



UNITARIAN CONGREGATION OF NIAGARA

A church for people
with enquiring minds

March 2009

Sunday Services

Mar. 1 Joan Wiley – The Power of Privilege

Most of us walk through doors of privilege without even knowing we are doing so. How can we use our privileges to open the doors for others?

Mar. 8 Dr. Maurice Turmel – Conscious Evolution: Mythology in Action
S.L. M. Belliveau

Maurice Turmel will give us an insight to the psychological application of ideas developed by James Campbell (author of "The Hero of a Thousand Faces §."). George Lucas made deliberate use of Campbell's theory of the monomyth in the making of the Star Wars movies.

Mar.15 Jim Glassford – Who Are the Universalists? The Second "U" of the UUs

Who are the Universalists? Jim will talk about who the Universalists, that second U of the UU's, were and are and their contributions to our denomination and the world.

Mar.22 Louise Briggs- Amnesty International fieldworker "Dignity Campaign (Poverty)"
S.L. E. Gilbert

"All human beings are entitled to certain basic human rights." Louise will speak of how AI works to promote and secure these rights here in Canada and around the world.

Mar.29 Ellen Campbell – ICUU Together, Our Vision Widens
S.L. T. Dajka

Thirteen years ago, about twenty-five people from various parts of the world met and established the International Council of Unitarians and Universalists. Since then, a network of friendship, support and understanding has grown up among the groups in roughly thirty countries where there are Unitarian and Universalist groups. While we vary widely in culture, language and theology, we share common values and religious understanding. Ellen Campbell attended that first meeting and has continued to connect with Unitarians in many parts of the world. She will reflect on how our international ties can deepen and widen our religious experience.



Unitarian Congregation of Niagara
www.unitarian-stcatharines.org

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

**Unitarian Congregation
of Niagara**

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

2009/2010

PRESIDENT: Michael Petrocci

**VICE PRESIDENT:
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**PAST PRESIDENT:
Fred Bolton**

**LAY CHAPLAINS:
Valerie Jaeger
Julianne Momirov**

**SECRETARY:
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TREASURER: Carl Beckett

**MEMBER AT LARGE:
Ed Gilbert**

**CHOIR/MUSIC:
Penny Blake**

**COMMUNICATIONS:
Bruce Millar**

**DENOMINATIONAL AFFAIRS:
Ed Gilbert**

**LAY CHAPLAINCY:
Doreen Peever**

**MEMBERSHIP:
Jim Glassford**

**NEWSLETTER:
Sofia Vuorinen**

**PASTORAL CARE:
Jenny Leach & John Berry
PHONE: Beverly Russell**

**PROGRAM:
Wilma Stortz**

**PROPERTY:
Peter Skelton**

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION: Tba
CONTACT FOR ADULT RE:**

**Joan Rothman &
Marie Belliveau**

**RENTAL : John Northover
SEXUAL & GENDER DIVERSITY**

Joan Wiley

SOCIAL: Hilde Wheeler

**SOCIAL JUSTICE:
Marie Belliveau**

**SPECIAL EVENTS:
Rhonda Armstrong**

**TRUSTEES:
Andrea Gravelle, Don Herne
James Wilson**

WEBSITE: Bruce Millar

Who Are We . . .

This morning our last hymn was "We Shall Overcome" and the last verse ended with "we shall live in peace." After this **Theresa Pothier**, our pianist, played the postlude and it was so fitting how the music made me feel by the end of the music played - totally in peace. I thought I have to get to know more about this incredible woman who regales us with her playing every Sunday.

Theresa was born in Halifax, where she taught music to all grades for one year. She received her Bachelor of Music from Dalhousie University. Theresa received a scholarship to go to study music at the Juilliard School of Music in New York, where she studied for 1-1/2 years. She also sang with the Halifax Opera Company and taught at the Music Conservatory here. Theresa received a scholarship to go and study music in Italy; however she decided to get married instead.

Her husband was a lawyer and through a variety of circumstances, he heard of an opening in St. Catharines and obtained a position here. This led Theresa and her husband to come and live here. She told me that she absolutely fell in love with the place. In St. Catharines they had six children - four boys and two girls.

