



## UNITARIAN CONGREGATION OF NIAGARA

A church for people  
with enquiring minds

### February 2008

#### Sunday Services

##### February 2008

- Feb 3 Vivianne LaRiviere** – *New Year's Resolutions: The Seven Principles*
- Feb 10 Kate Green** – *USC – That Which Was Lost Has Been Found: Seeds and Sovereignty in Southern India*
- Feb 17 AGM**
- Feb 24 Sadesh Sachdeva** – *Women Who Have Changed the World*

##### March 2008

- Mar 2 Vivianne LaRiviere** – *Topic TBA*
- Mar 9 Harry Hunt** – *Childhood Spirituality*
- Mar 16 Al Wheeler** – *Wanderlust: A Curse or a Blessing?*
- Mar 23 Julianne Momirov** – *Flower Communion*
- Mar 30 Valerie Jaeger** – *Manners: Social Fluff or Expression of Unitarian Principle?*



Unitarian Congregation of Niagara  
www.unitarian-stcatharines.org

### Margaret Glassford

We received the news with extreme sorrow that Margaret Glassford had passed away suddenly at the St. Catharines General Hospital on Thursday, December 27th. Her husband, Jim, had found her collapsed in the bathroom and rushed her to the hospital where she passed away quickly and left us to be with the great Quilter in the sky. She has left behind her husband, Jim, of 45 years and their children Barbara and Sandy. Margaret was fortunate to have spent her last Christmas playing with two of her greatest joys in life, her grandchildren, Scott and Jessie.

Margaret was a person of the most amazing accomplishments. It is hard to fathom that so much talent and zest in personality could exist in one person. She was a teacher, CGIT leader, an artist of many dimensions, the secretary for the local Council of Women, and an academic of note. She graduated from Brock with an Honours B.A. in sociology. She then attended York and graduated with an M.A. in sociology. Next, she had completed her course work for her Ph.D. in the same area at York and had written a draft for her thesis concerning Self Employed Women Entrepreneurs at the beginning of WW2 in St. Catharines.

She took courses at the Ontario College of Art. Margaret experimented with sketching, oil painting, ceramics, crafts and weaving. She eventually came to her great love of quilting and fabric arts. What a joy to see her quilts all designed by herself and each told a story of its own that related to something that she had experienced in her own life. Project Smile was formed by her in St. Catharines, a group that makes quilts for children with cancer. She was a member of a number of Quilting Guilds and was president of the Niagara Heritage Quilter's Guild. She was a popular speaker and has spoken to many quilting guilds in Ontario.

As her daughter, Barbara said at her Memorial Service "my mother was a very vibrant woman who loved life. She had the good fortune of being in great health during her life on earth. My mother was intelligent, hard-working, very social, young at heart, fun-loving and a quietly sentimental person."



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St. Catharines, ON L2R 3E8  
Tel: 905-687-8433  
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**2007/2008**

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Don Herne  
James Wilson

RENTAL : John Northover

PASTORAL CARE:  
Jenny Leach

## Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the congregation will take place on Sunday, February 17, 2008 at 11:00 a.m.; please mark it on your calendars and plan to attend.

Please note that due to legal technicalities, we need to revisit our name change, therefore,

the Board approves:

### Authorization Re: Change of Name

#### Resolved as a Special Resolution that:

**1. The Corporation is hereby authorized to make application to the Lieutenant Governor of the Province of Ontario for Supplementary Letters Patent changing the name of the Corporation to Unitarian Congregation of Niagara;**

**2. The directors and officers of the Corporation are hereby authorized and directed to do, sign and execute all things, deeds, and documents necessary or desirable for the due carrying out of the foregoing.**

This will need to be consented to and confirmed by not less than two-thirds of the members of The Church of the Unitarian Fellowship of St. Catharines at the AGM on February 17. Please make sure you can attend the AGM on February 17, so we can get this finalized.

*– Anita Miecznikowski*

## AGM . . .

After the AGM meeting on February 17<sup>th</sup>  
a light sandwich luncheon  
followed by  
the usual goodies for dessert will be served.  
This gives our members an opportunity  
to relax together after the business meeting.

Yours in Fellowship,  
*Joan Rothman (Social Chair)*



## Membership News

### USC Special Luncheon

On **Sunday, February 10<sup>th</sup>**, Kate Green will be visiting our church from the USC head office in Ottawa to give us an update on the activities of the USC in the past year.

Support for the USC is our **main world outreach** commitment. A luncheon consisting of **Lasagna, Caesar Salad and Dessert** will be served at no cost. It is hoped that no charge for the luncheon will enable our members to make their donations on this occasion a **healthy** one.

Our executive always budgets \$500 for the USC at this time so we are hoping that our donations added to this will enable Kate Green to take a substantial cheque back to Ottawa from the Congregation of Niagara. Donations are tax deductible.

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### Fair Trade Sale

On **February 25<sup>th</sup>** Pamela will bring in some fair trade coffee, tea and chocolate to sell. The food comes from the Niagara-on-the-Lake store called Ten Thousand Villages.

#### **Media Relations Teleseminar with Penney Kome**

February 27, 2008  
8:30 pm Eastern

A teleseminar on Media relations  
with a focus on upcoming  
**EASTER and EARTH DAY**  
media opportunities

Dialing Instructions:  
1-605 475-6000  
Access Code 585715#

*See Church bulletin board*

### Who are we?

This all began when I asked Aubry how she had spent her holidays. She told me she spent it in silence for eight days! Now I really needed to know more. No noise and hoopla for Aubry. She went to the Insight Meditation Society in Massachusetts, where she explored a Buddhist style of meditation. We'll explore later why she elected to do such a thing over the holidays but first let's find out how she has spent her working and studying years and why.

