



JANUARY 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

Jan. 4 *Some Things I Learned in India*

Speaker: The Rev. Dr. Phillip Hewett
Co-ordinator: Stephen Atkinson

In September, Phillip Hewett joined five other Canadians in a visit to the Unitarians in India. It was a memorable trip. The ways in which these sharers of our faith have developed a religion deeply rooted in their own culture stimulated his own evolving thinking.

Jan. 11 *Top Ten*

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

Hmmm... top ten what, you may wonder. Come to this more playful service to find out.

Jan. 18 *Church-in-the-Box*

Speaker: The Rev. Stephen Atkinson
Co-ordinator: Vandy Savage

As we move into more detailed planning for a new building, we need foremost to focus on both the dreams and concrete ideas we have about what the congregation, the church that will go in the new 'box', wants to experience and to provide in a new setting.

After this service you can attend the first congregational **Focus Group** on what a new church building will be *for*. How do we imagine using it – for ourselves? For others?

Jan.25 *It Takes a Congregation*

Speaker: Samaya Oakley
Co-ordinators: Lynn Sabourin and Stephen Atkinson

Our Religious Education programs for children and youth work to provide a life-sustaining experience for young people. Let's look at our accomplishments and the variety of challenges we face in creating and maintaining this vital part of our work.

North Shore Unitarian Church Notice of Congregational Meeting

Date: **Sunday, January 25, 2009**

Time: 12:00 p.m.

Location: In the Church Sanctuary

370 Mathers Avenue,
West Vancouver, B.C.

Purpose: To consider and approve the annual budget for 2009

In addition, at the meeting, the Purpose Task Force will update the congregation on its progress toward developing a purpose statement for NSUC.

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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

370 Mathers Avenue
W. Vancouver, BC V7S 1H3
Phone: 604-926-1621
Fax: 1-866-450-9852
E-mail: nsuc@telus.net
website:www.nsuc.ca

From the Minister REVEREND STEPHEN ATKINSON



I've started to open new '2009' folders in my various computer folders. In the old days it would be fresh file covers, but now it's all digital, missing a little bit of the satisfaction that comes with touching new objects, but functioning the same way. In fact, this is one way I traditionally mark the New Year.

Although I've never developed a journaling habit, since my teenage years I've kept lists of certain things at the end of each year: books read, films or plays seen; top five or ten books, films and plays of each year; the best this and that in my point of view. I'd archive the old lists and create new files ready to be filled up by what was to come in the New Year. (Call me obsessive; the label sticks.) Once I computerized my bank records, I needed to create a new file for the current year's accounts and budgets and archive the past year's entries. I've come to enjoy this little New Year's Day ritual of marking the past and preparing for the future.

Nowadays, I also create new folders for 2009 services, sermons, canvass reports, Board minutes and all my church files. With this being only the middle of the church year, it doesn't close a circle in quite the

same way, but it does mark a kind of ending and new beginning.

Life, unfortunately, isn't as organized and digitized as files and records; the old can't be put away so neatly and the present wiped clean so that there's fresh, open room for what's next.

In some of our sibling UU congregations, a ceremony marks this turn of the calendar year during which those attending can write on pieces of paper that which they'd like to release from their past year. These might be sorrowful: letting go of a year's worth of grief about a significant loss, perhaps. Or angry: a resentment about something that happened that year. Or guilty: a wrong done or mistake made. Or even a sacrifice: a letting go of something long wanted that is no longer appropriate or beneficial. These pieces of paper are burned during the ceremony, often right inside the sanctuary.

In the period between the Jewish New Year, Rosh Hashanah, and the Day of Atonement, Yom Kippur, observant Jews seek God's forgiveness of any sins they have committed spiritually, and they also ask to be forgiven by people against whom they have done wrong during the year. On Yom Kippur itself, they pray and fast in hope that the slate of their soul has been cleansed, setting the fate of their approaching year in a fulfilling direction.

