

Offertory:

Guest Speaker: Vince Del Buono, MFR

Topic: "Understanding Nigeria"

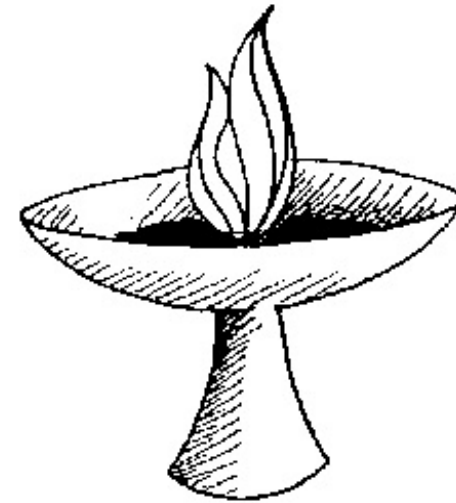
Closing Hymn: #123 Spirit of Life

Closing Words:

Life is a journey of choices set out by the universe
The choices we make determine our future
We must be vigilant and aware of our choices
First to choose life, then to choose life to make the world a better place.

Postlude: Theresa Pothier

Unitarian Congregation of Niagara



"Understanding Nigeria"
Vince Del Buono

November 29, 2009

Sunday Services

- Dec 5 Canvas or Pledge Dinner
Dec 6 Climate Change: Mitigation vs Adaptation
- Phil Curtis S.L. Sandra Watson
Dec 13 A Post-Theistic Conception of God
- George Nathan S.L. John Storm
Dec 16 ****Newsletter Deadline** (Wednesday)**
Dec 20 Solstice Ceremony
- Tara Kriyachanda & Donna Bothan
Dec 24 Christmas Eve celebration (Margaret Laurence's
Unitarian Christmas Story for Children -
Julianne Momirov
Dec 27 CUC AGM - Sofia Vuorinen & John Mayer

January 2010

- Jan 3 Reach Out Rather Than Look In - John Mayer
Jan 10 Schizophrenia - Margaret Watters
Jan 17 AIDS Niagara - Marie Belliveau
Jan 22 Out of the Cold
Hilde Wheeler: 905-685-4936
Jan 24 Jason Secord - S.L. Tara Kriyachanda
Jan 31 Sharing the Faith

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Ed Gilbert Valerie Jaeger Julianne Momirov

Order of Service
Sunday, November 29, 2009

Speaker: *Vince Del Buono*
Service Leader: *Marie Belliveau*

Prelude: Theresa Pothier

Welcome:

We welcome all new visitors to our service and those who are more familiar to us today. We appreciate your taking time out of your week to visit with us and we look forward to getting to know you whether it's your first time visiting this congregation or your hundredth time.

Announcements:

Opening Words:

We gather together at this time and place to affirm our liberal religious values.

Here we believe it is possible to have joy without hysteria.

We believe it is possible to have morality without inquisitions.

We believe it is possible to have community without conformity.

We believe it is possible to have religion without madness.

We believe it is possible to have worship without idolatry.

And here we believe it is possible to have love without perfection.

by Roger Fritts

Chalice Lighting:

As the Earth provides sustenance for its creatures

As the congregation provides a refuge for its members

So the Chalice denotes the faith that is our sustenance and refuge

As fire has drawn the ancients to their gods

As the flame soars towards the heavens

So the spirit of our congregation lights

the Chalice of our community together

Hymn: #304 "A Fierce Unrest"

Joys and Concerns:

Poem Chosen by Vince Del Buono

Ithaca: by C.P. Cafavy

"As you set out on the way to Ithaca
hope that the road is a long one,
filled with adventures, filled with understanding.

The Laestrygonians and the Cyclopes,
Poseidon in his anger: do not fear them,
you'll never come across them on your way
as long as your mind stays aloft, and a choice
emotion touches your spirit and your body.

The Laestrygonians and the Cyclopes,
savage Poseidon; you'll not encounter them
unless you carry them within your soul,
unless your soul sets them up before you.

Hope that the road is a long one.
Many may the summer mornings be
when—with what pleasure, with what joy—
you first put in to harbors new to your eyes;
may you stop at Phoenician trading posts
and there acquire fine goods:
mother-of-pearl and coral, amber and ebony,
and heady perfumes of every kind:
as many heady perfumes as you can.

To many Egyptian cities may you go
so you may learn, and go on learning, from their sages.

Always keep Ithaca in your mind;
to reach her is your destiny.
But do not rush your journey in the least.
Better that it last for many years;
that you drop anchor at the island an old man,
rich with all you've gotten on the way,
not expecting Ithaca to make you rich.

Ithaca gave to you the beautiful journey;
without her you'd not have set upon the road.
But she has nothing left to give you any more.

And if you find her poor, Ithaca did not deceive you.
As wise as you'll have become, with so much experience,
you'll have understood, by then, what these Ithacas mean."