



UNITARIAN CONGREGATION OF NIAGARA

A church for people
with enquiring minds

December 2007

Sunday Services

December 2007

- Dec 2** John Northover – *Where to Find Your Ancestors*
- Dec 9** Vivianne LaRiviere – *Hymn Sing*
- Dec 16** Susan Buckingham – *A Baha'i Approach to Conflict Resolution*
- Dec 23** Jim Glassford – *Christmas: The Story of the Human Family*
- Dec 30** Julianne Momirov – *New Year's Resolutions*

January 2008

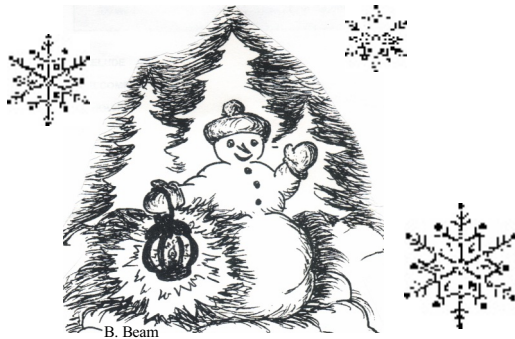
- Jan 6** John Mayer – *Topic to be advised*
- Jan 13** James Lawler – *The Spiritualist Tradition in Modern Western Philosophy*
- Jan 20** Donna Ford – *Blacks in Ontario*
- Jan 27** Vivianne LaRiviere – *Topic to be advised*

The Chalice

Every Sunday we are forever delighted to see the new chalice in front of us waiting to be lit. I was so excited to finally meet the two people that are responsible for this delight to our eyes. When Doreen introduced me to John Carter I told him that I would like to talk to him about his work and write an article for our church newsletter so that others would know where this wonderful creation came from and how it was made. At first, I was met with a bit of hesitation by John to talk until I asked him where he was from and he told me his shop was in Smithville even though he resided in Beamsville. I told him how much I enjoyed going to a fabulous pastel teacher in Smithville and that I would not go that distance from where I lived except that she is so wonderful a teacher, not only is she herself talented but she is in addition able to help us by sharing her knowledge, which constantly shows up in our work. Her name is Cathy Carter. Well, would you believe he started to chuckle and said do you see my last name and hers are the same. Oh my goodness, do you know her? She is my sister.

Well, that was it. John was raised on the family farm in Smithville. On a farm there is usually a strong ethic of "doing it yourself" when it comes to repairing machinery. Often this is for economic reasons but also time constraints will demand that farmers get things fixed quickly so that crops can be planted or harvested. In this kind of environment, an interested person will develop a wide range of skills which can be carried over into other pursuits.

So, we embarked on our journey of exploring the way that such a unique and stunning chalice should come into existence. In general, we talked about how he approached his work.



Unitarian Congregation of Niagara
www.unitarian-stcatharines.org

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2007/2008

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SOCIAL: Joan Rothman

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Pamela Spear-Wilson

TRUSTEES:
Andrea Gravelle
Don Herne
James Wilson

RENTAL : John Northover

PASTORAL CARE:
Jenny Leach

The Chalice *(cont'd from pg. 1)*

John buys metal strips that are approximately 3 x 5 and then proceeds to work on his pieces using one of two techniques. For the less demanding he uses freehand cutting while for more intricate work he uses a machine called CNC (computer numerical control) with a plasma torch to do his cutting.

If you are looking for unusual gifts for that someone who seems to have everything and needs nothing, here are some ideas: plain coat hooks, house number signs, birds that have their WELCOME sign, dogs, trains, horses, wolves, for your fisherman friend – the man on the dock with his dog beside him, a net and fish, plant hangers. These are all carved out of exquisite looking metal pieces. These products can be supplied finished or plain so that children can paint them. I am sure that requests will be filled with delight. Call John at his cell 905-512-1289 or visit the St. Catharines Craft Guild in Port Dalhousie.