We need at times to mark somehow that we are letting go of what has been harmful or useless to us and seeking to renew our lives, setting it in a new direction, refreshed – or at least dusted off. New Year's Resolutions miss the point because they involve personal willpower to behave differently, often backed up by the fantasy that we really want to change; they don't recognize what must be honoured and let go or what is internal that must have

room and time to change. Often it's not willpower that changes us, but an opening we make to welcome new influences.

May you find your way this January to mark the turning of the year and open yourself to the unfolding of your spirit and journey.

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.



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.

President's Message

SUE FORBES



Let the Process Begin...

At our 2008 AGM I noted that the board's major task is to prepare for what's coming *at us*, and to spend less time on day-to-day matters. I'm discovering, perhaps like every president before me, that that's easier said than done!

A church board has to be somewhat "hands on" simply because we don't have a large staff to delegate all our great ideas to. And we can't give forward direction to our staff or committees without doing the hands-on work of developing clear policies and procedures and an "evergreen" strategic plan.

But somehow in the real world of church business, more urgent issues – such as a change in ministry, or an opportunity to sell, or having our trees unexpectedly chopped down –supersede our important planning efforts.

So how do we respond to all the unknowns, plus plan for the future? How do we avoid reinventing the wheel every year? How do we fill people's spiritual tanks without burning everyone out keeping the place running? It's a conundrum.

I think some of the answers will flow from our purpose efforts,

which are starting to crystallize. And as I've written before, our purpose efforts fit well with (what I'll call) the Congregational Development Process (CD Process) being championed by the Healthy Growth Committee¹(Footnotes)

I agree with the Committee that using this CD Process could help us build a strong future. At this stage of my own investigation, two CD Process concepts particularly intrigue me: WelNES and strategic mapping.

WelNES refers to four key church "systems" that have an impact on the health and growth of a congregation: specifically the **Wel**coming, **N**urturing, **E**mpowering, and **S**erving (thus WelNES) systems. These systems profoundly affect both involved members *and* newcomers by permitting entry to, and then deepening of, their church experience. When those four key systems are healthy, a congregation comes alive and grows both numerically *and* spiritually.

Strategic mapping is similar to traditional strategic planning, but the CD Process differentiates between the two. Strategic mapping is less linear and more closely tied to values, mission, and vision. It's a permission-giving process.

Mapping gives a congregation room to adjust as needed to what they call "unexpected feedback from the environment" (of which there seems to be lots these days) while keeping in mind the history and over-arching purpose of the organization. It's a planning tool that could help us fully live our organizational mission while allowing initiatives to "bubble up" from people who have energy and passion around a particular endeavour.

I sense in my gut that these two concepts, and many more from the CD Process, could be extremely useful to NSUC as we chart our course for the future. There might be other processes "out there" that are equally useful, but at this stage in our development, I think we just have to pick one and run with it. I don't think it's as important *what* process we follow as long as we all follow the *same* process.

Healthy Growth has researched and chosen a process that suits our congregation, and I'd like to see the board build on their efforts. To that end, early in 2009 your board and Stephen will be working with the Healthy Growth Committee and others to further investigate the Congregational Development Process. We hope it will help us map strategies for the future that fit with our identity and history, and help us live out our purpose effectively and dynamically. May the process serve us well in 2009 and beyond.

I wish you and yours all the best for the new year.

Sue Forbes, President, NSUC Board of Trustees

¹ This Congregational Development Process is based on a book called *Cracking Your Congregation's Code: Mapping Your Spiritual DNA to Create Your Future* by Richard Southern and Robert Norton, 2001



Adult Religious Education

Coming to a congregation near you...

In collaboration with our neighbour Congregation Har El, the ARE Committee will be sponsoring a free talk by the Artistic Director of City Opera Vancouver. Dr. Charles Barber will be speaking about the BC premiere of their chamber opera production *The Emperor of Atlantis*, illustrated by musical selections. This event will occur on Wednesday, Jan. 21st at 7 p.m. in our sanctuary.

The chamber opera will be performed February 1 (2pm) and February 4, 7, 9 and 11 (8pm), 2009 at The Norman Rothstein Theatre. The performances and talks are co-sponsored by the Vancouver Holocaust Education Centre.

