



UNITARIAN CONGREGATION OF NIAGARA

A church for people
with enquiring minds

April 2011

Sunday Services

- Apr. 3 Substance Abuse - Looking for Love in all the Wrong Places**
– Barb Bennet
- Apr. 10 Joy** – Vivianne LaRiviere
S.L. V. Jaeger
- Apr. 17 UU Service Committee**
– Kate Green – S.L. Valerie Jaeger
- Apr. 24 Flower Communion**
– Valerie Jaeger

ARE YOU READY?

UCN GOT TALENT

This is a reminder of UCN Got Talent! That talent will be on display Sat. April 2 starting at 1:30 p.m. at the UCN. There will be crafts, a bake sale, and performances by UCN choir members and special guest artists. Admission is only \$2 and includes a ticket for a draw for door prizes.

A poster with all the details is attached to the Newsletter version on the website. Please feel free to print it and post it.

See you on the 2nd!

Who Are We? . . .

Penny Blake

I have mentioned in a previous newsletter how much of a delight it is to enter our Congregation on a Sunday morning and hear Theresa Pothier tickling the ivories while Penny Blake is directing the choir rehearsal.

Penny was born and raised in Toronto in the Jewish faith and attended Hebrew schools there as well as public school. Both her grandparents were born in Eastern Europe and immigrated to Canada. Her parents were both born in Canada and of the Jewish faith. Penny and Roy met at the University of Toronto, where Penny obtained a general B.A. studying subjects such as political science, English and history. She also studied at the Royal Conservatory of Music in Toronto where she obtained her Associateship.

Penny has taught many private vocal students but her main love was running a Kindermusik program in her home. The children ranged in age from babies up to six years of age. They sang a variety of songs even folk songs. The children were given a variety of instruments to play and explore, and musical elements and even notation were integrated with games and movement. It was a joy to introduce children to music in such a creative manner. One Sunday we were delighted to hear some of these

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2011/2012

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Penny Blake
COMMUNICATIONS:
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DENOMINATIONAL AFFAIRS:
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RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:
CONTACT FOR ADULT RE:
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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
Doreen Peever
WEBSITE: Roy Blake

Penny Blake . . . (*...continued from pg. 1*)

instruments when the choir used them to accent the rhythm of one of our hymns. She is pleased that we have an open attitude to creativity in our services, loves the variety, and the opportunity to learn new things about the world.

When she moved to our area, she attended Brock and studied both music history and music theory which led to her branching out from teaching and singing to composing as well. Music had always been a part of her life as her mother played the piano and her brother became a classical singer and cantor. It is such a pleasure to have Penny share her talents with us as the leader of our choir. I urge any service leaders to see what Penny's choir could fit in with the service when they are the service leader.

She has been and still is a member of the Niagara Vocal Ensemble, which is a chamber choir. This group performs locally. The choir is all female and has approximately twelve members. Penny is quite pleased that one of her compositions, 'Spring Breaks in Foam' will be performed by this ensemble in their upcoming concerts.

I asked Penny how she made her initial contact with our Congregation. It was through Maureen Chamberlain who was the pianist at the time in our Congregation. Maureen and Penny had little children who had become friends. Maureen asked Penny to come and sing a solo for us. The rest is history.



U.C.N. We've Got Talent!

On April 2nd U.C.N. will be putting on a talent show!

Some of us can not sing, dance, play an instrument or make beautiful craft pieces, however, most of us are able to bake! SO-o-o-o there will be a Bake Table as part of the talents. If you are willing and able to contribute in some way with baked goods please let Joan Rothman know. Of course if you are a maker of jams and relishes these would also be appreciated. In past fund raising efforts, the Bake Table has always been a big success so let's make sure that this tradition continues.

*Yours in fellowship,
Joan Rothman*

Congregation News

Membership

1. Please look at the Church's Directory and check your information to see if it is correct. If there are any changes that need to be made, please contact me at Church or via email (jglassfo@becon.org).

2. The "Building Your Own Theology 1" group has 9 participants and we are half way through the course. If you notice anyone wandering around the Church with a puzzled look on his or her face, then that has to be one of the participants.

