



## UNITARIAN CONGREGATION OF NIAGARA

A church for people  
with enquiring minds

### September 2010

#### Sunday Services

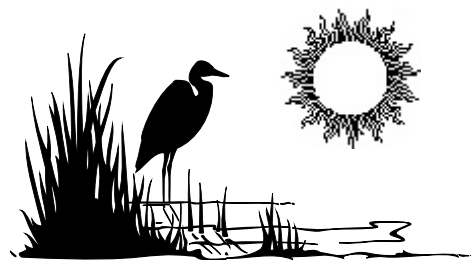
- Sept. 5 AGM Report** – Carl Beckett/  
Peter Skelton
- Sept. 12 In-Gathering and Water  
Communion** – Ed Gilbert  
Join us for Salad Day Lunch
- Sept. 19 Living the Teachings** – K'im Li Shih
- Sept. 26 The 6<sup>th</sup> Principle** – Julianne Momirov
- Oct. 3 Religious Ornithology or Church  
is for the Birds** – Alan Wheeler
- Oct. 10 The Golden Rule** – Craig Beam
- Oct. 17 Is Spirituality Replacing Formal  
Religions?** – Morris Bosey
- Oct. 24 China and Mongolia - The  
'Religion' of Communism** – Karen  
Johnson
- Oct. 31 The 7<sup>th</sup> Principle** – Julianne Momirov

#### From the President . . .

The summer is rapidly drawing to a close. We have had an excellent summer program, and are now looking forward to the resumption of the more formal services. On the first such Sunday, Sept. 12, Hilde is preparing a salad luncheon, and you are all invited to bring enhancements for it! We are planning several outreach events, as well as the pledge canvass for the Fall. It would be nice to start the season with a spurt of visitors who might become new members. Consequently, if you have friends in mind who might be interested, bring them along. Let them know about the luncheon.

I hope all had a pleasant summer, and are ready for an active Fall season.

– John Mayer



#### Unitarian Congregation of Niagara

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**2010/2011**

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PRESIDENT: John Mayer  
VICE PRESIDENT:  
John Northover  
PAST PRESIDENT:  
Michael Petrocci  
LAY CHAPLAINS:  
Ed Gilbert  
Valerie Jaeger  
Julianne Momirov  
SECRETARY:  
Doreen Peever  
TREASURER:  
Carl Beckett  
MEMBER AT LARGE:  
Ed Gilbert  
CHOIR/MUSIC:  
Penny Blake  
COMMUNICATIONS:  
Roy Blake  
DENOMINATIONAL AFFAIRS:  
Merelie Scott-Armstrong  
LAY CHAPLAINCY:  
Jenny Leach  
MEMBERSHIP:  
Jim Glassford  
NEWSLETTER:  
Sofia Vuorinen  
PASTORAL CARE:  
TBA  
PHONE: Rose Furness  
PROGRAM:  
Valerie Jaeger  
PROPERTY:  
Peter Skelton  
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:  
CONTACT FOR ADULT RE:  
Joan Rothman &  
Marie Belliveau  
RENTAL: John Northover  
SEXUAL & GENDER  
DIVERSITY:  
Joan Wiley  
SOCIAL: Hilde Wheeler  
SOCIAL JUSTICE:  
Marie Belliveau  
SPECIAL EVENTS:  
Rhonda Armstrong  
TRUSTEES:  
Andrea Gravelle, Don Herne  
Will Wilson  
WEBSITE: Roy Blake

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**Hello UCNe'r's,**

We had talked about UCN adopting a child from the "Plan" or "World Vision" or one of the other non-profit groups; however, I remembered that "Child Haven" is a group founded and operated by 2 dedicated and renowned Unitarians, Rev. Fred and Bonnie Cappuccino.

Child Haven gives us an opportunity to adopt a post-high school child or a younger student with special needs, your decision. They do not have individual sponsorship of children in Child Haven but we have several opportunities to help and donate.

If each member (assuming there are 60) donates \$6.00, we can donate \$360 per year to help in whichever way you choose. I have included a link to the Child Haven website, take a look and let me know what you think.

<http://www.childhaven.ca/sponsor.htm>

Thank you for caring,

Marie Belliveau

UCN Social Justice

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**Unitarians in 1830s America . . .**

Peter Carey's Parrot and Olivier in America is on the Booker long list for 2010. The story is set in the USA during the presidency of Andrew Jackson and was inspired by Alexis de Toqueville's Democracy in America.

