



## UNITARIAN CONGREGATION OF NIAGARA

A church for people  
with enquiring minds

### April 2007

#### Sunday Services

##### April 2007

- Apr 1** **The Challenges and Tremendous Resilience of the People in Communities Around Douentza** – *Lise Latremouille, USC*
- Apr 8** **A Pagan's Easter** – *Michael Hornyansky*
- Apr 15** **Humanism and Other "Isms"**  
– *James "Will" Wilson*
- Apr 22** **Sacred Activism** – *Ana Ravenstar*
- Apr 29** **Unitarian Universalist Views of the Bible**  
– *Jim Glassford*

##### May 2007

- May 6** **Visitors** – *Vivianne LaRiviere*
- May 13** **Mothering** – *June Gilbertson*
- 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**



Unitarian Congregation of Niagara

[www.unitarian-stcatharines.org](http://www.unitarian-stcatharines.org)

### Who Are We?

What do Sarah Nyman and I have in common? We both have been teachers in the primary area for a considerable number of years on both our parts. What do we not have in common? After an exhausting but most enjoyable week of teaching grade one, I would crawl into bed early on Friday night. What does Sarah do on her weekends? She plays the Queen in a Henry VIII medieval dinner play at the Buttery in Niagara-on-the-Lake both on Friday and Saturday nights!!! While I spent most of my weekend recovering and getting ready to once more go out into the breach, Sarah arrives bright-eyed and bushy-tailed almost every Sunday at our church. I did notice that she was absent for a service once while recovering from having her tonsils removed! Oh well, you can't win them all.

Sarah was born and raised in Brampton and got off on her vigorous progression through life in grade three by skipping in the program "jumping rope for heart." She was a member of a skipping team competing in events across Canada and the U.S. One of these was skipping in a World Junior Olympics, which involved competition in a variety of sports for people under the age of 18.

Music has also been very central to her life. She was enrolled in a High School of the Arts, which included art, music, and the visual arts. In the morning her program involved only music while her other subjects were covered in the afternoon.

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of Niagara**  
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**2007/2008**

**PRESIDENT:** Fred Bolton

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Sarah Nyman

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Julianne Momirov

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Lisa Laughton

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Jim Glassford

**PROPERTY:**  
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**TRUSTEES:**  
Andrea Gravelle  
Don Herne  
Will Wilson

**RENTAL:** John Northover

**PASTORAL CARE:**  
Jennie Leach

Brock has a very special program called a concurrent education program, where she was exposed to childhood education all along with her regular courses. Her favourite subjects involved ethics, film and philosophy. She taught initially in Chippewa and then Maple Grove was lucky enough to have her join their staff.

It was at Maple Grove, where she met Jerome, another teacher who is very involved in the arts. He encouraged her to get involved with playing at the Buttery, where she has been playing the Queen for the past six years. She has also played in the Garden City Productions. Sarah was a dancer in Cabaret and she has acted in Annie, Anything Goes, Oliver and as Roxie in Chicago. I heard some rave reviews of her latter role by someone who had seen her from our own congregation.

Her and Luke get regular exercise by running, whether indoors in the winter or on trails during weather suited for such outdoor activity. She has coached skipping for Parks and Recreation. At present she is taking a yoga class at the YWCA and is also learning to tap dance.

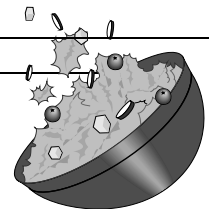
I asked Sarah what her religious background had been. As a youngster, her mother used to take her to many different churches. While she was in New York City, she visited a Unitarian congregation there, and liked what she saw, felt and heard. This led her to search us out here in St. Catharines. Her initial visit here seemed to be just right for her. Our own Dr. John Mayer, philosophy professor emeritus of Brock was holding our Water Ceremony.

Every time, I go out and interview someone from our congregation for "Who Are We?" I am always certain there are many treasures hidden under every member we have here. Sarah is another shining jewel. We are so glad to have you as one of our members.

– Sofia Vuorinen



**Salad Day Lunch**  
Sunday, April 1<sup>st</sup>



**Join us for our congregational Salad Day lunch.  
All you need to do is bring one of your favourite  
salad ingredients - the rest is up to us!**

*This is a special lunch as we will be entertaining our speaker from the USC in Ottawa. We remind people to show their support for the Unitarian Service Committee. So, we suggest either bringing extra cash or a cheque made payable to the USC.*

## Membership

1. I have been informed that we need written permission to publish anyone's email address in the Congregation's Directory. Therefore I have placed sheets at the back bulletin board in the Church which have the names of those who gave me their email addresses previously. Please sign your name on this sheet if you still want your email address listed or submit to me your own permission sheet duly signed.

