



UNITARIAN CONGREGATION OF NIAGARA

A church for people
with enquiring minds

May 2009

Sunday Services

(See pg. 5 for descriptions)

- May 3** Sharing the Faith
- May 10** Janis Alton - Making History:
The Global Women's Peace
Movement *S.L. J. Momirov*
- May 17** Barbara Warner - Live, Love,
Laugh and Remember, Everyone is
Equal in the Grand Scheme of
Things *S.L. E. Gilbert*
- May 24** Brian Arthur Brown - Noah's
Other Son *S.L. D. Peever*
- May 31** Dr. Bruce Walton - Finding UU
Principles in Unlikely Places
S.L. Ed Gilbert

An Introduction to the UU Principles in Words and Music. Join us for a spirited and lively musical presentation, featuring the UNITUNEZ band, direct from the Unitarian Congregation of Guelph. We will briefly introduce each of our Unitarian Universalist Principles with a song that suitably represents the principle's spirit. Come prepared to sing! *S.L. E. Gilbert*

Edgar Rothwell Lemon

August 22, 1921 – March 30, 2009

Ed was born on August 22, 1921 in Buffalo, NY. His parents were Dr. A. Bert and Greta Lemon and he had one brother, Jim, all of whom predeceased him. His primary and high school education occurred in Buffalo. His high school class recognized his potential and voted him "Most Likely to Succeed."

In 1944, Ed married Donna, a Canadian girl from Port Colborne who was a trained nurse. She was the enduring love of his life and they were very much a team for the 64 years of their marriage, sailing together, attending Elder Hostel programs in Poland, Latvia and Costa Rica together, and going off to Australia and New Zealand for a year at a time when Ed was engaged in research projects. A highlight for Donna was their trip on a mail boat from Norway to the Arctic. Their three sons are scattered all over the USA – Jake lives in Idaho, Bruce (the "middle boy") in the Adirondacks and Bob in Florida. Ed and Donna are very proud of their three grandchildren, Strawberry, Aubrie and Loris. After Ed got over the idea that none of his sons were interested in being college professors, he supported them in their individual endeavours. Ed earned his Bachelor and Masters degrees at Cornell and his PhD at Michigan State University.

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Unitarian Congregation of Niagara
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Edgar Lemoncontinued

The war interrupted Ed's education. With his BA under his belt, he was canoeing in northern Ontario when WW II was declared and he didn't hear about it until he got home. He joined the US Navy, married Donna after his training and then became second in command of a sub-chaser in the south Pacific. They had a one-week honeymoon in San Francisco without luggage, at least paid for by the Navy. In 1946, Ed and Donna tried dairy farming for a year NE of Buffalo. Farming had been a lifetime dream for Ed, but the reality, especially being cheated by the landowner didn't match the dream. So Ed went back to Cornell for his Masters and then on to Michigan State for his PhD in Agronomy with the assistance of GI benefits. He went all through the war without a scratch and then contracted polio in Michigan, one of the last to do so before the Salk vaccine was invented. It was a very hectic time for both of them; Donna had three sons in diapers and was living in a trailer which was married student quarters. Ed was in a full body cast, followed by rehab. With his usual tenacity and determination, he worked at restoring strength to his right side, teaching himself to write with his left hand in the meantime. His fellow students and professors assisted by bringing work to him.

Ed's first job was at Texas A & M as an Agronomy Professor where he taught for 5 years. Neither Ed nor Donna were very happy in Texas. Then came a wonderful chance; in a cafeteria line at a meeting somewhere in Texas someone said the magic words: "How would you like to go to Cornell as a Professor?" They jumped at it! It was a joint research project between Cornell and the US Dept. of Agriculture. So they were off to Ithaca in 1956, a place they considered ideal to raise their boys. The rest of Ed's career was spent in co-op projects, doing research and supervising graduate students rather than classroom teaching. He spent a lot of time in cornfields. In 1963 the whole family went to Australia and New Zealand for a year while Ed did research there. On another occasion Ed and Donna were in Costa Rica for a project. Ed was subsequently invited to Latvia, Russia, Czechoslovakia, the Netherlands, Canada, Switzerland, Estonia, Tajikistan, the Ukraine and Japan. These trips were connected to his being a world-renowned soil physicist. He was also invited to Norway to share his knowledge of constructed wetlands. They also lived in Tortola in the British Virgin Islands for several years after Ed had taken early retirement. While living in NOTL, Ed organized a project to build a constructed wetland near the lagoon and the DND property on Lake Ontario. The work was done entirely by volunteers: Friends of Fort George, graduate students and Ed. It was monitored every day and Ed once did a guided tour of the facility for church members, demonstrating that you could drink the water at the end of the process. Ed was very proud that one of his students has set up a business of constructed wetlands and supports a large extended family.

