



Installation Service for Rev. Ron Phares 2pm on May 30th

The Installation for Rev. Ron Phares is planned for 2pm on May 30th. An Installation is a big deal in the life of the church and the Minister. Installation ceremonies are both a service of worship and a celebration. It is an opportunity to recognize Ron as our settled minister and to present him and our church to a wider community.

We hope you plan to celebrate this day as we affirm our bond with our new minister, his family, and the important people in Ron's UU life.

The Installation Ceremony will be held at the West Vancouver Baptist Church (a block from our church),



with a reception immediately following in our church's Sanctuary and Fireside Room. Park your vehicle at either location. Transportation will be provided between venues, for those who are not comfortable walking).

RSVP [HERE](#) to let us know you're coming, and sign up to help [HERE](#) to help make this a memorable event.

~ Judith Radford,
Installation Team Leader

2020 FundFest



Annual Auction 5pm Saturday April 25th in the Fireside Room

Our annual FundFest auction is the church's main fundraiser (other than our Stewardship campaign). Church members and friends donate goods, services, and events to the auction ahead of time.

On auction night, guests enjoy a delicious meal, followed by a fun evening of entertainment and bidding. Please **SAVE THE DATE** (April 25th) and read more about this important event on page 4 of this newsletter.

Also watch upcoming eBulletins for more information about how you can help make this year's auction a smashing success!

AGM

Annual General Meeting 12:15pm Sunday, June 7th in the Sanctuary

Although anyone may attend our AGM, only members who meet our Bylaw requirements may vote at the meeting.

From Our Minister



Rev. Ron Phares
rev.phares@northshoreunitarians.ca

It is such a blessing to be engaged in this spiritual community. But you knew that already. You've felt it, and have been feeling it since long before I arrived. Our mission is to encourage one another to live with greater depth, meaning, and purpose. That feels real. That feels like more than just saying so. Of course, greater is *greater*. Our mission is not to encourage one another to live with the *same* depth, meaning, and purpose that we have today.

So you may ask yourself how to access that greater state. Do you engage in justice work? Do you start coming to Integration Circle or join a Soul Matters group? Do you volunteer for something at church that you never have before? Do you resist volunteering for the same thing you've been volunteering for years? Do you adopt a new spiritual practice? Will you join the minister for a splash into Thirty Foot Pool. Organic baptism, that.

One thing I can say with some clarity is that depth, meaning, and purpose is fostered by connection. This spring there are opportunities to connect to our community and our tradition as we design, execute, and celebrate the Installation of the ministry of yours truly at North Shore Unitarian. It turns out that that NSUC doesn't do half measures.

That means the Installation is going to be quite a to do! And there's lots to get done, and lots of folks to get to know in the doing.

“ONE THING I CAN SAY
 WITH SOME CLARITY
 IS THAT DEPTH, MEANING,
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Not long before the Installation is our FundFest auction, which is not only critical to the financial well being of NSUC, but also a whale of a good time (I'm told) that leads to opportunities for many other

enriching and fun experiences. Not only that, but Ryan Gunther has agreed to be the auctioneer. So connect with your funny bone and bid big (greater?)!

It's a big spring, to be sure. But the sun is coming back to warm our faces and give us some good energy. I am so pleased to have joined you on this congregational adventure of the spirit.

Blessings,
 Rev. Ron Phares



Holiday Office Closures: April 10th & May 18th

The Church Office will be closed on Friday, April 10th (Good Friday), and Monday, May 18th (Victoria Day).

Our Quarterly Newsletter Schedule



<u>Edition:</u>	<u>Covers These Months:</u>	<u>Due Date for Articles:</u>
Summer	June-August	May 15 th
Fall	September-November	August 15 th
Winter	December-February	November 15 th
Spring	March-May	February 15 th

From Our Board President



Jim Stephenson, Board President
president@northshoreunitarians.ca

As late Winter days lengthen, a new crop of North Shore Unitarian events begin to pop up into view. It's going to be a busy Spring!

As I write, I'm still in wrap-up mode after co-hosting *Masked Hysteria* on Saturday night. First offered at FUNdFEST in 2012 and 2013, the organizers brought it back for a final appearance on February 15th. To commemorate its illustrious past, ten former members of NSUC joined the party as special mystery guests or masked hosts. We also featured our choir section leaders, Diana Diaz and Pavol Simoncic, in a concert of Italian solos and duets, accompanied by Toby Aldren at the piano. In the Fireside Area, transformed into Venice by the magic of painted scenery, guests enjoyed a festive meal followed by birthday cake and a Toast 'N Roast of some old guy.

