



**CONGREGATION
of Niagara**

UNITARIAN CONGREGATION OF NIAGARA

A church for people
with enquiring minds

January 2012

Sunday Services

- Jan. 1 New Year's Message**
– *John Mayer*
- Jan. 8 Overcoming Adversity with
Change and Growth** – *Abu Hosein*
S.L. Karen Johnson-Hosein
- Jan. 15 Confucian Philosophy**
– *Dr. Ning Wang*
– *S.L. Sandra Watson*
- Jan. 22 The Gospel According to
Forrest Church** – *Julianne Momirov*
- Jan. 29 PFLAG St. Catharines**
– *Cathy Mackenzie*
– *S.L. Doreen Peever*

Who Are We? . . .

Sandra Beckett

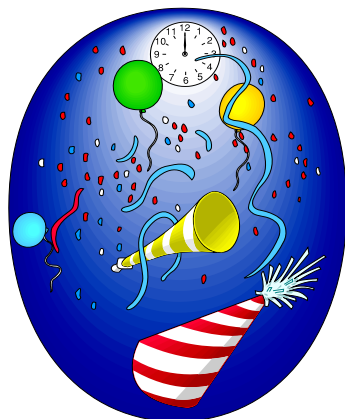
Sandra Beckett accompanies her father Carl Beckett, who is our treasurer to our Unitarian Congregation of Niagara every week. Sometimes she sits with her father during our service. Other times she disappears into the large back room that is equipped for activities with younger people when they attend our congregation. At present she has one two year old child to babysit regularly. Carl says her official title here is "Babysitter."

During our coffee and conversation after our service, I usually have the opportunity to ask Sandra how many people did she have today. Usually, the answer is none!

This particularly disturbs me because when I was a Unitarian delegate to our annual meeting in Thunder Bay, I learned from many other delegates that they had a thriving young people's program.

Sandra is a fifteen year old student at Eden secondary school. She was born in Mississauga, but has received most of her primary and secondary education right here in St. Catharines. When I asked her what she hopes do in the future, she replied that she would like to pursue her career somewhere in the fashion department as designer or something related to fashion. She is very interested in art, preferring the abstract end of it.

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Unitarian Congregation of Niagara

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2011/2012

PRESIDENT: John Mayer
VICE PRESIDENT:
John Northover
PAST PRESIDENT:
Michael Petrocci
LAY CHAPLAINS:
Ed Gilbert
Karen Johnson-Hosein
SECRETARY:
Doreen Peever
TREASURER:
Carl Beckett
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Ed Gilbert
CHOIR/MUSIC:
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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

Who Are We? . . .Sandra Beckett *(continued)*

When asked why Sandra is coming to the congregation to work with young children, she told me that she has always loved being with young children since she was little and played and did other activities mainly with her cousins. This is such a pity when we have someone who is so enthusiastic about young people and would like to plan activities for them. The problem is that she never knows how many children will be attending on a Sunday. Sandra would like to invite people with special arts and crafts skills to help her to plan for activities for young people to come and enjoy; however this is not possible because there is a lack of a predictable numbers on any Sunday. There is nothing that the UCN and its Board would not do to bring children to the Congregation. There would be no end to the supplies we are willing to buy for any children that attend the UCN with their parents. If we ever get children on a regular basis we will be very adept at providing creative stimulation for them. I mentioned to her that I also would love to help her and get involved with such a program. I have been involved with programs of this nature with the St. Catharines Parks and Recreation, Grimsby Art Gallery, and a summer arts program at Ridley College and in my home. Art is a very neglected program in the Niagara education system and has gotten even worse in recent years I am informed.

I chose to interview Sandra because I would like it to be more widely known that we do have the potential for an enjoyable and educational program for young people. Carl also feels that we are not enough well-known in the Niagara community for what the Unitarian Congregation of Niagara is about and what we could do in situations such as one involved with programs that Sandra is more than capable of doing. I am appealing to everyone to come forward if you have any ideas to improve this situation.

– Sofia Vuorinen

****Please note ↘**

2012 AGM for 2011

The 2012 Annual General Meeting of the UCN will be held on Sunday, March 4th. We wish to make the booklet of annual reports available on Sunday, February 26th, one week prior to the AGM, to allow members to study the reports before the General Meeting. As we did last year, would committee chairpersons please prepare a report of their committee activities in 2011, and preferably email it by Sunday, **January 29th** to both Darcy Ewanchuk at solution@vaxxine.com and John Northover at jgnorth@vaxxine.com. Thank you very much from John Northover.

Congregation News

Annual Pledge Dinner

On December 3 almost forty members and guests gathered for the annual pledge dinner. We shared an excellent meal, good conversation, laughter and fellowship. We were very fortunate to have JAQ as our evening entertainment. They certainly lived up to all expectations.

