



UNITARIAN CONGREGATION OF NIAGARA

A church for people
with enquiring minds

October 2008

Sunday Services

Oct 5 John Mayer

– Comparative Religions, Part II

A follow-up to last week's presentation on Eastern Religions, this week will focus on Judaism, Christianity, Islam and the Baha'i faith. I look forward to fielding questions, so come prepared.

Oct 12 Paulette Pelletier-Kelly

– Grandmothers to Grandmothers

Paulette and 11 Canadian grandmothers travelled to Uganda, South Africa and Swaziland and visited grandmothers and their grandchildren in communities that were struggling with HIV and AIDS. This was in conjunction with the Stephen Lewis Foundation.

Oct 19 Jim Glassford – Unitarian Universalist Views of CHURCH

Each of us brings to our understanding of church our own images, hopes and needs. Our views of church combine experience and aspiration. We will look at how 6 Unitarian Universalists from Canada and the United States view Church and then seek input how our own members answer this question, "What does your church, congregation, meeting place mean to you now? What would you like your church to mean to you and to those your congregation aims to serve?"

Oct 26 Jane Hanlon – Climate Action Now

Jane is the originator and executive director of Climate Action Now, an exciting new environmental organization, that addresses issues related to climate change, advocates for better practices and offers alternative solutions through seminars and workshops.

WHO ARE WE?

Donna Bothen is a most welcome addition to our community in many ways. She is a person of many talents. She gave us a most delightful talk about the quilts that she makes. Each quilt has an interesting background story to it.

Donna was born and grew up in Hamilton but she has spent 18 years of her life in the rural areas of Muskoka and a small place called Athens. She has four children, five grandchildren and three step great grandchildren.

Singing and acting have always been a part of her life from when she was a child. She says that she sings and dances her way around her apartment and feels that singing has always been a habit of hers. She has joined our congregation choir and sings with the Niagara Raging Grannies. From acting in plays at school, she went on to acting in community theatre. Deciding that theatre was a major interest in her life, she went on to pursue an honours degree in theatre art at Brock. She moved to Toronto where she was a founding member of the Theatre Centre, which was a space shared by three theatre companies. These companies mounted consecutive shows. After a decade in Toronto theatre, she began to burn out (always being "on") and went to a more quiet profession of quilting. She has made over 200 hundred quilts over a period of 30 years.

Next comes the usual question as to why she came to the Unitarian Congregation in St. Catharines. Her daughter who lives in Vancouver is a member there and upon Donna's many visits to this city she accompanied her daughter to the congregation there. The people there were socially aware, intelligent and educated about many issues.

Unitarian Congregation of Niagara

www.unitarian-stcatharines.org

... continued pg. 2



**Unitarian Congregation
of Niagara**
223 Church St.
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www.unitarian-stcatharines.org

2008/2009

PRESIDENT: Michael Petrocci

**VICE PRESIDENT:
Jon Stahl**

**PAST PRESIDENT:
Fred Bolton**

**LAY CHAPLAINS:
Valerie Jaeger
Julianne Momirov**

**SECRETARY:
Anita Miecznikowski**

TREASURER: Carl Beckett

**MEMBER AT LARGE:
Sarah Nyman**

**PROGRAM:
Julianne Momirov**

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:
Tba**

**MEMBERSHIP:
Jim Glassford**

**PROPERTY:
Peter Skelton**

**DENOMINATIONAL AFFAIRS:
Ed Gilbert**

**NEWSLETTER:
Sofia Vuorinen**

**COMMUNICATION:
Luke Kwiatkowski**

**SOCIAL JUSTICE:
Adolf Miecznikowski**

SOCIAL: Hilde Wheeler

EVENTS: Penny Blake

WEBSITE: Bruce Millar

**LAY CHAPLAINCY:
Pamela Spear-Wilson**

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

RENTAL : John Northover

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

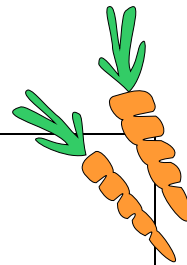
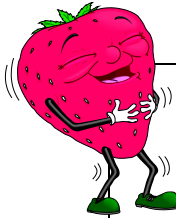
PHONE: John Inglis

WHO ARE WE . . . (continued from pg. 1)

The place had different art shows pretty well monthly. The congregation building had a grandeur of its own and made her have a feeling of transcendence of self.

