



UNITARIAN CONGREGATION OF NIAGARA

A church for people
with enquiring minds

November 2009

Sunday Services

Nov. 1 - What do the 7 Principles Really Mean?

– *Julianne Momirov*

Nov. 8 - The Canadian Unitarian Council Today

– *Jennifer Dickson, Executive Director and Calvin Drake, President, CUC S.L. John Storm*

Nov. 15 - Tai Chi Chuan: Meditation in Motion

– *Josie Fitze S.L. T. Kriyachanda*

Discover the healing world of Tai Chi through exercises for body, mind, and spirit. Josie's talk will include history, health benefits, and philosophy, as well as answer questions you may have. Afterwards, she will 'play' the long form of the Yang style set.

Nov. 22 - Secular Humanism

– *John Berry*

Non-belief is the fastest growing set of beliefs in North America, but Secular Humanism is not a religion: the reality is out there.

Nov. 29 - Nigeria – *Vince Del Buono*

Who Are We ...

When I asked our Lay Chaplain, Ed Gilbert, if I could interview him for our column "Who Are We?", little did I foresee that I was going to have writer's cramp at the end of the interview. Ed was born in Napanee in 1943. His father worked for Trans Canada Pipelines and was transferred to many places in Ontario. Ed worked as a purchasing agent for Trans Canada Pipelines. While he was there he took a materials management course at Ryerson. He moved to Calgary in 1981 where he worked as a purchasing agent for Alaska Pipelines. While in Calgary he purchased two houses, which he unfortunately lost when he was laid off and his firm closed.

He then went to work for Alberta Gas in Red Deer, where he had a permanent position. Ed left in 1986 and went to study at Georgian College in Barrie where he took a real estate course. He became a Real Estate Sales Representative. He sold real estate for Royal LePage in Barrie. In 1990, he went back and took a Real Estate Broker's course and became licensed as a Real Estate Broker.

In the fall of 1990 he was declared HIV positive. He continued to live in Barrie on a long term disability pension.

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Unitarian Congregation of Niagara

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**Unitarian Congregation
of Niagara**

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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

In the spring of 1999 his father died. After this he moved to Collingwood and became an avid sailor. He belonged to various organizations here and began to teach boat safety. He received a great honour when he was elected Commodore of the Blue Mountain Power and Sail Squadron.

Ed was the cofounder of the Aids Committee for Simcoe County and acted as the executive director for seven years. He moved to St. Catharines in 2007. How did he come to be involved with our Unitarian Congregation in Niagara? He walked by our church one day and went inside to see what we were all about. He said that he felt immediately at home. We are so fortunate to have a person like him to have joined our Congregation and to become one of our three present Lay Chaplains.

I am very pleased that we can access Ed's sermon on our website that he gave in September, 2008. The sermon was titled "In the Name of the Father: Leviticus 18:22." This gives you further information as to why Ed has joined our Congregation. To quote him "I am so very grateful for having found the Unitarian Congregation of Niagara. A church, where because of its seven principles, I have been able to reclaim my spiritual life and find a true home." I printed a copy of the sermon for myself because there is so much information in it that I quote to all manner of people. Thank you for this, Ed.

Ed has told me that the highlight of his life has been to become a Lay Chaplain at our Congregation. I think we are most fortunate that you have chosen us.

Choir Schedule *revised*

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
Nov. 29	Rehearse added
Dec. 13	Rehearse & Sing
Dec. 20	Rehearse & Sing
Jan. 17	Rehearse & Sing
Jan. 24	Rehearse added
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

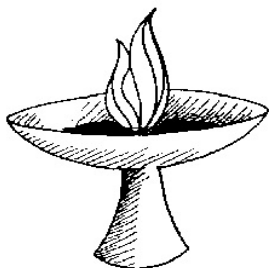
Congregation News

Please pledge by November 18th

I hope that you received a pledge package envelope either at church or in the mail. We would like to have your response by or before **November 18th** so that Carl, our Treasurer, can draw up a budget for Church programs in 2010. Carl's program summary and nine-month financial statement will give you a good idea of how the income is spent. The pledge sheet gives you the opportunity to ask for a phone call or a visit from one of our knowledgeable members to discuss any suggestions or concerns that you may have. Also, we invite these kinds of helpful comments on the pledge sheet. We hope that you will join us for the Pledge Dinner and Entertainment at 6 p.m., Saturday, December 5th by checking the bottom of the sheet, or by contacting Rhonda Armstrong. Please return the completed pledge sheet in the envelope provided, and addressed to Carl, at a church service or by mail.

Thank you for your support.

