

Unitarian Fellowship of Sarnia and Port Huron

www.unitarian.sarnia.com

180 College Ave. N. Sarnia, Ontario

(a refreshing alternative for religious explorers)

Anybody can create community with people who believe just like they do. The true test of community rests in the ability to create it with people who disagree with us.

-Lee Barker (Unitarian Universalist, minister, educator)



“The Flaming Chalice”

December 2014

Sunday services begin at 11am followed by refreshments at Noon or shortly after. We meet in the Kiwanis Room of the Lochiel Kiwanis Community Centre (LKCC) at 180 College Ave. N. (enter at Forsyth St. main door). Dress is casual and religious dogma is hard to find, although spirituality abounds. A warm welcome awaits you!

For full details of Sunday services and all other activities and opportunities log on to our website:

<http://www.unitarian.sarnia.com/>



December Services:

Dec. 7, 2014

“Many Flames, One Light” Guest Speaker **Lori Kyle**

As we move into the holiday season, we take time to consider the holiday traditions of various religions. During this service we will explore some of the differences between celebrations of the faithful, as well as, and most importantly, how the same underlying messages of these holy day celebrations bring us closer to a spirit of understanding and oneness.

Dec. 14, 2014

“Hanukkah” Guest Speaker **Lee Goldberg**

Lee Goldberg will provide an overview of this 8 day Jewish holiday also known as a Festival of Lights. This year it is from the evening of Dec 16 until the evening of Dec 24 and commemorates

the rededication of the Holy Temple in Jerusalem in the 2nd century BC.

Dec. 21, 2014 **“Winter Solstice, Celebration of the Children”** Wendy Starr,
Allan McKeown and Bill Franks
Please note that this will also be Soup Sunday.

Dec. 28, 2014 **“Burning Bowl Ceremony”** Sharon Mackay
Sharon will lead us in a reflection on the happenings of the past year, within our own lives and in the world at large. What will we keep, cherish and build upon? What do we wish to let go of? What has taught us lessons that allow for personal growth and renewal? We bring our intentions and affirmations for the year to come. **Happy New Year!!**



President's Message

Last month I talked about how working together and sharing together build community; so too do celebrating together and caring together.

As we move into this season of celebration, I would like to give thanks for and to celebrate all of the people who make our Fellowship community ‘happen’. That really means all of you! From those who serve on Teams, do the ‘set up’ and ‘take-down’ for our Sunday services, make coffee and clean-up, provide soup, bread and washing-up for ‘Soup Sundays’, send cards and order flowers, conduct the annual canvass, assist with R.E. and child care, do administrative work, lead services, present at Sunday services, lead Small Group Ministry and Book Club, keep our Men’s Group and Women’s Circle going, tend to our website, share musical gifts, manage our finances, edit our newsletter, produce our order of service, host Fellowship events, provide financial support or ... those who just come and participate, ***I thank and celebrate all of you!*** In all this ‘working’ together and ‘sharing’ together, I do sense a great deal of ‘caring’.

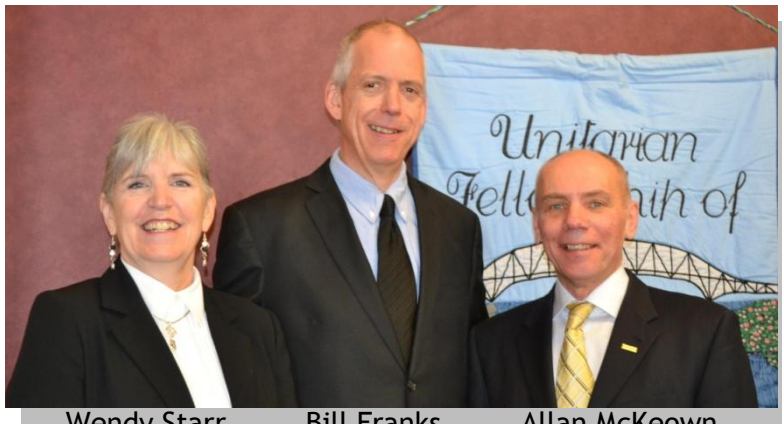
Especially at this time of year, may we be mindful of those who find the season ‘difficult’. There is less light from our star, the Sun, there are holiday expectations that perhaps cannot be realized, or maybe too many events to attend. May we each, in our own way, celebrate this season by taking care of ourselves and by caring for those around us. Perhaps the greatest gift we can give to others is simply a phone call, a card or an email ... caring is often just connecting.

