



Welcome!

Special Welcome To Rev. Ron Phares

Following a busy Candidating Week (April 26th-May 5th) our congregation voted unanimously to call The Rev. Ron Phares as our new Minister! We extend a warm welcome to him as he begins his ministry here at the beginning of August.

New Board of Trustees

At our AGM on May 26th, new Board Members were elected by the congregation: Jim Stephenson (President), Judith Radford (VP), Cindy Leitner (Secretary), Mark Pizarro (Treasurer), and Members-at-Large Cynthia Becker, Ryan Guenther, Ross Harvey, Liz Moffitt, and ElJean Wilson.

Coming This Summer: New Flooring for Sanctuary, Foyer, Offices and Stairs

At the Annual General Meeting on May 26th, the congregation heard about an exciting plan to improve the flooring in our building. At its May meeting, the Board approved a summer renovation project that calls for:

- Installing new flooring in the sanctuary.
- Replacing pews with the comfy chairs.
- Re-carpeting the offices, the entry, and the stairs.



Sightlines to the screen and accessibility will also be improved. The project was recommended by the BEAT: The Building Enhancement Advisory Task Force, made up of representatives from the New Building Task Force, the Building & Grounds Team, the Finance and Endowment Committee, the Music Team, the Artarians, and the Connections Team.

Funding for the project will come partially from the Lois Kennedy choir bequest, which can be spent on acoustical improvements. Other targeted donations will come from a fund restricted to building enhancement and carpet replacement. We are committed to fundraise the last approximately \$6,000 for the \$26,500 project.

Here are two ways you can participate in our fundraiser and receive a tax receipt:

1. Donate an upholstered chair for a minimum contribution of \$100, with an option for a small nameplate of the donor or an honoree.
2. Donate \$30 or more and receive a maple leaf pin as a thank you gift for your contribution. (The maple leaf pin is reminiscent of the maple flooring).

This project will take place in July or early August. Please note that during this time, the office may be closed. Please call ahead if you expect to access the church building during this time.

From Our Minister & Board President

I am writing from a nearly empty house, waiting for the moving truck to arrive. It is a time of goodbyes and sweat. It's hot. Really hot. And we have much work to do before pulling out of the driveway for the last time in a couple days. There are a great many balls in the air (and a couple bouncing off down the road) and it can definitely feel overwhelming (I look at my to-do list about every 7.5 minutes). There's a good deal of emotional work as well, saying farewell to beloved congregants and colleagues. And of course the world doesn't stop spinning out of hand. It's a lot.

But there is method for attaining peace of mind. Sure, I meditate most mornings. But that's not what I'm talking about. When the sweat gets in my eyes and the back starts to protest and I discover another little maintenance job that needed to be done yesterday, I can remind

myself that there is a flip side to all this madness. There is a 20 degree difference, a tree lined horizon, a history waiting to be learned. There is settling in and home making. There is a congregation ready to go!

For some reason all these imaginings take place at sunset, a concluding moment, a time of resolution, and satisfaction. What will we learn together? What new way will we open? These are refreshing thoughts. Unfortunately I can spare precious little time for them until the wheels hit the road. But they do bring me comfort and inspiration as I tape shut another box and wheel it into the garage/staging area.

Katie and the girls have already begun their adventure. I will rendezvous with them on the way up to General Assembly in Spo-



Rev. Ron Phares

Email address (after August 1st):
rev.phares@northshoreunitarians.ca

kane, WA. From there, it's onto North Van! I can not wait. There is ground waiting to be kissed!

Until then my friends, another dip in the pool and back to work!

~ Rev. Ron Phares



Jim Stephenson, Board President
president@northshoreunitarians.ca

It is an honour for me to serve as NSUC President for 2019-2020.

After a busy and challenging year with Rev. Barbara ten Hove, our dedicated half-time consulting minister, and my hard-working predecessor (Marcia something), we are ready to welcome Ron Phares as our newly called minister. The last year included a successful search, many inspiring services, and some disappointments on our new building project.

Ron chose our congregation for its committed members, dedicated staff, and both Strategic Planning and New Building Task Forces. He will continue our tradition of excellent services and help us to discover and pursue an exciting future.

As we say our last thank-you's to Rev. Barbara, please join me in savouring the gifts of summer, and return in the Fall ready for the next chapter in our quest for greater depth, meaning, and purpose.

