



UNITARIAN CONGREGATION OF NIAGARA

A church for people
with enquiring minds

June 2006

Sunday Services

June 2006

June 4 Sharing Our Faith
– CUC Fundraiser Service

****Please do not miss this special service**, it will be unique for our congregation and is also necessary for our funding request. Please make any cheques payable to the "CUC" and insert "Sharing Our Faith" Fund into the information line, any loose change and funds not otherwise indicated will be donated to this fund on June 4, 2006.**

June 11 Church Picnic - McFarland Park

Summer Sunday Series

Our summer program will be starting on June 18th and we need people to sign up to lead discussions or give talks about their favourite whatever: i.e., pet peeves, hobbies, interests, axes to grind ... whatever! This is the time of the year in the program where we can let it all hang out, if we like! Discussions are always lively and interesting during the summer and we learn a lot about each other.



Unitarian Congregation of Niagara
www.unitarian-stcatharines.org

Greetings from Grand River . . .

Note: This is from a blog and therefore may not be grammatically/spelling correct. For more up-to-date information on this situation please visit the following website:

thebasketcase@on.aibn.com

Fri 5/19/2006 12:14 AM

I know many of you have been waiting for an update, and I apologize that I haven't gotten one out sooner. As you know, we have been having many meetings with respect to our situation in the land reclamation meetings to discuss how we perceive that we can move forward. The most obvious question has been raised and that is whether or not we see the possibility of removing one of the barricades. The current discussion has been regarding Plank Road, also known as Argyle Street and #6 Hwy. We have had countless meetings, discussions and more discussions on whether or not it is a good idea. The obvious factor in not wanting to remove it is the trust factor with the government. We all know and understand that history has shown us that we can't take the word of any government official no matter what capacity, as they have continually broken their promises in the past, and will say and do anything that they believe they need to in order to achieve their goal. In situations like the one we're in, their goal is to get the barricades down. "De-escalate" the situation. On the other perspective, we have to look at the fact that it is not their government that we have to trust.

contd. . . . pg. 4



**Unitarian Congregation
of Niagara**

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**Executive Council
for 2006/2007**

PRESIDENT: Fred Bolton

VICE PRESIDENT:
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TREASURER: Valerie Jaeger

MEMBER AT LARGE:
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PROGRAM:
Julianne Momirov

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:
Lisa Laughton

MEMBERSHIP:
Jim Glassford

PROPERTY:
Peter Skelton

DENOMINATIONAL AFFAIRS:
Pam Spear-Wilson

NEWSLETTER:
Sofia Vuorinen

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SOCIAL JUSTICE: Will Wilson

SOCIAL: Joan Rothman

WEBSITE: Phil Curtis

TRUSTEES:
Monica Hornyansky
Andrea Gravelle
Don Herne

RENTAL : John Northover

PASTORAL CARE:
Jennie Leach

**Celebrating
Peace through Art
Saturday June 11, 2006
Montebello Park, 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.**

This is an invitation to *get involved with and support* a community event that engages participants with global issues through art making. The **Art of Peace Festival** is back for 2006, celebrating peace through art with another great day of arts events and activities for the whole family.

On Saturday June 10th 2006, **Montebello Park** will be filled with music, poetry, dance, theatre, arts, crafts, mural making and more. To honour the value of peace in our world, local artists, peace groups, churches and schools from across Niagara will showcase their work and offer an array of fun, inspiring activities and workshops.

This year the festival continues to showcase the many talents of Niagara's artistic community with performances by local artists, and art workshops to inspire creativity and peace making in our community.

The event is organized by Project Ploughshares Niagara, St. Catharines and Area Arts Council and the City of St. Catharines.

For more information please contact:

Christine Cucciniello
christine@opirgbrock.org

or
Timothy Healey
thealey198@aol.com
905 684 1634

For more information on the festival please visit: www.stcatharines.ca
Follow the links: Culture, Events, Art of Peace Festival.

The Glories of Peace

*They shall beat their swords into plowshares,
and their spears into pruning-hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
neither shall they learn war any more;
But they shall all sit under their own vines and fig trees,
and no one shall make them afraid.*

Micah 4:3

Membership News . . .

May Board Meeting Highlights

1. Barbara Worthy (who has spoken at the church on a few occasions) will be our Director of Religious Education. She will begin her new position in August. Welcome Barbara!
2. We are looking for volunteers to be on a fundraising committee to raise church revenue. Pam, Shari and Ken Thompson are already on the new committee which is hoping to plan an event in the fall.
3. Raffle tickets for the weekend at Unicamp are selling well. All revenue will go to operating funds at the church.
4. We will be selling UCN mugs next week to offset the total cost of the coffee mugs.

The next Board Meeting is on Tuesday, June 20 at 6:00 at the church.

I found this poem in the latest issue of UUWorld. This magazine is delivered to our church every month and all members may borrow it. You will find it at the back of the church on the table. Please keep it for one week only and return it promptly.

