



UNITARIAN CONGREGATION OF NIAGARA

A church for people
with enquiring minds

JANUARY 2009

Sunday Services

Jan. 4 Clark S. Reed, M.Div.
– Prospecting for Gold

Clark Reed, is a Transactional Analyst, a noted lecturer, teacher, trainer and transpersonal psychologist in clinical private practice, as well as a retired United Methodist Minister. His life long mission has been to restore psychological studies and practices to the cure of the Soul. And beyond psychology is Spirit. He will be speaking about finding the gifts in self, others and all situations!

Jan. 11 Julia Norris – An Uncommon Path to Joy and Inner Peace

International speaker, Julia Norris, is a Parenting Coach, Family Relationship Coach, and a Youth Criminal Court Support & Life Coach.

Jan. 18 Cindilee Ecker-Flagg
– Native Issues and Spirituality

Cindilee Ecker-Flagg is the Cultural Coordinator for the Native Canadian Centre of Toronto and she will be addressing Native Issues and Spirituality in a more specific topic that is yet TBA.

Jan. 25 Irvin Waller – “Less Law, More Order”

Irvin Waller is Professor of Criminology at University of Ottawa and the founding CEO of the International Centre for Prevention of Crime in Montreal. He is the author of "Less Law, More Order: The Truth about Reducing Crime", a book that outlines his approach for prevention of crime over punishment, for early investments in families and education over incarceration.

Unitarian Congregation of Niagara
www.unitarian-stcatharines.org

BOARD & COMMITTEES

For the last three or four Sundays the writer has endeavored to raise the awareness of our members to the fact that we need some concerned folks to take the responsibility of serving on the Church Board or Committees. The response has not been very positive, to say the least.

In order to run our Church well, your input is vital. There are always many things to do, and if we do not get new volunteers, things will not get done. Each year we have to beg for help, and each year the same names seem to appear on the list of “doers”. This situation is not healthy, and does not bode well for the future of our Church.

Please give thought to the foregoing, and if you can help, contact any Board member to discuss what you can do to share in building the future.

Thank you,

Fred Bolton, Past President

Reminder to Committee Coordinators AGM Reports

Please submit your AGM reports by **Jan. 6th** to Michael Petrocci, mpetrocci@sympatico.ca and copy to Darcy, solution@vaxxine.com

Many thanks!



**Unitarian Congregation
of Niagara**
223 Church St.
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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

UCN Book Club

All are welcome to attend and join the friendly discussion and camaraderie.

Tuesday, January 27th /09 @ 7:00 pm

Book is "A Blade of Grass" by Lewis DeSota. Meeting at the home of Joan Rothman, 541 Scott St., St. Catharines, (905-935-9267).

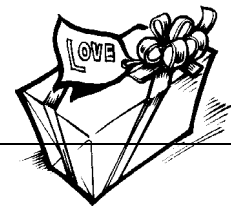
Lunch

On January 11/2009
there will be a
Curry Lunch after
the Service.

Both vegetarian and non
vegetarian dishes will be
provided.

Reminder - Volunteers

**Out of the Cold
Program
January 30, 2009**



Give a Gift that Grows!

Help Farmers Half a World Away
Plant Seeds of Hope

This holiday season, give a Gift That Grows to colleagues, friends, and family, and help people in the developing world build a better life for their loved ones.

You can give seeds, livestock, clean drinking water, or support farmers' rights and biodiversity through USC's programs.

Give the Gift that Grows! It only takes minutes through our website at www.usc-canada.org/giftsthatgrow

When you give your gift, we will send an E-card to the recipient, letting them know you've given a present in their name.

Give the gift that keeps on growing!

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

Membership

1. We have three of our Friends of the Church who have been approved by the Board for membership: **Erdwin Hueniken** and **Hilde and Alan Wheeler**. Welcome to all three and they will be asked to sign the Church registry at one of the Sunday Church Services in January.

2. The time for the new Church Directory is rapidly approaching. Please look over the Directory and let me know of any changes. If you are not on it and you wish to be on it as a Friend of the Church, please let me know.

Jim Glassford, Co-ordinator

Interior Design Committee Needed

Do you have an interest in keeping up appearances inside our church? The board is looking for volunteers with an artistic gene to make decisions about the most attractive arrangements possible. Let a board member know if you would like to be on this committee.

UCN Night at the Movies!

Well our church has finally reached the 21st Century and I commend the Board of Directors and the people who gave generously to the church so that we could purchase the Audio/Visual equipment.

This purchase has allowed us to be able to show movies to our members and friends and it will also allow our guest speakers to be able to bring their visual displays and presentations, making our services more colourful, with additional visual enjoyment.

The UCN Night at the Movies has shown three films for your viewing pleasure. The first film was "**Trembling Before G*d**", and gave us an interesting look into the lives of people who were lesbian and gay trying to live within the Orthodox Jewish faith. Kevin Jacobi allowed us to use his film and gave an introduction and led the interesting discussion after the film. This was a very good film and allowed us into a world we seldom have the privilege of seeing.