Ed never considered himself handicapped and was totally adverse to braces, walkers, canes and wheelchairs, being determined to do it all on his own. Unfortunately, the result was some nasty falls and broken bones – arm, leg, hip and pelvis. In 1971 Ed had heart bypass surgery and contracted infectious hepatitis from a blood transfusion. Through it all he never complained.

When the Lemons moved to NOTL they bought a house on Ricardo St. that was badly in need of renovation and had current occupants such as raccoons, squirrels and birds. With much work they turned it into a beautiful home which even had a lap pool in the basement. Ed was instrumental in getting his sons interested in nature, hockey and working with their hands. They continue his tradition of renovating old houses while living in them. When the house became too much for them, Ed and Donna moved to a retirement facility in Vineland and eventually to Pleasant Manor in Virgil.

Ed had a great love of the outdoors – canoeing, fishing and sailing. His sons follow his example. Bruce, inspired by canoe trips, makes Aleut kayaks. Jake is a retired furniture maker who is putting the finishing touches on a house he has built from scratch. He has taken a mule train down the Grand Canyon, a trip that was months long. Bob has been a residential building contractor for 20 some years and is now restoring an 1890's plantation home. While the boys were still in high school, Ed bought them a Model A Ford, teaching them to tear it apart and put it together to learn mechanics – and to have a drivable car of their own at the end of it. Ed's love of sailing began when he was just 8 with a 14' wooden Cat boat. That was the boat on which he later courted Donna. One of the most notable experiences of

his retirement was sailing to Tortola on a 32' two-masted Seawind which had a wider beam and was very steady. Ed and Donna did a lot of sailing on the Great Lakes in that boat.

This man whose life we are here to celebrate today was a remarkable and varied man. His work and career and ideas were not just about himself but about mankind, future generations and making the earth a better place. We are all a part of an interconnected web. It was not about awards or money. He had the uncanny ability to see the positive in anything. He was a man of integrity who inspired both respect and affection in everyone he met. We always exchanged a hug when he came to church, and if I didn't hug him first, it was: "Where's my hug?" He had a smile that lit up a room – something all of you will remember. He was a scientist and researcher, a rational man who never lost his curiosity. But he was a family man too, a loving lifelong partner to Donna and close to his sons. Ed was an atheist, but one who drew his spirituality from nature – from places like Algonquin Park and the sight of the Northern Lights. As a member of the Unitarian Church, Ed appreciated the range of ideas he encountered here, without dogma or intolerance. On occasion he made a scientific presentation about research he had done on producing electricity. He was unfailingly courteous. He made wine and enjoyed sharing it. To the end of his life he remained mentally alert. Watching the Jim Lehr Report on the nightly news was a passion and he lived to see Obama elected and Bush defeated. The turning of that page in US politics was a positive note. He voted in US elections as long as he was able. He read widely, mostly scientific books and journals. As far as music goes, he lived for Lawrence Welk, but enjoyed the Mormon Tabernacle Choir, organ music and classical music (to which he would whistle along). Ed was a person who had a great influence on others in his lifetime: his sons, his graduate students, his friends and colleagues. He loved and was loved. We will have his infectious smile to keep always in our hearts. His was a life well-lived.



UCN Book Club

Tuesday, May 26th/09 @ 7:00 pm: Book is "Bloodletting and Miraculous Cures" by Vincent Lam hosted at the home of Karen & Paul Golden, 127A Lakeshore Rd., St. Catharines (905-935-0200).

Parking is available at Bob Berg's Auto Repair

Our homes is on the North East corner of Lakeshore and Geneva, first house East of Geneva St. Gray stone with white pillars.

May 3 - Sharing Our Faith

On April 19th our congregation heard from the USC, which we support in their work overseas. On May 3rd "Sharing Our Faith" will be the topic of our service. This denotes our support for other UU communities in Canada who may need help with some project. Most congregations have a special "Sharing Our Faith" service and the offerings on that day go to the CUC committee who grant as much help as possible to congregations who apply for their help.

Cheques may be made to "Sharing Our Faith" and cash donations may be put in an envelope with the donor's name on the outside. Receipts for income tax purposes will be forthcoming.

Our congregation has always been generous in donations so it is hoped that our members will be able to keep up the good work.