On page 266 an American family is discussing which church to take their visitor, a French aristocrat: "Yes, dear," Mrs. Godefrey said, "Mr. Poole is a grander man in the pulpit than Mr. Farrar. But, alas, he is almost Unitarian."

"That is, a reasoning being," said Mr. Godefrey, smiling.

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# Congregation News

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## Communications Update

– Roy Blake

There are a few new things I'd like to point out to everyone,

First, by popular request (okay, one request!) the UCN now has a presence on Facebook. If you are logged in to Facebook, just search for Unitarian Congregation of Niagara and there we are. Anyone with a Facebook account can join the group, and once you join you are free to post notices of events, start discussions, etc. The group links to our website, so perhaps some new people will find us that way.

The Facebook page can also be used to post notices of events that are not sponsored by us but may be of interest to members. Not everyone uses Facebook though, so I'm thinking of setting up a separate, opt-in email list for such notices. Events could include concerts, lectures, political meetings, etc. I'd rather not send these to everyone as some may find them annoying if we have a lot of them, so I'd like to set up a list of people who are interested in getting such notices. If you are interested, just send an email to [ucn.communications@gmail.com](mailto:ucn.communications@gmail.com) saying so, and if there is enough interest I'll set it up and let everyone know how to access it.

Finally, an item that isn't really new, just a reminder: Board members, committee chairs and anyone else who is organizing an official UCN event, are welcome to use the [ucn.communications](mailto:ucn.communications@gmail.com) email account to send out information. There are two ways to do it. You can send an email to [ucn.communications@gmail.com](mailto:ucn.communications@gmail.com); I'll get the email and forward it. This may take a day or two– I try to check the account daily but that may not always happen. Or, you can log in directly to the email account and send the message yourself. That way is quicker, since you can do it right away. If you already have the username and password to log in, from Bruce's time as communications person, they should still work. Otherwise, send an email to me at [ucn.communications@gmail.com](mailto:ucn.communications@gmail.com) and I'll send you instructions.

Of course, some people have their own lists for their own committees. That's not a problem, but for those who need access to a simple way to send information to the congregation about their UCN events, the [ucn.communications](mailto:ucn.communications) email list is available to you.

## Denominational Affairs

The 2010 Canadian Unitarian Council Annual General Meeting is just over, and already next year's location has been announced. The 2011 CUC AGM will be held in Toronto. Hopefully we will have lots of attendees. More to follow.

– Merelie Scott-Armstrong

## Salad Day Lunch . . .

Join us for a Salad Day Lunch on September 12. As usual, the salad greens are supplied and we look forward to toppings and/or some dessert contributions from our members. The abundance of fruits and vegetables at this time of year from our rich Niagara farmlands will hopefully encourage us all to bring something that has been locally grown! – Hilde Wheeler

## Book Club . . .

The next meeting of the book club will be Thursday, Sept. 16 at 7:30 p.m. Note that this is a change from the date previously announced. The meeting will be at the home of Penny and Roy Blake, at 42 Maccoomb Drive, Welland. The book, as decided at our last meeting in the spring, will be "I Shall Not Hate" by Izzeldin Abuelaish.

## Summer and Beyond . . .

As usual, summer has passed in a whirlwind of travel, visits with friends and family, and a camping experience 'Up North', this time in Tobermory, the other end of the Bruce Peninsula.

But this year I also experienced something completely new – my first conference with the Unitarian Universalist Musicians Network. This year's was held in Madison, Wisconsin, a charming mid-West city and attracted over 200 participants from over the

U.S. and Canada. I roomed with a choir director from California, and while her congregation and choir is much larger, we also shared many dilemmas and even came from a similar Jewish background.

We all need inspiration sometimes, and new ideas, and that I got aplenty here. In the beautiful sanctuary designed by Frank Lloyd Wright, I participated in moving services daily. The conference was blessed not only with the talents of singers and pianists, but also all manner of instrumentalists from within our ranks and the general community. There were seminars for large choirs, small choirs, composers, conductors, and music reading sessions to help us pick repertoire. In between I talked, networked and observed, trying to absorb as much as possible.

So – hopefully I have learnt and grown and come back with new ideas to share with you. I will be getting some new pieces also that I heard at this conference. I'm pleased to welcome two new members to the choir, Carol G. and Alexis - and look forward to seeing the old members as well.