A quotation from the City Opera Vancouver about this production: "While its score survived the Nazis, its creators in Thereisenstadt did not. When the Nazis realized what *Atlantis* was about, they shipped its entire company off to Auschwitz. Only its art remains." For more information, check the website at <http://cityoperavancouver.com>. At press deadline, we are still working to coordinate scheduling of this event with the presenters and Congregation Har El. Watch the Sunday service bulletins, the ARE Board downstairs and church web site for further updates. If anyone would like a ride or can offer a carpool to this event, please sign up on the ARE bulletin board.

ARE Committee members are also putting together a series of presentations to occur in late winter on issues around the end of life. Some of the topic areas we are considering at this stage include a DVD presentation from Fraser Health on "This Is My Voice,"

accompanied by a workbook package that helps people begin the process of thinking through advance care planning. Wanda Morris will again offer her classes on "Planning Your Own Memorial," which requires a minimum of 8 participants. A North Shore representative from the non-profit group NIDUS will give a free talk on a range of tools available to us here in BC to prepare for financial, legal, and health decision-making.

Watch the ARE bulletin board downstairs for more detailed updates and pre-registration sign-up sheets. Your commitment in advance is appreciated so we can plan numbers for hospitality and photocopying.

Marcia Stephenson

Social Responsibility Committee

Meeting: The SRC strives to meet on the third Sunday of the month, after service and soup. New members welcome.

Next meeting: Sunday, January 11, 45 minutes after service, in the Sanctuary.

Sunday Social Outreach

Each Sunday, the collection plate serves as our opportunity to support specific, worthwhile causes. Our November contributions raised a wonderful total of \$2345 for Project HANDS. (Helping and Nurturing Developing Societies), which provides free surgery to indigenous Mayans living in areas where no medical help is available.

Upcoming Outreach Collection: North Shore Lookout Cold Weather Shelter.

Lookout serves homeless men and women throughout Metro Vancouver,

and has a cold weather shelter in North Vancouver, opening November 1 each year. They have several shelters and transition houses throughout Metro Vancouver. On the North Shore, they have 45 shelter beds and 25 units of transition housing which 1,481 individuals on the North Shore last year. Another 107 North Shore residents were sheltered in their 2 Vancouver shelters. *Lookout* provides food, clothing, shelter, job training, counseling, addictions management, life skills classes and individualized professional care. Last year they provided 55,734 bed nights (15,398 on the North Shore). There were 4,956 turnaways (945 on the North Shore, of which 201 were women).

What makes this particular charity a good fit for us?

The 2008 Metro Vancouver Homeless Count revealed a 40% increase in the street homeless since 2005. On the North Shore, there was an increase of 148% (from 63 to 116). Metro Vancouver (including the North Shore) now has the dubious distinction of being the only metropolitan area in Canada with more homeless people on the street than in shelters (the count was done in March; had it been conducted during an extreme weather situation, there would have been additional emergency beds open). The overall numbers (sheltered and not sheltered) increased by 22% over 2005. Clearly, the situation is not improving.

Lookout is one of the major players in providing shelter and transition housing, and is now working to open their first permanent housing units, for people who have significant challenges and are unlikely to be able to transition to full independence. They truly believe in the inherent worth and dignity of all people.

(Continued on page 5)

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Climate Change Café: The next opportunity for groups to attend a climate change café is January 15. 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 our carbon footprint. More information is available on the Social Responsibility board. If interested, or if you have questions, please contact Linda Vance (604-921-4688).

You are Invited to a FOCUS GROUP Moderated by the New Building Task Force

Sunday, January 18, 2009, 12:15pm
after church in the sanctuary
Everyone is welcome.

Please join us to discuss:

Who do we want to be for ourselves?

Who do we want to be for our community?

What purposes and functions do we want our new church facilities to support?

The New Building Task Force continues to *seek input* and explore options to *help the Church plan* for relocating from our current location on Mathers Avenue.