This year's FUNdFEST auction night is set for Saturday, April 25th. An important annual fundraiser for NSUC's operating budget, FUNd-

FEST is also a great party with good food and lots of laughs. This year's auctioneer is our own comedian Ryan Guenther and Dianne Hicks has signed on as head chef. Participants bid on tickets to future gatherings and services offered by fellow congregants, events which provide entertainment and create community throughout the year (see page 4 for examples). In the past, a shifting cast of characters has helped to organize FUNdFEST, but 2020 is a transition year, as the leadership team of Andrea Fast, Brian McConnell, and Lesley Gibbons have stepped down after many years of service. If you are willing to help guide FUNdFEST into a new decade, as a leader on the advance team or as a volunteer on the day, please contact [Sunny Wachowski](#) or the [Church Office](#). I will continue in my role as computer accounting geek. One month later, on May 30th, we will formally install Rev. Ron as our new Minister. The service will take place almost next door in the sanctuary of the West Vancouver Baptist Church. After the ceremony, we'll parade back along Mathers Avenue to our own building for the after-party. If you would like to help with this event, please contact [Judith Radford](#). Links to an RSVP form with

options for volunteering will soon be available in the Friday eBulletins. I'm already looking forward to the afternoon reception and the DANCE.

On Sunday June 7th, at our AGM, we'll conduct the official business of the church, elect some new Board members, and celebrate the accomplishments of the year.

Just after this newsletter is published, on Saturday, February 29th, we'll gather for the Start-up Workshop with our new minister. Joan Carolyn of the CUC will facilitate. This is a chance to help set our future direction with Ron and to update our strategic plan. Take a leap (year) of faith into our future and join me there.

~ Jim Stephenson



Jim and several Masked Hysteria co-hosts disposing of party leftovers

FundFest Dinner & Auction: 5-9pm on Saturday, April 25th

How FundFest Works

- Members and friends of NSUC offer to host social events, donate treasures or share particular talents on a date or dates throughout the year.
- These donations are presented at the live and silent auction where they are purchased by attendees or absentee bidders.
- Purchasers get a great concert, party, meal, experience, item, skill or service. In the process we get to know each other better and connect more deeply.
- 100% of FundFest income goes to NSUC.
- Donors get tax receipts for the dollar amount their donations bring in.

Basics

- Tickets available in mid March.
- On the night of our FundFest auction, ticket holders will enjoy a delicious light meal and cash bar, and participate in the Live and Silent Auctions.
- Newcomers to FundFest will get a \$50 Certificate towards their purchases.
- Free onsite child care is provided. (Please tell us the ages of children when you purchase tickets).

Details

- During the auction, our skilled auctioneers lead you through the paddled but very inclusive bidding.
- Our team of tech wizards keeps track of who buys what.
- Donors get a list of what they sold and who bought each item.
- Donors get a tax receipt at the end of the year for their donations to the FundFest auction.
- Purchasers get a list of what they bought and from whom.
- FundFest brings our community together for great events all year long while also giving us the opportunity to participate in the spiritual practice of generosity. It's our biggest revenue source after pledges and rental income.

A Call for Donations

We need donations! Between now and mid April, email or phone Janni with a description of your donations of events, treasures and talents or use the [online form](#). (Donations will be vetted by the FundFest Team before being accepted).

2020 FundFest



Donations Ideas

Here are some of the big events from previous years: TED Talks at NSUC, a catered film series, stand-up comedy, concerts, delicious meals and food experiences, games nights, plus fun and useful workshops of all sorts. Every year the community surprises us with some new and wonderful events!

For your first time, you may want to just attend the auction and make a few purchases. But feel free to make/ organize/ create a donation as well. It's easy to do, especially if you involve others.

Stay Tuned!

In the weeks to come, you'll be hearing more about this year's auction. Mark the April 25th date on your calendar. It's a great way to get connected to others here!

You may also want to volunteer for one of the many support positions that help make this auction possible. Contact [Sunny Wachowski](#) or [Janni Kretlow](#) in the Church Office if you can volunteer at this event, or if you have any questions.

heart mind spirit

Adult
Religious
Education

Catherine Strickland's THRR group (Truth, Healing and Reconciliation) has had an incredible impact, building awareness of the effects of colonialism on our aboriginal neighbours. Judith Gordon's discussions on the environment continue, and John Slattery's "Philosopher's Café" offers the opportunity to deepen our understanding on a variety of topics.

