



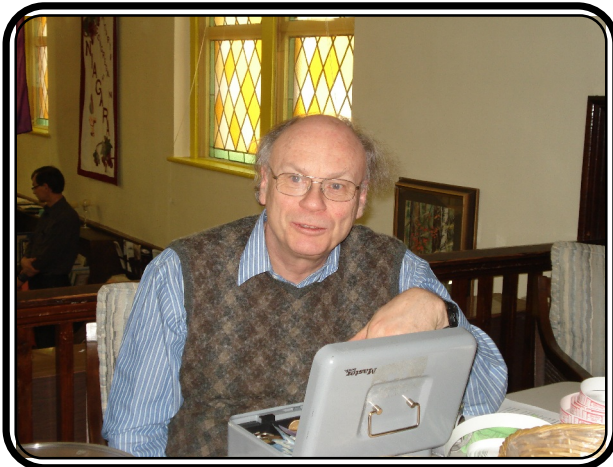
UNITARIAN CONGREGATION OF NIAGARA

A church for people
with enquiring minds

May 2011

Sunday Services

- May 1** **May Day** – *Karen Johnson-Hosein*
May 8 **Refusing to Be Enemies**
Palestinian and Israeli
Nonviolent Resistance to the
Israeli Occupation
– *Maxine Kaufman-Lacousta*
May 15 **Conscientious Objectors**
– *Fiona McMurrin*
May 22 **Flower Communion**
– *Valerie Jaeger*
May 29 **Marie Belliveau** – *Topic to be*
advised
June 5 **Picnic**



Who Are We? . . .

Roy Blake

Roy comes from Toronto where he grew up in an Anglican family. His grandparents came from England. His rather checkered university career includes dropping out of three universities and, eventually, accumulating three degrees. He had a variety of jobs before finding his niche as a teacher of electronics, first at DeVry in Toronto, and later at Niagara College in Welland. He's been there for 27 years, and has decided that's long enough to do one thing. He'll be retiring at the end of June. He hopes to keep his hand in by revising one of the four textbooks he has written, but he'd also like to catch up with some of his interests that he's had too little time for in a mostly technical career, especially philosophy and film. He's hoping to finally have time to again be the film buff he was years ago.

Roy met Penny in a cafeteria forty years ago, during one of his sojourns at the University of Toronto, and they've been together ever since. They have two children. Adam recently graduated from Ryerson and is a programmer at RIM, where he tries to get BlackBerries to play video games. Shira will be heading to the University of Ottawa in the fall, to study biology.

...contd. Pg.2

Unitarian Congregation of Niagara

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of Niagara**

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2011/2012

PRESIDENT: John Mayer
VICE PRESIDENT:
John Northover
PAST PRESIDENT:
Michael Petrocci
LAY CHAPLAINS:
Ed Gilbert
Valerie Jaeger
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:
Inactive
PHONE MONITOR: Ed Gilbert
PROGRAM:
Karen Johnson-Hosein
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
Doreen Peever
WEBSITE: Roy Blake

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

Roy had very little to do with religion from early adulthood until moving to Welland. He and Penny became involved with a small and interesting Reform Jewish temple in St. Catharines. That temple merged with a much more conservative one in Niagara Falls, and both Roy and Penny found it to be pretty boring. They'd already discovered the UCN, but hadn't attended much. Soon they became regulars, then members, and somehow Roy found himself running the website and sitting on the Board.

Roy likes Unitarianism for a lot of reasons. Some say that Unitarians don't believe in anything, but Roy thinks they do: they believe in civilization. The lack of any dogma is a good fit with Roy's longstanding agnosticism. He likes being able to be a Unitarian and a Secular Humanist at the same time. He likes the fellowship and the fact that we do interesting things: the book club, the film nights, UCN Got Talent etc. He likes the fact that all the arguments about women's rights, acceptance of all sexual orientations, etc., were settled years ago. And he likes the fact that the Unitarian faith has nothing at all to say about hats.



Happy Birthday

to a very special person!

Donna Lemon will be 90 on May 2nd.
She will be celebrating the big day
with her family who are travelling
from the United States to share in
this special occasion.

Many happy returns, Donna!