Donna likes the fact that each of us is encouraged to have a voice and express ourselves accordingly. Before she becomes a member, she wants to make sure that she fits in and can give of herself to our congregation. She wants to know what is expected of her as a member and to make sure that she can fulfill any obligations and responsibilities expected of her.

– S.V.



Salad Day Lunch October 5th

Salad Greens are provided.

**** Please bring some of your favourite
fixin's, dessert or whatever you'd like
to contribute ****

Niagara Volunteers for Bangladesh (NVfB)

Fifth Annual Fundraising Dinner
Saturday, **October 18th at 6:00 pm**
at the Westminster United Church
180 Queenston St., St. Catharines

Tickets are only \$10.00

For tickets phone Nasim 905-682-6569
or Mahbuba 905-680-4669

. . . See article on pg. 4, Tiger, Tiger . . .

Lay Chaplains: ucnlaychaplains@gmail.com
Valerie Jaeger: 905-262-1345
Julianne Momirov: 905-356-7726

Buddhist special event at UCN

Los Angeles-based Buddhist teacher Lama Lhanang Rinpoche will be offering a series of workshops in October, several of which will be taking place in our UCN church. On Thursday, October 9, from 7 - 9 pm, Lama Lhanang will address "Dealing With Emotions" and managing the emotional difficulties that can arise from modern life. On Friday, October 10, from 7 - 9 pm, Lama Lhanang will lead a session of meditation and Tibetan chanting. Lama Lhanang will also be conducting a ceremony for his regular students on Saturday, October 11 during the day, in the church. On Monday, October 13, from 10 am - 3 pm, Lama Lhanang will teach a class on some of the techniques used in Tibetan Sacred Art.

"An Introduction to Tibetan Buddhism" will be open to the public in the Rita Welch Meditation Room at Brock University on Tuesday, October 7, 7 - 9 pm.

Lama Lhanang was born and educated in Golok, Amdo, in northeastern Tibet. He began training in Tibetan feng-shui at the tender age of 7 and entered the monastery at 14 to study meditation, theology, yoga, art, dance, and traditional Tibetan medicine. For more information and to register, please call Kimberley Arnold at 905-468-8323 or email kimberley_arnold@sympatico.ca."

CUC Seeks Poetry for its Third Annual Chapbook

The editorial board of the CUC Poetry Chapbook 2009 project are seeking submissions of Unitarian poetry (maximum five poems per submission, each poem 45 lines or less including title and blank lines) from Canadian Unitarians or Unitarian residents of Canada, who are either CUC congregation members, CUC members-at-large or self-identified Unitarians, on themes of **Answering the Call : Répondre à l'appel** - to be considered for publication in our third professionally published chap book, to be made available by the next CUC ACM. Please submit unpublished material to Jo-Anne Elder at eldergomes@yahoo.com or 180 Liverpool Street, Fredericton (NB) E3B 4V5, att'n: CUC Chapbook, by November 30, 2008.

Please also include a 100 word bio. Include an S.A.S.E. if you are submitting via land mail and wish to receive a reply. All work will receive notification of acceptance or not by March 21, 2009.



More Corn, Less Hunger in Honduras

El Aguila is a small indigenous community, in the mountains of the Jesus de Otoro region of Honduras. Most farmers in the community grow a local corn called Matasaneño.

Through USC Canada's partner in Honduras, the farmers in El Aguila formed a local research committee (a CIAL in Spanish). Due to chronically poor yields, the members of this CIAL decided to improve the Matasaneño corn. They worked together to improve the variety through selection processes to synchronize the flowering and more deliberate seed selection and conservation. In 2008, corn production in El Aquila was double that of 2005.

In Honduras, June and July are the 'hungry season'; the previous year's corn is finished and the harvest has not started. Food shortages are common. That wasn't the case for the people of El Aguila this year as a result of their collective work in the CIAL. Thanks to the improvement in the variety of corn and the new agricultural practices, the families didn't suffer a shortage of food. To learn more visit the USC Canada website www.usc-canada.org or contact Kgreen@usc-canada.org - please consider subscribing to the e-newsletter of USC for action, events and updates.