~ Marga Hanna, Team Leader

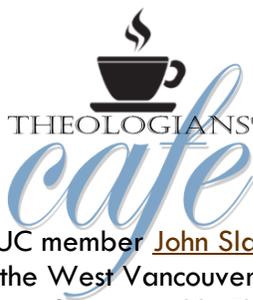
Our team has been supporting or is involved in running many programs that foster spiritual growth and awareness. "Soul Matters" groups are ongoing and deeply meaningful, prompting personal growth and self-understanding.



Soul Matters

"Soul Matters" is a small group ministry program that uses carefully chosen UU resources, exercises, and questions to inspire soulful inquiry and reflection on universally common themes. Each month, we focus on a new topic.

Upcoming themes are: **Wisdom** (March), **Liberation** (April), and **Thresholds** (May). Group discussions are immensely heartwarming and rich for participants. Some people use the monthly theme packets for self-study, while others use them for group discussions. Printed copies of current packets are available on the foyer table, or you can access the packets online using the link provided in each eBulletin. A new group is forming — and all are welcome! To facilitate or participate in a group, contact the [Church Office](#) or Anne Mayall, the Soul Matters Coordinator at 778-686-3643 or annemayall51@gmail.com.



Join NSUC member [John Slattery](#) at 1pm at the West Vancouver Seniors' Centre for a monthly Theologians' Café discussion. Upcoming dates are March 12th (Religion and Art), April 9th (An Easter Question: Who Was Jesus?), and May 14th (The Underpinnings of Belief and non-Belief).

Circle Dinners

The Circle Dinner Tradition nurtures our community by combining familiar and new acquaintances in small, informal groups over a potluck meal and fellowship in individual's homes. (Special dietary needs are accommodated).

Dinners are usually held on a Saturday each month. Our spring dates are March 28th, April 18th, and May 23rd (locations and start times vary from host to host). Contact Joy Silver (odetojoy@telus.com or 604-941-2606) to participate as a host or guest, or sign up on the sheet in the stairwell.

Pitch Party Noon Sunday, May 3rd

Got ideas about a course, program, or workshop you could offer -- or would like to attend -- or that NSUC needs to consider? Bring your ideas to this "Pitch Party" in the Sanctuary, hosted by our Heart, Mind, Spirit Team. Questions? Contact [Pat Brand](#).



Lunch Bunch

We meet on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of the Month in the Fireside Room.

Upcoming dates: March 12th & 26th, April 9th & 23rd, and May 14th & 28th. We begin at 12:30pm and usually finish around 2pm. Pack a bagged lunch and join us for conversation and tea. Call Joanna at 604-904-9535 if you need a ride or have questions.





Accepting Volunteer Award Nominations

March 1st—April 5th

We appreciate our many volunteers who help with the work of our church. Each year, we welcome nominations for our Service Awards, which recognize outstanding volunteers who have offered exemplary service in the past or

present. Between March 1st to April 5th, please fill out the online or paper forms ([HERE](#) or on the foyer table) to nominate the volunteers you think deserve recognition. Rev. Ron and staff will determine the award recipients from among the nominations. The awards will be presented in the service on Sunday, May 24th.



Stewardship Team Updates

The Stewardship Team is renewing its leadership. Mark Pezarro (outgoing Team Lead) and Ian Shearer (outgoing Deputy Team Lead) are passing the torch to Jonathan Fountain (incoming Team Lead) and Karen Epp (incoming Deputy Team Lead). The official transition will take place at the June 7th AGM. In the meanwhile, the four of us, along with the Steward Team Leads, have green (yes, the colour of money) nametags, so you can spot us easily at church.

Jonathan is looking for one or two volunteers to join the Stewardship Team. Please speak to him after Church or email him at jonathanfountain@gmail.com with questions or to join his team.

Finally, my heartfelt thanks to the amazing Stewardship Team, the Stewards, and all of you who contributed so generously to make this year's campaign the most successful ever with a final tally of 143 pledges totalling \$261,288. For those who like numbers, this is 1.7% more than last year's total of \$256,889.

