



Welcome back!

Whether you are a longstanding member of NSU or have more recently walked through the doors, this beloved community, the North Shore Unitarians, is dee-lighted to be coming

together again for another wonderful season – and what a season this will be! March 2027 will be our 60th anniversary!!

Please take a few minutes to read this newsletter and find out all the things going on here over the next few months.

There are a number of different activities and events to engage in... and of course, many wonderful people to get to know even better.

Join a weekday event such as meditation, book club or choir practice. Join on Sunday mornings for wonderful, diverse services on a wide variety of topics – all intended to help us each live with greater depth, meaning and purpose.

Together, we create community – a warm and welcoming space to learn about ourselves and one another. Together, we widen our perspectives, open our hearts a bit more, and ask what really matters. Together, we learn (and re-learn) what it means to be deeply connected and caring for, with, and of one another. Together, we weather the storms, sing our sorrows and share our joys. Together, we create a place of gentle respite from a wildly troubled world.

It is always so good to be together.

See you soon.

~ Rebecca Lindley, NSU President



Men's Retreat: October 2-4

The 36th Men's Retreat at Camp Sasamat is October 2-4 this year. It's a wonderful weekend in the woods to connect with other UU men. Signup and details at HeyUU.ca, or contact Kerryburke@me.com.



Mondays Meditation Resumes at 11am September 14th

Join Dianne Hicks and NSU friends for Meditation each Monday in the Sanctuary from 11am to noon, beginning again on September 14th. The group sometimes goes to lunch together afterwards (optional).

Questions? Contact Dianne at 604-831-4145.



Cares & Concerns Team

Our Team connected with many of you throughout the summer, with in-home visits making our time more rewarding. If any of you wish to connect with us, our team includes: Barb Kroon, Malcolm Mallory, Shirley Macdonald, Kathryn Nicholson, and

me. Give us a call if we can be of help.

~ Joanna Vaughan, Chair

Lift Up Your Voice: A New Chapter in Accessibility at NSU

There's something new to celebrate at NSU this fall! When we gather for our first Sunday on September 13th, we'll unveil our new lift, making our building fully accessible. Unfortunately the first ride will have to wait a couple of weeks until all inspections are complete. The lift will make it easy for anyone with mobility challenges to travel between the Sanctuary and the Fireside Room. Up to two people can use the lift at a time, meaning no one will need to make the long journey around the back of the building to join in the conversation, refreshments, meetings and activities after Sunday services — or during the week.

A Five-Year Dream Becomes Reality

This project began five years ago, when Brian Funt successfully applied for a \$100,000 federal accessibility grant. The vision was simple but important: to make NSU a place where everyone can participate fully and comfortably.

The work unfolded in two phases. First came our accessible washroom, located through Janni's office (completed in 2025). Phase two was the lift. Construction began in May, and has been completed just in time for our fall season.

A Community Effort

Many people helped bring this vision to life, with Peter Thiersch and Brian Welwood playing key roles. And the best news — the project was completed on time and under budget.

The federal grant provided \$100,000, which NSU matched with its own funds. While the final bills are still being tallied, the congregation's share is estimated at \$110,000.

And there's more good news. The project also includes a powered front door and a ramp, making it easier for everyone to enter and enjoy our building.

Come Celebrate With Us!

Accessibility isn't simply about ramps, doors and lifts. It's about belonging. It's about making sure that everyone who wants to gather, learn, connect, volunteer, laugh and share in our community can do so with dignity and ease.

So join us on September 13th as we begin a new season and celebrate a wonderful achievement.

Lift up your voice, be not afraid — and lift each other's spirits too!



Looking Out for Each Other

We are a loving and generous community and we want to be able to look after each other. We have a Cares and Concerns Team to help when needed. But sometimes that help is a private and confidential matter. We have a way of providing for that, too. There is a Discretionary Fund held for Members of our community that may need a little help in a financial emergency. This is a strictly confidential situation and should it be needed, please phone me at 604-619-2481 for more information.

~ Leslie Whyte
Board Member



The new lift, as it appeared on September 3rd

Vancouver Art Gallery Outing with NSU friends 10am on September 26th



Join us on an outing to the Vancouver Art Gallery to see: **Future Geographies: Art in the Century of Climate Change.** More info on our [website](#).