"Tiger, Tiger Burning Bright in the Forests of the"...Sundarbans

With apologies to William Blake, Bangladesh's Sundarbans is the largest remaining mangrove forest in the world. This forest is also the last refuge of the Royal Bengal Tiger.

The Sundarbans is a crucial source of livelihood for the day labourers from the nearby villages. Tragically, almost 200 of these labourers are killed each year by the Tigers who call it home.

These victims leave families - the 'tiger' widows and children - behind. And, as if the loss of the family provider was not devastating enough, the widows are blamed by the other villagers for their husbands' deaths. The widows are believed to bring bad luck and are ostracized from their villages. The 'tiger' widows and their children struggle to survive.

Niagara Volunteers for Bangladesh (NVfB) is helping the 'tiger' widows to begin a new life by partnering with a local NGO, the Local Environment Development and Agricultural Research Society (LEDARS), to train these women to earn a living, ensure that their children have the opportunity to attend school, and work with the villagers to overcome the traditional stigma. Currently, LEDARS is working in nine villages but, due to restricted financial resources, is able to assist only 72 of the 'tiger' widows, 50 of which are receiving job training. With NVfB's help, LEDARS will be able to expand their services to more of these impoverished widows and their children. In addition to funding for

the program for the 'tiger' widows, NVfB continues to support schooling for more than 400 students, to supply bio-sand water filters and tin-roof housing to families and help the Children's Leukemia Assistance and Support Services (CLASS) program.

Please join NVfB for our fifth annual fundraising dinner on Saturday, **October 18, 2008 at 6 pm** at the Westminster United Church, 180 Queenston St., St. Catharines. **Tickets are only \$10.00.**

All proceeds go to support disadvantaged children and destitute widows.

For tickets phone:

Nasim 905-682-6569 or

Mahbuba 905-680-4669.

Action Alert

Brent Patterson, Director of Campaigns and Communications, The Council of Canadians wrote:

This action alert has been posted with a sample letter for you to email to the prime minister at <http://www.canadians.org/action/2008/18-Sep-08.html>.

As reported in the Globe and Mail on September 18, "Canadian and European officials say they plan to begin negotiating a massive agreement to integrate Canada's economy with the 27 nations of the European Union, with preliminary talks to be launched at an Oct. 17 summit in Montreal three days after the federal election." The article continues, "...a senior EU official involved in the talks described (them) as 'deep economic integration negotiations.'

DEAL WOULD EXCEED SCOPE OF NAFTA

The article states, "The proposed pact would far exceed the scope of older agreements such as NAFTA by encompassing not only unrestricted trade in goods, services and investment and the removal of tariffs, but also the free movement of skilled people and an open market in government services and procurement which would require that Canadian governments allow European companies to bid as equals on government contracts for both goods and services and end the favouring of local or national providers of public-sector services."

TEXT OF THE DEAL WON'T BE RELEASED DURING THE ELECTION

The Globe reports, "Because of the election, Mr. Harper appears to have decided not to unveil a full text of the proposed agreement, but instead to use the summit to inaugurate the trade talks with the launch of a 'scoping exercise' that will quickly set the goals of the pact and lead to formal 'comprehensive trade and investment negotiations' to begin in 'early 2009,' according to communications between senior Canadian and European officials examined by The Globe and Mail" The two governments have completed a detailed study of the proposed agreement that will be unveiled shortly after the election, should the Conservatives win. Both Ottawa and Brussels have had staff work on a draft text for a deal they had hoped would be introduced at a

Canada-EU summit, to be attended by French President Nicolas Sarkozy, European Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso and Mr. Harper in Montreal on Oct. 17.

BIG BUSINESS BACKS

THE DEAL

While the public has not been allowed to see the study or the draft text, apparently large corporations have. The article notes, "Proponents, including all of Canada's major business-lobby organizations, are in favour of the deal..."

TAKE ACTION

E-mail Prime Minister Stephen Harper at pm@pm.gc.ca today and demand that the full text of the proposed agreement and the detailed study of it be released immediately. You can also cc Stephane Dion, Liberal Party of Canada, Dion.S@parl.gc.ca; Jack Layton, New Democratic Party of Canada, Layton.J@parl.gc.ca; Gilles Duceppe, Bloc Québécois, Duceppe.G@parl.gc.ca; Elizabeth May, Green Party of Canada, leader@greenparty.ca.

