

Dates to Remember...

May 2012

May 20 Newsletter Deadline – Submissions to sofia.vuorinen@3web.net and solution@vaxxine.com

May 22 UCN Board Mtg. – 7:00 p.m. *All are Welcome!*

May 27 LGBTTIQQ2A youth...it's more than alphabet soup – *Stephanie Vail S.L. Joan Wiley*

May 27 Lasagna Lunch ... Back by popular demand!
Sunday May 27th. Please bring salad ingredients, i.e. lettuce, tomatoes, cucumbers or whatever else you like to eat in a salad. This will be the last lunch at UU until September and I look forward to your usual tasty toppings

June 2012

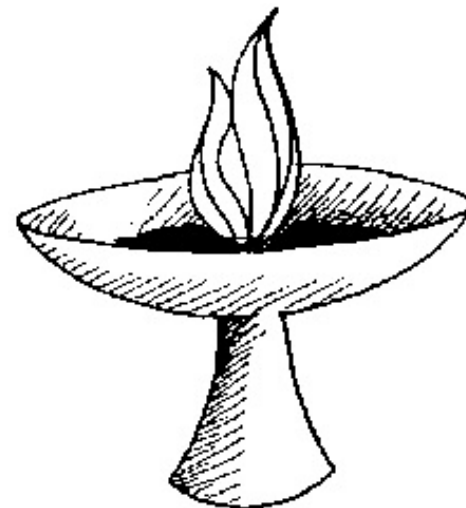
June 2 Retreat, Reflection and Visioning
9:00am - 5:00pm
Facilitator: David Jordan Ph.D.
(Contact: karenhosein@yahoo.ca
by May 6 to attend)

June 3 Church Picnic

FRAGRANCE-FREE POLICY

The Unitarian Congregation of Niagara is a fragrance-free zone. Fragrance may be distressful and threaten the well-being of those around you. In order to make this a safe and welcoming environment for everyone who comes here, we ask that you refrain from wearing fragrances. Your understanding and co-operation is appreciated.

Unitarian Congregation of Niagara



May 20, 2012

A Gardener's Theology
– *Valerie Jaeger*

223 Church St., St. Catharines, Ontario

www.unitarian-stcatharines.org 905-687-8433

Lay Chaplains: 905-687-8433

ucnlaychaplains@gmail.com

Ed Gilbert Karen Johnson-Hosein

Order of Service

Sunday, May 20, 2012

Speaker/ Service Leader: Valerie Jaeger

Musician: Theresa Pothier

Prelude

Welcome

Announcements

**Opening Words: Langston Hughes
#545 In Time Of Silver Rain**

Chalice Lighting: Laura Wallace

Let us bring seed and soul into the light of thought, the warmth of community, and the hope of love.

Let us see together, hear together, love together. Let us worship.

Hymn: #207 "Earth Was Given as a Garden"

Joys and Concerns

Responsive Reading:

"... The harvest will be an attitude, not a time of year. And maybe I'll be wise enough to feel a sort of litany of gratitude:

For seeds - that, like memories and minds, keep in themselves the recollection of what they were and the power to become something more than they are. . .

For soil - that accumulation of lives piled up by death that gives new life.

For the justice of the earth - that gave me about as many weeds and wilt and scab and bugs as vegetables but, in the end, gave me enough for what I need. . .

For hands - those miracles on the ends of my arms that let me tend my vegetables and pull my weeds, and for mind enough to know the difference between the two. . .

For calluses - life's defense against that softness that makes survival difficult. . .

For the ability to work and the will to work and the work to do, and the time to do it in. . . And, finally, for that sense of kinship to it all, that singleness, that unity that is the basis of faith. . . ."

Offering: Hymn #402 sung twice

Reading: from **The Secret Garden
by Frances Hodgson Burnett**

Address: "A Gardener's Theology"

Discussion

Hymn: The Garden Song by David Mallett

Inch by inch, row by row

Gonna make this garden grow

All it takes is a rake and a hoe

And a piece of fertile ground

Inch by inch, row by row

Someone bless these seeds I sow

Someone warm them from below

'Til the rain comes tumbling down

Pulling weeds and pickin' stones

Man is made from dreams and bones

Feel the need to grow my own

'Cause the time is close at hand
Grain for grain, sun and rain
Find my way in nature's chain
To my body and my brain
To the music from the land

Inch by inch, row by row
Gonna make this garden grow
All it takes is a rake and a hoe
And a piece of fertile ground
Inch by inch, row by row
Someone bless these seeds I sow
Someone warm them from below
'Til the rain comes tumbling down

Plant your rows straight and long
Thicker than with pray'r and song
Mother Earth will make you strong
If you give her love and care
Old crow watchin' hungrily
From his perch in yonder tree
In my garden I'm as free
As that feathered thief up there

Inch by inch, row by row
Gonna make this garden grow
All it takes is a rake and a hoe
And a piece of fertile ground
Inch by inch, row by row
Someone bless the seeds I sow
Someone warm them from below
'Til the rain comes tumbling down

'Til the rain comes tumbling down

Closing Words

Postlude: *(Please remain seated during postlude, then join us
for coffee and conversation.)*