



UNITARIAN CONGREGATION OF NIAGARA

A church for people
with enquiring minds

June 2010

Upcoming Events

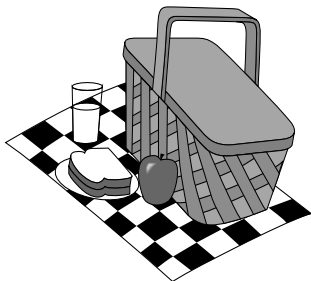
June 6 Congregation Picnic

Time: 12:00 p.m. until ??

Place: Queenston Heights

Picnic Pavillion

Bring a dish to share and your own dishes, cutlery and drinks.



Sept 12 September Salad Day

...to be held on September 12, 2010. Salad greens, as usual, are supplied by the church and we ask for donations of toppings which, when all put together, will make an interesting salad lunch. Please feel free to bring a dessert instead of a salad topping.

Who Are We . . .

(submitted to Editor by Shari Virtue)

May 20, 2010

Greetings to Everyone at UCN:

Unbelievably, my leave from Niagara College and my time here at the Canadian University of Dubai is almost over! I have only one month left of classes and I will be home on July 9th. The year just flew!

It has been quite an experience. When I arrived mid-August it was HOT, Ramadan was in full swing and CUD was off to a very rocky start. Thankfully, most of the year has been cooler and quieter... but it's starting to heat up again. These days the temperature is bordering on the 40's. So, as things draw to a close, I thought I'd reflect on what this experience has meant to me so far and share it with you.

The biggest part of my life here is teaching at CUD. I have lovely colleagues and spunky students (mostly from Iran), but there have been numerous problems (financial and administrative). Nevertheless, it has been a positive experience. Stepping out of my comfort zone and immersing myself in a new country, culture and school has shaken things up, offering challenges and growth. I am finding out who I am and what I'm made of. I realized that I actually can face difficulties with flexibility and a sense of humour. I am also learning ALOT about how this part of the world works and what I need to do to live happily here.

....continued pg. 2

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

2010/2011

PRESIDENT: John Mayer
VICE PRESIDENT:
John Northover
PAST PRESIDENT:
Michael Petrocci
LAY CHAPLAINS:
Ed Gilbert
Valerie Jaeger
Julianne Momirov
SECRETARY:
Doreen Peever
TREASURER:
Carl Beckett
MEMBER AT LARGE:
Ed Gilbert
CHOIR/MUSIC:
Penny Blake
COMMUNICATIONS:
Roy Blake
DENOMINATIONAL AFFAIRS:
Merelie Scott-Armstrong
LAY CHAPLAINCY:
Jenny Leach
MEMBERSHIP:
Jim Glassford
NEWSLETTER:
Sofia Vuorinen
PASTORAL CARE:
TBA
PHONE: Rose Furness
PROGRAM:
Valerie Jaeger
PROPERTY:
Peter Skelton
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:
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
Will Wilson
WEBSITE: Roy Blake

Update from Dubai. . . (continued from pg. 1)

Big cities have a certain vibe that small towns, for all their charm, just don't have. Dubai is so diverse and has so much to offer. I love sitting in a cafe at midnight under the glow of the city lights. I love my fitness classes (salsa, yoga and body combat!), the shopping malls, the galleries and a sidewalk serving of the best Indian food ever. I have had some pretty fabulous moments here in the UAE: seeing the Burj Khalifa lit up by fireworks, cruising along the Dubai Creek, swimming in the Gulf, bargaining in the souks, lunching with the ladies, dancing like crazy on the beach and dune bashing out in the desert. Say what you will about the problems of the region, Dubai has a vitality and energy that I hope to keep with me always.

This last year has also been a year of travel...and you know I'm a happy wanderer! I have been sunning in Cuba, mini-golfing in Florida, hiking in the mountains of Oman, swimming in the Dead Sea of Jordan, babysitting in Qatar, scrambling among the temples of Angkor Wat, Cambodia, and I hope to visit old friends in Switzerland before coming home. Whew! But what makes each of these places so wonderful is that each involves dear family and friends...more treasured than any mountain or temple!

I recently saw a quote that has stuck with me and in many ways reflects my experience here: "I didn't say it was going to be easy; I said it was going to be worth it." I am happy to say that getting away for a year has been worth it. I feel renewed. I have developed professionally, restored my personal vitality, explored some fascinating places and come to appreciate the love of my family and friends even more. I feel very fortunate and can't wait for what's next!