~ Jim Stephenson

SUMMER

at

North Shore Unitarian Church



Sunday Services will continue through the end of June. There will be no services in July, or for the first two Sundays in August. But Rev. Ron Phares plans to be in the pulpit for summer services on August 18th & 25th. Watch the Fall newsletter for details about September's services.

Pastoral Care: Rev. Ron Phares, begins his ministry on August 1st. For pastoral emergencies before that date, please contact one of these people: Board President Jim Stephenson (president@northshoreunitarians.ca or 604-727-2824), Janni in the Church Office (info@northshoreunitarians.ca or 604-926-1621) or Judith Radford (Judith_radford@yahoo.ca or 778-990-2366) and they will make sure it is appropriately handled.

Lay Chaplain: Our Lay Chaplain, Lindsay Hindle, will be available throughout most of the summer to perform Rite of Passage services such as weddings, memorials, child dedications, and other life transition events. Please contact the Church Office if you need her assistance.

Board of Trustees: One or more Board Officers will be available throughout the summer. Contact Board President Jim Stephenson (president@northshoreunitarians.ca or 604-727-2824) or Vice President Judith Radford (Judith_radford@yahoo.ca or 778-990-2366) if you need to reach the Board over the summer.

Staff Away Dates are shown on the church calendar. Staff may (or may not) be able to respond to emails during their away dates.

Cares & Concerns

As a non-professional team of volunteers who keep confidences and walk beside you and others through life's ups and downs, we can offer short term, practical connections and support.

This year we connected with over 20 individuals. Our work included hospital visits, home visits, phone calls and check-ins, cards, rides, outings, some meals, and lots of listening. Some interactions were very short and other longer term, with several team members becoming point persons for individuals as needed.

If over the summer you have need of assistance or know of someone who does, contact **Judith Radford** (Chair) at Judith_radford@yahoo.ca or 778-990-2366 or **Jean Prescott** (jihana@shaw.ca or 604-728-9607).



Summer Office Hours: Tuesdays - Fridays, 9am-2:30pm

Our Church Office will be closed all Mondays in July and the first two Mondays in August (August 5th & 12th). Summer office hours in July and August will be **Tuesdays through Fridays, 9am-2:30pm**. Regular office hours (8am-2:30pm) will resume in September.

From Our Director of Family Ministries

A DFM in June

by Lynn Sabourin
Director of Family Ministries (DFM)

*Inspired by former colleague,
Mary-Ann Parker
in Saskatoon*



Lynn Sabourin
Director of Family Ministries

The markers are in chaos, tips left off and all dried up.
Crayons snapped in half and finding glue is getting tough.
Containers are missing tops and no one seems to care,
The craft cupboard looks like heck and there's glitter everywhere.

Not one pipecleaner is left unbent and the matches are all spent,
And I cannot find all chalices, I've no idea where they all went.

Balls of yarn are all in knots and the artwork's falling down;
Paint brushes are all stiff and every paint block's a shade of brown.

Puzzle pieces have gone missing and game pieces are mixed up,
Am I frustrated you might ask? and I will say, "Well, yup."

I gaze at this confusion, trying hard not to panic,
Running fingers through my hair and feeling kinda manic.

If you get the clear impression that I'll lose it really soon,
Well, I'm a DFM and this is what it's like in June.

But here is what I'm hoping for and I know it can be done,
I just need some volunteers to help before the summer's run.
With rags and mops and brooms and pans and rubber gloves galore
We'll tackle those Rod Stewart shelves and they'll be clean once more.

Come join the crew and help us clean for any time that you can spare.
You'll find the time goes quickly by when dirty tasks we share.

Helpers Needed for Clean-Up Work Party on Saturday, July 13th and/or Sunday, July 14th

I'll be here from 10am - 4pm
and will have coffee, tea, juice
and goodies available for the
whole day long, as well as
providing lunch for anyone who
is here at that time.

Let me know if you can help:
604-926-1621 or
lsabourin@northshoreunitarians.ca

~Lynn Sabourin

New Member Dinner: June 8th



We had an engaging mix of new and long-time members at our New Members Dinner on Saturday, June 8th. Rev. Barbara started the evening with some “getting-to-know-you exercises,” which led to some really interesting discussions over dinner. Thanks to the Connections Team for organizing such a fun and enlightening evening.



