



UNITARIAN CONGREGATION OF NIAGARA

A church for people
with enquiring minds

October 2010

Sunday Services

October

- 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 7th Principle** – Julianne Momirov

November

- Nov. 7 **Boring Dates - A Secular Humanist's Point-of-View**
– Don Cullen
- Nov. 14 **Spiritual Spaces - Sedona**
– Jim Glassford
- Nov. 21 **RAFT** – Mike Lethby
- Nov. 28 **Spiritual Spaces** – Jim Glassford



Who Are We. . .

Dr. John Mayer was born in Hungary to a father who was a secularized Jew and his mother was a devout Calvinist. His father joined his mother's church when they were married. The family immigrated to Canada in 1946.

How is it then that John became a Unitarian. John was eventually accepted to U.T.S. (The University of Toronto Schools) which he thoroughly enjoyed. It was in these years that he discovered the Unitarian denomination. He said that he belonged to a boys' discussion group where they talked about sex, politics, and religion. None of the group agreed or believed what they were supposed to believe when they went to any of the main religious churches. The boys decided to go to different churches on a Sunday morning and then get together for their discussion group later on the same day. A friend and classmate was impressed with the Unitarian Congregation. A few of the group started going there and kept going back because they found the place was full of interesting people who were very liberal in their beliefs.

John attended both University of Toronto and McMaster University in Hamilton. While at McMaster, he completed his B.A. Later, he did his M.A. and PhD in the United States. . .cont'd Pg.2

Unitarian Congregation of Niagara

Phone: 905-687-8433
Website: www.unitarian-stcatharines.org
General Inquiry: ucn.contact@gmail.com
Communications e-mail: ucn.communications@gmail.com
Web administrators: ucn.webadmin@gmail.com

Lay Chaplains:

Ed Gilbert
Valerie Jaeger
Julianne Momirov
ucnlaychaplains@gmail.com
905-687-8433

**Unitarian Congregation
of Niagara**

223 Church St.
St. Catharines, ON L2R 3E8
Tel: 905-687-8433
www.unitarian-stcatharines.org

2010/2011

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

Who Are We . . . (continued from pg. 1)

While at McMaster, he supplemented his meager income by being the Religious Education Director at the First Unitarian Congregation in Toronto. Later he joined the Hamilton Unitarian Church and when he moved to St. Catharines, he became a member of the Unitarian Congregation of Niagara. He taught Philosophy at McMaster and then in 1965 he was asked to become the founding chair of the Philosophy Department at Brock, which was then a new institution.

In 1997, he retired and was granted the Professor Emeritus rank. In his church life, he became a lay chaplain in 1973, re-elected annually until 2009, when he had to retire because of a new ruling that the maximum term for a lay chaplain is 6 years. At present, he is the President of the Board of Directors of the Unitarian Congregation of Niagara.

John has led an incredibly active role in the community. He was an active World Federalist, an enthusiastic Esperantist, a federal candidate for the NDP in 1984 and 1988. He has been involved with Niagara Peninsula Homes, a co-op housing resource group, from its inception 30 years to the present. Needless to say, we are most fortunate to have a person of such caliber, enthusiasm, and involvement to be one of us. [___](#)

Hi UCN members and friends:

The Board has asked me to pass on this message from Vivianne Lariviere. She has been the speaker at several services in the past, and will be again this year. In addition, she has suggested a two-day workshop on "Art as a form of Spirituality". Details are in her message below and at her website. If anyone would be interested in attending such a workshop, please let us know by replying to this email.

– Roy Blake

Message from Vivianne follows:

Re: the **Art as a form of Spirituality** – this is how it works.

It is a 2 day event, starting the Friday evening 7-9:00 pm.

And all day Saturday 10- 6pm.

It can be tied into a worship service, but not necessary.

I do have a message : along the lines of joy- which presents well for a good time for sign up. It gives a taste of what the workshop may be about.

The cost is \$95.00 per person with 15% going to the church. A minimum of 5 persons is necessary, though I have had great success with larger groups. It is quite engaging with oneself and the community.

There is more information on my website under workshops: thesongroom.ca

Congregation News

Denominational Affairs

There is now a supply of Principles and Purposes cards set out on the table on the landing. They help to answer those questions people ask about Unitarianism.