I guess that's all from me. I wish you all a wonderful summer and I look forward to renewing my UU friendships and involvement with the congregation in the Fall.

Sincerely,
Shari Virtue

Unitarians to South India

Like Water for Spices: A Unitarian Journey to South India, from the Bay of Bengal to the Arabian Sea. March 11 - 17, 2011. Experience fabulous temples, meditate in captivating locations, attend a Sunday service at the Unitarian Christian Church in Chennai, visit an ashram in Pondicherry, cruise the backwaters of Kerala, learn about Tanjore painting, enjoy a Kerala cooking demonstration, and watch a Kathakali Dance presentation. Led by Rev. Wayne Walder. See all details at www.nuuc.ca/Journeys/india2011.htm

Beverly Carr bgcarr@rogers.com

Congregation News

President's Corner

As I am to speak in Portland, Maine on Wednesday night, I asked John Northover to chair the Thursday Board meeting if I did not manage to get home on time. He asked whether there is anything urgent on the agenda, and I replied that I am not aware of anything that needs immediate attention. He proposed that we cancel the Board Meeting, rather than have me drive all day, or not be there. I asked the congregation whether anyone has anything that need to be dealt with now, and when there was no response, we decided to cancel the June 3 Board Meeting. We will meet in July.

Another matter: I have just spoken to John Inglis, who told me that he is undergoing surgery a second time on July 12.

We enjoyed an excellent presentation by David Galston, which was followed by a sumptuous luncheon. We look forward to our picnic on June 6 at Queenston Heights.

– John Mayer

"...all dogs secretly speak the English language and subscribe to the morals and beliefs of the Unitarian church."

Membership News

Please make the following changes to your Directory:

a) The Wheelers have two email addresses:

Alan Wheeler:
alanwhee@gmail.com

Hilde Wheeler:
ah_wheeler@yahoo.ca

b) Please delete:

Maureen Donnelly from the Directory and fan out list.

Have a great summer everyone.
Jim Glassford,
Membership Co-ordinator

Denominational Affairs

Ed Gilbert will be attending the CUC Leadership School (cleverly known as CU*UL School) to be held July 15th to July 18th in Hamilton.

If anyone else is interested, the cost is \$499.00, with the congregational treasury paying half and the participant paying the balance.

– Merelie

Choir Notes

Another year has passed and all I can say is, 'hats off' to our choir members and Terri. We've added folk classics like 'Turn, Turn' to our repertoire, did Peterson's jazz piece and even managed a tune in Swahili. Carl added his solo voice to our group so that we could do an extensive program for Valentine's Day, 'Love in Word and Song'. So despite our small numbers we do manage to add quite a bit of variety to the services.



I gave an exercise to the choir just before our season ended, which was to finish the sentence below,

'Participation in Unitarian choral music activities is beneficial because

Here is one of the responses:

- a) there is nothing like singing to make you feel good.
- b) I get a chance to sing with others whose voices and musical talent I enjoy.
- c) I get introduced to music I would otherwise not know about.
- d) there is nothing like singing to make you feel good.

Well said. I should add that it's nice once in awhile to get a bit beyond our hymnal, 'Singing the Living Tradition'. -- Speaking of which - I thought I'd do a summer service this year to go

through lesser known hymns from that book, and the congregationally accessible pieces from the new green hymnal and elsewhere. This will probably be sometime late August, depending on Terri's schedule. So stay tuned. I hope it will be a useful and informative session.

Thanks to all again. I look forward to returning in the fall, but now its time to warm up our vocal chords with - hopefully - some summer sun.

- Penny

Keeping In Touch . . .

Norman and Janet Horofker send their regards to everyone receiving this newsletter who may remember them. Norm and Janet relocated to Columbus Georgia in 1995 after many years as members of the Niagara UU congregation.

The occasion for this update is Norman's graduation from the Candler School of Theology at Emory University in Atlanta with the degree of Master of Divinity. The graduation ceremonies were on May 10, 2010. Norman retired from a 35 year engineering career in 2007 to enroll at Candler full time.

The Candler School of Theology is one of nine professional schools at Emory University with 500 students from more than 50 denominations and more than 7,000 alumni worldwide.

Norman will be serving the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Atlanta (uuca.org) as a ministerial intern from mid-August 2010 to June 2011, and will be pursuing ordination as a UU minister after that.

Daughters Marta and Kayla are both living in Toronto, with Kayla graduating from the University of Toronto in June of this year. Janet continues to work at Saint Francis hospital in Columbus Georgia where they maintain their home.