** SAMPLE LETTER **

Prime Minister,

I join with the Council of Canadians in the demand that you immediately release the full text of the proposed Canada-EU deep economic integration agreement and the detailed study of it so that the Canadian public is able to make as informed a choice as possible at the polls on Tuesday October 14. Given the recent news that a US investor is suing Canada under NAFTA for violations it claims have prevented it from opening more private health care clinics in B.C., a new and even wider international agreement with similar or greater powers would only worsen the current threat to Canada's public health care system. In the 2006 election, you ran on a campaign of accountability. Part of that campaign included a promise that, "significant international treaties will be submitted for votes in Parliament." How accountable is it of you not to release the draft text of a major trade agreement that reportedly rivals NAFTA in scope because of the election?

(your name)

Letter to the Editor:

How "antigreen" can you get by favouring the proposed NOTL Music Festival? The Town Council and the business folk in town have overlooked the climate change issue. Think of the CO2 emissions from all those cars driving almost 200 miles each round trip for the Toronto patrons and staff of the host Toronto Symphony! Evidently these folks are overlooking the issue too by selecting a NOTL site so far from home. There is expected a daily attendance of 4000 over the summer months, many from Toronto.

We've got to get serious about global warming by cutting CO2 emissions. Gwynne Dyer (The Standard, 3 Sept. '08) points out that the present hash of hurricanes, while serious, are not serious enough to motivate the masses to take action against the root cause. Too much CO2 in the atmosphere creates warmer oceans. Warmer oceans provide the energy to fuel the hurricanes.

Let's be "progreen" by encouraging the Toronto folks to host their symphony near home.

Edgar Lemon



Choir Rehearsal

October 5, 19 and 26
9:45 a.m.

*We just can't keep from
singing . . . Keep up the good work!*

****Reminder**** – special service with barbershop music on November 2 . . . Ray & A Cappella Niagara



Fall 2008 rental schedule of the Unitarian Church.			
Monday	Yoga Unlimited	10 – 12 am and 6 – 8 pm	Sept 8 – Nov 17
Tuesday	Niagara Dance	6 – 9 pm	Sept 9 – Dec 16
Wednesday	Yoga Unlimited	6:45 – 8:30 pm	Sept 10 – Nov 12
Thursday	Yoga Unlimited	4:30 – 6:15 pm	Sept 11 – Nov 13
	Buddhists	7 – 9 pm	Oct 2 – Dec 18
(Weekly except for monthly meeting of UCN Board)			
Friday	Niagara Action for Animals	6 – 9 pm first Friday	Sept – Dec
	Members' film night, fourth Friday of month		
Saturday	Council of Canadians	10 am – 12:30 pm	Sept 20, Oct 18, Nov 15, Dec 13
Please consult the calendar on the Church notice board for any single events or more recent reservations or cancellations. Rental agent is John Northover: 905-934-7487.			



As we welcome our newest members and visitors, it is only fair to let them know what we Unitarian Universalists are like and what we expect.

We are friendly. If you are not friendly, out you go!

We are always sincere even if we have to fake it.

We aren't sure how ambivalent we should be.

We believe in tolerance and cannot stand intolerant people.

We are optimists. Anyone who doesn't look on the bright side depresses us.

We are more non-competitive than other groups.

We believe in equality; everyone is as good as the next person and a whole lot better.

Every Unitarian is a feminist, so he has to watch his language.

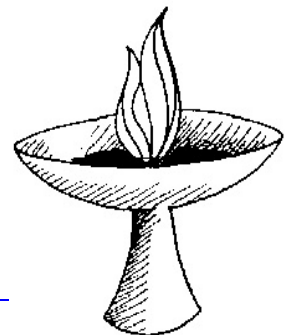
The organization is run democratically because the president insists on it.

We have our critics, but they are paranoid.

Dogmatism is absolutely forbidden.

Freedom of belief is rigidly enforced.

And to this wonderful place we joyfully welcome you.



**Unitarian Congregation
of Niagara**

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Deadline for Next issue:
October 19, 2008