*John Northover
Carl Beckett
Mike Petrocci
Canvass Committee*



November Book Club

The club meeting will be held on **November 17th at 7:00 p.m.**

Brian Brown, the author of our current book club choice "Noah's Other Son" will be with us for the discussion.

We will meet at the home of

Joan Rothman
541 Scott St.
St. Catharines
(905-935-9267)

Please let me know if you cannot make this date. – Joan

UCN Social Action Committee

Christmas Collection for the Resource Association For Teens (The RAFT)

Please contribute new or gently used clothing for winter for both Women & Men:

- Coats, Boots, Hats, Gloves/Mittens and Scarves
- Toiletries for Women: (New Only) Hygiene Products, Body Wash, Shampoos, Conditioners, Nail Products, etc.
- Toiletries for Men: (New Only) Shaving Products, Razors, Body Wash, etc.
- Cash Donations are always welcome! Please make any

cheques out to: The RAFT
For more information: Call or email, Marie Belliveau at

905-704-0189

mbelliveau2@cogeco.ca

Please leave any item donations in the Religious Education Classroom in the box provided and any cash or cheques, please give directly to Marie. Do NOT leave cash/cheques in the church.

UCN Responds to Call for Environmental Action

Question - What does the Unitarian Congregation of Niagara have in common with Afghans, Tongans, Somalis, Mongolians and French Polynesians?

Answer - We are all registered with the 350.org to hold protests or to take actions to reduce carbon dioxide emissions.

Climate Action Day is October 24. With a few days to go, there were over 3559 actions planned in over 161 countries around the world. Click on the website at www.350.org and check out the map. We and more than 3558 other initiatives are on it.

Even though we are a small congregation we have two initiatives to reduce paper consumption and hence carbon dioxide emissions. The first is to reduce the amount of paper used in our Newsletter production. Last month, after an email survey, 18 people opted to receive their monthly newsletter via email so that paper

copies will not be printed and sent using regular mail. This process will be phased in this month.

The second initiative is an experiment in a paper reduced service. On October 25, we experimented with displaying the order of service on the screen rather than printing service handouts. Roy Blake brought his personal computer to make it happen. Copies of the order of service were emailed to people before the service and were posted on the web as usual. Next month, we will follow up with the response to the experiment.



Bangladesh Fundraising Dinner

On Saturday, Oct. 17th a very successful fundraising dinner was held at Westminster United Church organized by Nasim Banu Ahmed and Mahbuba Khanam, who organized it for the sixth time. They spoke about their project to us on Sept. 27, and we rose to the occasion. Many of us were active participants of the dinner, and took their wonderful project of helping children and widows, victims of typhoon, and people who have no access to

potable water as part of our own outreach, caring about making life easier for those who suffer hardship. Our participation was noted and thanked very publically during the event that had over 300 dinner guests. This is exactly the kind of outreach that we should nurture. It is working with others about objectives that we share. I was very proud of our small community making itself visible and tangible in many ways, all the while enjoying partaking of a fine dinner, learning about the culture of a different tradition, but still a part of the interdependent web. Let us continue to assist in future years!

– John Mayer

Rabbis/ Passover

Passover is probably the best loved holiday in the Jewish calendar, and the most universal. It starts with the Jews fleeing slavery's oppression in Egypt - and has come to represent freedom and liberation for all oppressed people.

The Program Committee is thinking about scheduling a Seder in the church and would like to know how much interest there would be in doing such a thing. It would not likely be during a regular service but held in the evening. Please let Julianne, Sofia, John Mayer or Tara know if you are interested in participating in such an experience. Thank you.

November 8th

- Soup Sunday

Soup, bread and butter/ rolls/ croutons will be provided by the church. We ask for accompaniments (i.e. grated cheese, finely cut up chicken, beef, ham; diced vegetables, chopped herbs, cooked noodles, cooked rice, etc) as your interactive contribution to the lunch. Of course, desserts are always welcome as well! If you have any questions please email Hilde Wheeler at ah_wheeler@yahoo.ca



Out of the Cold

We are booked for **January 22, 2010** – Because we were such a great success at our congregation's Out of the Cold Outreach Project last year, Knox Presbyterian Church kindly invited us back! Our congregation supplied and served a wonderful lasagna dinner to approximately 100 people with a volunteer force of 33. This year we can expect more guests and I am confident with our valuable experience from last year we will be able to handle the evening just as easily. Please mark this date on your calendar and don't hesitate to reserve your spot on the list of volunteers. Hilde Wheeler:

ah_wheeler@yahoo.ca

or 905- 685- 4936

Mindfulness Meditation

The Mindfulness Meditation (Vipassana) group continues to meet every Sunday evening @ 6:00 p.m with much enthusiasm from both members of our congregation as well as from the community. Kun Li Shih expresses her gratitude for the generosity offered to her by our UCN.