Her CV (curriculum vitae) is of considerable length. She holds a bachelor of Nursing Degree and is a Registered Nurse in both Canada and the U.S. In addition, Aubry has Masters degrees in both Education and Counselling all with Honours.

Her career has involved Public Health Nursing in two metropolitan areas, professor of Public Health, a captain in the U.S. Air Force, nursing supervisor of a 260 bed hospital, professor of Medical, Surgical and Psychiatric Nursing at Niagara University, and professor of Psychology at Niagara College. She has published scholarly and practical material in her field of expertise and conducted seminars on Human Relations.

In 1994 her near fatal car accident occurred, resulting in her back being broken in three places, her neck was broken, she had multiple broken ribs, and an open head concussion. Almost immediately, she lost 75% of her hearing.

In the process of rehabilitation and redefining her life, Aubry attended Brock University's Department of Drama and Fine Arts. There she

created her own one woman show, called "Iris' Tours: Pitfalls Potholes and Chutzpah", which she has performed frequently on stage. The show is based on her adventures and misadventures with the rehabilitation system. She likes to think of herself as not surviving the accident but surviving the SYSTEM. It is a one-woman play in which she plays each of the characters she meets on her journey - a ruthless insurance adjuster, an arrogant lawyer, an ineffective therapist and she plays herself. Presently, she does presentations of her show and is a guest lecturer for health care organizations, brain injury organizations, and Invisible Disability Organizations. A DVD has been made of the play. When she is not presenting her show, she attends Brock auditing graduate courses in Women's Studies and Popular Culture.

The play was created to help people understand what she went through and wants other people to know that they do not stand alone when they have undergone similar experiences. "The situation does not go away, but my relation to the situation changes." She has started a meditation group in her home. Going to the retreat over the new year is symbolic. "It gives me a head start on the year. I'm starting on a healthy path."

On June 19, 2004, Audrey received a prestigious "Fellowship Award" for her exemplary professional and personal support of individuals with acquired brain injury.

There is a 6-page article on Aubry's show in the spring edition of CANADIAN THEATRE REVIEW.

– Sofia Vuorinen

## Is This Congregation Dying?

Is our “Unitarian Congregation of Niagara” withering away and dying a slow and very painful death?

For me the answer is “YES” and you may not want to hear it but I am going to express my personal opinion on this question and I will apologize now if anyone is offended, that is not my intention. I guess I am at the point where I think the survival of this congregation is more important than my personal popularity because it **MUST** be said by someone. Our congregation has to face reality and the sooner the better!

There is a great fear of change in our congregation, any change at all. No matter how small, from the change in the size of our board, any bylaw changes, to how we collect the offertory, serve the coffee, set the tables, chairs or even a change in how the stage area is set-up. “No, no, it’s not going to happen, what are these people who want change trying to do, take over?” I believe that is because we have left the work up to the same people, over and over again and that’s why we never evolve. Well, if we don’t change things soon we are going to disappear.

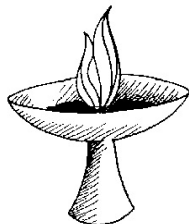
Now I’m all for comfort and I know familiarity is non-threatening, but it is not comfortable for new people, it’s stale and unwelcoming. Sure we offer some critical thinking, some acceptance (as long as you don’t ask **US** to change the way we do things) and we are a friendly, caring group of people but what else do we offer? In order to stay current and evolve we have got to offer more than just a comfortable, friendly space to visit once a week. We have to mean something to the

members and friends of this congregation and the community!

This congregation does not have a good base of volunteers for getting things done for the congregation or the community, and only a select group of mostly older members that volunteer for everything because they are the “only” ones that will! Why is that? We have about 60+ members and only about 15 who actually do most of the work, with another 10 or so volunteering occasionally for small tasks with no long term commitments. I know we are all busy but we have left the work up to some of the oldest members and that is not the way to help any organization evolve and it is very unfair to those who have done their stint as volunteers. It’s your turn now, but where the hell are you?

I know all of our members and friends do not wish to see this congregation disappear but one thing you need to face right now is this: **it is disappearing because we do not have enough help to keep it going!** We have some immensely talented individuals as members and friends of this congregation, we need those talents! If each of us took on at least one long term commitment and one short term, we would have one hell of a group!

The biggest reason why we cannot entice people to keep coming here is that we have no outreach groups, we are not known for anything out in our community as a congregation.



I hear all of the time about the work of certain individuals that are representative of this congregation by association, that is wonderful and I commend you but **what do we do as a congregational community? What do we offer members during the week who need more than a once a week drop-in for a lecture, coffee and a chat? Nothing!!**

Why, because we do not have enough volunteers to get anything going, that’s why! Now I know we are a small congregation but you should check out what the other small UU congregations have going on, we are so boring next to them but they have the volunteers, and not just a select few. So if you want to see things change, evolve and become more exciting and more welcoming, stop complaining and step-up, volunteer, bring your time, talents and your **NEW** ideas, the Board is **READY** to listen and **EVOLVE** and perhaps you will even inspire others to do the same! If you believe in this congregation and wish to see it continue, then step up and give of yourself, give your time and let us hear your opinions and see that you care whether this organization lives or dies. **Just 2 to 4 hours a month will make a huge difference in how this congregation operates.** We need to hear the opinions of those who have not committed at all or at least lately, to help us change and evolve with the times.

*Marie Belliveau  
Past President*

### Unitarian Congregation of Niagara

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Editor: Sofia Vuorinen

905-563-8615

[sofia.vuorinen@3web.net](mailto:sofia.vuorinen@3web.net)

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