



10am - 2pm Sat. April 13th

Help reduce waste AND raise funds to support our Butterfly Garden while clearing out clothing you no longer need or wear!

How You Can Help:

Donate Items

Bring the following items (clean and in good condition) to church March 8th through April 12th:

- Men's clothing
- Women's clothing
- Children's clothing
- Accessories
- Shoes
- Jewelry
- Halloween costumes

Leave them in the vacant staff office. (A volunteer will move them offsite until the swap setup).

Attend the Swap

On April 13th, \$20 gets you in the door — and then you can take home as many items as you want!

Bring friends (and bags to carry home your finds).

Volunteer

We need volunteers to help with set-up and clean-up.

If you can help, please contact [Jean Prescott](#) or [Janni in the Church Office](#).

Proceeds

Proceeds for this event will help support our Environmental Action Team's [Butterfly Garden Project](#).

Leftovers

Leftover items will be donated to a local charity.



Nominate a Volunteer Now through April 30th

We appreciate our volunteers! Each Spring, we collect nominations for our annual Volunteer Appreciation Awards. Nominate an outstanding volunteer [online](#) or use the paper forms on the foyer table by April 30th. We will recognize this year's outstanding volunteers during our last service in June.

AGM

Annual General Meeting 12:30pm Sunday, May 26th

Members, please mark your calendars now for our 2024 Annual General Meeting, which will be held after the Sunday Service on May 26th. Notice Packets will be distributed on May 15th.

Although anyone may attend, only Members who meet Bylaw requirements may vote at the meeting.

From Our Board President



Barrie Forbes

president@northshoreunitarians.ca

NSUC's Board has been working together for 9 months and much has been accomplished. This is the finest group I have had the pleasure of working with and many are doing double duty by leading other initiatives. I want to highlight just some of the contributions of each of the Board members.

Rebecca Lindley (Vice President) leads the Sunday Services Team, which has delivered inspiring, challenging and spiritual services on Sundays (25 to date) — some of which Rebecca personally led. This is a herculean task and we must thank Rebecca and her team. She also brought together representatives from the 5 Unitarian congregations in the Lower Mainland to exchange experiences and discuss opportunities for the future. This was so successful we are planning another meeting in May at UCV. Rebecca has been relentless in cleaning up the building and is a liaison to the youth group advisors.

Brian Funt (Treasurer) was instrumental in delivering a balanced budget for 2024. As the longest-serving member on the Board, he did a marvelous job of explaining our finances at the budget meeting in January.

Leslie Gibbons (Secretary) keeps us on track producing accurate minutes that are distributed at the speed of light. She Chaired the Cares and Concerns team until Shirley McDonald and Julia Covell took that on. Leslie has led some fabulous Sunday Services, and encourages people to provide FundFest offerings. With Marga Hanna, she manages the Congregational Discretionary Fund.

Liz Moffitt (Member-at-Large) schedules Ushers/Greeters and helps new people feel welcomed. She is the perfect person for this role, as she is always “up” and interested in what is happening in people's lives.

Marga Hanna (Member-at-Large) is working with Leslie to manage the Congregational Discretionary Fund. She also is looking to do adult spiritual development programs under the Heart, Mind Spirit umbrella.

Brian Welwood (Member-at-Large) handles everything building & grounds. Brian, Barb Kroon, Brian McConnell and Bob Vaughan developed a Capital Replacement Plan that looks at our facilities and the capital costs required for our existing building. In addition, Brian is the institutional memory for all things financial.

Barb Kroon (Member-at-Large) Chairs the HR Committee. She works hard to ensure our staff is being fairly treated from a compensation perspective. She is also part of the team that developed the Capital Replacement Plan. Barb has a keen interest in our environmental efforts and with her team selects the monthly Outreach recipients.

Elain Duvall (Member-at-Large) led our very successful Stewardship campaign this fall. In addition, she prepared the Bylaw changes that were successfully adopted at the budget meeting. She works closely with the CUC Representatives to be sure we are well represented at the National level.

We still have much to accomplish in the remaining 3 months. The Board conducted a day-long retreat in February, looking at where we go from here. We've developed creative and unique ideas that fit our current congregation. We plan to hold meetings with the congregation to gather input and suggestions on our future direction. Following that, we will take the results to the AGM in May. After approval, our direction and strategic priorities will be set for a September launch. It is amazing how quickly time flies when you are having fun!