Directory Changes

Unitarian Congregation of Niagara

Please update your Directory as follows:

- Bennett, Barbara
bbennett@vallnet.com
- Curtis, Philip
23 Jackson Court West,
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pcurtis3@hotmail.com
905-735-5586
cell: 905-414-7538
- Jacobi, Kevin
filmfan@cogeco.ca
- Kriyachanda, Tara
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- Mayer, John
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- Rajakumar, Vivek
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905- 687-8635
vivek.rajakumar@gmail.com

- Sankey, Charles Delete
- Spencer, George Delete
- Virtue, Shari
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289-214-0453 Office: 905-
735-2211, ext. 7698
svirtue@niagarac.on.ca
- Watson, Sandra
6 Wolseley Ave.
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905-988-9378

The Left Hand of God

Jesus is thought, by many, to be seated on the Right Hand of God. That begs the question: "Who is seated on the left?"

Or perhaps She does not have a left hand; not unlike some returning service men and women from the rape and pillage of the Afghan war - returned sans left hand.

On the other hand, pardon the pun, we are supposedly created in the image of God, suggesting that God does indeed have a left hand.

Being left handed carries no small stigma occasionally. Witness a "Left handed compliment". Surely a left handed pitcher is somewhat of an oddity in baseball. I can remember my father telling of how he was hit with the teacher's ruler for writing with his left hand.

So I would volunteer to sit on the left hand - I see myself as being slightly to the left of center. I may not be alone.

- Ed Gilbert

Community Support

Services of Niagara

Community Support Services of Niagara (CSSN) is a non-profit agency that strives to help people living with a disability or the elderly live at home and lead independent lives.

CSSN offers a variety of programs across the Niagara Region, those of which you will find listed on the attached flyer. We offer many volunteer-based programs to help us achieve this goal. Many people who would otherwise be isolated in their homes are given the opportunity to socialize and feel appreciated because of the generosity and commitment of our volunteers.

In an effort to enhance our volunteer program and assist more people in our communities, I am approaching several churches in the Niagara region with the hopes that the attached flyer may be included in your next bulletin/publication. (S e e bulletin board for posting)

If you would like more information or would like a staff person to come and speak with your group, please do not hesitate to contact me.

With sincere thanks,

Laura Dumas Volunteer

Coordinator

Tel: 905-682-3800

E-mail: ldumas@cssn.on.ca

Website: www.cssn.on.ca

UCN Night at the Movies

UCN Night at the Movies presents the following tentative dates for our film nights.
All are welcome, admission is **FREE**.

Movies begin at **7:00 p.m.**

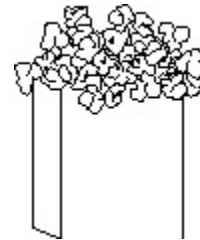
at the UCN Church, **223 Church St.**, St. Catharines

Refreshments are served and donations for these are appreciated.

Movie selections will be announced as soon as decided.

Please feel free to send your suggestions to Marie Belliveau, mbelliveau2@cogeco.ca

November 20/09	"A War Story" (Hosted and suggested by Al & Hilde Wheeler)
December 18/09	(undecided, may cancel)
January 15/10	And the Band Played On
February 19/10	Fierce Light
March 19/10	TBA
April 16/10	
May 21/10	



TWO HORSES

Just up the road from my home is a field, with two horses in it. From a distance, each looks like every other horse. But if you stop your car, or are walking by, you will notice something quite amazing. Looking into the eyes of one horse will disclose that he is blind. His owner has chosen not to have him put down, but has made a good home for him. This alone is amazing. If nearby and listening, you will hear the sound of a bell. Looking around for the source of the sound, you will see that it comes from the smaller horse in the field. Attached to her halter is a small bell. It lets her blind friend know where she is, so he can follow her. As you stand and watch these two friends, you'll see how she is always checking on him, and that he will listen for her bell and then slowly walk to where she is, trusting that she will not lead him astray. When she returns to the shelter of the barn each evening, she stops occasionally and looks back, making sure her friend isn't too far behind to hear the bell. Like the owners of these two horses, God does not throw us away just because we are not perfect or because we have problems or challenges. He watches over us and even brings others into our lives to help us when we are in need. Sometimes we are the blind horse being guided by the little ringing bell of those who God places in our lives. Other times we are the guide horse, helping others see. Good friends are like this. You don't always see them, but you know they are always there.

Please listen for my bell and I'll listen for yours.

"Be kinder than necessary, for everyone you meet is fighting some kind of battle."



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