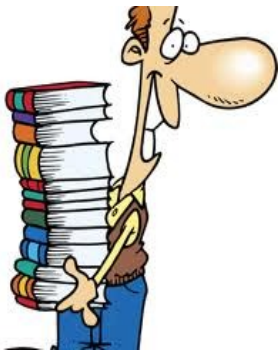
We welcome women’s or children’s clothing items in clean and good condition – no missing buttons or non-working zippers, please. Coats, scarves, hats, gloves, purses, shoes, sweaters, blouses, pants and of course jewelry of all kinds are most appreciated! This fun event is designed to get you thinking about spring cleaning after the holidays, refresh your wardrobe and make a little money for our church! All left-over clothes will be donated to various charities.

Can you volunteer to help sort donations the week before the swap, and/or help set up on Friday the 18<sup>th</sup>? If this sounds interesting, please contact Jasha Ramsay at 604-988-9931 or [jasha@shaw.ca](mailto:jasha@shaw.ca)



Andrea Shopped the Swap!

## LOOK! BOOKS!



### ONGOING USED BOOK SALE

As you may be aware, we do not have the room anymore to collect your used books. You will need to use the services provided by other organizations. However, as you dispose of the books you no longer want, you could set aside some more recent ones that you think might interest our members, and participate in our new ongoing used books sale.

Prior to bringing these

books though, you will need to check with Nicole Hostinsky at 604-294-3916 or at [nicolehostinsky@gmail.com](mailto:nicolehostinsky@gmail.com) for space availability. A schedule will be established. The shelves will be replenished as space becomes available. The books remaining after a month display will be removed to make room for new ones.

On Sunday mornings, make sure to come and see what is offered on the shelves reserved for that purpose, beside the library table. Of course, any books relating to our mission are also welcomed for our own library!

### News from the library

Four new books have been added to the adult collection of our library: from Antonia Won, *Drawing down the Moon* (on paganism) by Margot Adler; from two anonymous donors: *The Power of a Dream* by Peter Legge and *Free the Children* by Craig Kielburger; we purchased Nancy Reeves’s book: *Spirituality for Introverts*.

The children collection now counts six new books. Kamryn and Jaden Skaling donated *The Third Gift* (about the

Three Magi) by Linda Park. Lesley Giroday sponsored *Butterflies under our Hats* by Sandy Eisenberg Sasso and *The Mitten Tree* by Candace Christiansen; Diane Noble sponsored *Totem Tale: a tall story from Alaska* by Deb Vanasse; Judith Gordon sponsored *Blowin’ in the Wind* by Bod Dylan and Jon J. Muth; Kendry and Langston Travers sponsored *One Hen* by Katie Smith Milway and Eugenie Fernandes. We thank all the donors and sponsors who enrich so generously our collections.



### Artarians

This month the Artarians are working with the nine and ten year old religious education group to represent the similarities and the differences of the religious heritage of our community in an artistic form.

The work on the walls of the sanctuary in the month of February will represent the religious heritage of families (including ancestors) within our congregation. If you have not yet participated add to the tree on the left sanctuary wall. You will find the symbols in the foyer.

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](mailto:jilly.watson@shaw.ca)

**YIPPEE!!! FUN<sub>d</sub>FEST is COMING**

**Mark Your Calendar: SATURDAY, MAY 5**  
**Cardinal Hall, Lynn Valley Rec Center**  
 6pm doors open  
 Bidding starts at 7pm  
 \$10.00 entry  
 Visitors and guests are FREE  
 Plenty of snacks and beverages.  
 Youth availability for babysitting, if needed.  
 Childcare Bursaries available on request!!

**FUN<sub>d</sub>FEST**, the biggest Community Building / Social Event of the year!!!

How will you help???  
 What will you contribute???  
 Come to us with your questions.  
 We will support **your ideas**  
 We **need** your support for ours.  
 Please talk to any of us, any time.  
 We are very approachable  
**Joyously brought to you by:**

**Dan & Juliana Leahy, Leslie Gibbons, Joanna & Bob Vaughan, Leanne Warner, Greg Huynh and Jim Stephenson**

### Sasamat's a'comin'!

**Unitarian Family Camp and Choir Workshop (led by Kathryn Nicholson)**

June 1-3, 2012

Belcarra Regional Park.