There are many types of equipment that can be used in work with metal. John told me that he does certain jobs for others involved in his type of work and then they in return do certain jobs for him since he does not own all this expensive equipment, such as a hydraulic press. It is important to know that our chalice was one such activity where he was able to use other people's equipment for part of the process. He basically starts out with a flat bar stock and then makes shapes such as circles that he bends and welds together. He uses a grinder to smooth out the rough edges. In order to bend the material more easily he heats the metal with a torch. He puts some of his pieces into a tumbler, like the ones used in jewellery, to smooth out the rough edges. For some pieces he lets the metal rust. Colours such as light gold through purple can be obtained by heating.

Finally, where did that beautiful finishing touch of a glass bowl come from. Bob Petrie was part of the All Things Bright and Beautiful show and below he describes how he works with glass. All these beautifully crafted items can be seen at the Craft Guild in Port Dalhousie of which our very own Doreen Peever is a member where she displays her uniquely crafted calligraphy and origami.

The show was a great opportunity to meet different members of the guild and discuss their various works with them. I was very happy to have met Jill Crown, the potterer, whom I had heard of but never met. Her husband Bill and I grew up on almost adjoining farms in the country when we were children. The event was organized by Julianne Momirov and Doreen Peever while the kitchen and bake table were run by Joan Rothman and Andrea Gravelle. To end on a light note, when I was watching Julianne put together pieces of her jewellery, John Carter came over and inquired "How much does it cost to buy a pair of pirate's earrings? "I am not sure," said Julianne to which John provided the reply "a buccaneer!"

. . . Hot Glassblowing see pg.4

Sarah Nyman will be selling her happyspoon granola at the church on **Sunday, December 16th**.

Stocking stuffers and customized labels are available.

A percentage of the profits are always donated back to the church.



Membership News

December 2 will be the reception of new members. We have 5 persons joining.

If there are members who no longer attend the church and do not wish to remain members of this Congregation, please let the Church Office or myself know. It costs the Congregation a minimum of \$80.00 due mostly to CUC fees for every member on our books.

Jim Glassford
Membership Co-ordinator



Holiday Treats and Cider

After the service on **December 23rd** instead of our usual Coffee and Cookies we will be enjoying Cider and Holiday Treats.

If any of the congregation have a particular favourite treat that they bake at this time and would like to donate part of their baking to this event please tell me.

All donations will be gratefully received!

Yours in fellowship,
Joan Rothman (Social Chair)



Annual Pledge Dinner Celebration

The annual dinner to celebrate the end of the pledge drive was held at the church Friday evening, November 16th and was a wonderful celebration. Joan Rothman and Andrea Gravelle did a superb job planning and arranging the whole thing. Several others helped set it up and clean up afterwards.

The caterer provided a spread of delicious, nutritious food we all enjoyed, along with wine, punch and coffee.

Delightful music came from Will Wilson (some know him as Jim) on guitar, banjo and vocals and Margo on piano also entertained us with her delightful singing.

There was a good turnout including a few not seen for awhile. We all applauded the food, the music and news of a successful fund drive and enjoyed conversations and, in some cases, reunions. All in all, a resounding success!

– John Berry

The Lay Chaplain Committee Needs You!

Our Lay Chaplain committee (consisting of John Stahl, Joan Rothman, Marie Belliveau and Pamela Wilson, coordinator) is putting out a call for anyone who is presently a member of our church to come forward to be trained as a Lay Chaplain.

If you're interested in the exciting prospect of planning and officiating weddings, memorial services, and child dedications, please e-mail Pamela Wilson at <p.w_123@yahoo.ca>. Please note that you will be given ample time and training and mentoring.



December Update

"The swamp at Unicamp is a special spot for our family. We watched the Spotted Sandpipers' tipsy walking, seemingly on water--proving that birds too can be illusionists (walking on aquatic plants). The kingfishers called to each other. And the Green Frogs went 'doy-oy-oy-

oing, doy-oy-oy-oing, doy-oy-oy-oing.' " - Paul, Nancy and Aaron

Want to work at camp next summer? All positions are currently open! Stay tuned for more info in Unicamp's Fall Newsletter.