Back in the spring, the Task Force surveyed the congregation to determine what was wished for in a new location, to *help guide the Task Force* as we assess whether any potential sites met the congregation's aspirations for a new home. While there were a range of opinions expressed by the 156 respondents to the survey, there was strong support for finding a visible location easily accessible by transit, a willingness to accommodate community use in our new space, and a willingness

to consider being part of a larger development.

While *the rezoning and sale process for our Mathers property moves forward*, the Facilities Program Subcommittee of the Task Force has been focused on information gathering. To determine what we need and want in our new space, the Subcommittee has been working, and over the next few months will continue to work, with staff and the congregation to help clarify what programs and activities go on in our church building, what other things we would like to be doing, and what kind of space we need to support these activities.

To date, the Subcommittee has interviewed Rev. Stephen Atkinson, Lynn Sabourin, and Debbie Leslie, and over the next few weeks will be interviewing Samaya Oakley, Alison Nixon and Cara Elrod, to determine our staff's needs for the new facility.

On January 18 after the service, we will hold the first of a series of focus groups with members of the congregation to clarify our members' needs and desires for our new space. This first focus group will tackle three fundamental questions:

- *Who do we want to be for ourselves?*
- *Who do we want to be for our community?*
- *What purposes and functions do we want our new church facilities to support?*

Over the months that follow, we will have additional focus groups to examine specific church functions and the spaces we need to accommodate them. These will include focus groups to gather congregants' wishes for the sanctuary, the parish hall, the kitchen, the library, the washrooms, offices, and all other church areas, including the grounds and the

exterior of the building. We will explore the needs of the youth, the music program, the children's program, our committees, and other groups who use our church. We will ask for input on parking, accessibility, aesthetics and green space. In other words, no matter what your concerns are, you will have an opportunity to voice them to the New Building Task Force.

We will notify you, the congregation, of future meetings in the monthly newsletter, on the Church web site, during Sunday announcements and on posted notices in the church, with plenty of opportunities for you to participate in designing our future. We look forward to exciting and motivating times ahead.

Your NBTF Facilities Program Subcommittee; Chair: Roman Czerny, Robyn Newton, Vandy Savage, Mark Mayall, and Liz Calvin.



REMINDER

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2009

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Location: In the Church
Sanctuary

370 Mathers Avenue, West
Vancouver, B.C.

Purpose: To consider and
approve the annual budget
for 2009

In addition, at the meeting, the
Purpose Task Force will update
the congregation on its
progress toward developing a
purpose statement for NSUC.

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 at the December Board meeting.

Our major task this month was to approve the 2009 budget proposal. The congregation's generosity made the process more positive than we might have anticipated considering the pervasive financial gloom. Clearly it's a reflection of the importance of our church in the lives of those we serve.

- The board appreciated the diligence and good management by our financial group, which combined with the hard work and creativity on the part of the canvass team, made the budgeting go smoothly.

- The budget will be finalized at our January board meeting. Our hope is to put forward a balanced budget for a congregational vote at the annual budget meeting on January 25. Please mark your calendars!

- We reviewed the combined board evaluation of Stephen Atkinson's performance in his first year of ministry. Stephen will see the board's evaluation, and we'll see his self-evaluation, before feedback is submitted in January to the Unitarian Universalist Ministerial Fellowship Committee. NSUC's Ministerial Relations Committee will also submit an evaluation.

- We were pleased to hear that the expanded Purpose Task Force is having fun and making progress on developing our purpose statement. They will also explore how we will use our new purpose statement to forward NSUC's mission in the world. That's the

most important part! They'll update the congregation on their progress at the January 25th congregational meeting.

- We heard feedback that Hynes Developments Inc. is looking forward to working with the new municipal council on our rezoning. They were to meet with a senior district planner before Christmas. It was also reported the New Building Task Force is planning a series of focus group over the next several months at which members of the congregation will provide further input to guide the planning and design of our new church facilities.

- We discussed various issues arising from the Minister's report. A priority for Stephen, and indeed for the board and our whole congregation, will be to reinstitute our small group ministry program (Discovery Circles) later in the spring.