Theresa taught at the St. Catharines Collegiate for 25 years. In addition, she has sung with the St. Catharines Symphony, played in churches and has taught privately which she continues to do now. She is presently giving voice lessons to a member of our congregation! She played at the Oban Inn for 25 years and at present you can hear her on the first Friday of the month from 9:00 p.m. to 12:00 at the Riverbend Inn. Of course, you can hear her tickle the ivories every week at 223 Church Street in St. Catharines. We are so glad that Marie Belliveau, Penny Blake and Sara Jordan found you.

UCN Book Club

All are welcome to attend and join the friendly discussion and camaraderie.

Tuesday, March 24th/09 @ 7:00 p.m.

"Kingfisher Days" by Susan Coyne

Contact: Penny & Roy Blake (905-732-2097)

Future Titles (locations and dates to be determined include the following:

"Bloodletting and Miraculous Cures" by Vincent Long

"Choosing His Coffin" by Austin Clark

"The In-Between World of Vikran Rall" by MS Vassanji

"The Poisonwood Bible" by Barbara Kingsloven

"The Cellist of Sarajevo" by Stephen Galloway

Please let Joan Rothman (905-935-9267) or Marie Belliveau (905-704-0189 or mbelliveau2@cogeco.ca) know if you are able to host a Book Club night at your house.

Out of the Cold

Hello All,

I am still revelling to the rhythm of co-operation and working together by all of you mentioned below in our UU's Outreach project at the Out of the Cold Knox Presbyterian church on January 30th. The tone and swing of the evening was continued by Will and his fellow musicians. Thanks to all of you who were able to come and also to those of you who had offered. Knox was very impressed with us and may even invite us back!

We've got rhythm.!.....Hilde

Mike Petrocci & Valerie Jaeger
 Judith Barker
 Carl Beckett
 Marie Belliveau
 John Berry
 Penny & Roy Blake
 Donna Bothen
 Maureen Donnelly & Alistair Young
 Doug & June Gibbs
 Ed Gilbert
 Jim Glassford
 Andrea Gravelle
 Jenny Leach
 Sara & Luke Nyman/
 Kwiatkowski
 Vivek Rajakummar
 Joan Rothman
 Jon Stahl
 John Storm
 Willma Stortz/Penny Towndrow
 Mathias Toepp
 Hilde & Alan Wheeler
 Joan Wiley
 Pam & Will Wilson
 Shari Virtue & Dawit Eshetu

Midwinter Retreat

Donna Bothen and I left Beamsville around 12:30, since I had no idea how long it would take us to drive to the Midwinter Retreat, Feb 6, 7 & 8, at Cedar Glen (Bolton). We arrived very early, but the folks at the YMCA camp were most obliging and let us have our room keys early. Registration wasn't for at least another three hours!! What to do? Donna made me go for a vigorous hike along one of the many trails and we really enjoyed the wonderful winter sites and traces of animals. We were directed to a spot to see deer - but didn't. Could they have heard me coming? I tried not to pant too loudly, but you never know.

The theme of the weekend retreat was "Creating Balance In Our Lives" and surely we are all too busy and need to just slow down. Mostly the weekend was devoted to Lay Chaplaincy studies for me, but there were so many options for others to attend the many, many available workshops .

We started out with a Welcome/Icebreaker and Sing-Along Friday night. What fun, and lots of opportunity to make many new friends. It was rather nice to be exposed to around 15 - 16 different congregations. I find that my experience with UCN has been just a little bit incestuous. Apparently there are other congregations and ideas out there. Many of the folks also enjoyed Friday night's "Fun 'n Games & Euchre".

Breakfast was served from 8:00 -

9:00, and we were certainly ready to enjoy the buffet the Y had arranged. If for no other reason to attend, the draw would be the wonderful food we all enjoyed. Saturday night is always so much fun thanks to the "Kick Back and Relax Cabaret." Who knew that there was so much spontaneous talent hidden among the folks attending?

After workshops and Lay Chaplaincy training, the weekend drew to a close with the moving "Midwinter Service". Donna and I found it just a bit hard to say "Goodbye" to the new friends we had made, but there is next year.