Join the Third Circle Coalition: Make a Difference in Your Local Municipality

One of the main take-aways from my participation in the DRAWDOWN program presented at NSUC by Judith Gordon was the importance of acting locally while thinking globally about the Climate Emergency. While we can make changes individually, influence the behaviour of family members, and lobby our provincial and national governments on policy issues, many important decisions affecting our carbon footprint are controlled by our local municipal councils. DRAWDOWN'S “Top 100” list of climate solutions ranked in order of greatest impact include land use, electric vehicles, mass transit, bike infrastructure and walkable cities. If you're interested in exploring how we might support each other in monitoring municipal policies affecting climate change, join me in attending the *Town Hall for a Green New Deal* on Sunday, June 16th, facilitated by Cathy Strickland.

~Marcia Stephenson



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.

Although many Soul Matters groups may choose to *not* meet over the summer, theme packets for **July** (“Healing”) and **August** (“Simplicity”) will be distributed to participants by email, as usual, with printed versions available on the foyer table for groups that may wish to continue meeting over the summer. Contact [Janni in the Church Office](#) if you'd like to receive our monthly Soul Matters packets by email.

Group discussions are immensely heartwarming and rich for participants. Currently we have six groups that meet monthly. Some people use the monthly theme packets for self-study.

We hope to start a new group in September and welcome new group members and facilitators. To facilitate or participate, contact the [Church Office](#) or Anne Mayall, our Soul Matters Coordinator, at 778-686-3643 or an-nemayall51@gmail.com.



From the Library

Ten books have been added to the adult collection. Upon the recommendation of Judith Gordon and Beverly Grice we purchased *Drawdown: the Most Comprehensive Plan Ever Proposed to Reverse Global Warming* by Paul Hawken. From Leslie Gibbons we received *In the Interim: Strategies for Interim Ministers and Congregations* by Barbara Child, *Worship That Works: Theory and Practice for Unitarian Universalists* by Wayne Aranson, and *Building Your Own Theology: Ethics* by Richard S. Gilbert. Bob Rentz gave us *Why Religion: A Personal Story* by Elaine Pagels. The following are anonymous donations: *Start Where You Are: a Guide to Compassionate Living* and *When Things Fall Apart: Heart Advice for Difficult Times* both by Pema Chodron, *Embracing Our Mortality: Hard Choices in an Age of Medical Miracles* by L.J. Schneiderman, and *Wanting Wholeness, Being Broken* by Marilyn Sewell. Thank you for the donations and recommendations.



Artarian Updates

During most of the year, our Artarians Team hosts an art show on the walls of our Sanctuary. But with no services happening here during July, there will be no art show during that month. In August, our Artarians will display some of their own works.



Summer Lunch Bunch Extravanzas!

All are welcome to bring a sack lunch and join us at 12:30pm for lunch on the second and fourth Thursday of the month. We usually meet in the Fireside Room at church, but meet offsite for some of our summer meetings. Here are the dates and locations of our upcoming summer meetings:

- June 27th** Fireside Room
- July 11th** Betty McMillan's (Summerhill House)
- July 25th** Location TBD
- August 8th** Location TBD
- August 22nd** Fireside Room

Call Nora at 604-925-6111 to find out specifics on any of the above dates, or if you need a ride or have questions.



Outreach

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

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

- February** [Wild Bird Trust of BC](#) (\$1,071)
- March** [Flaming Chalice International](#) (\$835) on March 4th and our Partner Church in Hungary (\$2,495) the remaining Sundays
- April** [Rainbow Refugee Society](#) (\$1,542)
- May** [WISH Drop-In Centre](#) (\$1,412)

Upcoming Outreach Recipients:

- June** [David Suzuki Foundation](#)
- July** (no services)
- August** TBD

Our Quarterly Newsletter Schedule

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





2019 Volunteer Awards

At our AGM on May 26th, Lesley Giroday received our prestigious Mary Segal Award, which is granted each year for outstanding achievements as a church volunteer. Lesley's list of volunteerism at our church goes back many years and includes (among other things) Board President (2017-2018) and chair of the Ministerial Search Committee (2018-2019).

The FundFest team (Brian McConnell, Andrea Fast, Leslie Gibbons, and Jim Stephenson) were also recognized for their years of service organizing our annual FundFest auction — this year's being what was probably the best and most well-organized yet! [HERE](#) you can read what outgoing Board President Marcia Stephenson said about these volunteers as she presented their awards.



Lesley Giroday
2019 Mary Segal Award Recipient

2019 FundFest



Our annual spring auction brought in over \$19,000, with additional income from "tickets sold at door" coming in throughout the year. (See a list of available events on the foyer table, or [HERE](#)).

Special thanks to Brian McConnell, Andrea Fast, Leslie Gibbons, Jim Stephenson — all of whom received our Volunteer Award this year. Thank you also to the other volunteers, donors, and buyers who helped make this event a success!

