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## UNITARIAN CONGREGATION OF NIAGARA

A church for people  
with enquiring minds

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### June 2008

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**June 1<sup>st</sup>**

**\*\*\* Sharing our Faith\*\*\***

#### **Our Place in the Web**

The offering taken on June 1<sup>st</sup> will help support the work of the Sharing our Faith Committee which is part of the CUC Council. All congregations across Canada contribute to this fund and each year some of them are also recipients of a donation for a particular church project for which they may need extra help. Our donations as a group help us to reach out to other congregations thus working together in a common cause.

This year the Sharing our Faith service will have a broader focus entitled "Our Place in the Web." The emphasis will be on some of the problems facing planet Earth and its peoples today. Please give some thought as to what steps we are taking, however small, either individually or as a group to help alleviate these problems in some way.

Time will be set aside in our service so that we can share our ideas.

Yours in fellowship,  
*Marie Belliveau*  
*Joan Rothman*

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**June 8<sup>th</sup>**

**Annual Unitarian-Humanist Picnic**  
**Queenston Heights – Pavilion 2 at noon**

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**Unitarian Congregation of Niagara**  
www.unitarian-stcatharines.org

### *Michael Sands Hornyansky*

We have received word from Monica that Michael Hornyansky has died from pneumonia in Alberta, where his family lives. He recently celebrated his 80th birthday, although he was physically not very well. Michael was the founding Chair of the English Department at Brock University in 1964. He came with Dr. Gibson from Ottawa. He was a very popular lecturer at Brock, known for his participation in freshman seminars, having students in his home at "Porch Club" meetings. Also, he was a Rhodes scholar, a frequent speaker from our pulpit, and a published poet. He will be missed by his many friends and admirers, and we hasten to send our condolences to his widow, children, grandchildren and great grandchild.

Michael Sands Hornyansky was the son of Nicholas Hornyansky, a well-known painter in Montreal and his mother was a cellist. He graduated with first class honours from all the educational institutions that he attended: Oakwood Collegiate, University College in Toronto and Merton College, Oxford where he was a Rhodes scholar and won the Newdigate prize for poetry in 1951. He taught English Language and Literature at Carleton University in Ottawa for 10 years. He moved to Niagara in 1964 where he was the founding chairman of the English Department at Brock University. He taught there until his retirement in 1993.

He wrote *The Golden Phoenix*, a retelling of French Canadian folk tales, and published papers on children's literature and the discriminating use of the English language. He reviewed *Poetry in Canada* for 10 years for the *University of Toronto Quarterly*.

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**2008/2009**

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**TRUSTEES:**  
Andrea Gravelle, Don Herne  
James Wilson

**RENTAL:** John Northover

**PASTORAL CARE:**  
Jenny Leach & John Berry

**PHONE:** John Inglis

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## Michael Hornyansky . . .

He was loved by his many generations of students in the country. He was a gifted speaker. His wife, Monica, asked us to include that his interest in the church was to interpret the biblical myth as a critic but not as a believer.

Donations in his memory may be made to Brock University, Office of University Advancement, St. Catharines, Ontario, L2S 3A1, for the annual Michael Hornyansky Prize in Creative Writing.

– John Mayer

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## A Celebration of Service . . .

What a great Sunday morning service it was, **May 4th!** Members, friends, and relatives, filled our church.

The occasion was to recognize the dedicated services of our two retiring Lay Chaplains, **John Mayer and Doreen Peever.**

During their seventeen years' service they performed weddings with skill and compassion that transformed the lives of so many couples, including many same-sex couples from near and far.

Memorial services conducted by John and Doreen, with the assistance of congregation members were indeed memorable for the bereaved and all who attended.

Each has conducted an astounding number of wedding and memorial services in our church and elsewhere during their terms of service.