– Merelie

Notes from the UCN Board Meeting of September 2, 2010

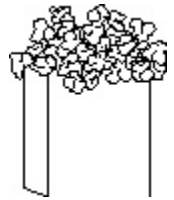
1. A small committee was formed to meet with David Galston and his committee of United, Anglican and Presbyterian churches re: his also representing Unitarians in his job as ecumenical chaplain at Brock University.
2. We will purchase \$2 million insurance to cover off-site liability at the Harvest Festival. Silver Spire United also has the same coverage.
3. The CUC is willing to fund a Small Congregation workshop here as they did in Saskatoon. It is suggested that happen in April.
4. The Treasurer reported income to date of \$29,302.19, about \$2,000 less than last year at this point. Net income to date is \$6,586.84, about \$1800 more than last year. Rental income is anticipated to be

\$11,000 for the year, a substantial increase.

5. Gillian Kemp, a professor at the Brock Faculty of Business, has suggested having some of her students study our board operation as a project.
6. There are 2 suggestions for Social Action Outreach for the congregation to support: a) Child Haven, a UU initiative of children's homes in Nepal, India, Pakistan, etc. run by Fred & Bonnie Cappucino for many years, and b) supporting Greg Mortenson (author of "Three Cups of Tea" and "Stones into Schools") to build schools for girls in Afghanistan.
7. The kick-off for the annual pledge campaign will be October 17. Information for members is in preparation.
8. Roy has posted information on Facebook, Kijiji, etc. and sent notices to the Standard. Penny will update the music page.
9. The St. John's Ambulance have concerns about the mulberry tree at the back. The berries dropping cause them problems. Peter will talk to them about trimming branches on their side of the fence.



UCN Night at the Movies...



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.

October 29/10 - selection TBA
November 19/10 - "Young at Heart" (Julianne Momirov's suggestion)

December 2010 - "No Film this month"

Questions or suggestions?
Contact Marie Belleveau

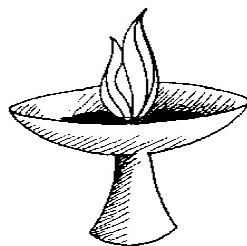
Niagara Volunteers for Bangladesh

These are the projects that the Niagara Volunteers for Bangladesh have been involved with in Pakistan:

- (a) **The Special School:** the number of students remained the same...51 children with special needs and 50 from the slum areas with financial needs. The school is still trying to generate income by printing bed covers and clothing and selling those in local fairs. We also brought some to sell at our dinner event.

- (b) **The Education Centres in the Coastal Region:** there were 6 education centres, ...5 of which were handed over to the community people to run. The one centre left is turned into a regular school. Once they graduate from this school, they are then sent to the high school or to the trade school.
- (c) **Water Project:** Mahbuba along with CAWST members again went to the southern region to train people to build their own bio-sand filter. The emphasis is also on preserving rain water. Research is going on how and what vegetation can be grown on the saline soil and salt water.
- (d) **Tiger Widows** again was hit by a cyclone and tidal waves. Once again they lost everything. Attention is being given to the children's education so that they can change their fate.
- (e) **The Children's Leukemia Centre:** we continue to support their family support program.
- (f) **Housing:** In the coming year, we will try to replace their walls which are presently made with brittle sticks.

The names of the two women who are the key figures for Niagara Volunteers for Bangladesh are Nasim Banu Ahmed and Mahbuba Khanam. Please contact them for Fundraiser tickets.



Niagara Volunteers for Bangladesh

7th Annual Fundraiser
Dinner & Entertainment

October 16, 2010

6:00 - 10:00 p.m.

(Door opens at 5:00 & Dinner at 6:00)

Westminster United Church

180 Queenston St., St. Catharines

(Beside St. Catharines General Hospital)

(Wheelchair accessible)

All proceeds go to provide support for school children and destitute widows in Bangladesh

*Menu: Samosa, tandoori chicken
(veg alternative), rice pilaf, mixed veg,
dal, green salad and
rice pudding (dessert)*

Admission: \$15.00

\$5.00 (Children under five)

For tickets please contact:

Nasim Banu Ahmed: 905-682-6569

Mahbuba Khanam: 905-680-4669

I am only one; but still I am one. I cannot do everything, but still I can do something. I will not refuse to do the something I can do.

~ Helen Keller

Unitarian Congregation of Niagara
223 Church St., St. Catharines, ON
L2R 3E8

Editor: Sofia Vuorinen
sofia.vuorinen@3web.net

Deadline for **November** issue:

October 24, 2010