If you haven't yet paid for your FundFest purchases, please do so as soon as possible.

B&G Building & Grounds

This is a busier than usual season for Building and Grounds work, with several projects underway.

The first and most impactful is of course the replacement of flooring and many pews on the upper level (see the separate article on page 1 of this newsletter). The B.E.A.T. team has met, considered, consulted, and come up with a plan for the upper floor. Estimates are being assembled and contractors engaged. By September, the project should be completed.

The second project is the removal of the older shed and construction in its place of a new one by and for our Tenant.

The final project is more tree maintenance south of RSB in response to a request of our neighbour. The boiler, given a clean bill of health, has been shut down for the summer.

Our new lease with Kuddles Early Learning Centre comes into effect on July 1, 2019. Terms, in addition to the shed being built at the tenant's expense, include the improved lease rate, a shift in charges to Kuddles for more of the utilities costs, and all of the container and snow removal costs.

~ Brian McConnell



Ariel Hunt-Bronswin
Youth Program Coordinator
& Connections Coordinator

This year's NSUC Youth Program was marked in many ways by both enduring commitment, perplexing contradictions, and change. We changed the timing of Youth Group to see what would work best for our youth and their families. Our Advisor Team changed as we 'lost' Bruce Grierson for the year to the Ministerial Search Committee, and we gained Carla Mandy. And sadly, I too am going to be one of the things that will change as my contract as the Youth Program and Connections Coordinator will conclude at the end of August.

I have been touched by the commitments I have seen this year: from Coming of Age mentors and Youth Advisors, to youth who have struggled to figure out how to include church alongside their full schedules and busy teenage lives, to the dedication of the Youth Program Support Team members who have met with me monthly for the past two years. I have also seen that some of our previously 'tried and true' programming (like Movie Nights, Sleep-Overs and Coming

of Age Retreats, and even our regular Youth Group meetings) have missed the mark this year. At the same time, I watched our youth engage deeply in our community in a variety of ways including turning out in number to take the reins on the Haunted House in October, serving faithfully on the Coffee Crew all year long, helping with Sunday morning worships and attending Youth Conferences.

Our teens are a vital part of the NSUC community and they contribute and participate in our community in myriad ways just as our adult members and friends do. We are living in changing times; our ways of serving and supporting our teens and their families need to keep up with these changes. In small (and a few big) ways I have done my best to lean into the questions our changing culture is asking of our youth programming — and indeed of our churches in general. It is tender work to contemplate changing beloved programs, and it will require both curiosity and courage to ask questions and sit with the unknowns that are here.

Next year, as you continue to listen and dream and discern about how the NSUC community can most effectively empower our teens to live with greater depth, meaning and purpose, I wish you much patience and a beginner's mind — but most of all I wish you love, something I have seen and felt in abundance among you during my time here.

In faith and affection,
Ariel Hunt-Bronswin

About Next Year's Program

Even though there will not be a new Youth Program Coordinator starting in September, the Youth Program is still going ahead, albeit with a few changes.

- There will be no Grade 12 Program next year, as there are no youth in Grade 12.
- Our Youth Advisor Team will administer and facilitate Youth Group with assistance from both Rev. Ron and the Youth Program Support Team.
- Youth Group meetings will return to Sunday evenings, 7-9pm, starting September 8th.
- Youth Advisors will keep weekly activities consistent from month to month to ease planning and to offer more predictability for youth & families. Watch for more info in August and September.
- We are postponing the Coming of Age (COA) program until the Fall of 2020. We have successfully run the COA program with grade 8s and 9s in the past, which will be the case when it is offered for the 2020/2021 church year. Speak with me or Lynn Sabourin, our Director of Family Ministries, if you have questions.
- The Youth Program Support Team (YPST) will develop a wide ranging 'Review' of the whole of NSUC's Youth Program. This will involve youth, parents, advisors and others in both designing the Review process and participating in its inquiry. To be involved with the Review team, please contact me over the summer.

As your Connections Coordinator for the past two years, it has been a pleasure welcoming and getting to know the newest people who are joining our community. Working with our dedicated Connections Team has also been a delight. I have been humbled and impressed by the wisdom and thoughtfulness of this group — some of whom who have made “membership ministry” a personal labour of love for many years.