- We briefly discussed the difficult balancing act our NSUC board faces trying to be forward looking yet having to deal with many practical day-to-day issues. We hope to do some creative thinking on this in the new year. (See president's column.)

- We had a lovely check out, where several board members spoke about their personal situations – both happy and sad news. Their sharing reminded us (or at least me) that our meetings, and indeed our work together, are enhanced when we know what's happening in each other's lives.

- We ended the meeting with some Christmas goodies and good cheer. The board sends its best wishes to all for 2009.

Sue Forbes, President

Canvass 2009 a Success!

We Three Amigos would like to say "dar las gracias a alguien" to everyone in our congregation. We raised \$225,000 this year — just slightly behind where we were at the end of canvass last year. Considering what has happened in the economy of late we are very pleased.

We want to thank everyone who contributed (time, talent and money) to this successful canvass. We are pleased to report that 25% of those who pledged increased their commitment to the church compared to the previous year, and 8% pledged for the first time this year.

The canvass total has been forwarded to the Board. Based on our projections they will present a budget for a congregational vote on January 25. Although the official Canvass is completed, please feel free to contact any of the amigos if you did not receive a pledge package, or if you are new and would like to contribute in 2009.

Thanks you all for keeping our beloved community in your hearts. We look forward to a great 2009.

Don Gayton, Jim Stephenson,
and Barrie Forbes



Children's Program

COORDINATOR: Lynn Sabourin



Our two Spirit Play classes have had three sessions focusing on creation stories. "The Blessing Seed" is a modern interpretation of the creation story in *Genesis*. "The Spirit of Love and Mystery" that some people call God, rather than punishing Woman and Man for being curious, shows them four paths that they are to travel in life: the paths of wonder (leading to the gift of caring), emptiness (to learning), making/creating, and coming home (to remember that you are part of everything). "The Great Mystery of Creation", a story scientific imagination beginning before there were people on earth, was a version of the Big Bang theory. Expanding this idea a little further was "A Cosmic Creation Story". For the Christmas season, the story "The Miraculously Ordinary Story of a Baby", was the story of the birth of Jesus, simply told.

The Primary class in the "Moral Tales" program continues to explore, through story, different qualities that contribute to living lives of justice and goodness. Treading softly on the earth talked about keeping *balance* in our lives; parachuting cats into Borneo to take care of an imbalance in nature created by misguided men had a

comical aspect to it. In an Indian tale the fate of a bird lies in the hands of a young boy; the emphasis was on making choices that do not harm others, that is, practicing *non-violence*. The children made WWUUD bead bracelets (What Would UU Do?). They worked with a story from Thailand and Burma which told of a queen who saw a problem, but didn't think it was her *responsibility* to solve it until her whole kingdom burned to the ground. What each of us does or doesn't do is important. In another Indian folk tale, "The Dog and the Heartless King", the importance of *fairness* was illustrated. In the kingdom many people are hungry because a greedy king hoards all the food for himself. A huge dog brought in by a visitor, barks continuously until justice is done and all the people are adequately fed.

The Middle and Intermediate classes continue to explore the "Toolbox of Faith". Courage and conviction were represented by a backpack (or saddlebag) and illustrated in the story of Eliza Tupper Wilkes, an itinerant Universalist preacher, who travelled by horseback to minister to different congregations in the mid 1880's. Listening was represented by a stethoscope and a story of James Luther Adams and his efforts to desegregate a Chicago UU church. Taking off the rough edges of life with humour was illustrated with sandpaper and an Islamic tale. Warm protective gloves were the tool to illustrate love and the children heard the Hebrew story of two loving brothers. They made cinnamon hearts to take home for the holiday season.

