

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”

JUNE 2015



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!



June Services

June 7: Our 7th Principle - Wendy Cornelis

On June 7th we will reflect on our 7th Principle “**Respect for the Interdependent Web of all Existence of which we are a part**”. Join Wendy and Larry Cornelis as they discuss not only the obvious “environmental” aspect of this statement, but also how profoundly it reflects our Unitarian Universalist way of accepting and embracing something greater than ourselves.

June 14: Air Monitoring at Aamjiwnaang - Sharilyn Johnston

Sharilyn Johnston, Environmental Coordinator, will speak to us about the different perspectives of the air monitoring program at Aamjiwnaang First Nations.

June 21: Fathers’ Day - Brian White

Brian will be speaking about growing up in a "non-traditional" family, and having to learn to be a dad. Many mentors have helped shape who he is as a Father. From having a "Big Brother" to the many men and women who have taught him about relationships and parenthood, Father's Day is always a day for him to reflect, forgive and share in the pure love that is being a dad.

June 28 Flower Communion - Steve Lane

The end of June is arguably the peak of blooming season. Please join us on June 28 as service leader Steve Lane takes us on a mysterious journey through the world of flowers - their secret powers, their foundation in mythology and strange customs around the world and yes, even a few words about their sex life. Flowers amply demonstrate that indeed, we live in an interconnected web of life and blooms are so much more than “Nature’s Fireworks”.

As this 2014-15 Program Year ends, may we extend great thanks to our Program Team namely Wendy Starr (Chair), Wendy Cornelis, Steve Lane, Sharon MacKay, Mary Marg McGrail and Allan McKeown!





President's Message

Executive Team Highlights from May 21st, 2015 Meeting

Team priorities for the Program Year have been achieved.

Lease: The lease for the Unitarian Room has been renewed with the Sarnia Kiwanis Foundation for the period April 1, 2015 to March 31, 2016 with no rent increase this year.

Religious Exploration: The Executive Team endorsed the recommendation from Dwayne O'Neill, Jessie Rabbitt, Wendy Starr and Mary Marg McGrail that an offer be made to a recently interviewed candidate regarding the RE Co-ordinator/ Teacher position for the upcoming program year.

Finance: As of the end of April we are continuing to show a net budget surplus. The second installment of the Annual Program Contribution to the Canadian Unitarian Council was paid on May 1st.

Membership: We currently have 43 Members and 8 official Friends. A new directory will available soon.

Program: Presenters and Service Leaders for June have been confirmed. Lori Kyle has committed to be a visiting minister for us for one Sunday in each of September, October and November. Lori will be ordained on June 14, 2015.

Social Justice: Due to partnering with the Strangway Centre for the *End of Life Choices Planning Workshop* we have a Social Justice budget- line surplus. It was agreed that this surplus be donated for Nepal earthquake relief through a Unitarian founded charity, [Child Haven](#). This donation will be matched dollar for dollar by the Canadian Government. Do check out the link above to learn more about Child Haven.

Executive Team Meetings are open to the members of the Fellowship. They happen at 6:30 pm on the 3rd Thursday of the month from September to June at the Lochiel Kiwanis Centre in our basement "Unitarian Room". **The next meeting will be on June 18, 2015.**

*Our goal is to create a beloved community and
this will require a qualitative change in our souls
as well as a quantitative change in our lives.*

~ Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

June Reflection



According to a recent CBC news special [Are We Godless](#), “our religious landscape is changing”. Apparently 26% of Canadians now reject ‘religion’ and some 40% are ambivalent. At the same time most people continue to seek a “feeling of belonging”. In the U.S. [new statistics from the from the Pew Research Center](#) show that “the number of people who are religiously unaffiliated -- either atheist, agnostic or simply “nothing in particular” -- has grown by more than six percentage points, from 16.1 percent in 2007 to 22.8 percent in 2014.

How can we reach out to and connect with those who “reject “or are “ambivalent” about religion or are religiously “unaffiliated”? Perhaps we can do this by continually and intentionally creating ‘spaces’ where people can feel a sense of ‘belonging’. Our Small Group Ministry (SGM) has been doing just that for many years now by offering a small group community for some folks who do not necessarily come to Sunday services on a regular basis.

I have become aware that in our last few surveys of Members and Friends, SGM has not been included. This omission is greatly regretted because SGM allows for a ‘sense of belonging’ to happen, in real time and with real people. Many thanks to Betty Learn who has led our SGM for many years.

One member of the group has shared the following message about just how SGM has been important to her:

It seems all my old friends have either passed away, moved away or are in nursing homes and are not able to carry on a conversation. I still visit them but I need more and that is where SGM comes in. We discuss topics and I get to listen to others opinions. Many times, I think about these opinions for days after the meetings. This gives me the opportunity to think about why I feel the way I do and why others feel differently. This is good for me! ... Helping me to grow! Most of all, I enjoy the group because they are so very kind, understanding and supportive. We laugh, we cry and I’m not alone! I am very happy I joined the group! With love to all,

Elaine Abrametz

Is it time to offer another SGM? In what other ways can our Fellowship foster opportunities that will welcome people into an inclusive community of seekers and continue to build a loving and “beloved community”? How can we provide a ‘space’ for young ‘seekers’?

In Fellowship,

Ann Steadman

If interested in joining a new SGM please contact Venera Fazio at 519-869-2725 or at vfazio5@cogeco.ca .

CALL TO ACTION: KIVA Investment Initiative:

At the 2015 Annual General Meeting, members of the Fellowship approved the idea of investing \$2,000.00 with KIVA, a microfinance initiative. The next step is to form a small team to plan and implement this idea over the next few months. Please contact Dwayne O'Neill if you would be interested in being a part of this team.