We are a small congregation – no doubt, but it is still very necessary to continue to make music. Music takes great commitment, but it also leavens prosaic text, energizes, motivates and inspires us.

– Penny Blake

## MorningSong . . .

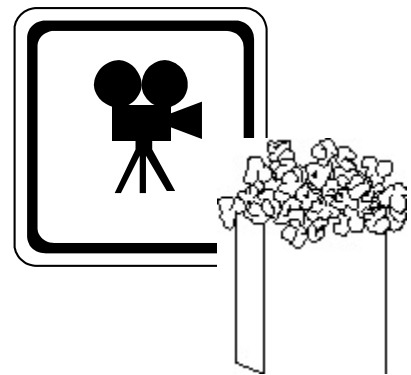
My service on Aug. 22 about the hymns we sing seemed very well received and I feel I've just begun to explore the subject. So - one new idea that I may try- in a small way – is to institute a period of MorningSong. This is a period, about 10-15 minutes before the service when any congregant can come and sing a hymn or 2 with the choir. It familiarizes people with the music, gives them extra background, and provides a pleasant introduction to the service for others. We'll do this once or twice this Fall, so look for further announcements.

## Pakistan Relief Donations

On Sunday, August 22nd, donations for Pakistani flood relief came to \$570.00. We will also be accepting donations next Sunday, August 29th. Then I will take the donations to the Red Cross. Cheques are to be made out to the Canadian Red Cross, with "Pakistani Relief" on the memo line. Just today, the Canadian government had agreed to match donations until September 12th. The Red Cross will issue receipts to individual donors.

Thank you for your generosity.

– Doreen



## UCN Night at the Movies . . .

Hello UCNers:

Once again UCN will be showing movies for members, friends and visitors. Admission is always free for ALL!

Refreshments are served and donations for these are gratefully accepted. The church is located at 223 Church St., St. Catharines and free parking is available at the church.

Here is a list of the dates and films that have been reserved so far for UCN movies:

October 29/10 - "Broke Back Mountain"

November 19/10 - "Young at Heart" (Julianne Momirov's suggestion)

December 2010 - "No Film this month"

January 28/11 - "Avatar" (not in 3D)

February 25/11 - "Doubt"

March 25/11 - "The Bucket List"

April 22/11 - "The Men Who Stare at Goats"

May 27/11 -  
June 24/11 -  
July 22/11 -  
August 2011 - "No Film"  
September 2011 - "No Film"

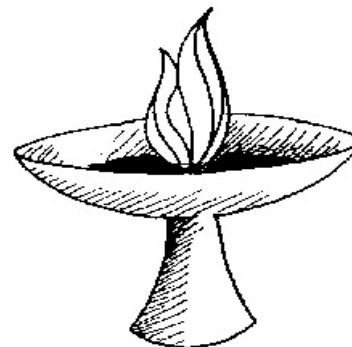
Please email me with any suggestions for future films, I would be happy to include them in the list. I will be sending information on all of the films a week before film night to give you some idea of what the film is about. If you have any questions please email me or call

– Marie L. Belliveau

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Deadline for Next issue: **September 19, 2010**



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## UNITARIAN CONGREGATION OF NIAGARA BOARD MEETING

### Minutes of May 6, 2010

**Present:** Doreen Peever, John Northover, Ed Gilbert, Barb Skelton (for Peter), John Mayer, Marie Belliveau, Carl Beckett, Roy and Penny Blake, Joan Rothman

Agenda: Move #8 to #5. M/S/C Roy, John N.

Minutes: M/S/C/ Doreen/Ed as corrected

**1. Business arising:**

- a) Newsletter: Darcy will send 2 files to Roy, one for web with personal Information deleted, one complete
- b) LCC – meeting April 11. Letter from Jenny Leach. Add clause to LC Contract to ask LC to refer new contacts to Chair of LCC. Valerie is too busy to be a Brock Chaplain. David Galston (Brock Chaplain) offered to be a UU chaplain. Valerie suggested we contact CUC to ask them to pay our share. Table until there is more information. David will be speaking here in May and John M. will talk to him. Need a job description.

