



UNITARIAN CONGREGATION OF NIAGARA

A church for people
with enquiring minds

October 2009

Sunday Services

Oct. 4 - Climate Action Niagara (CAN)

– Jane Hanlon S.L. S. Vuorinen

Climate Action Niagara is a not-for-profit community-based organization that facilitates programs to educate and provide opportunities for the Niagara community to address climate related issues through their actions.

Oct. 11 - Books that Shaped Our Lives

– Craig Beam

In honour of the 10th anniversary of Craig's PhD thesis defence, he is organizing a second Book Service, this time with a focus on books that inspired us in our formative years. The focus will be autobiographical – why did that book speak to me at that particular time?

Oct. 18 - The Beneficial Aspects of Drumming

– Mark Chindemi
S.L. T. Kriyachanda

Oct. 25 - Black History in Niagara

– Lezlie Harper-Wells S.L. S. Vuorinen

This will be a presentation using slides to educate us about the black community in Niagara, historically and present.

Why I Became a Lay Chaplain ...

Ed Gilbert wrote: The Unitarian Congregation of Niagara, and the Unitarian Universalist denomination, have provided an oasis in the stormy life of one who sought a religious home for many years, only to fail in that search. I would like to extend the acceptance I found at the UCN to others and feel that by becoming a lay chaplain I might be able to do that in some small way.

It's also such a privilege and honour to be able to be part of the wonder of the several Rites of Passage that many people find solace in through contact with our church.

Julianne Momirov wrote: I became a lay chaplain because the church needed one. John and Doreen were going to be retired and the church would be without chaplains if there was no one who was willing to do it. Because I knew how important the presence of our chaplains and our faith's willingness to immediately embrace same-sex marriages had been to so many couples from Canada, the United States, and other countries, I could not stand by and allow our community to be without a Unitarian chaplain. I was also aware of how many couples of differing

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Unitarian Congregation of Niagara

Phone: 905-687-8433
Website: www.unitarian-stcatharines.org
General Inquiry: ucn.contact@gmail.com
Communications e-mail: ucn.communications@gmail.com
Web administrators: ucn.webadmin@gmail.com

Lay Chaplains:

Ed Gilbert
Valerie Jaeger
Julianne Momirov
ucnlaychaplains@gmail.com
905-687-8433

**Unitarian Congregation
of Niagara**

223 Church St.
St. Catharines, ON L2R 3E8
Tel: 905-687-8433
www.unitarian-stcatharines.org

2009/2010

PRESIDENT: Michael Petrocci
VICE PRESIDENT:
Jon Stahl

PAST PRESIDENT:
Fred Bolton

LAY CHAPLAINS:
Ed Gilbert
Valerie Jaeger
Julianne Momirov

SECRETARY:
Anita Miecznikowski

TREASURER:
Carl Beckett
MEMBER AT LARGE:
Ed Gilbert

CHOIR/MUSIC:
Penny Blake
COMMUNICATIONS:
Bruce Millar

DENOMINATIONAL AFFAIRS:
under review

LAY CHAPLAINCY:
Fred Bolton

MEMBERSHIP:
Jim Glassford

NEWSLETTER:
Sofia Vuorinen

PASTORAL CARE:
Jenny Leach, John Berry

PHONE: Beverly Russell
PROGRAM:

Julianne Momirov
PROPERTY:
Peter Skelton

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION: Tba
CONTACT FOR ADULT RE:

Joan Rothman &
Marie Belliveau

RENTAL: John Northover
SEXUAL & GENDER

DIVERSITY:
Joan Wiley

SOCIAL: Hilde Wheeler
SOCIAL JUSTICE:

Marie Belliveau
SPECIAL EVENTS:

Rhonda Armstrong
TRUSTEES:

Andrea Gravelle, Don Herne
James Wilson

WEBSITE:
Roy Blake, Bruce Millar

Continued from pg. 1....

faiths or without defining faiths had relied on Unitarian chaplains over the years to marry them in places outside of the confines of churches. I believed that it was imperative that our congregation continue to offer this kind of service to the community. Therefore, I did not become a lay chaplain to fulfil my own needs but to fill a need in our congregation and in the larger community.