In My Church

by Karen Lee Shelley

We do it once and
Everyone loves it.
So someone says,
"Let's do it again
This time next year."
Some brave or foolish
Soul volunteers to
Make it happen again
And now we have a
Tradition! Twice more
And it's part of the
Calendar. Twice more
And it becomes a
Ritual. Twice more and
"We've always done it
That way!" Only twice
More and it becomes
Canon law. Just because
We liked it enough to
Do it more than once.

Your secretary,
Pamela Spear-Wilson

Membership Committee

From the ABC's For UU Newcomers



F is for **Friendly**,
the way we converse-
Without always judging
who's better or worse.

FRIENDLY All across history,
people have shown themselves
most unfriendly in the area of

religion and belief, burning people
at the stake for denying some
'truth' of religion, and waging
murderous wars against nations of
other religious persuasions.

Today's UU Association is a kind
of safe plateau where people of
our culture who have opposed
some things in the dominant
religions and dissented from
common beliefs can find a place
of peace and agreement. For
UUs, the great dissenters over the
ages are their heroes and
heroines, and within the UU
'church' today every kind of
opinion is found.

You may consider yourself
Protestant or Catholic, Hindu or
Buddhist, Jewish or Pagan,
believer or unbeliever, and still be
a good UU. The only requirement
is to honour the seven
fundamental UU commitments: to
respect, to equality, to openness,
to encouragement, to democracy,
to compassion, and to earth-
friendliness.

Humanism is an important
movement both within and
outside of UUism. Often when a
UU is called a humanist, it means
the person is not a believer in a
god or a supernatural world, but
other UUs call themselves
"religious humanists" or "secular
humanists." It is not an exact title
but stresses concentration on
human values and ethics, rather
than on spirituality or religion.
Within the UUA, humanists are
well organized-and comfortable.

"May I be no one's enemy and
may I be the friend of that which
is eternal and abides. May I wish

for every person's happiness and envy none. May I never rejoice in the ill fortune of one who has wronged me. May I, to the extent of my power, give needful help to all who are in want."

EUSEBIUS

UU Service Book #521

*Jim Glassford, Co-ordinator
Rose Furness*

Shhhh -

Respect for Renters

Our church is sometimes a busy place and we wish to keep it that way. We take pleasure in hosting Yoga Unlimited, Tai Chi classes, several social justice groups as well as small and large wedding parties. As our new rental agent, I draw up individual contracts that outline the conditions of use of the Church facilities, and the dates and times that the renters are entitled to have sole use of the Church. During these contracted periods, the renter is entirely responsible for the proper use of the building and for restricting uninvited people from entering the building, so as to minimize interruptions and possible vandalism. Some of our members have generously given their time to establish the front garden. However, gardens need watering, and currently this usually involves obtaining and returning a hose from inside the Church. Occasionally, our members may wish to enter the Church to do minor repairs or

decorating.

To help our renters hold successful classes and meetings, I wish to ask our members to avoid entering the Church when it is in use, unless they have made a prior arrangement. To help coordinate the use of the Church, there is a calendar on the notice board at the rear of the hall, at the foot of the stairs, where I enter the times that renters will be using the building. This helps us to schedule new requests from renters. Also, if you wish to enter the Church, you can see when it is not in use. We are particularly pleased that Burt Peeters has chosen to hold his Yoga Unlimited classes in the Church, which assists with the maintenance costs. Burt schedules yoga classes on Monday morning and evening, Wednesday and Thursday evenings. So please check the calendar in advance of your anticipated visit. Alternatively, please feel free to phone me, John Northover at 905-934-7487, and I can give you the rental schedule. Of course, if you are just driving past and you see cars in the parking area—then it's busy!

Rental agent – John Northover

A sampling of Unicamp Programs this summer

- Book club weekend
- Astrology weekend
- Women's retreat
- Yoga
- And much, much more

Greetings from Grand River

...continued

It is our government. The people. The men and women who are standing up in solidarity to protect our lands, our law and the people inclusive with our inherent rights and our sovereignty. We have delegates at the table carrying our voice with them." ... "...we will not have the answers in a day. But what we do have before us is an opportunity to help it grow. We do have the opportunity that our grandfathers only dreamed about, and I pray that we are not misguided by our distrust to let that opportunity slip by. I have been pondering for the last few hours of how coincidentally things happen that force us to look at what we are doing and to really question deep within if the choices we are making are the right ones. A few days ago, we all agreed that the barricade on Argyle Street needed to be cleared enough for emergency vehicles to pass through." "...one of our men who resides in our camp was refused entry by the OPP. Their words were "he was told twice

