



UNITARIAN CONGREGATION OF NIAGARA

A church for people
with enquiring minds

November 2008

Sunday Services

Nov 2 Ray Robitaille & A Cappella Niagara
Barbershop Music

Nov 9 Dennis Gaumont – The Power of Mantra
The ancients understood that certain sounds have an innate power to heal and transform. The practice of chanting mantras is widespread throughout many cultures and spiritual traditions. This phenomenon will be explained in terms of energy and vibrations, using playful demonstrations and participation.

Nov 16 Michael Battenberg – Awaken the Ape Within
We've seen calls to embrace our inner child, to release the god and goddess within and to Awaken the Giant. Yet, we are also descendants of a long line of apes and their kin. Exploring our simian cousins can offer insights into why we do the things we do and provide a missing link in our search for spiritual understanding.

Nov 23 Jason Secord – Overcoming Fear and the Power of Belief Systems
In this presentation, we will explore the nature of Fear and belief systems and how they affect our everyday lives.

Nov 30 Natalie Haig – Goddess Spirituality
Natalie's talk will touch on goddess spirituality across the ages and goddess archetypes, then focus on daily practices for standing in your power and embracing all aspects of yourself.

Welcoming Congregation Workshop

Sunday, November 2/08

1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Bring your lunch. Coffee, tea, juice & water will be provided.

. . . Radical Right . . .

Learning how to communicate, argue/debate the right on sexual and gender diversity issues.

A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in the church, please sign-up ahead to help us with numbers.

Contact Joan Wiley or Marie Belliveau for further information.

Donor Dinner

Date: Saturday, Nov. 22nd

We are gathering at 5:30 p.m.

Dinner begins at 6:00 p.m.

Come to enjoy a fabulous evening –
entertainment by Terri and Friends

– Will Wilson, choir & soloists.

Donations gratefully accepted

(probable cost \$20)

Unitarian Congregation of Niagara

www.unitarian-stcatharines.org



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

2008/2009

PRESIDENT: Michael Petrocci

VICE PRESIDENT:
Jon Stahl

PAST PRESIDENT:
Fred Bolton

LAY CHAPLAINS:
Valerie Jaeger
Julianne Momirov

SECRETARY:
Anita Miecznikowski

TREASURER: Carl Beckett

MEMBER AT LARGE:
Sarah Nyman

PROGRAM:
Julianne Momirov
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:
Tba

MEMBERSHIP:
Jim Glassford

PROPERTY:
Peter Skelton

DENOMINATIONAL AFFAIRS:
Ed Gilbert

NEWSLETTER:
Sofia Vuorinen

COMMUNICATION:
Luke Kwiatkowski

SOCIAL JUSTICE:
Adolf Miecznikowski

SOCIAL: Hilde Wheeler
EVENTS: Penny Blake

WEBSITE: Bruce Millar
LAY CHAPLAINCY:

Pamela Spear-Wilson
TRUSTEES:
Andrea Gravelle, Don Herne
James Wilson

RENTAL : John Northover

PASTORAL CARE:
Jenny Leach & John Berry
PHONE: John Inglis

UCN Book Club

Books & Meeting Dates

All are welcome to attend and join the friendly discussion and camaraderie. We understand that people cannot always attend all meetings, we hope by presenting a schedule you can mark your calendars and join us as often as possible. Bring your favourite book titles to add to the list!

Please let Joan Rothman or Marie Belliveau know if you are able to host a Book Club Night at your home for any of the upcoming dates. **ENJOY!**

Tuesday, November 25th @ 7:00 pm

Book is "Three cups of Tea" by Greg Mortensen and David Oliver Relin. Meeting at the home of Hilde & Al Wheeler, 172 Riverview Blvd., St. Catharines, (905- 685-4935).

Tuesday, January 27th /09 @ 7:00 pm

Book is "A Blade of Grass" by Lewis DeSota. Meeting at the home of Joan Rothman, 541 Scott St., St. Catharines, (905-935-9267).

Tuesday, March 24th/09 @ 7:00 pm

Book is "The Lemon Table" by Julian Barnes. Location: TBA.

Tuesday, May 26th /09 @ 7:00 pm

Book is "Kingfisher Days" by Susan Coyne. Meeting to held at the home of Penny & Roy Blake, 42 Maccoomb Drive, Welland, (905-732-2097).

Future titles: (Locations and dates TBA)

Bloodletting and Miraculous Cures by Vincent Long

Choosing His Coffin by Austin Clark

The In-between World of Vikran Rall by Vassanji (MG)

The Poisonwood Bible by Barbara Kingsolven

The Cellist of Sarijevo by Stephen Galloway

Lay Chaplains: ucnlaychaplains@gmail.com
Valerie Jaeger: 905-262-1345
Julianne Momirov: 905-356-7726

OUR 2009 UCN CANVASS BEGINS

At this time of year, as always, we will begin our congregational canvass. At the moment, our committee consists of Pamela Wilson, Hilde Wheeler, Adolf Miecznikowski, Karen Golden, and Will Wilson. Please let me know if you are interested in joining our team. This small team of volunteers cannot visit every member, but we will be in touch with you by phone. Pledge cards will be distributed at home visits, at the church, or by mail.