2. I have purchased a new book for the Church library which I think some of you will find interesting. The title is "**Science and the Search for God**" written by Gary Kowalski, 2003. After hearing John Northover speak about Our Mysterious Universe, I am printing here some ideas by distinguished scientists from this book which should give us some thought. In the section I am referring to, Kowalski is talking about the creation of the Universe according to the Big Bang theory. Here are Stephen Hawking's thoughts about the rate of expansion after the Big Bang:

"If the rate of expansion one second after the Big Bang had been smaller by even one part in a hundred thousand million the universe would have recollapsed before it reached its present size. Similarly, if the rate had been a tiny fraction higher, the universe would have expanded too rapidly for

stars or planets to condense out of the dust." Says Hawking, "The odds against a universe like ours emerging out of something like the Big Bang are enormous. I think there are clearly religious implications."

John Wheeler shares that assessment, asking us to imagine a world in which "one or another of the fundamental dimensionless constants of physics is altered by a few percent one way or another." He wryly notes that we can't imagine it, since if it were so, none of us would be here to do the imagining. "It is not only that we are adapted to the universe," he concludes. "The universe is also adapted to us."

Lee Smolin, who teaches at the Centre for Gravitational Physics and Geometry, figured out the odds of arriving at parameters that could produce an universe hospitable to the formation of stars (light and heat essential for life) - 1 in 10<sup>229</sup> (1 followed by 229 Zeros) – a number larger than the estimated number of atoms in the known universe. "We need some rational explanation. Luck will certainly not do here."

3. The "Building Your Own Theology 1" course meets in the Religious Studies Room at 9:30 a.m. on Sundays.

4. The next reception of new members will be on Sunday, April 29. If you have been thinking of joining, now is a

good time to do it. Please see me soon

*Jim Glassford,  
Membership Co-ordinator*

### **Book club:**

"The Authoritarians"  
hosted by

Niagara Secular Humanists

Tuesday, April 17, 2007  
7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Niagara-on-the-Lake  
Public Library

10 Anderson Lane  
(1 block south of Hwy 55)  
view map at  
<http://tinyurl.com/2yapuk>

What and how do  
fundamentalist rightwingers  
think? Why do they think it?

Author Bob Altemeyer,  
Associate Professor of  
Psychology at the  
University of Manitoba,  
has intensively examined  
the fundamentalist  
rightwing psyche.

His book:  
"The Authoritarians "  
can only be read on-line:  
[http://home.cc.umanitoba.ca/  
%7Ealtemey/](http://home.cc.umanitoba.ca/%7Ealtemey/)

All are welcome to read  
"The Authoritarians" and  
then come and discuss it.

## Hymn #365

This is a hoot, but I expect the minister didn't appreciate it.

A minister was completing a Temperance sermon. With great emphasis he said, "If I had all the beer in the world, I'd take it and pour it into the river."

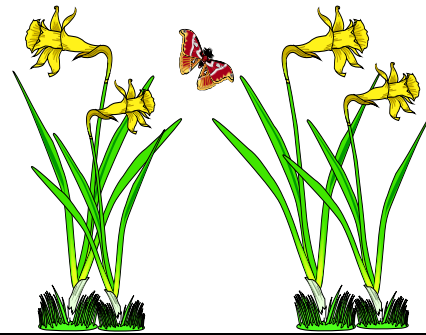
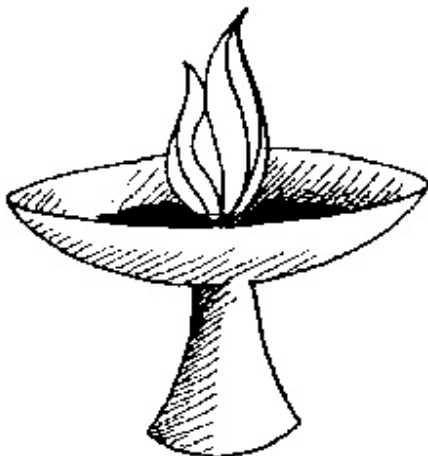
With even greater emphasis he said, "And if I had All the wine in the world, I'd take it and pour it into the river."

And then finally, shaking his fist in the air, he said, "And if I had all the whiskey in the world, I'd take it and pour it into the river."

Sermon complete, he sat down.

The song leader stood very cautiously and announced With a smile, nearly laughing, "For our closing song, Let us sing Hymn #365, "Shall We Gather at the River."

Smile, life is too short not to!!  
If this brightened your day  
Don't let it stop here  
Pass it on with a smile  
Keep spreading the Cheer.  
See you at the river.



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## Next Board Meeting: Tuesday, April 24

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### Unitarian Congregation of Niagara

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