Julianne

MUSIC/CHOIR

I want to extend a warm welcome back to the choir.

We have new music to sing, and new ideas from our members, I also have new ideas from a music workshop I attended at our very own Unicamp.

I'm excited to be back for more music making and looking forward to seeing you again. – Remember – it takes us all to make the music come alive.

If you wish to join us, don't be shy; new members are welcome any time. We meet according to the schedule below at 9:45 a.m.

Choir Schedule

9:45 a.m.

Sept. 27	Rehearse
Oct. 4	Rehearse & Sing
Oct. 18	Rehearse
Nov. 1	Rehearse & Sing
Nov. 15	Rehearse
Nov. 22	Rehearse & Sing
Dec. 6	Rehearse
Dec. 13	Rehearse & Sing
Dec. 20	Rehearse & Sing
Jan. 10	Rehearse
Jan. 17	Rehearse & Sing
Jan. 31	Rehearse & Sing
Feb. 14	Rehearse & Sing
Feb. 28	Rehearse
Mar. 7	Rehearse & Sing
Mar. 14	Rehearse & Sing
Mar. 28	Rehearse & Sing
Apr. 18	Rehearse & Sing
May 16	Rehearse & Sing



Congregation

Announcements

- October 4th will be our next Salad Day so we can enjoy the last of this season's bounties!
- Once again our congregation will be hosting a Friday evening Out Of the Cold Program at Knox Presbyterian church. Further information will follow once the date has been set.
- TV Cogeco is now in its fourth season. *Taking Niagara by Storm* is on 6:30 Mondays, 6:30 Wednesdays and 1:30 on Sundays. The first show was on health care in Niagara. The show goes into more than 100,000 households in Niagara.
- We are very fortunate to have KUNLI SHIH, Bhikkhuni, a Western Buddhist nun from Canada, give weekly guidance in practical meditational exercises leading to insight. The sessions have already begun and will continue weekly on Sunday evenings from 6-8 p.m.

There is no cost for the sessions but a freewill offering of your support (Dana) and appreciation will be gladly accepted by Kunli. I am very encouraged from the positive response on our first meeting last Sunday. There were 7 members from our congregation and 5 from the community for a total of 12.

It is obvious there is a great interest in learning to look within!

If anyone would like more details please call:
hilde.wheeler@905-685-4936
or e-mail at
ah_wheeler@yahoo.ca

Registration Reminder

Members of the Unitarian Congregation of Niagara who wish to attend the UUnity and Diversity Conference at our church on Saturday, Oct. 17th, must register by Thursday, Oct. 1st. The \$15 registration fee, which covers breakfast, lunch, refreshments and materials, can be paid on the day of the conference.

To register, click on the following link:

<http://unitarian-stcatharines.org/social-action/SGD/SGD-conference/conference-registration.htm>

This gathering of regional Unitarian Universalist churches will explore our roles as Welcoming Congregations. Central to the day will be an analysis and discussion about the Welcoming Congregation manual (Part 1), a document that is foundational to our understanding of sexual and gender diversity and in our capacity as welcoming, supportive and useful UU congregations. Does this

American-based manual meet the needs of our Canadian congregations? Are there gaps? What is handled well? Are there suggestions for improvement? Where do we go from here? In order to have an informed discussion, we ask that you review the Welcoming Congregation manual, which may be downloaded from our website.

Art Brewer, chair of the Canadian Unitarian Council's Gender and Sexual Diversity Monitoring Group, will first fill us in on the CUC's role, achievements and goals in advancing sexual and gender diversity. From there we will segue into a discussion about the manual. Two other sessions that focus on sexual and gender diversity will follow in the afternoon.

We hope that you will be able to attend this exciting, all-day conference.

Climate Change

Day of Action

October 24th, 2009

- On October 24th, 2009, concerned citizens of the world can participate in an International Day of Climate Action. Thanks to 350.org (see web page below), who initiated this action, the global voice of humanity can rise together and call for reducing Greenhouse Gas in the atmosphere, to 350 parts per million (ppm) – the maximum level for safety determined by climate scientists.

Levels above this put us all at the mercy of catastrophic climate events – and the current level is close to 390 (ppm). Urgent international action is needed to put a cap on carbon emissions.