Yours in fellowship
Marie Belliveau
Joan Rothman

SISTERS FOR PEACE

I received this from Eleanor Hart of Woodstock, where She was one of the original Raging Grannies. To those who are unfamiliar with our intent, it is our intent to get a Department of Peace, as developed by the Department of Peace initiative established in Ottawa . This was to counter The Department of Defense which is really a Dept. of War. The wish of the Sisters for Peace to save lives and the environment.

Good News! They have postcards, which are being printed by the CAW local 88, which helped them get on their feet with a donation and low printing costs. With these cards they have targeted MP's to establish a Department and Minister of Peace in Ottawa. If you want to get involved, you can email Eleanor and let her know how many cards you want and she will get them to you. They also supply information to help you with your message as well. They are developing their own Sisters for Peace brochure. As well they have a special greeting card with the real meaning of Mother's Day.

They also have a Facebook Page developed one sister, Samantha. If you would like to become a Friend For Sisters of Peace, they would like to accept any small donation to help with their future printing costs. The goal of a federal Department of Peace is reachable. LET's do it!

I am a good friend of Eleanor's sister, who resides in Grimsby. You can make inquiries through me. Her email address is eleanorth@golden.net .

Sofia Vuorinen

CUC National Identity Workshop Unitarian Congregation of Niagara Held March 15, 2009

The workshop was held on a Sunday after services and coffee and was attended by 13 people and the two facilitators. The workshop was facilitated by Joan Rothman and Marie Belliveau.

Group Responses:

1 a) What are our defining characteristics?

- Acceptance of everyone no matter what their beliefs
- Questioning, critical thinking, not cookie cutter belief
- Freedom to do your own search
- Desire to relate to the world
- Lack of focus, unstructured
- Liberal minded people

1 b) What is unique about UU-ism as compared to other liberal faiths or philosophies?

- Lack of entertainment (i.e. rock bands to draw the youth in)
- Do not go out and beat our own drums
- Develop our own theology
- No right or wrong in religion
- Encouragement to use individual critical thinking

2 a) What is it about your UU community that adds vitality and meaning to your life?

- Being amongst like-minded and/or like-hearted people.
- Inspiration from the discussions of life
- Diversity of thought amongst the people who attend
- Getting to the point of the discussion

-I considered this place a continuation of my education

2 b) How do UU communities differ from other religious, philosophical or philanthropic groups?

- We are not pigeon-holed into one particular "special" dogma.
- We have the ability to change or shift gears on issues if needed.
- Lots of member involvement within the community.
- Small congregations more adaptable and flexible towards the issues.
- Do not judge others
- Have a more Humanist strain than most others.

3 a) What is our collective mission or purpose in society?

- Growth for the life mission.
- Defence of human rights for everybody
- Raising awareness of unconditional love
- Showing support of people in their differences
- To give people who have been disenchanted or disenfranchised by other faiths/philosophies a safe place or home to be comfortable while finding their own path or direction.

3 b) Are there areas where UU's are uniquely positioned to make a significant difference in society?

- During threats to individuals' human rights
- We need to be more vocal in the media about our accomplishments and "Speak UP!"
- Practicing critical thinking and not just believing what we are told to believe.
- Holding open and free discussions on the important issues of our communities
- Joining civil liberty groups in defending the rights of others and

social justice issues.

-CUC needs to improve communications with the congregations and improve its marketing strategies and media relations, not enough is known about what UU's believe and what the CUC does for the betterment of Canadians and others in the world.

4. Tell us why you love being a UU and how you came to making this your home.

(This is a compilation of the responses people gave us that did not want to go online and blog.)

-I was invited by a friend and never left, a great fit.

-I was associated in another community group with a prominent member of this congregation and out of respect thought I would give it a try and it worked!

-Associated with another UU from Toronto.

-Searching for a new spiritual home and found it here.



Milk a powerful film about social justice

By Joan Wiley

At an early point in the movie *Milk*, Harvey Milk confides he has accomplished nothing in the first 40 years of his life. Nor does he expect to live to the age of 50.

His words are prophetic.

Harvey Milk was murdered at the age of 48 in 1978 by an enraged and troubled former co-worker at San Francisco City Hall. But when he died, his name was known worldwide

as a tireless and fearless advocate for the gay rights movement.

The movie *Milk*, released last year, describes the life and times of Harvey Milk, played spot-on by actor Sean Penn who won the 2009 Academy Award for Best Actor. Woven throughout the film is news footage from the 1970s, including the roundup of gay men by New York City police officers, the denouncing of gays from the pulpit by evangelist and orange juice mouthpiece Anita Bryant, and riot scenes in the Castro district of San Francisco.