– Don Herne

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**Actor Hugh Laurie, star of the popular TV medical drama 'House', has managed to get bottled water banned from the production. He mentioned this during a recent visit with Jay Leno. – John Berry**

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**Eliot Institute** -- it's a conference and a vacation in one! Come to the Okanagan wine country June 28 - July 5 to rejuvenate body and spirit. Hosted at the Naramata Centre near Penticton, the camp will surround you with stimulating programs in the serenity of a beautiful location. Come discover Eliot for yourself! More info at:

[www.eliotinstitute.org](http://www.eliotinstitute.org)

**Kate Green** from the USC has announced that our church donated a total of **\$1345.00**. She sends her gratitude and looks forward to seeing some of us at the CUC-AGM in May.

Thanks to all our generous members. She invites us to visit the USC office on Sparks Street if you are visiting Ottawa over the summer months.

– Pamela Wilson

## Membership News

### **Congratulations**

to **Joan Wiley** on receiving the YWCA Women of Distinction Award in May in the category of public affairs and communications category.

### **Social Events**

Just a reminder . . . we have two social events in the month of June!

**June 1<sup>st</sup> Salad Day Lunch** . . . a wonderful way to get to know your fellow Unitarians.

**June 8<sup>th</sup>**

### **Unitarian-Humanist Picnic**

Queenston Heights  
Pavilion 2 – at noon

### **Denominational Affairs**

We are a wonderful denomination, no doubt about it. There are so many interesting things happening in the various congregations we are sister to. The Canadian Unitarian Council has some wonderful information on their website. Why not pay them a visit to see if any of their courses/workshops are of interest? Visit their website at <http://www.cuc.ca/>  
Yours in Fellowship,  
*Ed Gilbert*

### **Website Update**

May 18<sup>th</sup> talk by Brock Shaver, "Was Jesus Gay", is posted on our website [www.unitarian-scatharines.org](http://www.unitarian-scatharines.org)

## Summer Program

The summer program continues from June 15th until Labour Day. In general, one person will be leading a discussion on the topic they have chosen to speak about. The introductory talk can be of any length from as little as five minutes but in general not longer than half an hour. The idea is to get everyone involved in the discussion about the chosen topic. Everyone is seated around in a circle and usually every person is asked to comment. The format of our usual Sunday service is not followed. Everyone in the congregation is encouraged to be one of the leaders talking about anything that is close to their heart. The sign up sheet is at the back of the room telling us what the topic that you would like to discuss is and the date that you will be doing it. I am in charge of the summer program so see me if you have any questions.

Already the program is starting to look very interesting. Donna Bothen will kick off on **June 15th** to speak about "**The Heritage of Quilts: Each Quilt has a Story.**" On **June 29<sup>th</sup>** Neil McGregor will be speaking about the "**Niagara's 2008 Walk for Life.**" On **July 6<sup>th</sup>**, Frances Krebs of Heritage Village in Vineland will tell us about her involvement with "**Grandmothers to Grandmothers.**" On **July 20<sup>th</sup>** Pam Wilson will speak about "**Nine Reasons for Unitarians to Oppose the Afghanistan War.**"

As the title of the talk indicates, Donna will be speaking about the heritage of quilting and how each quilt has a story associated with it. She will be bringing a number of quilts with her that will demonstrate to us the various types of quilts. Donna hopes that this will deepen people's understanding of and

appreciation of the art of quilting. Anyone is invited to bring a quilt and share with us "a show and tell" story about it.

Frances is involved with the Stephen Lewis Foundation for Grandmothers that financially helps grandmothers that are left caring for their grandchildren because the mothers have died of Aids. Aids is a worldwide problem, particularly in Africa.

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### **The Security and Prosperity Partnership**

On April 21, the leaders of the three NAFTA nations, President George Bush, President Felipe Calderón, and Prime Minister Stephen Harper, met in New Orleans for a Leaders' Summit on the Security and Prosperity Partnership. This was the fourth such Leaders' Summit since the SPP came into existence on March, 2005, at a trilateral meeting in Waco, Texas. The brainchild of the Canadian Council of Chief Executives and its American counterpart, the Security and Prosperity Partnership was launched on the initiative of the Bush administration. Neither a treaty nor a trade agreement, the SPP aims to achieve "regulatory harmony" between the three countries, in order to facilitate trade and investment in over 300 areas, including food, drugs, environmental protection, energy, and security.