Option to share our responses at lunch after the gallery visit.
Cost: about \$25/person depending on the size of the group.

Please RSVP to enviroteam@northshoreunitarians.ca.

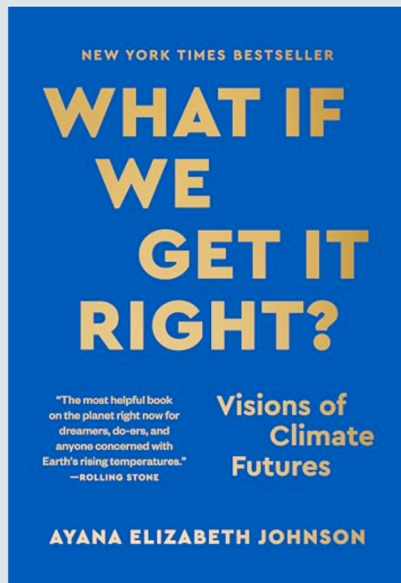
Environmental Action in Our Neighbourhoods:

BC Municipal Elections take place October 17th. Local governments directly impact the health of our communities by the choices they make with land-use planning, transportation, and building codes. Leaders also choose how much funding is allocated to climate mitigation and adaptation measures, the development of biodiversity strategies, emergency management procedures, and green infrastructure.

Celebrate Rivers Day, a free event in the City of North Vancouver on Sun. September 27th, at Heywood Park (1633 Mackay Avenue) from 10am to 2pm. Info: <https://www.cnv.org/community-environment/help-environment/rivers-day>.

Eldercollege Lecture Series: Human Geography & the Environment. These 5 lectures are at the new Silver Harbour Centre, 2325 St. Georges Ave. Mondays, 1:30–3pm, Oct. 5th – Nov. 9th. Cost: \$30. Details and registration: <http://www.silverharbourcentre.com> or 604-980-2474.

Repair Café is in the Lynn Valley Library Community Meeting Room. Receive in-person repair help from volunteer fixers. Saturday, September 26th, from 9:30am to 1:30pm. Details and Registration: 604-984-0286. Free. More info: <https://nvdpl.events.mylibrary.digital/event?id=346751>



Non-Fiction Book Club

Our Environmental Action Team is sponsoring the Fall sessions of the new-to-NSU **Non-fiction Book Club**.

Our first read will be **What If We Get It Right?** by Ayana Elizabeth Johnson (updated edition now available in paperback), a book described by Outside magazine as “the cure for climate anxiety.”

Sessions will be held in the Sanctuary at 12:15pm on these dates: October 25th, November 8th and 22nd. (The reading schedule will be provided in advance.)

Please let us know by email if you plan to attend:
enviroteam@northshoreunitarians.ca

Zoom Option

If the in-person times don't work for you, Michelle will also be leading this book club through the North Vancouver District Public Library via Zoom from **7–8pm** on the last Monday of the month:

September 28th, October 26th & November 30th.

Additional information and registration to receive the Zoom link can be found at <https://nvdpl.events.mylibrary.digital/event?id=346796>.





Building & Grounds

In addition to the lift installation, a lot has been happening over the past few months at NSU. Here are some updates . . .

~Brian McConnell, Factotum
for B&G Co-Chairs Brian Welwood & Bob Vaughan

Exterior Painting. Over the summer, your Factotum, with help from a few volunteers (Brian Welwood, Paul Yates and son), painted the shed next to the Daycare, the fascia and beams of the Daycare and one wall of the Rod Stewart Building (RSB). Most walls were pressure washed using the Stephenson's machine. The contract to paint our main building and Daycare has been awarded, after obtaining 3 quotes. The preparation and spray painting will be completed, weather permitting, by mid-September.

Slab Replacement. We have a quote for the cost of replacing the uneven concrete slab of the entranceway. It will cost less than \$3000 (half the cost of a quote received last year!!) -- Might you be the generous donor who could help out? Any donation will receive a tax receipt.