The film, shown on April 5, 2009 by the Sexual and Gender Diversity Committee of the Unitarian Congregation of Niagara, is often difficult to watch. Brutality, frequently at the hands of homophobic police, was commonplace. There is a moment in the film when Harvey Milk believes he is being followed down a dark street; his rising fear is palpable.

The film is also difficult to hear. Senior politicians tell audiences that it is necessary to pass California's Proposition 6 — a proposal that would make mandatory the firing of gay teachers and their supporters — so that homosexual teachers would not abuse or recruit children. Because of the efforts of Milk and his team, Proposition 6 was defeated.

Harvey Milk was no angel, and he left broken relationships and people in his wake in his drive for political power. He himself had been afraid to "out" himself when he lived in New York, but demanded that others reveal their homosexuality to their neighbours and families as part of the strategy to win gay rights.

It is ironic indeed that last year, 30 years after the assassination of

Harvey Milk, that California would once more be in the news, this time for passing Proposition 8 and stripping the rights of same-sex couples to marry.

The movie *Milk* is an inspiration and a reminder that people sacrificed their families, security and even their lives to obtain rights for the LGBTQ community. And we must remain vigilant to honour and protect those hard-won rights.

International Day Against Homophobia

Sunday, May 17 is International Day Against Homophobia. The Sexual and Gender Diversity Committee encourages UCN members to wear something in a bright rainbow colour to recognize the day.

Service Descriptions

May 3 Sharing the Faith

May 10 Janis Alton –

Making History: The Global Women's Peace Movement

S.L. J. Momirov

Janis Alton, M.A. (Political Science) is a long-time activist in the domestic and international peace movement focused on the delegitimization of war, demilitarization, and the inclusion of women directly in all decision-making processes of peace building from conflict prevention to reconstruction. She has conducted 23 study/consultation/lobbying tours for women to United Nations sites, initiated and coordinated many national women and peace conferences and international workshops. Janis is Co-Chair of Canadian Voice of Women for

Peace (founded in 1960), Board member Science for Peace, member Group of 78 (Canadian foreign policy think tank) and of TRANSCEND (international research group) and since October 2006, a member of the Board of the International Peace Bureau (Geneva) a coalition of 270 groups around the world.

May 17 Barbara Warner – Live, Love, Laugh, and Remember, Everyone is Equal in the Grand Scheme of Things *S.L. Ed Gilbert*

Barb Warner was born with cerebral palsy, but she doesn't let her disability slow her down. She is an active volunteer in the community. She believes that every individual has the right to contribute to this world in any way they can, be it big or small. If her story makes a difference to one person, then it is worth telling.

May 24 Brian Arthur Brown – Noah's Other Son *S.L. D. Peever*

As a minister of the United Church of Canada, ministering in communities where Christian majorities interface with robust Muslim and Jewish minorities, Brian Arthur Brown began to ask questions in the aftermath of 9/11, and what he found fascinated him. In these troubled times of religious extremism, interfaith relations between Christian, Muslims and Jews are increasingly important. In particular, he uses the story of Noah's Other Son as a parable for our time when people are oblivious to warnings about such issues as global warming, unsustainable development, pandemics, and poverty, as well as the urgent

necessity to now find new ways to live together in harmony on this planet. His book is called Noah's Other Son: Bridging the Gap Between the Bible and the Qur'an.

May 31 Dr. Bruce Walton – Finding UU Principles in Unlikely Places *S.L. Ed Gilbert*

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Come prepared to sing!

Naramata 2009 Joyful and Liberating!

Eliot Institute offers a seven day, one-of-a-kind experience of play, community, and worship for the whole family in beautiful Naramata, on the shores of Lake Okanagan in British Columbia. This year's session runs June 27 - July 4, and will feature Rev. Amanda Aikman and Julia McKay as the theme speakers. Come join us! Visit www.eliotinstitute.org or call 206-374-2497 to learn more.

The Bottom Line

Income:

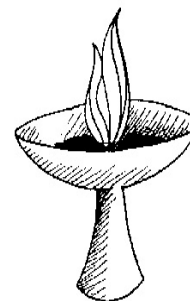
Collections	\$5,635.95
Interest Not yet processed	
Rentals	\$1,390.00
Total Income	\$7,025.95

Expenses:

Administration	\$551.90
Insurance (2 nd of 3)	\$957.00
Sunday Service	\$1,017.00
Utilities	\$306.10
Social Justice	\$200.00
Other Expenses	\$62.86
Total Expenses	\$3,094.86

We posted a \$3931.09 increase for the month of March. This was aided by the fact that there were five Sundays in March and many congregation members pay their pledge quarterly starting in March.

For the entire year we have a \$1,905.00 profit as of March 31, 2009.



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