Questions or comments? Contact scumbost@uoguelph.ca or for further info visit us online at www.unicampontario.ca

HOT Glassblowing

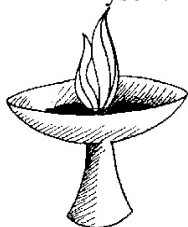
The green glass bowl in the chalice was created by Eileen and Bob Petrie. To begin with, a piece of coloured glass is heated to 1000 degrees in a kiln in order to put colour in the glass. When the glass is hot, then you add the colour, which sticks on a red hot blowpipe and now can be further heated in a furnace called a Glory Hole to melt the coloured glass. The chunk melts and now one can smooth it in a wooden cup to get it shaped and smooth like a bullet. This, once cooled and stiff gets lowered into the glass melting furnace to collect the hot golden honey out of the crock, aka gathered over. While it is hot, you blow into it and it becomes pear-like in shape and you blow it to size. This is where you have control over its shape and size. Take wet newspapers in the hand and push with the newspaper gently while rolling it back and forth on the arms of the bench. Cut a crease line at the neck with jacks, spring loaded knives, to disconnect the blowpipe from the main body of glass with one drop of water in the crease and a gentle tap and it's off to the 950 F annealing oven in hands well insulated with kevlar gloves. After cooled grind and polish and voila!

Why Can't I Own a Canadian?

In 2002, radio personality Dr. Laura Schlessinger said that as an observant Orthodox Jew, homosexuality is an abomination according to Leviticus 18:22 and could not be condoned under any circumstance. The following is an open letter to Dr. Laura penned by an east coast resident, which was posted on the Internet.

Dear Dr. Laura:
Thank you for doing so much to educate people regarding God's Law. I have learned a great deal from your show, and try to share that knowledge with as many people as I can. When someone tries to defend the homosexual lifestyle, for example, I simply remind them that Leviticus 18:22 clearly states it to be an abomination. End of debate. I do need some advice from you, however, regarding some of the other specific laws and how to follow them: When I burn a bull on the altar as a sacrifice, I know it creates a pleasing odor for the Lord — Lev.1:9. The problem is my neighbors. They claim the odor is not pleasing to them. Should I smite them? I would like to sell my daughter into slavery, as sanctioned in Exodus 21:7. In this day and age, what do you think would be a fair price for her? I know that I am allowed no contact with a woman while she is in her period of menstrual uncleanness — Lev.15:19-24. The problem is, how do I tell? I have tried asking, but most women take offence. Lev. 25:44 states that I may indeed possess slaves, both male and female, provided they are purchased from neighboring nations. A friend of mine claims that this applies to Mexicans, but not Canadians. Can you clarify? Why can't I own Canadians?

I have a neighbour who insists on working on the Sabbath. Exodus 35:2 clearly states he should be put to death. Am I morally obligated to kill him myself?



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A friend of mine feels that even though eating shellfish is an abomination — Lev. 11:10, it is a lesser abomination than homosexuality. I don't agree. Can you settle this? Lev. 21:20 states that I may not approach the altar of God if I have a defect in my sight. I have to admit that I wear reading glasses. Does my vision have to be 20/20, or is there some wiggle room here? Most of my male friends get their hair trimmed, including the hair around their temples, even though this is expressly forbidden by Lev. 19:27. How should they die? I know from Lev. 11:6-8 that touching the skin of a dead pig makes me unclean, but may I still play football if I wear gloves?

My uncle has a farm. He violates Lev. 19:19 by planting two different crops in the same field, as does his wife by wearing garments made of two different kinds of thread (cotton/polyester blend). He also tends to curse and blaspheme a lot. Is it really necessary that we go to all the trouble of getting the whole town together to stone them? -Lev.24:10-16. Couldn't we just burn them to death at a private family affair like we do with people who sleep with their in-laws? (Lev. 20:14)

I know you have studied these things extensively, so I am confident you can help. Thank you again for reminding us that God's word is eternal and unchanging.

Your devoted fan,
Jim

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