Garden Maintenance. Thanks largely to Jean Prescott, Stuart Browning and their crew, the Butterfly Garden is thriving. Water usage at NSU has been cut in half this summer, with assistance of Jel Coward who has been remotely managing the watering of the Resiliency Garden. Other garden areas got occasional attention from the Enviro Team and Factotum. Martin Colombo helps with the mowing of our extensive lawns and wildflower patches. The Factotum resolved the black mould on the Camellia and continues to uproot invasives.

Tree Work. Our tree contractor removed a tree leaning dangerously over the Kuddles' playground, and a fir tree in poor shape north of the parking lot. The contractor also removed a leggy cedar hedge between church and our neighbour to east, and trimmed the cedar hedge adjacent to a portion of the parking lot. He also removed some of the brush which accumulates endlessly as we attempt to reduce fire hazards on the property. Thanks to Barb Kroon for the push to do this work and to consider exterior sprinkler installations.

Tenant Support. A portion of the Factotum's time goes toward supporting the needs of our tenant, Kuddles Preschool and Daycare buildings. Plumbing, electrical, carpentry and hardware issues come up several times a month. Most is our responsibility as landlord, but when asked to do things for Kuddles which are not, they pay for labour and supplies. Thanks to Jel Coward for assistance in replacing an anti-frost bib and some rotten fascia in the Rod Stewart building.

Windows. The leaking windows found inside the Sanctuary above the side doors are being replaced. The frames for the double pane replacements will be made to look like those of the decorative windows. The work should be complete by mid-September.

6:30 – 8:30pm
Sat. September 19th

Sacred Circle Dancing

with
Leonard Cohen

At Vancouver Unitarians
949 West 49th Street & Oak in the Fireside Room

Sacred Circle Dancing with Leonard Cohen 6:30-8:30pm Sat. September 19th at Vancouver Unitarians

Celebrate Leonard Cohen's Birthday (September 21, 1934). As we move into the dark half of the year, we'll move to the music of Leonard Cohen, who offers insights for thriving in a world of darkness. Through vivid imagery and beautiful music, we will explore relationships, politics and spirituality, finding the crack where the light shines through.

Featuring Kerry Burke and Matthew van der Giessen. **RSVP required.** By donation.



RSVP here



Seniors' Taxi Rides

The Taxi Club continues to be available to all who have signed up and need rides to/from NSU services and events. However, funds are limited (as our grant was not re-approved). For now, our Board is covering the expenses – but we ask that you try to find rides with other people attending the same event, to keep our costs down as much as possible.

This program was originally formed to help seniors with limited transportation options. Now open to any NSU congregant who needs a ride to/from NSU, it is simply a telephone call away:

1. First, fill out a Taxi Seniors Taxi Club Agreement (on the wall outside the Main Office) and return it to Janni. She will provide you with a wallet card showing the details.
2. When you need a ride to/from an NSU event, call the numbers provided on the card.
3. Sign your name on the taxi receipt (and include a tip for the driver).
4. The bill comes to NSU and we pay it monthly.

Please call Leslie (604-619-2481) if you have any questions or concerns.

~Leslie Whyte



Changes to Our Library

You may notice changes in the Fireside Room, as our library has been affected by the installation of our new lift! The library collection has been culled and is smaller, focusing mostly on Unitarian and spiritual-related subjects.

There is still a small children's section to one side. The library is open to all. Feel free to borrow any books you're interested in reading – and then return them when you are done. Enjoy!



Summer Outreach Updates

Each month, we collect donations for a registered charity whose mission is aligned with our values. We call this "Outreach".

Recent Outreach collections:



In **JUNE**, we collected \$836 for [Urban Spirit Foundation](#)



In **JULY & AUGUST**, we collected \$240 for the [North Shore Women's Centre Summer Empowerment Camps](#)



Fall Outreach Recipients



SEPTEMBER:
[Central Okanagan Food Bank](#)

The Central Okanagan Food Bank is helping people displaced by recent wildfires. They also maintain a food program for school children in the area. They are the largest food bank in the Interior of BC, providing nutritional food assistance to residents facing financial and food insecurity. They are the only organization providing this type of nutritional support to households facing financial and food insecurity within the surrounding region.