Congregation News

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

Sharing the Faith Response

Hi everyone:

We have received some very good news from the CUC (see the forwarded email below). Some time ago we applied for a Sharing our Faith grant to help with our membership in the Ecumenical Chaplaincy program at Brock University. David Galston, who has spoken at several of our services, is now representing us as well as several other denominations, and we are contributing \$1000 per year toward the cost. The CUC grant means that this will cost us

nothing for the next three years.

Great credit is due to Marie Belliveau, whose application-writing skill paid off this time as it has in the past.

*Roy Blake
on behalf of the Board*

***Dear John,
The Canadian Unitarian Council Board is delighted to be able to grant in full your request for \$3,000 from the Sharing Our Faith Fund.***

This is made possible because of the generosity of congregations across the country who chose to hold a Special Sharing our Faith service to raise funds to share with fellow congregations.

As a result, your congregation will be able to use some of these funds and continue its mission so that together we will continue to grow vital communities for the Unitarian and Universalist movement in Canada.

We look forward to receiving a progress report on this support for Campus Chaplaincy by February 2012.

A cheque from our Director of Finance for \$3,000 is forthcoming.

*Regards,
Kathleen A. Provost,
Director of Resource Development*

CUC Annual Conference

The CUC Annual Conference is being held May 20 to 23, 2011, in Toronto at 89 Chestnut Street, near the bus station.

The CUC meeting is on Friday, May 20th, and is open to delegates and observers. John Mayer is driving up that morning, returning in the afternoon. He has a van so is able and willing to take passengers. Speak to John if you are interested in attending.

The Sunday worship service is being held at Convocation Hall, service to start at 10:45 a.m. Again, this is open to all but tickets must be shown. Tickets are available during the conference or at the door of Convocation Hall before the service.

UNICAMP

www.unicampofontario.ca

Three things you need to know about Unicamp:

1. The Perfect Meeting Place for Families.

As the Administrative Manager for Unicamp some of the things I frequently hear from folks who don't attend Unicamp is "We are too far from Unicamp" or "Our congregation and members have no connection with Unicamp! But something amazing is happening at Unicamp for the upcoming summer season. Parents and grandparents from distant places such as Victoria, BC, and Thunder Bay in Ontario

are coming to Unicamp with their children and grandchildren who live in Toronto or near Unicamp. They are using Unicamp as a meeting place and an opportunity to spend quality time with their extended family members. We wanted to share this with Unitarians at a distance from Unicamp and to let you know that if you have family closer to Unicamp we would love to have you use Unicamp as a meeting place.

2. Kids Rule in July/family Time in August

July is for children at Unicamp and there are still a few spaces in Children's Camps at Unicamp for children ages 7 to 13. The theme for children's camp this year is stories. Around the World in 80 days Week 1 (July 3-9). Treasure Island Week 2 (July 10-16) and Harry Potter Week 3 (July 17-23). There is also a week devoted exclusively to youth ages 13-15 =July 24-29. The youth will explore the theology of Dr. Seuss.

August is for everyone, with three weeks of family camp and programs every weekend, including Nia, Dungeons & Dragons, Sacred Circle Dance and much more. There is something for everyone.

Make this a summer to remember and experience your Unitarian Universalist Camp and Conference Centre in southern Ontario. This beautiful camp

belongs to all Unitarians and like-minded people.

3. A Threat to the Future of Unicamp (and Southern Ontario)

For those of you in Southern Ontario (and really all of Ontario) there is a very large threat looming in our future. A company called Highlands Companies, owned by a U.S. based Hedge Fund, has filed an application for a mega quarry in Melancthon Township, the township right next to Unicamp. The company has purchased almost 8,000 acres of the best agricultural land in Ontario. This first application filed is for a 2,400 acre open pit quarry 200 feet deep. This would involve blasting 24 hours a day, every day of the week except stat holidays. Plus there would be 3,600 trucks in and 3,600 trucks out, every day (that's 300 trucks an hour!).

The application shows that excavating a crater this size means managing 600 million litres of groundwater every day from now until the end of time. This is the same amount of water that 25% of Ontario uses in a day. The area is called the Hills of the Headwaters for a reason - 5 major rivers start here and are the source of water for millions of people in Ontario.