Wishing to all ‘light, love and life’ this holiday season.

In Fellowship, Ann

Celebrating Our Lay Chaplains

Since 1971, the Canadian Unitarian Council has had a program which provides training and support to lay members of our congregations who are willing and able to officiate at rites of passage including (but not limited to) weddings, child dedications and memorial services. Our lay chaplains are pleased to provide this outreach service to those who want a religious ceremony. In congregations without professional ministry, lay chaplains provide rites of passage to members as well as the public. Pictured below are our lay chaplains. They continue to give great service to the community and to Fellowship Members and Friends. In fact, since 2004 our lay chaplains have contributed an accumulated surplus of some \$29,500 to our Fellowship!



Wendy Starr Bill Franks Allan McKeown

Please follow this link to view the Canadian Unitarian Council's Lay Chaplaincy web page <http://cuc.ca/lay-chaplaincy/> . To access our Lay Chaplaincy web information go to <http://unitarian.sarnia.com/?weddings-and-memorials.3> then click on the titles "Ceremonies", "LTGBQ" and "Celebrants and Fees" to access additional info and pictures.

Would **you** be interested in becoming a Lay Chaplain or joining our Lay Chaplaincy Committee?

Regular Events:

Book Club: Continues to meet on the 3rd Sunday of every month at 9:15 am at 'On the Bay' on Front St. The book for December is *Whistling Season* by Ivan Doig and for January we will be looking at *The Juggler's Children* by Carolyn Abraham. Everyone is welcome to come out and join the discussion, whether you've read the book or not.

Men's Group: Bill Franks extends an invitation to the men of the Fellowship to a "Celebrate the Season Open House" at his condo (#903, 155 Front St., Sarnia) on Sunday, December 14th from 1:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. As this is an earlier time than usual, please bring appetizers or nibbles and a beverage.

Women's Circle: The 'Women's Circle' will meet on Tuesday, December 2nd at 6:00 pm. Our annual 'Christmas' dinner will happen at 'Tang's' Restaurant, 165 Cromwell St. in downtown Sarnia. Please RSVP to Ann Steadman at 519-542-9708 or by email asteadman@cogeco.ca by Saturday, November 29th.

Small Group Ministry: Members meet every other Thursday afternoon at chosen locations. All are welcome. Contact Betty Learn for info at: 519-337-4039

Special Events

Volunteer Construction Trips to Central America

Toronto First is extending an invitation to all Canadian UU's to participate in the Central American Community Development Project. Over 100 Canadian UU's from 22 congregations across the country have travelled to Central America in the last 17 years to help hard working people improve their lives. Are you interested in working alongside Guatemalans, Hondurans and hundreds of Canadian volunteers from other walks of life. For more information, see www.firstunitariantoronto.org under "Social Justice" - Central America Project.

Other News

Website: Please check out our new Website <http://www.unitarian.sarnia.com/> Many thanks to Christy Plommer, our 'web master, for creating such an attractive new on-line home for the Fellowship!

Canadian Unitarian Council (CUC) e-newsletter. To receive this electronic newsletter from the CUC once per month, go the website at www.cuc.ca and click on the sign up link on the Home page.

"UU World" on line! The American quarterly magazine "UU World" is also available as a weekly electronic newsletter. Highly recommended for UU's! Go to www.uuworld.org and click on "get weekly email updates from UU World".

Canadian Unitarians for Social Justice (CUSJ) are UU's from across the country involved in addressing various social justice issues. Check out their website at www.cusj.org They are also on Facebook: [cusj-l@uua.org](https://www.facebook.com/cusj-l@uua.org) to stay up to date on developments and to offer ideas, opinions and feedback!

Please consider sharing this bulletin with a friend and then invite them to a service! Every Sunday is "Bring a Guest Sunday"!

Each "Flaming Chalice" newsletter is printed by the Organization for Literacy Lambton (OLL): helping every person acquire the gift of literacy!

Newsletter editor: Wendy Cornelis