OCTOBER:
[Quest Outreach Society](#)

Quest bridges the gap between food banks and grocery stores by providing an affordable shopping experience for those in need based on principles of dignity, access and sustainability. Most of Quest's food is donated by local food partners from across British Columbia and delivered across our five Metro Vancouver markets in Burnaby, Surrey, North Vancouver, East Vancouver and the Downtown Eastside.



NOVEMBER:
[SeedChange](#)

SeedChange is the successor to the Unitarian Service Committee-Canada, founded by Lotta Hitschmanova in 1945. They work in Canada and around the world to strengthen farmers' ability to grow food sustainably using locally adapted seeds. They support the rights and leadership of women, youth, and Indigenous farmers. By keeping seeds in farmers' hands, they help communities thrive and work to grow a just, sustainable, and well-nourished world.

New Fundraising Program through Return-It



NEW! Turn Recycled Beverage Containers into Tax-Receiptable Donations to NSU through Return-It Fundraising

When you return empty cans and bottles for recycling, you can now easily donate the proceeds to NSU through the Return-It Fundraising program. Here's how it works:

1. Go to <https://app.return-it.ca/northshoreunitarianchurch> to set up a new account or log into your existing Return-It account. From there, select whether you want the cash from your redeemables to be donated to NSU as repeating or 1-time donations.
2. At a Return-It location, print free labels (designating your account info) for your bags.
3. Bag your empty beverage containers in clear or semi-transparent bags.
4. Affix a label to each bag.
5. Drop the bag(s) off at a Return-It or Return-It Express location.
6. They will process the return within the next few days, and donate the correct dollar amount to NSU in your name.
7. Around the first of each month, Janni will key the amounts from the previous month's donations into Breeze. (You can see this in Breeze – ask Janni to learn how).
8. Your annual tax receipt from NSU will show the donations you made through the Return-It program (as long as you have completed the above steps).

Learn more at <https://www.return-it.ca/express/>. Contact **Janni in the Main Office** if you have questions about this program or need help with it.

Container types accepted by this program (10-cents each):



About the Return-It Fundraising Program

Q Do I bring my bottles to NSU?

A No! You drop your bags at a Return-It location.

Q How do they know the drop offs are from me?

A You place a special label on each bag. (Get the labels at a Return-It location)

Q How do they know that the dollar amount from my bag goes to NSU?

A You set this up using the link provided in step 1 at left.

Q Do get a tax receipt?

A Yes! Your donations will be included in your end-of-year tax receipt from NSU.



North Shore Unitarians

370 Mathers Ave.
West Vancouver, BC V7S 1H3

Phone:
604-926-1621

Website:
northshoreunitarians.ca

Email:
info@northshoreunitarians.ca

Staff and Board of Trustees

Lay Chaplain: Kathryn Nicholson
NSU Administrator: [Janni Kretlow](#)
Music Director: [Alison Nixon](#)
Affiliated Community Minister: Rev. Arthur Berman
Facility Rental Coordinator: Dianne Hicks
Building Factotum: Brian McConnell
Accompanist: Catherine Tseng
Sunday Facilities Coordinator: Steele Curry
Board of Trustees:

- [Rebecca Lindley, President](#)
- Pamela Berg, Vice President
- [Barb Kroon, Treasurer](#)
- [Leslie Whyte, Secretary](#)
- Barrie Forbes, Member at Large
- Bob Vaughan, Member at Large
- Brian Welwood, Member at Large



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

We acknowledge we meet on the traditional territories of the
Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), Səlíl̓wətaʔ/Selilwitulh (Tsleil-Waututh)
& xwməθkwəy̓əm (Musqueam) Nations.

Connecting With Us



Sunday Services

Sunday Services
10:30am Sundays
September to June
370 Mathers Ave
West Vancouver, BC V7S 1H3



Facebook
<https://www.facebook.com/NorthShoreUUCanada/>



Instagram
[northshorevanunitarians](https://www.instagram.com/northshorevanunitarians)



YouTube

Watch past services
on our YouTube channel:
<https://www.youtube.com/user/NorthShoreUnitarian>

Office Hours



Our Office is open most weekdays from 7am-2pm
(Call before stopping by, as Janni works some days from home)

Our Office will be closed for these Stat Holidays:

Wed. September 30th – Reconciliation Day
Mon. October 12th – Thanksgiving Day
Wed. November 11th – Remembrance Day