Upcoming Events:

Sound Journey for Nepal Earthquake Relief

Sunday May 31st, 7 - 8 pm at Christ Church Anglican 414 Oil St., Petrolia presented by Evelyn de Roo ... "Relax with the healing sounds of improvisational vocals and ambient instruments, including Tibetan singing bowls, drum and kalimba."

Ordination of Lori Kyle to the Unitarian Universalist Ministry



*First Unitarian Congregation of Toronto
&
Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Durham*

*Invite you to celebrate with us in the
Ordination of
Lori Kyle
to the Unitarian Universalist Ministry*

Sunday, June 14, 2015, 4 pm

First Unitarian, 175 St. Clair Ave. W, Toronto, ON

*A light lunch will follow
Child Care available*

RSVP to lkordination@gmail.com

UU Conversation Salon

As stated in Wikipedia "A salon is a gathering of people under the roof of an inspiring host, held partly to amuse one another and partly to refine the taste and increase the knowledge of the participants through conversation".



Next Salon: Thursday, June 25, 7 p.m. at the home of Christy and Evan Plommer 117 Forsyth St. S, Sarn
Topic TBA. Please contact Ann Steadman at 519-542-9708 or asteadman@cogeco.ca if you plan to attend. Bring along a munchie to share and your beverage of choice.

Regular Events:

Book Club: Continues to meet on the 3rd Sunday of every month at 9:15 am at 'Parkside Perk' on Front St. In June, we will be reviewing a book suggested to us by Allan *Waking Up - A Guide to Spirituality without Religion* by Sam Harris and July's book is *Annabel* by Kathleen Winter, a 2014 "Canada Reads" selection and a Scotiabank Giller Prize finalist. Everyone is welcome to come out and join the discussion, whether you've read the book or not.

Men's Group: The Men's Group plans to meet for a potluck at Steve Lane's (866 Lakeshore Road) on Sunday June 14th starting at 4:00 pm.

Women's Circle: Sunday, June 14th. After the Service we're driving to The Lambton Heritage Museum near Pinery Park (on Highway 21) to view "*A Lifetime-Day by Day , Five Women and their Diaries*" a Travelling Exhibit of 1800 Diaries of 19th Century Women from the Archives of Ontario. Dinner will follow in Grand Bend at the Schoolhouse Restaurant. Please contact Alice Walent-Bellar at 519 869-4526 or abwbr1@gmail.com so that dinner reservations can be made.

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

Other News

Summer Services: The end of our program year is fast approaching and once again, the summer will feature more casual Sunday services covering topics that you have submitted or suggested. Once again, Sharon MacKay has volunteered (thank you Sharon) to coordinate those services, so please let her know if there is a topic you are particularly interested in and would like to discuss.

Vancouver will host 2016 National Conference:



The Canadian Unitarian Council's 2016 national conference will take place in beautiful British Columbia. The conference will be hosted by the four Lower

Mainland BC congregations: Beacon Unitarian Church, North Shore Unitarian Church, South Fraser Unitarian Congregation, and the Unitarian Church of Vancouver.

Building on themes and Confluence Lectures from the last few years, Conference 2016 will focus on better connections among UUs, greater public awareness, and deepening spirituality - on **Bolder Ways of Being**. Over the weekend of May 20 - 22, 2016, Unitarians will explore sharing, the risk (and rewards) of telling our stories, and connections.

A different way of coming together: Conference 2016 also marks the end of the CUC's annual conferences, and the beginning of conferences held every two years. In a 2013 survey, participants stated that they would prefer the CUC to hold conferences every other year. The reasons for this include more effective use of CUC staff time and resources, helping congregations to plan financial support for delegates and participants, and decreasing the environmental impact.

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. Also, copies of the "**Canadian Unitarian**" can be found on Sundays on the information table and are free to take home. Check out the "*Sermon of the Month*" on the CUC website.

"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 to stay up to date on developments and to offer ideas, opinions and feedback!

Did You Know There Is UU Fellowship Without Walls?

The Church of the Larger Fellowship (CLF) is the largest Unitarian Universalist congregation in the world. For UUs and others, it offers an online spiritual home beyond walls or geography. Unitarian Universalists find supportive UU fellowship and words to inspire and comfort.

The CLF website states that, "No matter where you're located, you can join our online spiritual community. We serve anyone longing for a faith rooted in love that cultivates wonder, encourages imagination and champions justice." To check out the CLF go to <http://www.clfuu.org/> .



We Are Unitarian Universalists - [UUA Website](#)

“We are brave, curious, and compassionate thinkers and doers. We are diverse in faith, ethnicity, history and spirituality, but aligned in our desire to make a difference for the good. We have a track record of standing on the side of love, justice, and peace.

We have radical roots and a history as self-motivated spiritual people: we think for ourselves and recognize that life experience influences our beliefs more than anything.

We need not think alike to love alike. We are people of many [beliefs](#) and [backgrounds](#): people with a religious background, people with none, people who believe in a God, people who don't, and people who let the mystery be.

We are Unitarian Universalist and Buddhist, Christian, Hindu, Humanist, Jewish, Muslim, Pagan, Atheist, Theist, Agnostic, and more.

On the forefront of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer inclusion for more than 40 years, [we are people of all sexual orientations and gender identities](#).

We welcome you: your whole self, with all your truths and your doubts, your worries and your hopes. Join us on this extraordinary adventure of faith.”

Please consider sharing this newsletter 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

TO UNSUBSCRIBE TO THIS NEWSLETTER AT ANY TIME, PLEASE SEND YOUR REQUEST BY E-MAIL TO WendyCornelis55@outlook.com