With deepest gratitude,
Mark Pezarro
Treasurer &
Outgoing Stewardship
Team Lead

Cares & Concerns Team



Our Team has been busy making calls to those who are feeling out of touch, visiting those who can't attend church, and sending support for those who are in need. At times we can offer transportation to and from church, medical visits, and other appointments. We try to be aware of those among us who need extra support or are in vulnerable situations. If you know someone who is needing additional support that we can offer practical assistance to, please contact our Co-Chairs: [Barb Kroon](#) and [Jean Prescott](#) (604-924-6006).



Grocery Receipt Program

City Market and IGA Dundarave both participate in our Grocery Receipt Program. For each \$5,000 worth of their receipts, these stores give us gift cards that Nora Coates converts into cash donations to the church. Since 1999, this program has earned over \$7,000 for the church! If you shop at these stores, please put your receipts in the folder on the bulletin board in the stairwell. It results in "free money" for the church!



From the Library

We bought the following books for the adult collection:

Governance and Ministry: Rethinking Board Leadership, Dan Hotchkiss;
Coming Out in Faith: Voices of LFGBTQ Unitarian Universalists, Susan A. Gore & K. Kron, Eds; *Being Both: Embracing Two Religions in One Interfaith Family*, Susan Katz Miller; *Rev. Dr. Phillip Hewett Complete Sermons 1956-2018 and Other Writings* collected by Stanley Tromp. Pat Meyer gave us *Indigenous Relations: Insights, Tips and Suggestions to Make Reconciliation a Reality*, Bob and Cynthia F. Joseph. We received these anonymous donations: *The Art of Listening: How Learning to Listen Can Improve Relationships*, Michael P. Nichols, PHD; *The Wise Heart: A Guide to the Universal Teachings of Buddhist Psychology*, Jack Kornfield.

~ Nicole Hostinsky,
Librarian



Artarian Updates

During March, Leanne Hildebrand's works will continue on display. In April, we will feature the work of many local photographers. In May, we will showcase Meghan Sharir and Sharka Leigh's pieces. The church receives a 20% donation for works that are sold. We welcome referrals, suggestions and comments from the congregation (contact [Beverly Grice](#) or the [Church Office](#)).



Do You Receive Our Weekly eBulletins?

Subscribe to our eBulletins to receive weekly updates such as:

- Sermon titles, descriptions and speakers.
- Church news and events.
- Invitations to Canadian Unitarian events.
- General meeting & Town Hall invitations.
- Social Action events.
- Library news.
- Sunday lunch invitations.
- And more!

If you're not receiving these weekly emails, please contact [Janni in the Church Office](#) to be added to the list.



Outreach

Each Sunday, 100% of our offering plate collections, unless otherwise marked, are given to the charity featured that month.

Recent Outreach Recipients and amounts (rounded to the nearest dollar) are:

November: [Sheway](#) (\$1,505)

December: Minister's Discretionary Fund (\$2,652)

January: [North Shore Women's Centre](#) (\$1,645)

February: [Rainbow Refugee](#) (TBD)

Upcoming Outreach Recipients are:

March: Our Partner Church in Hungary

April: [Edible Garden](#)

May: TBD by the Youth Group with approval from the Minister and/or Board of Trustees.

Children's Program



Lynn Sabourin
Director of Family Ministries

We are living in unprecedented times and, while this is a statement that every generation in every age has surely declared, it has never had quite the global impact it now has.

This time, the stakes are very high and the world as we know it may reach the point of no return, unless we heed the warnings of the world's most competent scientists.

Our children and youth cannot escape the now ongoing reports and predictions and anxiety levels are at an all-time high.

A group of parents has come together with other adults in the congregation, to wrestle with the implications for their own children and to come up with ways of reassuring them and helping them cope with feelings of frustration and hopelessness, feelings that some of us may share with our children and youth.

At the first meeting held on February 9th, thirteen concerned

adults come together and, in community, wrestled with the issues. I admire the intentionality and caring that was demonstrated by these parents, as well as those whose children are now grown, some of whom are now grandparents.

The next gathering will be at noon on Sunday, March 1st, in Room 305 in the Rod Stewart building. Please contact Lynn Sabourin if you would like to join in. Childcare will be provided, but I need to know ahead of time the ages and number of children. Please call 604-926-1621 or email lsabourin@northshoreunitarians.ca to let us know you are coming and if you will need care for your children.