Download a brochure and registration form at [www.beaconunitarian.org/sasamat.html](http://www.beaconunitarian.org/sasamat.html)

### NSUC Music Concert Series: Cara Luft

**FRIDAY, FEB. 4TH**  
NSUC Sanctuary

**TIME: 7:30 pm**

(coffee & dessert intermission)

**TICKETS: \$20 per person**  
(to support the artist)



"Make way for Cara Luft before she kicks your door down."

- Terry David Mulligan

# February 2012

**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](http://www.nsuc.ca) for the most up-to-date information.**

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
			3pm Nominating Committee	1pm Discovery Circle	12pm Compassionate Communication	7:30pm Music Concert
			7pm Co-ordinating Council	7pm Choir	FUNdFEST	Bunko Party
			7:30 Task Force on Name	7pm Discovery Circle		
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
10:30am Sunday Service	10am Act in Service	7pm "Cultures & Religions of the North Shore"	7:15pm Discovery Circle	10am Meditation		
12pm Armstrong Reading Group	6:30pm OWL	7pm Armstrong Reading Group		12:30pm Cronies		
5pm YAC	7pm "Harvest the Power"			7pm Choir		
7pm Youth Group	7:30pm Meditation	7:30pm Men's Group				
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
10:30am Sunday Service	7:30pm Meditation	7pm "Cultures & Religions of the North Shore"	7pm Board Meeting	10am Book Club	12pm Compassionate Communication	10am-5pm Women's Clothing Exchange
12pm "Eat, Meet & Write" Homeless Action				7pm Choir		
5pm Potluck						
7pm Talent Show						
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
10:30am Sunday Service	7pm "Harvest the Power"	7pm "Cultures & Religions of the North Shore"		10am Meditation	10am Women's Group	FUNdFEST
12pm Armstrong Reading Group	7:30pm Meditation	7pm Armstrong Reading Group		12:30pm Cronies		Mardi Gras/Carnivale
12:15 Active Democracy Workshop				7pm Choir		
7pm Youth Group						
26	27	28	29	<p><b>The Planned Giving/Endowment presentation on February 22nd has been postponed until March. A new date for the presentation will be confirmed as soon as possible. Thank you for your interest, Gord Latter, Chair, Planned Giving/Endowment Committee</b></p>		
10:30am Sunday Service	10am Act in Service	7pm "Cultures & Religions of the North Shore"				
12:15pm "US Tax Laws for Expats"	7:30pm Meditation					
7pm Youth Group		7:15 Children's RE Committee				

North Shore  
Unitarian Church  
370 Mathers Avenue,  
West Vancouver, BC  
V7S 1H3

Phone: 604-926-1621  
Fax: 866-450-9852  
E-mail: nsuc@telus.net



**We're on the Web!**

[www.nsuc.ca](http://www.nsuc.ca)

## Church Directory Updates

Susan and Barrie Forbes

Corrected:

1004 683 Victoria Park West  
N. Vancouver, BC V3M 0A2

New Phone: 604-971-3086

Karen Cannem new address:

815 Smith Road  
Bowen Island, BC V0N 1G2

Ross and Gaby Harvey new  
address:

103 1176 Falcon Drive  
Coquitlam, BC V3E 2N7

Please see Debbie in the church office if you would like a church directory. The directory is for our church members, RE Parents, and friends. The addresses, phone numbers, and e-mail addresses listed are for use to help facilitate communications within the congregation and not for any unsolicited mailings or e-mails.

## STAFF AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Minister:** The Reverend Stephen Atkinson

**Affiliated Community Minister:**  
The Reverend Arthur Berman

**Lay Chaplains:** Jasha Ramsay-Latter,  
Barbara Moore

**Director of Religious Education:**  
Lynn Sabourin

**Music Director:** Alison Nixon

**Youth Program Coordinator:**  
Samaya Oakley

**Bookkeeper:** Kay Welwood

**Office Administrator:** Debbie Leslie

**Custodian:** Tom Fullerton

**Newsletter:**

Editor: Norma Elrod  
Layout and Production: Debbie Leslie

**Webmaster:** Malcolm Mallory

**Board of Directors:**

President: Don Gayton  
Vice President Congregational: Greg Huynh  
Vice President Denominational: Kathryn Nicholson  
Treasurer: Brian Funt  
Secretary: Brian McConnell  
Members at Large: John Biasucci, Leslie Gibbons,  
Marga Hanna, Sean Kelly