**2. Treasurer's Report:** M/S/C Carl/Roy. \$112.72 was raised for Empty Bowls.

**3. CUC Strategic Directions 2010-11 Workplan:**

- CUC received a large gift in memory of Ed Ratcliffe which covers the 2010 deficit
- limit deficit to \$500,000
- no action plan in 28 page document
- workshop for discussion at AGM
- too much of budget is for Head Office expenses, not for congregational level

**8. Committee Reports:**

- a. Rental: request from England. John N. will respond that we can't accommodate it
- b. Music: e-mail re Niagara Action for Animals
- c. LCC: no bylaw amendment needed. M/S/C Ed/Carl to encourage LC to refer new clients to current LC

## 6. Social Action

- Marie talked about the Harvest Festival on October 2, planned with Spire United, Westview, the Salvation Army and Start Me Up Niagara.

It will be close to Riordan to Oakdale from 11 am to 4 pm.

- next meeting is May 11 at 8 am to plan a presentation to City Council
- Entertainment will include music and hay rides.
- UCN will have table for information, assisting with running it. We're forming committee and will have signage.
- Marie requested \$1000 for Harvest Festival from her budget and \$200 For seeds and plants for Community Garden. M/S/C Roy/Ed to fund.

## 7. Denominational Affairs:

- CUUL School: student pay half, church half
- Merelie feels church should pay full cost of \$549 and Marie supports that. Joan suggests either Ed or Sandra Watson go. M/S/C Carl/Doreen to spend \$549 for CUUL school out of the conference budget (which is overspending that budget). Ed will let us know if he can go.

9. a) Agenda: John M. will send it early to Roy (as well as everyone else)

b) Lock on RE door:

- if room is used, door needs to be locked
- Roy suggests replacing doorknobs with 3 locking ones, 2 for RE, one for Office. M/S/C Roy/Carl to get 3 locks, all keyed the same from Pinders

10. Next Meeting: June 3, 2010 at 7 pm. Later changed to July 8 at 7 pm.

11. Adjournment: at 9:30 pm

Minutes taken by Doreen M. Peever, Secretary

### **Notes from the Board meeting of July 8th, 2010:**

1. All indoor and outside door knobs have been replaced with levers/handles to comply with accessibility requirements. The doors to the office and the Sunday school room now have locks in the handles. John Northover has distributed keys to those with a need for them.

2. Our congregation is involved with the Harvest Festival to be held October 2nd 11 am - 4 pm in the Oakdale Riordan area. We are working with Silver Spire United Church, Westview and the Salvation Army. Carl Beckett has agreed to be the accountant for all money received and disbursed. UCN has authorized \$1000 as our contribution financially. Marie Belliveau needs some volunteers to also be involved.

3. Roy will set up a Facebook site linked to our website to advertise church activities.

4. The CUC supports our request to host a conference for small congregations, similar to one to be held in September in Saskatchewan.

5. Our annual Pledge drive will begin on October 17th, with the dinner on December 4th.

6. There were suggestions for Social Action outreach for UCN, especially sponsoring a child through one of several organizations. This would be a long-term commitment for the congregation, with people willing to write letters to the child, for instance, as well as contribute financially on a monthly or yearly basis.

Doreen M. Peever, Secretary

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**Rental and UCN board activities: Sept. to Dec. 2010**

Monday	10 – 12(noon)	Sept 13 – Nov 15	Yoga Unlimited.
	6 – 8 pm	Sept 13 – Nov 15	Yoga Unlimited.
Tuesday	6 – 9 pm	Sept 07 – Dec 14	Niagara Dance Co.
Wednesday	6:45 – 8:30 pm	Sept 08 – Nov 10	Yoga Unlimited
Thursday	4:30 – 6:15 pm	Sept 09 – Nov 11	Yoga Unlimited.
	6:30 – 9:30 pm	Sept 09 – Dec 16	St John Ambulance.
	7:00 – 9:30 pm	1 <sup>st</sup> Thur. monthly	UCN Board Meeting
Friday	6 – 9 pm	Mostly 1 <sup>st</sup> Fri./month	Niagara Action for Animals.
	7 – 9:30 pm	Oct 29 and Nov 19	UCN Film Night
Saturday	3 pm or by arrangement, cleaning, chair placement for Sunday.		
Sunday	10:00 -1:00 (1:30)	Weekly service. (lunch once monthly)	
	6 – 9 pm	Weekly UCN Buddhist (Hilde 685-4936)	

Please communicate any errors, changes and new requests to John Northover at 905-934-7487 [jgnorth@vaxxine.com](mailto:jgnorth@vaxxine.com) who will then include them on the calendar in the church and forward them to Roy Blake for inclusion on the website calendar under Rentals and Facilities. Thank you.

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