For our children, and grandchildren's sake, we must let our governments know we care about climate - before December - when world leaders will meet in Copenhagen, Denmark, to sign the 'post-Kyoto' climate change treaty. We want Canada's leaders to listen to us, the people, and to take scientifically required action. For more info, see www.350.org and/or www.eco-justice.org (then click "Join the 350 Movement").

We encourage congregations and communities to join in taking climate action anytime - leading up to, on, and beyond October 24th.

- Plan a worship service, on "Climate Justice and Global Poverty" for either Sunday October 17th or Sunday October 25th.

- During the week of October 17 – 23: We invite you to visit your MP asking for his/her support for the Climate Change Bill C311 which comes up for 3rd reading this Fall, and asking for him/her to sign the pledge for politicians.

- Plan a church and/or community activity addressing climate change or calling attention to the need for climate action (see 350.org for examples – a tree planting, walk, speakers, music, art, workshop, bike action, community clean-up, film, skit, carbon-free local dinner, rally, etc).

- Promote your activities with local newspapers, radio stations, etc. before the Day of Action to publicize what you will be doing and why.

- Circulate petitions for signatures.

- Share what your congregations and community are doing. Please send

your info to: Janet Vickers (janet@cuc.ca)

- Register your action and send in a photo to www.350.org

Thanks for getting involved in this important ministry of caring for the earth and its climate for the life and health of all creatures.

How We Spent our Summer Vacation

Summer is over, and we'll soon be back to our familiar routines. Before I forget though, I'll talk about one of the amazing places we visited this summer, the Chautauqua Institute in upper New York state on Lake Chautauqua.

If you are not familiar with this organization, it's a place chock full of everything cultural, spiritual, or intellectual that you could want. Each week different speakers – both religious and non - discuss in depth a topic of concern. Our week's focus was 'Imagination' in morning lectures and 'Imagine a World at Peace through Compassion' in the afternoon.

It was a most thought provoking week. The morning speakers talked about novel ways to think about and foster creativity. They talked about the necessity of finding new ideas in practical areas such as manufacturing and science to help us deal with the problems of the 21st century. Several speakers emphasized the need to allow workers and students the freedom to search for innovative solutions without close, detailed supervision, and suggested that the best results tend to come from intrinsic motivation. For example, one speaker compared two electronic encyclopedias: Encarta and Wikipedia. The former is rigidly

structured and 'professional.' The latter is open and voluntary. Encarta is about to be discontinued, while Wikipedia is very successful. The need for interdisciplinary teams in engineering and design was also seen as very important.

In the afternoon the religious leaders from various faiths spoke with surprising frankness about the shortcomings of religion – at least in how it is practiced. It was agreed that the common denominator amongst all faiths is compassion and the golden rule, but how often do we find that today? Also, some questioners in the audience were able to express the difficulties we all have with these concepts: how do we deal compassionately with those we don't trust, who moreover may have committed acts of violence against us?

One of the speakers, Karen Armstrong, spoke about us having a choice: we can emphasize the awful or get back to peaceful. In her words 'Some scriptures are toxic and must be interpreted'. Nevertheless, religion can be tapped for good and is an important source of people's identities and cultures.

This speaker has won a TED prize. TED, standing for Technology, Entertainment, Design, is a kind of think tank with both events in real time, and virtual time on the internet. Her request from TED is to help build a 'Charter for Compassion' which will be an interfaith mission statement. It will involve projects from around the world: in Europe, Muslim community events; in Australia, an essay prize; in New York, art. The launch is on Nov. 12th.

If you want to find more out about this institute and the TED project, here are some links:

<http://www.ciweb.org/>

<http://www.ted.com/>

<http://www.tedprize.org/karen-armstrong/karen-armstrong-at-the-chautauqua-institution/>

Thanks,
Penny



September 17th, 2009 Board Meeting Minutes

Business Arising:

Sanctuary Perimeter Initiative:

The investigation of potential solutions is ongoing.

Lay Chaplains' Committee:

Carl moved that the lay chaplains' names be put on the Order of Service, with church e-mail and phone number.