~ Lynn Sabourin



**All-Ages
Potluck & Games
5-7pm Sunday, March 8th**

Bring a dish and beverage to share and join in the fun. EVERYONE is welcome. At dessert time, Secret Buddies will have an opportunity to meet. If you need more info, call Lynn at 604-926-1621 or email her at lsabourin@northshoreunitarians.ca.

Our Whole Lives (OWL) Program Begins April 1st

We are happy to report that the Grade 5-6 level of the Our Whole Lives Program will be offered on Wednesday evenings from 7-8:30pm starting April 1st.

The leaders for the children's sessions will be Lesley Giroday and Doug Sabourin, while Lynn Sabourin will be guiding the concurrent parent sessions. This is a ten-session curriculum designed to help children gain the knowledge, life principles, and skills they need to express their sexuality in life-enhancing ways. This curriculum is an expression of the belief that educating institutions – religious communities, community organizations and schools – can form meaningful partnerships with parents to provide positive and responsible sexuality education.

Sexuality education begins at home and continues through open and honest communications between parents and children. Our Whole Lives aims to provide resources that help parents talk about sexuality with their children. To register or find out more, call Lynn Sabourin at 604-926-1621 or email lsabourin@northshoreunitarians.ca.





If your child reported getting a beat-down in Youth Group recently, please don't call the police. We know who did it. The other youths! The good news is that each victim was protected in a fatsuit, imported from Japan and made precisely for this kind of recreational tomfoolery. (Thank you to the Kwans for providing the suits, pictured below.) This is character-building stuff. Also fat-burning. And if your youth was mulling a career as a sumo wrestler, they likely got clarity one way or the other.

You see, parents of friends of NSUC youth? We are not a cult. We are a laboratory of the mind, promoting out-of-the-box (or out of the dojo) thinking and strenuous engagement with the world. With or without a knot in your under-pants.

Partly because it's becoming more fun, attendance has been pretty solid at youth group the last few months. A half-dozen or so kids routinely come. There's been a good mix of uptempo (sumo) and chill (Bob Ross-style painting), with a dash of soulfulness every time.

In the offing now is the CanUUdle con in Halifax. That's the other side of the country, last time we checked. So it's a bit expensive to get there and back. Because we believe lack of \$ should never be an obstacle to a youth who wants to go to a con, we're trying to build a war chest.

Everyone agreed the best fundraising idea was ... soup. Soup! We are soup-deprived at NSUC. So "Soup Sundays" are back, organized by the Halifax CanUUdle attendees and their parents. Upcoming soup Sundays include March 8th, April 5th, and April 19th. The youth will also be hawking baked goods on April 26th. Everyone is reminded to please come to church hungry on those days.

~ Bruce Grierson
Youth Advisor





MAKING WAVES

**Canadian Unitarian Council
(CUC) Annual General Meeting
& Conference
in Halifax, Nova Scotia
May 15-17, 2020**



North Shore Unitarians
370 Mathers Avenue,
West Vancouver, BC V7S 1H3
Phone: 604-926-1621
Website: northshoreunitarians.ca
Email: info@northshoreunitarians.ca

... meeting in Squamish
and Tsleil-Waututh
traditional territory

Hosted by the Universalist Unitarian Church of Halifax, this conference promises to have a unique Atlantic flavour.

The theme for Conference 2020 is MAKING WAVES! Building on the imagery of The Ripple Effect, the CUC's campaign on water and its related environmental issues, this theme inspires UUs to make waves that practice radical inclusion, challenge the status quo, and push us to remain relevant into the future.

(NOTE: Viewing this newsletter in print? Find links to the following information in our weekly eBulletins, and on our blog: <https://www.northshoreunitarians.ca/blog>).

- View the Invitation [HERE](#)
- Registration info [HERE](#).
- Find out more about special opportunities for music-making at the Conference, Nova-Scotia style [HERE](#).
- Interested in representing NSUC as a delegate to the CUC AGM on May 15th? See AGM info [HERE](#) and read the Motions [HERE](#).
- We will screen the AGM in the NSUC Sanctuary by video-conference in real time. All are welcome to attend.
- Questions? Contact [John Slatery](#) or [Liz Moffitt](#).

STAFF AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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Affiliated Community Minister: [Rev. Arthur Berman](#)

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Director of Family Ministries: [Lynn Sabourin](#)

Children's Program Assistant: [Cara Elrod](#)

Music Director: [Alison Nixon](#)

Accompanist: Catherine Tseng

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Liz Moffitt, Member at Large

ElJean Wilson, Member at Large



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