not to attempt to drive back and forth and I don't give a F*** if he has to sit there all F****N night, nobody is coming through. Not two minutes later they were directing the local towing company whose business operates within the barricaded roads, through, as well as a couple more non-native drivers. Discriminatory, obviously. Needless to say, phone calls were made and we were able to get the situation straightened out. However, it did lend to question whether or not we should even proceed with our attempts at showing that "good will" they continually speak of tonight, as I have indicated earlier, we were to continue with the talks on opening up Argyle Street. We have a commitment from the governments that an open moratorium is in place on the disputed lands they call "Douglas Creek." They have agreed to pay for a third party archeological study on the land in question that will work along side our people to determine the exact area and status of the graves that are said to be there. They have also agreed to place back an area of land known to them as "Burtch Correctional Facility" under the original status of the "Haldimand Deed" of 1784. This will be a long process as there has to first be an environmental study done on the lands and clean up, as well as the time to place the land back in possession of the Onkwehonweh, and not under the current land transactions as defined by the Indian Act. We have made some good process

and therefore, it is not being taken lightly the consideration of opening up the one road. Just as the people were gathering to begin the discussions, a young man of 18 years was brought into the camp, caught by security at one of the checkpoints after driving erratically and causing a disturbance, only to find that in his trunk was a pellet gun, and some of his army equipment (apparently he is in some capacity part of the army reserves— I don't know the term or his position). Regardless, his intention was to disrupt and possibly bring harm. He was taken into custody by our men, questioned, spoken to by some of the women when it was determined that he did not realize the seriousness of the situation and of his actions, and eventually turned over to the OPP. He was taken into custody, his car was towed and when we asked about charges later at a liaison meeting with the OPP, we were told that he probably would be charged with careless driving. Our bigger concern was the fact that only a few days ago, one of our men was shot in the face, just below his eye, from a pellet gun or something similar. Then this guy shows up tonight. Co-incidence? The frustrating part is knowing that there is no way he will admit to anything even if it is connected to him. The eleven o'clock news says he was released from custody, and we're to tune in in the morning to hear his side of the story. Given the history of channel 11's reporting, we can only imagine how this one will get turned around to make us look like the

guilty parties again. So be it. My pondering however is whether or not we are being tested. Are we being tested to see how strong our convictions are and our trust in creation and our government system to move forward with the decisions we have made. Do we trust in each other and our delegates that we are making the right move by opening up the road, knowing that we will have obstacles to meet, but faith enough to continue. Or are we being shown that each time we're about to make that decision, something gets put in our path. For tonight, we can only ask for guidance. We discontinued the talks tonight because everyone was feeling the emotions of the situation and would not be able to have a clear mind. I know for myself I put it out to creation to show me, and I pray that I have the sense and ability to see clearly for the highest good of all concerned. Caledonia residents are getting frustrated and we understand all too well the frustration they are feeling. However, they want us to take responsibility for accidents that are occurring on the detour road because of our blockade. I wonder do they ask the same of their township when detours are placed for road construction and accidents occur on their detours. To neglect to take responsibility for our own actions when we are driving opens the doors for many new lawsuits and neglects their first rule of their law which indicates having "care and control" of one's vehicle. I was asked that question by one of

their local radio stations who continually tries to paint the picture of our people being un-cooperative and negligent as well as lawless and villainess in our actions. My response to him was the same. How ridiculous is that. When we get behind the wheel of a car and venture onto any road, we are responsible for our actions, we know the speed limits and we know the rules of the road. Common sense indicates that we cannot take responsibility for the actions of anyone else. However, they continue to lay that responsibility on us and the media is doing a good job of putting that out to the rest of the world. It is interesting that we were considering opening the road on Victoria Day weekend...."bread and cheese" weekend commemorating the time when Queen Victoria had given bread and cheese to the people of Six Nations as a token of continued alliance and friendship for their part in the revolutionary war.

It has long been abandoned by the crown and later taken up by the elected band council as part of tradition. I often wondered why when the crown has abandoned every agreement it ever made with our people that we would continue to "celebrate" this way. It is just my own thoughts, you may agree or disagree, it's just a thought. Before closing off, I want to let everyone know that tonight was a good example of how peaceful our people can be, even when tested the way they were tonight with that individual.

Everyone handled themselves well. In fact it was put to the OPP that we could have treated their citizens the way we were treated on April 20th; with pepper spray, taser guns and batons. But he was peacefully marched out of the camp and delivered to his people unharmed. Wonder if channel 11 will get that message out there? Tune in in the morning and see for yourself. Have a good night. Oh, by the way, the talks will continue Saturday after everyone has had a chance to think on things. Take care.

Hazel

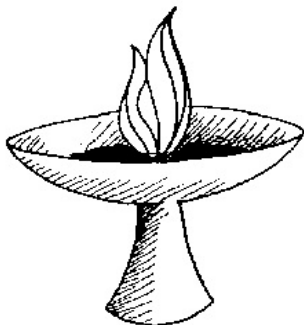


SMILES

Conversation overheard:

Person A (Mainstream Protestant Denomination): I hear that you allow all sorts of weirdos in your church. Atheists, Buddhists, Pagans...

Person B (Unitarian Universalist): We allow Christians too -- we're very open minded!



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