A picture from our visioning retreat in mid-February

Accomplishments

10

Ten Things You Need to Know about Life at NSUC

Our congregation has been very busy this past quarter. In case you've missed anything, here's a partial list of some of the recent and coming-soon happenings. My apologies for anything I've missed.

~ Barrie Forbes, Board President

SERVICES – March 3rd marks the 25th Sunday service this church year! We have covered a wide range of topics from conversations with an award-winning author to presentations from Dying with Dignity. The Sunday Service Team has done a wonderful job preparing and delivering outstanding services that are attracting new people. Thank you all!

MINISTERS IN THE PULPIT – Reverend Anne Barker (the Canadian Unitarian Council's Congregational Life Lead for our area) and Reverend Barbara Gilday (a Unitarian Universalist minister from Bellingham, WA) preached back-to-back Sundays in February.

2024 BUDGET – A balanced budget was approved by the congregation in late January. Thanks to all who gave generously to the stewardship campaign.

SPIRIT PLAY SUPPLIES – Duplicate Spirit Play and OWL resources were sorted and loaned to Unitarian Universalists of the Salish Sea.

SOCIAL JUSTICE – The North Vancouver Women's Resource Centre has been chosen as the group we will work with as our social justice effort. Thank you to Alison Nixon and the Social Justice team for developing an action plan.

CUC AGM DELEGATES – Linda Vance and Jim Stephenson have agreed to be our representatives at the CUC AGM in May. Please contact them if you have any suggestions.

BOARD MEETING ATTENDANCE – thank you for attending the Board meetings! We have several people attending meetings by Zoom and in person. (You're all invited to attend — watch the eBulletin for details).

CASSEROLE LUNCH - Dianne Hicks will offer a casserole lunch once a month in addition to the soup and sandwich lunches she provides 2 Sundays a month. Special thanks to Dianne.

NEW YEAR'S EVE BRUNCH -- We had good attendance at the social event on Sunday morning December 31. It was a great way to connect with congregants in an informal way.

CHILDREN'S CHOIR – Alison is forming a children's choir that will perform at our Easter service. Children ages 5 to 10 are welcome to rehearse after church on the 3 Sundays in March starting March 10th.

THANK YOU!

Generally, thanks to EVERYONE who participates in this community of good people and who aspire to make the world a better place – one step at a time. May all who come belong with heart, act in service and thrive in spirit.

Environmental Action Team



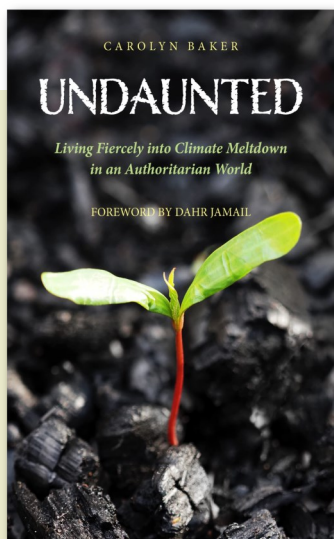
Environmental Action Team

Our Environmental Action Team came together in late 2020 to learn more about the climate emergency and to support each other in taking action on environmental issues. Everyone is welcome to join our ongoing activities.

Contact Janni in the Office if you'd like to receive our monthly email message listing ways to support climate-friendly policies up for debate at the municipal, provincial and national levels — or to receive a call back from anyone on our team about the initiatives described here.

~ Marcia Stephenson

Chair of Environmental Action Team



Metro Vancouver Climate Sharing Circle

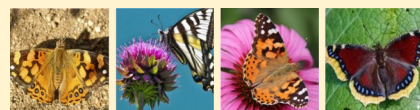
Our Environmental Action Team invites you to join the **Metro Vancouver Climate Sharing Circle**, which meets by Zoom at 10am on the first Saturday of each month. At the meeting on April 6th, the group will discuss *Undaunted* by Carolyn Baker. Participants may read the book or watch one of the YouTube interviews with the author in advance. May's featured book will be determined soon.

Get the Zoom link from our eBulletin, Marcia Stephenson, or Janni in the Church Office.