Norman and Janet send their love and best wishes to all. They can be contacted at nhorofker@aol.com and jdhorofker@aol.com

Things to Ponder . . .

In his February 21st service, Kevin Jacobi provided many quotes and valuable insights to share with the Congregation. Here are a few of those quotes:

"It is not hard to understand modern art. If it hangs on a wall it's a painting, and if you can walk around it it's a sculpture."

Source Unknown

"The creative artist seems to be almost the only kind of man that you could never meet on neutral ground. You can only meet him as an artist. He sees nothing objectively because his own ego is always in the foreground of every picture."

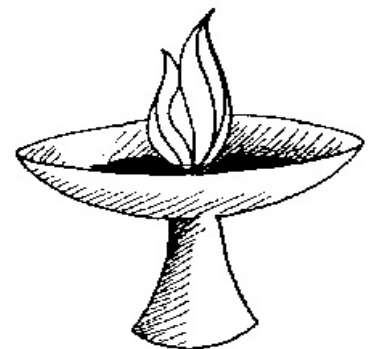
Raymond Chandler - American crime writer

"If we are to change our world view, images have to change. The artist now has a very important job to do. He's not a little peripheral figure entertaining rich people, he's really needed."

David Hockney - British photographer

"Artists to my mind are the real architects of change, and not the political legislators who implement change after the fact."

William S Burroughs - American novelist



Unitarian Congregation of Niagara
223 Church St., St. Catharines, ON
L2R 3E8

Editor: Sofia Vuorinen
sofia.vuorinen@3web.net

Deadline for Next issue: **August 22, 2010**

UNITARIAN CONGREGATION OF NIAGARA BOARD MEETING

Minutes of April 1, 2010

Present: John Mayer, John Northover, Michael Petrocci, Doreen Peever, Roy Blake, Ed Gilbert, Merilee Scott-Armstrong

1. **Minutes** of March 4th approved with corrections. M/S/C Doreen/Ed
2. **Agenda:** approved with 3 additions. M/S/C John Northover/Roy
3. **Business Arising:**

a) Pastoral Care – Doreen will make an announcement at church this Sunday asking for a volunteer chair

b) Concerts – Doreen said that the musicians (Glissandi) she has in mind are not available until the fall. Theresa will be asked to participate too. Penny

has previously suggested her chorale group. Doreen will fix a date later.

c) Lay Chaplaincy Committee – Jenny hasn't been able to organize a meeting before today. The committee is divided on the issue of retired chaplains officiating. Jenny will resolve with the committee and report to the Board.

d) Empty Bowls collection proceeding.

4. **Committee Reports:**

Roy checked the box for the digital piano. There is a new phone password.

Roy has the key for the wayside pulpit sign and will change it regularly.

Rental: Burt Peeters is canceling Thursday evening classes temporarily.

LCC – meeting on April 11

Denominational Affairs: Merilee distributed CUC congregational package.

The CUUL Leadership School will be held in Hamilton in July at \$549 pp.

5. **New Business**

- a) **Social Action**

- John requested idea in the newsletter

- Marie will arrange a meeting with the minister of Silver Spire United Church. Their newsletter has lots of activities but nothing John feels we can integrate with..

- John suggests adopting a Habitat for Humanity project.

.

b) CUC Workplan

- verbose document, pledging to be efficient, etc.
- plan to add 4 full time staff with a considerable deficit.
- concern on internet about deficit financing
- Board members are requested to read the report and make notes for the next meeting.
- the Board will write to Jennifer Dickson
- lack of innovation
- the CUC has been ineffective and wants to continue the same way.
- results of survey in 2009?

c) GreenLawn contract: Give it to Peter as Property Chair

d) CUC Ministers:

- call to action on social action
- the federal government is planning to close 6 prison farms
- ask congregations to send mail to the PM
- talk to local MP, Vic Toews

e) Newsletter

- Shari Virtue's address wasn't changed for snail mail.
- be careful about what goes on the web
- if file is in Word rather than PDF, Roy can edit it.
- Roy took it off the web and will continue to censor it.
- changes of address can be on e-mail

f) Unicamp vouchers: Al Wheeler's name was drawn as the winner for 2 Unicamp vouchers.

6. Next Meeting: Thursday May 6th at 7 p.m.

7. Adjournment: at 9:15 p.m.

Minutes taken by Doreen M. Peever

Secretary