The following questions may help you become familiar with our canvass if you are new to the church or if you just need a gentle reminder.

CANVASS QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

WHAT IS A CANVASS?

Canvass is our name for our annual stewardship or pledge drive to obtain commitments of financial support for the operations of the church for the upcoming year.

HOW IS THIS DIFFERENT FROM GIVING MONEY TO THE OFFERING?

While donations via the weekly offering are greatly appreciated, and are used to support the church, they are variable and we cannot rely upon them in planning our budget. Pledges give us a formal record of the funds we can expect during the year. Pledge payments may be placed in the offering plate, but we ask that they be via check, with a notation that they are for a pledge; cash can be placed in an envelope with your name on it. Otherwise we have no way to track cash contributions.

I AM NOT READY TO BECOME A MEMBER OF THIS CHURCH, SO WHY AM I GETTING INFORMATION ABOUT PLEDGING?

We have many non-members of the church who pledge financial support. We call them “friends” of the church. We invite everyone who is regularly participating in church activities to make a pledge.

IS THERE A TAX ADVANTAGE TO CONTRIBUTING TO THE CHURCH?

Yes. The UCN Treasurer keeps track of all your donations and at tax time, s/he will issue a receipt for them. Members and non-members alike may claim this amount as a charitable donation when completing their annual tax form.

HOW MUCH SHOULD I PLEDGE?

This is a personal decision. We ask that you consider your personal budget, and determine an amount you can contribute to the church on a weekly or monthly basis. Many people find it appropriate to pledge \$50 to \$100 per month, depending upon their income. You may also wish to consider a percentage of your available income.

WHERE DOES MY PLEDGE GO?

If you are a member of the church, almost \$100 of your pledge goes to pay national dues to the Canadian Unitarian Council. The rest of the pledge is kept at our church, and is used to pay salaries and benefits to our staff, building maintenance costs, administrative costs, and programming and committee costs. Our budget details the amounts budgeted for sub-items in each of these areas, and we share regular reports of our expenses.

WHY ARE WE PLEDGING NOW FOR 2009?

We must bring a 2008 budget to the Congregation for approval in February. In order to complete the budget, we must know how much to expect in income from pledges.

CAN I DESIGNATE WHAT I WANT MY MONEY TO GO TO?

Not specifically. If you are a member of the church, you have a voice, when considering the budget, in deciding how the overall church pledge income will be used. However, it is not possible to earmark specific pledges to specific costs.

WHAT HAPPENS IF I CAN'T FULFILL MY PLEDGE?

While we keep track of pledge payments, and send statements for reminders and tax purposes, we understand that some people's circumstances change during the year, which prevents some people from fulfilling their pledges. If this occurs, we ask that you let us know so that we can note this on our records.

WHAT IF I HAVE A HARDSHIP SITUATION THAT PREVENTS ME FROM MAKING A FINANCIAL PLEDGE?

If you cannot make a financial pledge due to hardship, and wish to remain an active member in the church, please discuss your situation with a canvasser.

WHAT ABOUT PLEDGES OF TIME AND TALENT? DO YOU JUST CARE ABOUT MONEY?

We could not survive without the generous donations of our members' and friends' time and talents.

Canvass is the only time of the year we talk more about money than other things, because we need to make sure our financial house is in order so we can do more with and for our members and the community.

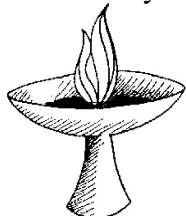
We will be in touch with you soon,

Pamela Wilson.

UCN Canvass Committee Coordinator

**Project
Bangladesh**

What a wonderful evening we had once again with approximately 350 people who came on Saturday, October 18th to help raise funds for the Niagara Volunteers for Bangladesh. The evening not only involved a variety of delicious foods, but in addition we had a presentation of the work that has already been completed in Bangladesh. This was followed by incredible dancing by three young Bangladesh people. The event raised over \$6,000! Many thanks to the Unitarians who joined in this event and especially to Marie Belliveau, who as usual went and did her part "well beyond the call of duty."



**December 21st
Solstice Service**

The Solstice Service on Dec. 21st will celebrate the return of the sun. Please be prepared to bring something to place in our Giveaway Basket. The Giveaway is something of our own that we can now part with to share with others present at the service. This gift can take many forms: a piece of jewellery, crockery, a jar of preserves, some home baking, a book, etc...use your imagination.

**Highlights from the
CUC Board Meeting -
September 2008**

are available for review.
Look on the church
bulletin board.



Anyone interested in getting involved with this peace festival, please contact Sofia who is on the committee organizing this yearly event at Montebello Park. This year's theme is "Colours of Peace".

**Unitarian Congregation
of Niagara**

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Deadline for Next issue:
November 23, 2008