Climate Change Reading Circle

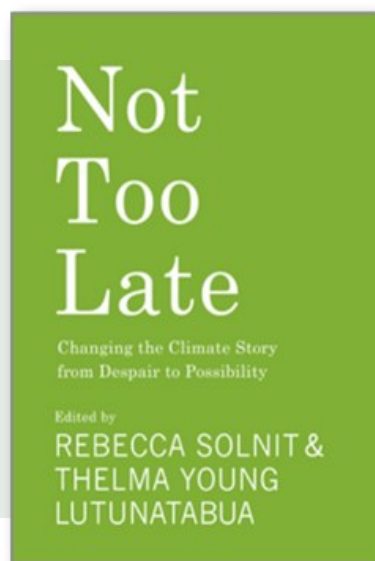
An in-person reading circle has been formed to discuss the 2023 anthology *Not Too Late*, edited by Rebecca Solnit and Thelma Young-Lutunatabua. It's "not too late" to join our group meeting in the Fireside Area on first and third Monday of each month from 1 to 3 pm. Contact Marcia Stephenson or the Church Office for more information.

See the study guide and related articles at <https://www.nottoolateclimate.com/>.



Butterfly Garden Updates

Work parties in our butterfly garden will be announced later this Spring, once nighttime temperatures have reached an optimal level for turning the mulch and preparing parts of the bed for replanting. Watch the eBulletin for details.





Reducing Plastic Pollution

At a team brainstorming session in September 2023, participants chose the issue of plastic pollution as one of two priorities for the year. In January, our team held a discussion about the environmental cost of synthetic fabrics after

screening a CBC documentary on the topic after church. We've posted a few articles on our bulletin board downstairs about the impact of fast fashion on our planet. [Click HERE](#) to view resources online. Watch the videos listed below and [on our website](#) for more info:

- **CBC Planet Wonder Episode 8**, June 29, 2023, hosted by Johanna Wagstaffe: *How is going back to natural fabrics the way to be fashion forward?*
- **CBC What on Earth?** December 21, 2023: *How to Resist Fashion Over-Consumption and Still Dress Well.*

By getting involved in our Clothing Swap on April 13th (details on Page 1 of this newsletter), you can help keep wearable garments out of the landfill. According to recent research supported by [Ocean Wise](#), our Outreach partner for April, changing a few settings on your laundry cycle can go a long way to prevent synthetic microfibers from polluting our local waters.



Earth Day Service

At a special service for Earth Day on April 21st, we'll host Carla Pellegrini from [Food Stash](#), another Outreach partner. Carla will guide us in exploring ways we can join forces with others in our community to slow down drivers of climate change and redistribute resources that would otherwise be wasted.



F O O D
S T A S H
F O U N D A T I O N

Our Other Priority: Improving Sustainability on NSUC Property

A second priority from our September meeting was to investigate ways to improve sustainability in our own church buildings and on our grounds.

Extreme weather caused by climate change poses new risks in our neighbourhoods. Watch your Friday ebulletins for future info sessions on the topic of fire resiliency and adaptive measures.



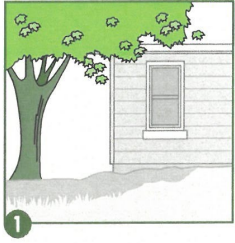
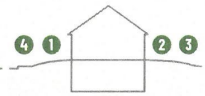
See a [graphic on the subject from University of Waterloo](#) on the next page of this newsletter).

THREE WAYS TO REDUCE CLIMATE RISK WORKING WITH NATURE AT HOME

HEAT AND FLOOD PROTECTION For areas not at risk of wildfire

Complete simple upgrades

Do-it-yourself, for under \$250



1 Maintain existing shade trees.



2 Grow plants climbing up your walls.



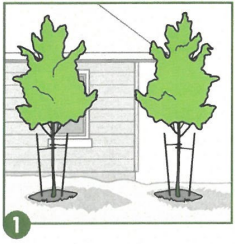
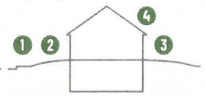
3 Green your balcony or deck with potted or hanging plants.



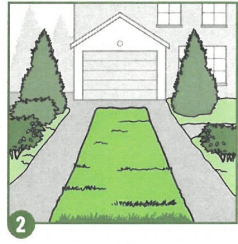
4 Join or start a community greening program.

Complete more complex upgrades

Work with a contractor, for over \$250



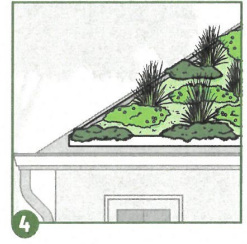
1 Plant new shade trees, along south, east, and west facing walls.



2 Convert paved areas to vegetation which absorbs less heat and more water.



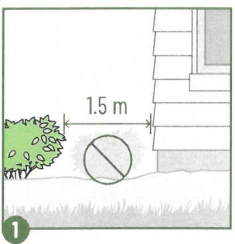
3 Install a rain garden to collect stormwater (at least 5 m from the foundation).