Many thanks to Penny Blake, who arranged the entertainment and to Andrea Gravelle and Joan Rothman for their invaluable help. John and Gerda Northover also helped in setting up the tables.

– Rhonda Armstrong

2011 Pledge Canvass for 2012

We tried to close this year's Pledge Canvass by mid-November, but by early December we were still receiving pledges for which we are most grateful. Pledge packages were distributed to 56 members and friends in mid-October. So far, Carl Beckett has received 34 pledges, totaling \$22,000. This is below the amount pledged last year. If you have not pledged yet, I would ask you to consider sending your pledge as soon as possible. Our response may affect church activities for next year such as the social action program which helps to put our good intentions into practice.

Thank you.

John Northover

(Chair, Pledge Committee)

UCN Film Night

The first film night of the New Year will be held on January 20th. Film title to be advised.



Out of the Cold

UCN will be doing the Out of The Cold dinner on Friday, January 6.

We need volunteers to help with set-up, kitchen, and clean-up. Please sign up on the sheet at the congregation or contact David Jordan at 905-892-5636 or djordan@cogeco.ca

Workshop

There will be a special service and workshop at:

**Don Heights
Unitarian Congregation
January 29, 2012 at 10:30 am**

**Choice in Dying:
It's a Matter of Justice**

Presenter: Wanda Morris

In May 1993 the member congregations of the Canadian Unitarian Council adopted a resolution supporting choice in dying. Almost twenty years later that support hasn't wavered. For many Unitarians, choice in dying is a matter of justice. In this service Wanda Morris, the Executive Director of Dying with Dignity Canada will review some of the arguments around choice in dying,

and their relationship to our Unitarian Principles and Sources.

The service will be followed by a presentation at 1:00 pm where you can learn more about the current legal status of end of life choices and the current court challenge being supported by the CUC.

Medically Assisted Dying and the Law

Workshop Leader:

Wanda Morris

What Sue Rodriguez started, Gloria Taylor is determined to finish.

In this informative and engaging session you'll learn about:

- the laws governing assisted dying in Canada and around the world;
- Canadian court rulings on assisted dying, and
- the right to die challenge brought forward by Gloria Taylor and the BC Civil Liberties Association.

In 1993, Sue Rodriguez asked the Supreme Court of Canada for the right to medically-assisted dying so that she would have a peaceful way to end her suffering. The Supreme Court ruled against her then, by a 5-4 decision.

A lot has changed in the last two decades. This November, a challenge brought by BC Civil Liberties, Gloria Taylor and others is coming before the BC Supreme court. Whoever loses will undoubtedly appeal the case to the Supreme Court of Canada so this case will ultimately impact all Canadians.

2012 Winter & Spring UCN Sanctuary Reservations

Monday	10:00 - Noon	Jan. 02 - May 21	Yoga Unlimited
	6:00 - 8:00 pm	Jan. 02 - May 21	Yoga Unlimited
Tuesday	7:00 - 9:00 pm	Once Monthly	UCN Board Mtg.
Wednesday	6:45 - 8:30 pm	Jan. 04 - May 23	Yoga Unlimited
Thursday	6:30 - 9:30 pm	Jan. 12 - May 31	St. John Ambulance, SJA
Friday	6:00 - 9:00 pm	1 st Friday Monthly	Niagara Action Animals, NAFA
	7:00 - 9:30 pm	3 rd Friday Monthly	UCN Movie Night
Saturday	3:00 - 4:00 pm	Weekly church cleaning.	Gill Foster
Sunday	11:00 - 1:00 pm	Every Sunday	UCN Service
	2:00 - 5:00 pm	Jan. 8 and Mar. 25	Niagara Dance Co., NDC
	6:00 - 8:00 pm	Every Sunday evening	UCN Buddhists

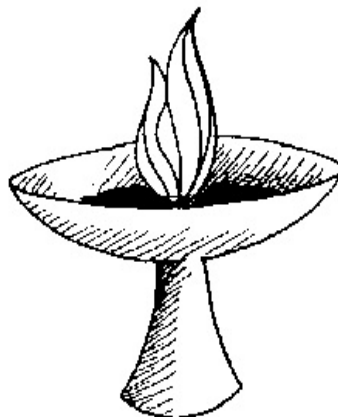
Please check details on the church calendar and Roy's website Google calendar, and contact John Northover for listing changes and additions.

Invitation

New Year's Day at 2:00 pm,
Children Dedications of
Mikael Thomas Naatakit Johnson and
Myka Lynn Johnson-Kolbuc at UCN.

Ceremony followed by light
refreshment.

All who would like to witness this
event are welcome.



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Deadline for **February** issue:
January 22, 2012