



UNITARIAN CONGREGATION OF NIAGARA

A church for people
with enquiring minds

March 2007

Sunday Services

March 2007

- Mar 4** Spiritual Shopaholism
– *Michael Battenberg*
- Mar 11** The Beading Heart: The Meaning of Beads
in Women's Lives – *Julianne Momirov*
- Mar 18** Unitarian-Universalism and the Uses
of Mystery – *Monica Hornyansky*
- Mar 25** Natural Burials – *Janet McCausland*

April 2007

- Apr 1** USC Speaker
- Apr 8** A Pagan's Easter – *Michael Hornyansky*
- Apr 15** Humanism – *James "Will" Wilson*
- Apr 22** Projects around Earth Day at the Mel
Swart Conservation Place – *Ana Ravenstar*
- Apr 29** Unitarian Universalist Views of the Bible
– *Jim Glassford*

May 2007

- May 6** Visitors – *Vivianne LaRiviere*
- May 13** June Gilbertson – *Topic to be advised*
- May 20** Solving Problems Directly with Colour
– *Joannie Wilson*
- May 27** A Celebration of Sexual and Gender
Diversity: Freedom from Religious
Oppression – *Christine Martin*

June 2007

- June 3** Church Picnic

AGM Highlights

Twenty six members of our congregation attended the meeting on Sunday, Feb. 18 along with some visitors. Highlights are listed below.

*Philip thanked all the board members past and present and committee coordinators for all their hard work and commitment to the church.

*Andrea Gravelle and Don Herne agreed to stay on as trustees. Will Wilson agreed to replace Monica Hornyansky whose contribution was gratefully acknowledged.

*Jenny Leach and Shari Virtue were accepted as Lay Chaplains- in- training.

*The congregation agreed to a motion which eliminates and bans the use of bottled water at our church.

*The congregation agreed to begin the process to become a 'welcoming congregation'.

Directory

Please check your 2006 Directory and if any changes need to be made to any of the information about you, please advise Jim Glassford, Membership, of such changes before the end of February.

Unitarian Congregation of Niagara
www.unitarian-stcatharines.org



**Unitarian Congregation
of Niagara**
223 Church St.
St. Catharines, ON L2R 3E8
Tel: 905-687-8433
www.unitarian-stcatharines.org

2007/2008

PRESIDENT: Fred Bolton

VICE PRESIDENT:
Philip Curtis

PAST PRESIDENT:
Marie Belliveau

CHAPLAINS:
Doreen M. Peever
John Mayer

SECRETARY:
Anita Miecznikowski

TREASURER: Shari Virtue

MEMBER AT LARGE:
Sarah Nyman

PROGRAM:
Julianne Momirov

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:
Lisa Laughton

MEMBERSHIP:
Jim Glassford

PROPERTY:
Peter Skelton

DENOMINATIONAL AFFAIRS:
Erica Cronin

NEWSLETTER:
Sofia Vuorinen

COMMUNICATION:
Luke Kwiatkowski

SOCIAL JUSTICE:
Michael Petrocci

SOCIAL: Joan Rothman

WEBSITE: Phil Curtis

TRUSTEES:
Andrea Gravelle
Don Herne
Will Wilson

RENTAL : John Northover

PASTORAL CARE:
Jennie Leach

Denominational Affairs

We are looking for some volunteers to attend the CUC Annual conference in Vancouver over the long May weekend. The church can help financially in a limited way towards air fare.

Don't forget that the CUC CU*UL School for Unitarian leadership within the church will be offered in July in Hamilton this year. Check out the latest information about it on the CUC website. Please speak to a board member if you are interested in the program.

Three Cheers to Phil Curtis

Three Cheers to Phil Curtis, our vice president for making our website so interesting. He is making an ongoing commitment to designing our website to be attractive and informative.

Thanks Phil!!

Our Website and You

After some time, we are now on the verge of having total control of adding our own photographs, newsletters, sermons, and any type of file we wish to our site. If there is anyone in our congregation, or a regular attendee, who has a digital camera and would like to help take pictures for the Website, please contact Phil Curtis at pcurtis3@cogeco.ca. We will be using Adobe Photoshop CS2 to manipulate and edit our photos. Once we have control, it will be much easier to keep the site up to date!

Also, if anyone has ideas they would like to see implemented on our site, also please write phil. Keep in mind that our ability to make design changes is still a bit limited, although small changes can be done.

Sermons

We enjoy putting our sermons on the website, but it is very helpful if they are submitted to Phil in digital format (Word Document - doc for Windows, or Adobe pdf).

We are looking forward to a fresh looking website for our Congregation this year. The address has not changed since we changed our church name. It is: unitarian-stcatharines.org

Water Resolution

Resolution proposed by the Board of Directors to the congregation of the Unitarian Congregation of Niagara, this 18th day of February, 2007 at the Annual General Meeting. Motion brought forward by Marie Belliveau.