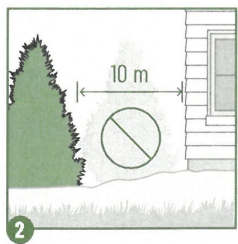
4 Install a green (vegetated) roof.

Note: Seek local advice on appropriate native species that will tolerate future climate conditions, and, in places at risk of wildfire, consider the FireSmart™ guidance below.

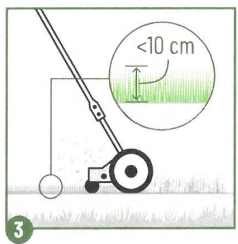
WILDFIRE PROTECTION For areas at risk of wildfire



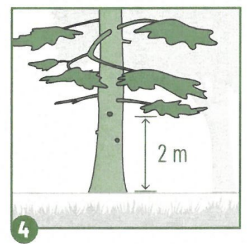
1 Remove all combustible ground cover (mulch and plants) within 1.5 m of the house perimeter.



2 Remove conifer trees that are within 10 m of the house.



3 Mow the lawn to <10 cm and plant low-growing, well-spaced shrubs and other fire-resistant plants.



4 Prune trees to create a 2 m clearance from the ground to the lowest tree branches.

Note: Not all actions will be applicable to each home. Completing these steps does not guarantee the prevention of fire.

INTACT CENTRE
ON CLIMATE ADAPTATION



Scan the code or click the link for additional resources at www.intactcentre.ca



WELCOME Team

News from the Welcome & Hospitality Teams

Many thanks to our wonderful team of Greeters and Ushers, who have been a consistent and friendly presence every Sunday morning. You'll notice that we now have coffee and tea available upstairs before and during the service, and the feedback has been very positive so far!

Downstairs Dianne Hicks, assisted by Annabelle Coward, continues providing soups and sandwiches a couple of Sundays per month, and there's talk of casseroles appearing on some Sundays in addition.

We look forward to welcoming you soon again and are always open to receiving your comments and suggestions.

~ Liz Moffitt
Board Liaison

for Welcoming & Hospitality Teams



New-ish to Our Church? Welcome!

Several Sundays each month, we invite people who are new-ish to our church to stop by our new "Welcome Table" for coffee or tea. Board members will be there to informally chat, share, and answer questions you may have about us. Look for us at a table with a white tablecloth.

~ Liz Moffitt



Spring Church Office Closures

Our Church Office will be closed on the following stat holidays:

Friday, March 29th
(Good Friday)

Monday, May 20th
(Victoria Day)



Cares & Concerns Team

Our Cares & Concerns Team provides support and encouragement (and sometimes practical help, too) to those who are dealing with illness, surgery, death of a loved one, and other needs. If you are aware of someone who needs their support, please reach out to either [Shirley Macdonald](#) or [Julia Covell](#) (the new Co-Chairs of the Cares & Concerns Team), or [Janni in the Church Office](#). If you're interested in helping on the Cares and Concerns Team, please let Shirley or Julia know.

~ Shirley Macdonald & Julia Covell,
Co-Chairs



Recent Outreach Collections

Each Sunday, 100% of our offering plate donations, unless otherwise marked, are given to the monthly Outreach Recipient. Here's a list of recent Outreach collections:

NOVEMBER: \$1,553 for [Food Stash Foundation](#)

DECEMBER: \$1,323 for the Congregational Support Fund (formerly, Pastoral Discretionary Fund).

JANUARY: \$1,360 [Lookout Housing and Health Services](#)

FEBRUARY: \$512 for [Dying with Dignity](#) (Feb. 4th only) and \$1,079 for [North Shore Crisis Services Society](#) during the rest of the month.

Upcoming Outreach Recipients:

MARCH:

[Hollyburn Community Services Society](#) offers a wide range of services that support youth who are experiencing barriers to successfully transition to adulthood. Their program includes emergency services, transitional housing, employment, work experience, and life and social skill development.



APRIL:

[Oceanwise Conservation Association](#), a



global organization focused on protecting and restoring our world's oceans. In addition to cleaning shorelines and connecting people with nature, the Ocean Wise Shoreline Cleanups collect data that helps address waste at its source.

MAY:

[Wild Bird Trust of BC](#). Maplewood Flats was



designated as a conservation area in 1993, with the site being managed by the Wild Bird Trust. Their mission is providing wild birds with sanctuary through ecological protection and restoration, as well as to support communities with education, culture, and reconciliation programs.