Proponents of the SPP say that such regulatory changes are all in the interests of "open" borders, "free" trade, economic growth and security. Nevertheless, the fact is that the SPP was *not* a creation of the governments of Canada, the U.S. and Mexico. It was—and is—a creation of big business and the three heads of

state. At the 2006 Leaders' Summit, in Cancun, Mexico, the primacy of big business in the SPP was underscored by the creation of the North American Competitiveness Council. The NACC, composed of the most powerful ten CEOs from each of the three signatory countries, was created 'to engage substantively and pragmatically on trade and security issues without undue deference to political sensitivities.' In other words, the Security and Prosperity Partnership was designed to allow big business to control the agenda, because the process by which free trade accords such as NAFTA is negotiated is just too slow—and democratic.

Thus, the SPP has never gone before the legislature of the three countries concerned. It has proceeded entirely behind closed doors, in secret. The ten working groups charged with implementing various aspects of the SPP are composed of senior civil servants and their ministers, with the assistance of the corporate sector. These sub-groups meet during the year, and issue progress reports, while the heads of state meet on a yearly basis.

There are many causes for concern, including pressure exerted by the United States to ensure access to oil and water from both of its neighbours. Another has to do with security. Elements of a common security perimeter for North America are being introduced, with implications for sovereignty; new advances in border security are also extremely worrisome in terms of civil liberties. The new Canadian no-fly list is a direct result of the SPP.

The "smart regulation" approach of the SPP shifts the regulatory agenda from the precautionary principle to a risk management approach. The

former approach says, 'err on the side of caution' and places the burden of proof of a product's safety on the company. The risk management approach, by contrast, puts the burden of proof on the regulator to show that it is unsafe, and favours voluntary compliance and self-regulation options.

This has serious implications for pollution controls and licensing of new pharmaceuticals. For example, the Canadian government is planning to relax its requirements on pesticide residues on U.S. fruit and vegetable imports.

Our sovereignty is slipping away, day by day. We need to call the government to account before it is too late.

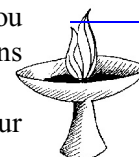
— Fiona McMurran

**RIGHTS** – Erika Cronin

This is the last newsletter to be published until September. Meanwhile here are some thoughts to ponder for those who, like myself, feel they lack the self-confidence that allows them to live up to their full potential. The following list of "Assertive Rights" was part of a course in Assertiveness Training that I attended years ago but which, according to my son, never 'took' in my case.

1. You have the right to judge your own behaviour, thoughts and actions, and to take responsibility upon yourself for their initiation and consequences.
2. You have the right to offer no reasons or excuses for justifying your behaviour.
3. You have the right to judge if you are responsible for finding solutions to other people's problems.
4. You have the right to change your

- mind.
5. You have the right to make mistakes and be responsible for them.
6. You have the right to say "I don't know."
7. You have the right to be independent of the goodwill of others.
8. You have the right to be illogical in making decisions.
9. You have the right to say "I don't understand."
10. You have the right to say "I don't care."
11. You have the right to refuse requests without having to feel guilty or selfish.
12. You have the right to feel and express anger.
13. You have the right to feel and express a healthy competitiveness and achievement drive.
14. You have the right to use your own judgement in deciding which needs are the most important for you to meet.
15. You have the right to be treated as a capable human adult and not to be patronized.
16. You have the right to consider your needs to be as important as the needs of others.
17. You have the right to be independent.
18. You have the right to express your own feelings and opinions.
19. You have the right to be listened to and taken seriously.
20. You have the right to ask for what you want.
21. You have the right to get what you paid for.
22. You have the right to ask for information from professionals.
23. You have the right to be wrong and not to feel guilty.



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