Whereas "an estimated 25 to 40 per cent of bottled water is taken from the municipal water supplies of cities, and

Whereas sources of bottled water that are imported into the Niagara area are bottled in such places as India (Dasani's) and the bottling activities have caused water shortages, while Ontario has an ample supply of fresh, safe water (taken from City of St. Catharines Resolution), and

Whereas the bottled water taken from municipal sources costs the producers less than the citizens of that municipality pay for tap water delivered to homes, and

Whereas the shift to bottled water could result in privatization of water sources and undermine protection of tap water, this could add more strain to marginalized persons, and

Whereas the waste generated by bottled water's plastic bottles that remains in landfills will not breakdown for up to 1000 years, and

Whereas tap water is "generated through an energy-efficient infrastructure, (while producing

and) transporting bottled water (and recycled PET bottles) long distances involves massive quantities of fossil fuels" the prices of which are expected to rise significantly over the coming years, (taken from City of St. Catharines Resolution) and

Whereas using bottled water in non-bio-degradable, PET plastic bottles and contributing to the waste, cost and privatization of safe water for human beings, does not agree with the Seventh Principle of the Unitarian faith, and

Whereas the tap water in the Niagara Region has been treated and is tested daily for safe consumption by the citizens of that region and is delivered to the citizens at a fair, reasonable and affordable price.

Therefore be it resolved that: The Unitarian Congregation of Niagara commits to the elimination and ban of all bottled water in PET plastic non-bio-degradable, non-refillable bottles from the use at all church functions.

Be it further resolved that: We request that all person who rent or use our building be asked to respect this ban. This request should be included in all Rental Contracts as a clause in said contract.

This resolution was accepted by the congregation at the Annual General Meeting of February 18, 2007.

Note:

On January 29th, 2007, the newly elected council for the City of St. Catharines was addressed requesting them to endorse a motion to eliminate municipally sponsored bottled-water.

The motion was moved by Councillor Andrew Gill, seconded by Councillor Greg Washuta and passed unanimously by council.

Black History Month

February is Black History Month

Were you aware that Bertie Hall, now the Mahoney's Doll House has a hidden room in the basement where fugitive slaves were allowed to rest in safety after their ordeal. This is just one of the many places that you can visit on a tour of Niagara Freedom Trail Sites. Our area is full of history about blacks and recently we were treated to a slide presentation by Rick and Loretta Bell about Niagara's Underground Railroad. One of the most famous of the "Conductors" was Harriet Tubman who is attributed to aiding over 300 fugitives and getting them to St. Catharines during her years residing in the area. To get further information about getting on a tour of these historical sites, call the Bell's of Freedom Trail Heritage House Bed and Breakfast at 905-899-4547.

Fair Trade

Thanks to Pam Spear-Wilson, we will be selling Fair Trade products on a regular basis on the last Sunday of the month at our church.



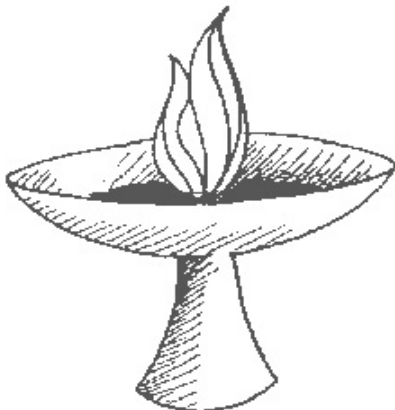
Salad Sunday

Our next salad lunch will be held on April 1st. The USC representative from Ottawa will be with us on this day so it will be a good time to entertain our guest.

As usual please bring your favourite fixin's to share and the rest will be provided!

Socially yours,
Joan Rothman

A big thank you to the sandwich makers Shari Virtue, Jenny Leach, Erika Cronin, Judith Barker and Anita Miecznikowski. The sandwich lunch after our AGM meeting gave us a great opportunity to enjoy a social get together after a busy meeting. Helping hands really do make light work so that my trusty aide Andrea Gravelle and I just had to look after a fruit tray and a veggie tray!



Workshop:

**RE/DISCOVER YOUR
STRENGTHS & GIFTS**
Saturday, March 3rd, 2007

8:30 a.m. till 1:00 p.m.
(Lunch included)

Hamilton First
170 Dundurn St. South
Hamilton, ON

R.S.V.P. Daphne Payne
289-238-9219 or
Karen Fraser-Gitlitz at the Church
905-527-8441

**Re/Discover Re/Claim
Re/Frame**

Ever mindful of the weight of history behind us that allows us to draw lessons from its ancient voice, I have not wavered in my conviction that we are a culmination of our collective histories and that there should be more to bind us together than tears us apart. Nor have I ceased to hope that in striving toward harmonious, integrated diversity, we will be guided by collective beliefs that will be life affirming at their core.

From the introduction to the notes to Loreena McKennitt's album An Ancient Muse.
Shared with us by John Berry

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Deadline for Next Issue:

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