Art Team

Please enjoy our ongoing "Figure, Fauna, Flora" original art display in the Sanctuary and the Fireside Room. A part of the proceeds helps support NSUC.

Art connects us. From art on canvas, dance, choir, concerts and theatre, to inspired writing — these all give us a glimpse into how others walk the world, and why.

Much gratitude to all NSUC members, friends and visitors for your generosity and participation.

~ Inga Puhmann, Art Team Coordinator



Hire-A-Member Directory

Have you seen the new Hire-A-Member Directory on our website? (www.northshoreunitarians.ca/hire-a-member).

Here, we list businesses and services offered by staff and congregants. Pet sitting, piano lessons, piano tuning, real estate, and a variety of other services are already listed there — but there’s plenty of room to add additional contacts!

If you want to offer your service to the congregation on this page, please contact [Janni in the Church Office](#). There is no charge for adding your listing to this Directory.

Volunteer Needed for Grocery Receipt Program

We are looking for a new Volunteer to manage our Grocery Receipt Program, which raises “free money” for the church. If you’re curious about what’s involved and are willing to learn more, please contact [Janni in the Church Office](#).



Nominating Committee

At our Annual General Meeting in May, we’ll be electing a new Board of Trustees, and giving thought more generally to church leadership in the coming year.

There will be some vacancies to fill, as some Board members’ terms will conclude at the

AGM. Your Nominating Committee would like Members to think about whether they have the time, energy, and/or interest in joining the

Board. Serving in a leadership role is a meaningful way to support the life of the church.

Current Board Members have been working hard in this year of transition, but each

“SERVING
IN A LEADERSHIP ROLE
IS A MEANINGFUL WAY
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THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH.”

year, there is a need for “new blood,” to create continuity as some members cycle out.

You are absolutely welcome to nominate yourself! Or you can suggest names of other Members you think would be strong candidates. Nominations for the Nominating Committee itself are also being accepted.

All suggestions are welcome and will be received in confidence.

It’s an important time in the life of this congregation. If you have thought about getting more involved in the leadership of the church, helping ease the load on the diligent volunteers who are presently carrying the water, perhaps now is the time to give it serious consideration. Thank you!

~Marcia Stephenson & Bruce Grierson,
Nominating Committee



Library news



Seeking a Volunteer Librarian

Are you willing to volunteer as our church’s librarian? Contact [Marga Hanna](#) or [Janni in the Church Office](#) to learn more.



Unitarian Universalist congregations affirm and promote these eight Principles:

- The inherent worth and dignity of every person;
- Justice, equity, and compassion in human relations;
- Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations;
- A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;
- The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large;
- The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all;
- Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part;
- Individual and communal action that accountably dismantles racism and systemic barriers to full inclusion in ourselves and our institutions.



Watch past services on our YouTube channel:

1. Go to our YouTube Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/@NorthShoreUnitarian/videos>
2. Click on the video you want to watch. (If you don't see it listed, click on the "Live" Tab or check with the Church Office.)
3. Enjoy!



North Shore Unitarians
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 Phone: 604-926-1621
 Website: northshoreunitarians.ca
 Email: info@northshoreunitarians.ca
 Facebook:
<https://www.facebook.com/NorthShoreUUCanada/>

... meeting on the traditional and unceded territories of the Squamish, Tseil-Waututh and Musqueam Nations.

OFFICE HOURS Most Mondays-
 Thursdays
 7am to 2pm
 (Janni works from home on Fridays but is still available by phone and email those days).

STAFF AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES

- Affiliated Community Minister:** [Rev. Arthur Berman](#)
Lay Chaplain: [Barb Moore](#)
Sunday Facilities Coordinator: Annabelle Coward
Music Director: [Alison Nixon](#)
Accompanist: Catherine Tseng
Church Administrator: [Janni Kretlow](#)
Facility Rental Coordinator: [Dianne Hicks](#)
Financial Administrator: Anna Biesiada-Panas
Custodian: Tom Fullerton
Board of Trustees:

- [Barrie Forbes](#), President
 Rebecca Lindley, Vice President
[Brian Funt](#), Treasurer
[Leslie Gibbons](#), Secretary
 Elain Duvall, Member at Large
 Marga Hanna, Member at Large
 Barb Kroon, Member at Large
 Liz Moffitt, Member at Large
 Brian Welwood, Member at Large



We actively welcome all genders, gender identities, and sexual orientations in our faith community.