Thanks to many hands our Gift Making Workshop was a lovely, successful event. While our numbers were smaller, there seemed to be as many smiles as ever as children created gifts for

family and friends. Thank you to Joanna Vaughan, Yvonne Nuss (beeswax candles), Jessica Motherwell, Caitlin McCarten (wax print cards), Marlyse Schmitt (painted wooden mailboxes and snowflakes), Regina Baumann (canvass and acrylic paintings), Gretchen Goode, (glass bead bracelets), Gail Lehman, Elizabeth Cheng (cran-raisin cookie mix), Diane Noble, Andrea Dickson (candy cane mice), Nora Coates (seed art), Denise Gilbert, Anne Dyer (wooden angels), Anne Mayall, Sharon Bowen (denim art), Nina Tyson, Elizabeth Cody-Rutter (tickets), Jill Whitford, Joan Cox (kitchen goddesses), June Scott (sewing), Alejandro Torres Lopez, Leanne, Jaime and Max Warner (set up and clean up). Angels all.

POTLUCK SUPPER JAN 25

Come out of the winter's cold into the warmth of community and join us for a potluck at the church on Sunday January 25, 5-7 pm. Bring a dish and a beverage to share and join in the fun of some cooperative games.



Youth Program

COORDINATOR: Samaya Oakley



A Unitarian Universalist Hero's Journey

For about the last 4 years in January, the Coming of Age group faces a challenging task. In groups of 2 youth and 1 adult, they head off into the Downtown Eastside of Vancouver. They go into the dark of night with a list of things they are to accomplish or get or find – armed only with their attitude, sense of adventure and their one mentor to guide their way and keep them on task. They head off to take a tiny peek into a life that is very different than their own and to come back knowing that they have the resources to go into the unknown and return safe – not the same – but safe and unscathed.

After time I have come to realize that this scavenger hunt is a hero's journey for the parents as well. It's probably one of the first times they know their offspring is in the downtown eastside on their own having to entrust them to the safety of the group. As one who helped to design our congregation's Coming of Age program, watching other people's youth have this experience is very different than knowing it's your own child having this experience! The entire family undergoes a transformation with

this event – begins to look at the world with a different pair of lenses on.

I watch them leave on Friday night as they head out. Some wonder if someone is going to pull a gun on them, others oblivious to what they are about to experience – and still others with a sense of adventure and excitement. They return and their energy fills the room. They are tired, wet (sometimes, really wet!) and hungry. After hot chocolate, warm soup and bread, they can hardly wait to tell each other their stories and to listen to other stories.

As adults we get very used to living our lives pretty much the same way as we did the day before, and the day before that. The lives of youth are constantly changing – sometimes at their choosing and sometimes not. The bell changes and it's time to head off to another class with a different set of people. Friendships change quickly – bodies change at their own pace, sometimes faster than their peers and sometimes slower.

How well do we, as adults, deal with change that we have no control over? Is it something that we greet excitedly or hold back, reaching out tentatively, unsure how to react? As we start this new year in 2009, let's all take a moment to pause and to look on the world with fresh eyes. What do we like? What do we dislike? What are we willing to change? Let's all dare to be uncomfortable, in our own way, to begin to see the world through the eyes of each other in this Beloved Community we all belong to and to be agents for the change we want to see in the world. Now that's a Unitarian Universalist hero's journey to be proud of!

Speaking Peace at NSUC

Catherine Strickland, Good Relations Team Leader

The NSUC Good Relations Team is ready for you! Our purpose is to help members experiencing interpersonal communication challenges to address those challenges in a peaceful and respectful way. The team uses the Compassionate Communication model based on Marshall Rosenberg's Non-violent Communication framework (www.cnvc.org) to provide members with an opportunity to be fully heard and to develop clarity on how they wish to move forward to address their challenge. The NSUC Good Relations Team members are Jenna Jordison, Patti Wall, David Curry and me. Feel free to contact any one of us for support or additional information.

In addition to this resource, NSUC has and will continue to offer training in Compassionate Communication for members who wish to develop their own skills. So far we have had two workshops that were both well attended. As a follow up to the recent workshop, I will be facilitating a practice group starting in January on Wednesday evenings (bi-monthly) at NSUC. There will be a sign up sheet downstairs for members interested in participating. Members new to Compassionate Communication are welcome!