The second film was "**The Kite Runner**" and many were familiar with this movie from the book of the same title, so there was quite a bit of interest in the movie version. This film was a look into the lives of two young boys and how their lives differed by class division and yet there was a bond between them. This bond was broken and they lost track only to later find they were actually brothers. The discussion on this movie was again lively and all agreed it was well worth the viewing.

The third movie was "**Enlightenment Guaranteed**", a German movie with hardly noticeable subtitles and I say that because the movie was so delightful you hardly realized that you had to read the lines. This

was a comedy with a message film about two brothers, one who thought himself zen-like and the other whose life had crashed with his wife and children leaving him. The brothers head to Japan on a journey to a zen monastery and a continuous comedy of errors and lessons along the way. This movie is a real gem and I recommend it to anyone who needs a laugh.

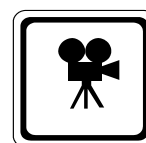
The next movie will be shown **Friday, January 23rd, 2009** at 7:00 p.m. and the title will be "**Shameless: The Art of Disability**" by Bonnie Sharr Klein. I have viewed this movie and it has a good mix of disability, gender, poverty and many other issues, which will make for some interesting discussion after viewing. There is some language used so please use your own good judgement as to whether younger people should attend but it does have a good message.

The movie nights are free and refreshments/goodies are served with donations gratefully accepted to replenish supplies and pay any fees for movie rentals.

If you know of anyone who would enjoy the film nights, please invite them and if they would like to be put on the email list, please notify me.

Hope to see you on January 23rd!

Marie Belliveau
mbelliveau2@cogeco.ca
905-704-0189





40 Years of Unicamp

Unicamp is only a few hours drive from most of the city-centers of Southern Ontario yet it is a timeless escape from the realities of urban life. Campers have come from across eastern North America to enjoy Unicamp's serene 50 acre site near Honeywood, Ontario. Some have even traveled from as far away as New Zealand, Hong Kong, Japan, Germany, Holland, South America and other corners of the globe. Unicamp has been a special place for Unitarians and their children to enjoy for 39 glorious summers, and we're about to have one of our best seasons yet!

Unitarian congregations are institutional members of Unicamp upon paying their annual dues, and are thus stakeholders of this precious gem north of Shelburne. Unicamp is located within the UNESCO Niagara Escarpment Biosphere Reserve with a five-acre clear, cool, spring-fed pond; two sandy beaches; pine and broad leaf forests; meadows drifted with wildflowers; aged orchards and reedy marshlands; deep mossy crevices with caves; pure icy streams; shade-dappled ferns and open, sunny spaces. There are vantage points with panoramic views of sun and moon rises. There are creatures in the pond: frogs, fish, turtles and waterfowl, with muskrats in the marshes. The woods harbour raccoons, chipmunks, squirrels,

porcupine and even deer, wild turkey, quail and red fox on occasion. The fields and the forests are abundant with edible plants like wild ginger and carrots; morel, puffball and shaggy-mane mushrooms; wild apples, grapes, raspberries and more. Songbirds, woodpeckers, hawks, herons and giant dragonflies follow their quests. Bats come from the caves to play games in the darkening sky while children gleefully chase fireflies at the outer reaches of a bonfire encircled by drummers, singers, dancers and laughter.

Unicamp Day is the first Sunday after Groundhog Day, this year it's February 8, 2009. It's a day that gives Unicampers a wonderful opportunity to organize a special Celebration of Unicamp Service at your congregation with readings, poems and memories, and even Unicamp songs and dances. What does Unicamp mean to you? Why is it so special to your family? Tell the world and especially your congregation!

On February 10, 2009 Unicamp will turn 40 years old, although we feel a lot younger! For as long as Unitarians have owned this land and probably much longer, the acres at Unicamp have been free of farming pesticides, chemicals and other corrosives. We compost, reuse, recycle and conserve. We have a population that attempts to rest gently on the earth. We are pursuing a 'Green Sanctuary' designation from the CUC. But it's not what we do that makes Unicamp such a mystical place of restorative healing energy and youthful vibrancy. It's what you feel: the connections made in sharing the spiritual experience of lush peace in nature. It's the people; the like-minded people who don't think you're an odd-ball if you are atheist and into alternative medicine,

or pagan, or on a spiritual quest but holding down a conventional job in a big city. Come for the community - the free-range children giggling in the raspberry patch; the exuberant staff and their captivating songs and stories; the Sunday afternoon deck discussions that range from philosophy to ecology to activism and vegetable gardening. Come enjoy Unicamp with us during this special celebratory 40th anniversary summer. Be a part of this unique UU retreat for your summer vacation in 2009. Our special 40th Anniversary Celebration will be on the 2009 Civic Holiday weekend. We hope to see all of you then or even sooner!

National Identity Initiative

For those who would like more information on the National Identity initiative, please visit the Task Force's website at <http://canadian-unitarian-council.pbwiki.com/Our-National-Identity>, where you can find posters/flyers and full information about the proposed workshops.

Thank you for your interest!
Regards,
Kalvin Drake
National Identity Task Force

Unitarian Congregation of Niagara

Editor: Sofia Vuorinen
sofia.vuorinen@3web.net
Deadline for Next issue:
January 18, 2009