For more information and to take action against this threat, visit www.ndact.com or www.citizensalliance.ca. The application can be viewed at www.highlandcompanies.ca/index.php/companies/melancthonquarry/.

<http://www.highlandcompanies.ca/index.php/companies/melancthonquarry/>. Comments/concerns must be submitted in writing, before April 26th to:

Craig Laing, Ministry of Natural Resources
Midhurst District
2284 Nursery Road
Midhurst ON L0L 1X0
A copy must also be submitted to:
The Highland Companies
P.O. Box 377
Shelburne, ON L0N 1S0

Please contact Wanda Gordon, Administrative Manager for Unicamp for information, questions and to register. admin@unicampofontario.ca or 519-822-6353.

UCN Got Talent? You Betcha!

Well, April 2 finally came and our show, 'UCN Got Talent' happened. When I first proposed this I had no doubts that we did have talent, both on and off stage, but would others have the necessary 'see it through' attitude?

It looks like I needn't have worried. We not only had wonderful acts for the talent show, but many congregants put in quite an effort for the bake sale and craft show. We had a special cake baked for a draw and also a beautiful basket and wine donated, as well as donations for door prizes. In the

end we had a good turnout, and it was good to see people inside our congregation who had never been here before. They had great fun – as I hope we all did.

Last but not least, we did raise a significant amount of money for our efforts, well over \$400. This

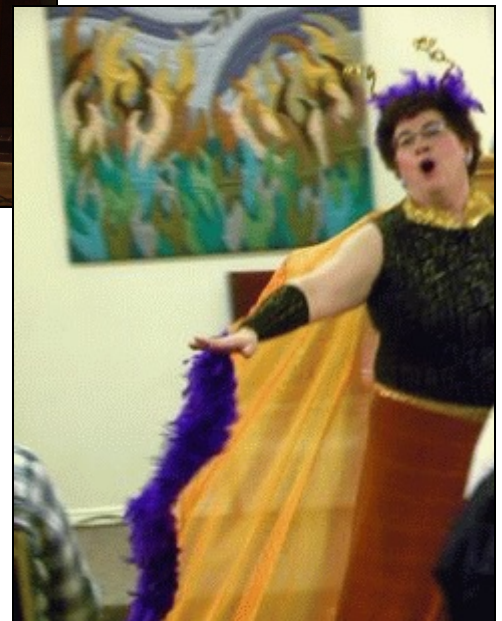
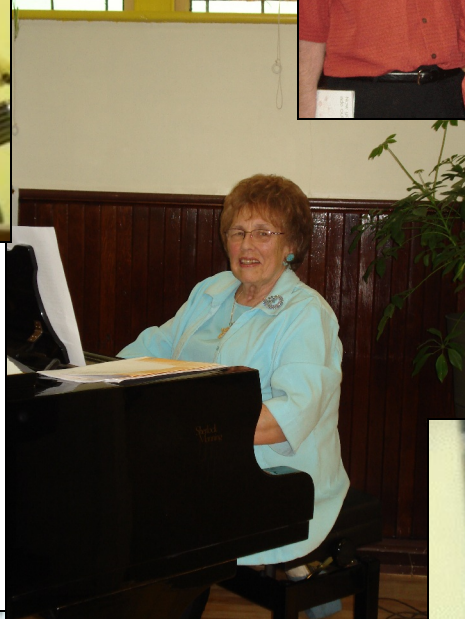
should more or less ‘cover’ a new piano cover.

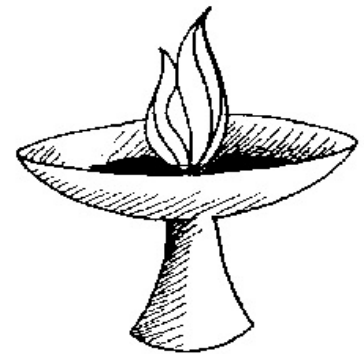
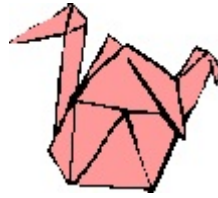
So, hats off to all the participants and organizers, – too numerous to list all by name.

Do we have talent? – You betcha. And was it worth it? – for sure.

– Penny Blake

A picture is worth a thousand words. Here’s a few from the show – please visit the website to see more in colour.





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.

**Unitarian Congregation
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