*Jim Glassford,
Membership Co-ordinator*

Denominational Affairs

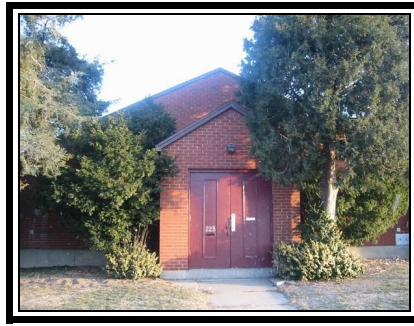
The CUC Annual Conference (AGM) is being held in Toronto, May 20 to 23, 2011, at Convocation Hall, U of T., the theme being "Trust the Dawning Future".

Our congregation will be electing two delegates but for a fee, others may attend the Saturday or Sunday workshops.

There will be more information in church and the newsletter. In the meantime, the address is

CUC.ca/conference/2011

– *Merelie Scott-Armstrong*



Church History

Doreen Peever and Merelie Scott-Armstrong are planning to write a church history, picking up from when Dr. Sankey's history left off. Unfortunately, the church office is not yielding as much information as anticipated. If you have any documents you could provide, we would be delighted to receive them. Thank you.



Choir Schedule Spring 2011

April 10	Rehearsal
April 17	Rehearsal & Sing
April 24	Rehearsal
May 1	Rehearsal



Five Reasons to Help Send Young Adults to the ACM in 2011

1. Multigenerational Community

Do you want to be a truly Multigenerational Community? Then you need to support your members (and potential members) at all stages of their lives. This means you can't afford to forget about the needs of bridging youth, or of young adults and young families who find your congregation. Welcome them and show them you're willing to work to support them, and they'll be more likely to stick around.

2. Growth

Want to grow your congregation? Don't forget about young adults! The invitations you extend now to participate in the life of your congregation, and the experiences these young adults have at the ACM this year, will encourage them to come back to your congregation and become more involved! This includes becoming members and pledging to support the congregation that supports them.

3. Community Building

Community projects and creative fundraising events are a great opportunity for people of all ages to interact in new ways, and to get to know one another.

4. Leadership

Are your current leaders burnt-out and over-committed? Want someone else to take on some of those key roles? Young adults, especially those that grew up UU, are a great source of new leadership, and are often ready for these roles sooner than other new members. If they feel supported by your congregation, they will be much more willing to take on these roles.

5. New Ideas

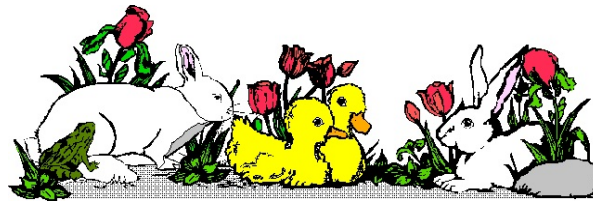
Young adults have different experiences and different perspectives from many of your other members, which can be a great way to rejuvenate your congregation!

Just a friendly reminder that the Early Bird deadline for registering for this year's ACM in Toronto is a week away. Registering early increases your chance of securing your place in some of the sessions and events. To receive the discount, we must receive full payment by March 31st to qualify for that rate.

If you're interested and haven't yet registered, please visit our website and fill out the registration form at:

<http://cuc.ca/conference/2011/registration.htm>

A sign in front of one of the local churches during one of our many heavy blizzards said, "No, God is not angry. This is just snow!"



From James A. Haught's *Fading Faith: The Rise of the Secular Age* p. 162

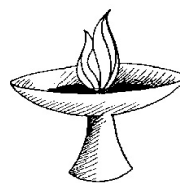
Privately, many gifted ministers don't believe the supernatural dogmas of their churches. Nobel Prize-winning martyr Martin Luther King Jr. and Coretta Scott King were skeptic-minded Unitarians in Boston before they made a calculated decision to become Deep-South Baptists to fight America's racial segregation. Scholar Robert Scofield wrote:

"Coretta Scott had been attending Unitarian churches for years before she met and married Martin, and they both attended Unitarian services while in Boston. He ultimately faced the reality that he would probably not be able to play a role in the civil rights movement in this tradition and thus he became pastor of Dexter Avenue Baptist Church, shortly thereafter being elected to lead the Montgomery bus boycott." [8]

[8] *Tikkan* magazine, November 2009, "King's God: The Unknown Faith of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.," by Robert James Scofield.

FRAGRANCE-FREE POLICY

The Unitarian Congregation of Niagara is a fragrance-free zone. Fragrance may be distressful and threaten the well-being of those around you. In order to make this a safe and welcoming environment for everyone who comes here, we ask that you refrain from wearing fragrances. Your understanding and co-operation is appreciated.



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