Finally, I discovered an exciting website called UUs Speak Peace (www.uuspeakpeace.org) that supports UUs learning and practicing Compassionate (Nonviolent) Communication and other interpersonal peacemaking skills and approaches. With support from this organization, I hope to offer future workshops and trainings for NSUC members.

Give Peace a Chance!

Bulletin Board

"A Little Sunday Night Music"

North Shore Unitarian Church

Sunday February 1st, 2009

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 THIRD FRIDAY

JANUARY 16, FEBRUARY 20, MARCH 20, APRIL 17, MAY 15, JUNE 19

Attention is Bhuddist. What am I seeing and hearing? How does illusory sight and sound surround, make narrative, or not? An essay or poem? If narrative, what is happening now? Next? Before? What should happen? Why? What are my expectations? What are the determinants? What affects are produced? How? Where do films exist: onscreen or inside the interpreter through the screen of his/her conditioning? How is cinema spiritual and more than illustrated moral lessons or entertainment?

6 P.M. IN THE FIRESIDE ROOM

This spring – Modern French Cinema. For further info call Brett Enemark at 604-984-2503 (or email benemark@shaw.ca)



Volunteer Spotlight

Volunteer Spotlight: Each month we highlight a different volunteer opportunity at the church.

Youth Advisors: It takes a village to raise a child. And yes, this continues on in our lifelong quest for liberal religious learning. The youth group is looking for two part-time advisors. Training and mentoring provided. Ideally, we are looking for one male and one female over the age of 25 that have a good understanding of our faith tradition. Two youth group meetings a month (Sundays from 7-9 pm). For more information, please contact John Duffy, volunteer coordinator, at 604-980-1239.



JANUARY Birthdays

Congratulations to all our lucky NSUC members and friends who have their birthday in January and a BIG happy birthday to you.

4 - Norma Elrod
17 - Ruth Sherwood
25 - Lynn Webster

If you would like to have your birthday added to our list please send it to Merrick at merrick.walsh@gmail.com or phone him at 778-847-6377

Notices & Events

Artarians

The Artarians will continue displaying their latest creations in the Sanctuary until the end of January. Joining us in our current show is the Vancouver contemporary artist Marilyn Mylrea: <http://www.marilynmylrea.com> (Diane Mylrea's sister). The Artarian show will conclude with a service by the Artarians and Marilyn on February 1st.

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



Directory Updates

Marlyse Schmitt new address:
3635 Creery Ave, West
Vancouver V7V 2M3

Oliver Schulte: new address:
404 – 9191 University Crescent,
Burnaby V5A 0A1

Andrea Tylczak: new address:
#903 – 680 Clarkson St., New
Westminster V3M 6X9

Eitan & Meghan Sharir: new
address: 1296 Haywood Ave.,
West Vancouver V7T 1V1

Book Club

Thursday, Jan 15th at 10am in the Fireside Room. The Book Club will be discussing *The Book Against God* by James Wood. Anyone who has read the book and would like to join the discussion is welcome.

Library News – Read On

Our Used Book Sale to benefit Library and Church will take place after the service on Sundays, February 1st and 8th. Tell your friends and family. Please bring in your saleable books, magazines of lasting value, CDs, DVDs and Videos. Deliver to library workroom in boxes not too heavy to handle. No old textbooks or encyclopedias, please!

The books we added to our library recently are: "The Last Wild Wolves" by I. McAllister, donated by M. Walsh; "A Thousand Splendid Suns" by K. Hosseini, donated by J. Ramsay-Latter; "In Defence of Food" by M. Pollan, donated by B. Grice; "Sacred Literature of the World" by E. Easwaram, donated by M. Currie; "Common Ground" by L. Freeman, "A Mindful Way" by J. Seward-Magee; "Walk in a Relaxed Manner" by J. Rupp; "Eat, Pray, Love" by E. Gilbert; "Real Boys" by W. Pollack; and "World Changing" by A. Steffen. We thank our generous donors.

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

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satkinson@nsuc.ca

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Office Hours: 9:30am-3 pm
Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri.

Newsletter:

Editor: Brett Enemark
Layout/graphics: Janell Hilton
Production: Debbie Leslie