I've learned a lot about hospitality. Together, we have grappled with building and implementing best practices and systems so that that our NSUC community can meaningfully and easily help those who want to join us and truly find their place in our community as their new spiritual home. Some of our work includes:

- Creating new brochures to provide better information about the different ways newcomers can engage in our community.
- Designing stickers for labeling dishes at potlucks and other events, so everyone can easily know what food they can safely eat. This fosters more inclusivity when we break bread together.
- Experimenting with providing coffee in the foyer for newcomers to enjoy. We've also talked a lot about how we can make “Coffee Hour” a more meaningful experience for all.

Welcoming newcomers at our open doors on Sunday mornings as a Greeter; connecting with new folks over email and at Coffee Hour;

being privileged to hear new (and sometimes long-time) community members share of their spiritual journeys in our Starting Point program; serving you in Sunday morning worship as a Sunday Service Associate—all have been true highlights of my time with you.

When I first arrived at North Shore in the fall of 2017, one of the very first things I noticed about you was how genuinely friendly you are as a congregation and how much you care for one another. As I've come to know you better over the past two years, these observations continue to ring true. I've seen how, collectively, this congregation leaves an open chair for another to join in. I hope you will continue to lead your Connections work with open heartedness.

As I wind down my work over this summer and prepare to move on in the fall, I know I will miss you — but I will also take the warmth I've experienced here with me.

Blessings on your journey,
~ Ariel



Greeters Wanted!

Are you passionate about our NSUC community? Are you a friendly morning person who likes meeting new people? Are you able to come to church early once every 6 - 8 weeks? If so, consider joining our Greeter Team!

Our Greeters are a vital part of the friendly hospitality we provide each week to everyone who comes through our doors. (And there are no Team meetings to attend!)

At a training for all new and experienced Greeters on Sunday, September 29th at 11:45am, the Connections Team will go over what the duties are.

If you are interested in joining the Greeter Team or would like more information please contact Connections Coordinator, Ariel Hunt-Brondwin at 604-926-1621 or ariel@northshoreunitarians.ca.

THANK YOU!

Special thanks to Ariel Hunt-Brondwin for her two years as our Connections Coordinator and Youth Coordinator! It has been a pleasure working with Ariel; the staff and congregation will miss her!

But we are excited for the opportunities that await Ariel (and her husband, Chris) in West Seattle, where he has been called to Minister. We will miss you!
~NSUC Staff



Creative Arts Eliot Camp for UUs, Friends & Family

Creative Arts Eliot runs from August 10-14th at the Seabeck Conference Center on Hood Canal. Enjoy the multi-generational camp experience while pursuing a creative endeavor. Focus on one or two workshops, and spend the rest of your time enjoying waterfront fun, sports, games, walks, campfires, singing, UU community, worship, games, and entertainment. Info at <https://www.eliotinstitute.org/calendar/9079-creative-arts-eliot-2019>.



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*

Contacting our Minister After August 1st:

rev.phares@northshoreunitarians.ca
604-926-1621

Attention Visitors!

Are you visiting us for the first time over the summer? If so, here's how to find out more:



- Read our new welcome brochure (on the foyer table) to find out how we Belong, Thrive and Serve in this community.
- Read the bulletin boards in the stairway landing. The board on the left (as you go down) has information specific to visitors.
- Check out our web site at www.northshoreunitarians.ca.
- Know that our Connections Team is available to help you be as connected as you want to be. Our Minister and staff have irregular schedules during the summer (see page 4). In the meanwhile, you can contact Ariel Hunt-Brondwin by email (ariel@northshoreunitarians.ca) or phone (604-926-1621).
- Sign up for our eBulletin, which goes out weekly during the church program year, and as needed during summer months. Contact [Janni in the Church Office](#) (604-926-1621) to sign up.

STAFF AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Minister: Rev. Ron Phares

Affiliated Community Minister: Rev. Arthur Berman

Lay Chaplain: Lindsay Hindle

Director of Family Ministries: Lynn Sabourin

Children's Program Assistant: Cara Elrod (Sundays)

Youth & Connections Coordinator: Ariel Hunt-Brondwin

Music Director: Alison Nixon

Accompanist: Toby Aldren

Church Administrator: Janni Kretlow

Financial Administrator: Marge Zieroth

Custodian: Tom Fullerton

Board of Trustees:

Jim Stephenson, President

Judith Radford, Vice President

Mark Pezarro, Treasurer

Cindy Leitner, Secretary

Cynthia Becker, Member at Large

Ryan Guenther, Member at Large

Ross Harvey, Member at Large

Liz Moffitt, Member at Large

ElJean Wilson, Member at Large



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