Next year I'm going to rent a bus and we're all going to the Midwinter Retreat. We'll show Toronto First some real UCN enthusiasm.

— Ed Gilbert

Who Are We As Unitarians

The CUC has suggested a workshop to define our national identity as Unitarians. The format of this workshop is simple and will take about 1-1/2 hours to work through. Our plan is to conduct this workshop after church on March 15th. Participants could bring a brown bag lunch for this event!

There will be a sign up sheet on March 1st on the bulletin board for those interested in taking part. For further information, contact Joan Rothman or Marie Belliveau.



UCN Night at the Movies

Remember admission, refreshments and goodies are free and the discussion is mind-opening!

Please feel free to email any questions or movie suggestions for coming attractions. We try to show movies that will open our minds and provoke some interesting discussion but that does not mean we cannot watch a movie just for the entertainment value.

Hope to see you there!

– Marie

UCN Night at the Movies pick for January was **"Shameless: The Art of Disability"** by Bonnie Shear Klein.

This was a movie that hit many different emotions, from sad, to amazed to shock and then hilarity and a few others in between. Most of us had a good laugh and we also learned a lot from the people in the movie. I think it helped us to see people who we might normally look at as unable to do things quite differently as people able to do the things they find enjoyable, with humour and passion.

I think passion is a good word for the way they put their all into the performances they gave, into their art and their humour.

The discussion was really good as we had 16 people attending with varying views and opinions but all were fully entertained by this movie. I'd call it a feel good

movie with a little education about differently able people. I recommend this movie for anyone who has an open mind and needs a laugh!

UCN Night at the Movies pick for February was "Transamerica."

Review of Transamerica November 24, 2008

Life is more than the sum of its parts." The first film by Duncan Tucker, Transamerica stars Felicity Huffman as a pre-operative transsexual named Bree (whose given name was Stanley). One week before going under the knife, Bree learns that she fathered a boy who is now 17 and is in trouble with the law. Bree would like to ignore this information, but is forced to meet the young man, Toby (played by Kevin Zegers), by her analyst Margaret (Elizabeth Peña), who will not allow the surgery to happen unless Bree meets him and confronts this aspect of her past. Upon meeting, the son believes that Bree is simply a do-gooder. She buys a car and the two road-trip back to her home in Los Angeles, Bree all the while attempting to keep from Toby the truth of the situation.

A sensitive subject matter on which there are as many opinions and prejudices as that of "Brokeback Mountain." Huffman absolutely excels in the role of transsexual in the last throes of transformation - the role seems tailor made for her with every gesture and dignified word being

dynamic in its delivery. It will surely be forever acclaimed as the performance that lost an Oscar to sentimentality. Kevin Zegers as the dysfunctional son with a huge but understandable chip on his shoulder gives a strong indication of becoming a big name in Hollywood. With Dolly Parton's voice taking one through the rolling of the credits I thought the usage of more country music through the trans-continental trip would have been apt and lent some great atmosphere to the journey of discovery.

Service and Event Publicity

In order to save costs and increase media exposure, Bruce Millar, the Communications Coordinator, is going to pursue as many of the free media as possible and to focus on publicizing services and special events that appeal to non-Unitarians.

Possible new member exposure can be gained from the following free media:

- Cogeco
- UR Niagara
- Niagarathisweek publications
- Craig's List
- Kijiji
- InfoNiagara.biz
- St. Catharines Downtown Business Association
- St. Catharines and Area Arts Council
- St. Catharines Thorold Chamber of Commerce

- Pulse (Niagara)
- View (Hamilton)
- The Brock Press (Brock Student Newspaper)

If you know of any additional free events calendars could you please contact Bruce at 905-228-0641. It is important to expand our coverage outside St. Catharines (e.g. Welland, Thorold, Niagara Falls, Port Colborne, Fonthill, Grimsby etc.).

Some media allow only 100 characters while others have space for a photo, an artist biography, event description. If a talks title is long, could you please suggest an alternative shorter one that we can use for skimpy media. Ideally, the little short one should fit on the community announcement screen of Cogeco. In essence UCN will need keep a mini press kit and send parts of the material to different advertising venues.