Ad hoc CUC Relations Committee report:

After much discussion, Mike asked the committee to formulate meeting objectives and share these with the congregation. He would like to notify Calvin and Jennifer two weeks in advance of the meeting with the congregation, Nov. 8th, of those objectives and set up a town hall meeting style for the service.

Sanctuary Floor:

The floor has had six coats of varnish applied. Care should be taken that dust and debris not be tracked into the sanctuary.

Rental Program:

John Northover presented the

rental schedule for the fall season and a record of income for the year.

New Business:

AIDS Walk:

Approval was given for the church to be used as a drink and rest station for the walk Sept. 20th.

CUC Initiative on Climate Change:

The board supports a paperless service on Oct. 25th with the Order of Service projected via our AV system.

Out of the Cold:

Support was given to repeat this initiative at the Presbyterian church.

Canvas Committee and Canvas Dinner:

Canvas chairs need to be found; the date for the dinner is Dec. 5th.

SGDC Conference (UUnity and Diversity), Oct. 17th:

Doreen reported that letters of invitation have been sent to all Ontario congregations. Billets for the night of Oct. 16th will be required. A minimum of ten attendants will be required in

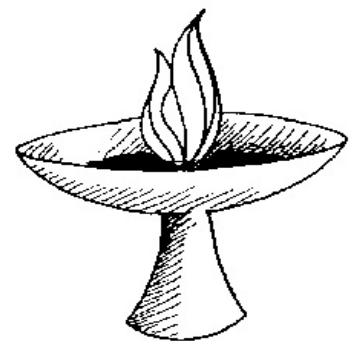
order for the conference to proceed. The dead line for registration is Oct. 1st.

Treasurer's Report:

Carl presented the report and said that UCN seems to be doing reasonably well in terms of our budget for this year; income from collections is down but will likely improve this fall.

To help you in your planning here are the 2009/2010 Newsletter Deadline Dates:

October 18
November 22
December 16
January 24
February 21
March 21
April 18
May 23



Reservations for the UCN in September - December 2009

Monday:	10 – 12(noon)	Sept 14 – Nov 23	Yoga Unlimited.
	6 – 8 pm	Sept 14 - Nov 23	Yoga Unlimited.
Tuesday:	6 – 9 pm	Sept 1 – Dec 15	Niagara Dance Co.
Wednesday:	6:45 – 8:30 pm	Sept 9 – Nov 11	Yoga Unlimited
Thursday:	4:30 – 6:30 pm	Sept 10 – Nov 12	Yoga Unlimited.
	6:30 – 9:30 pm	Sept 24 – Dec 10 St John Ambul., not Oct 15 & Nov 19.	
	7:30 - 9:30 pm	Oct 15, Nov 19, Dec 17, BOARD MEETINGS.	
Friday:	6 – 9 pm	Oct 2, Nov 6, Dec 4.	Niagara Action for Animals.
	7 – 9:30 pm	Oct 23, Nov 20, Dec 18.	UCN Film Night
Saturday:	9 – 4 pm	Oct 17	UUnity and Diversity workshop
	2 - 10 pm	Dec 5	Canvas or Pledge Dinner with entertainment.
Sunday:	10:45 – 12:30		Weekly service.
	6 – 8 pm		Weekly UCN Buddhist gathering (Hilde 685-4936)

If you know of UCN activities that are not listed above, please contact John Northover with details and they will be entered on the calendar on the Church notice board and also relayed to Bruce Millar and Roy Blake for inclusion on the UCN website under Rentals.

29 Aug 2009 John Northover 905-934-7487 jgnorth@vaxxine.com

Come sleep with us!

Planning to come to the Winter Olympics 2010? Beacon Unitarian Church in the Tri-Cities suburb of Vancouver, BC is offering in-home bed and breakfast, January through March, 2010.

For information go to
www.BeaconUnitarian.org
 or call registrar, Joy Silver
 at (604) 939-2213
 or e-mail odetojoy@telus.net



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223 Church St.,
 St. Catharines, ON L2R 3E8

Tel: 905-687-8433

www.unitarian-stcatharines.org

Editor: Sofia Vuorinen
 905-563-8615
sofia.vuorinen@3web.net

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