Some of these organizations contacted do not have space on their websites but have offered to include our events in their monthly newsletters. (Bruce did a little soft selling and helped some with web problems.) If at all possible, some information has to be sent six weeks to eight weeks in advance of the service or event to get into their newsletter.

Could service leaders contact Bruce to discuss advertising plans well in advance of the services or special events.

March 29th

About the speaker . . .

Ellen K. Campbell was the Executive Director of the Canadian Unitarian Council from 1990 to 2000, when she retired. Previous to this, she was on the staff of the YWCA of Metropolitan Toronto for fourteen years, including six as Executive Director. She has also worked as a private consultant to voluntary agencies, specializing in long-range planning, board training and organizational development.

Ellen was President of the Council of the International Association for Religious Freedom from 2004-2006. She was on the Council for 10 years.

She represented the Canadian Unitarian Council at the founding meeting of the International Association of Unitarians and Universalists in 1995 and was on its Executive Committee from 2001-2003.

A Unitarian since 1959, Ellen Campbell has been actively involved in four congregations. She has been a member of First Unitarian Congregation, Toronto since 1973, where she chaired a Search Committee and has been a member of two Committees on the Ministry and the Worship Committee. She is currently on the Board.

She is representing the Unitarian Congregations of Greater Toronto on the Toronto Area Interfaith Council.

She is married and has two grown children and four grandchildren. Born in the United States, Ellen came to Canada in 1967. She and her husband became Canadian citizens in 1990.

Note to Congregation:

Ellen and her husband and Karen Kumar would be willing to give a presentation after the service on their recent (Sept 2008) visit to Unitarians in India, if people are willing. Could you please express your interest by signing up on the list at the back of the Church to see if it's worth their while to do this?

Thank you.

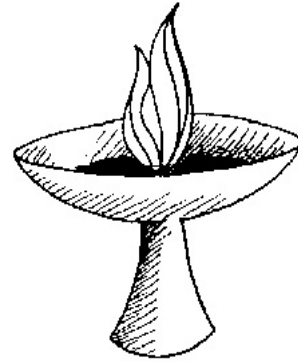
The 2009 Directory Update . . . Please let Jim Glassford know of any changes

The Bottom Line

January 2009

Income:

Collections	2,675.48
Chaplaincy	150.00
Interest	70.64
Rentals	860.00
Total	\$3,756.12



Expenses:

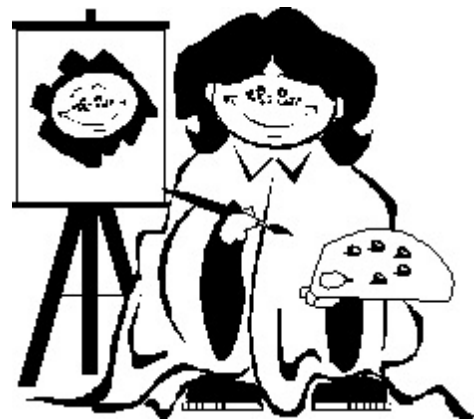
Administration – AGM Books, Newsletter, Order of Service	773.60
Property Utilities	1,046.08
Social Justice – Out of the cold	402.05
Sunday Services – Musician, Speakers, Babysitter	790.00
Other Expenses	928.49
Total	\$3,940.22

In January 2009 we had a net loss of \$184.10. Remember our utilities cost, including snow removal, are always higher this time of year. The cost of the annual gathering and the social justice “Out of the Cold” were one time costs appearing in this month’s total as well.



Children, grandchildren and the young at heart...Get out your pencils, pastels, markers, pens and/or cameras! Spring is coming. Let's celebrate spring with our drawings and pictures.

Could the young and happy at heart please leave spring theme drawings in the box in the office after the service with their name on the back of their drawings. Get your grandchildren to do a drawing. Those of you with cameras can send a jpeg to calpal@aol.com. On March 15 the web administrator will collect the drawings and create an online image gallery in the photo section of our web site. Each submitter (whether child, parent, grandparent or great grandparent) will have at least one drawing or image in a UCN Spring Solstice Photo (Drawing) Album on March 20th.



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Deadline for Next Issue: March 22, 2009