

# Unitarian Fellowship of Sarnia and Port Huron

[www.unitarian.sarnia.com](http://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”*

**March 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!*

For full details of Sunday services and all other activities and opportunities log on to our website: <http://www.unitarian.sarnia.com/>



## *March Services:*

Mar. 1, 2015

**“Our 3<sup>rd</sup> UU Principle”** Allan McKeown

Join Allan this morning as he leads us in an exploration of our 3<sup>rd</sup> Principle “Acceptance of One Another and Spiritual growth”. Acceptance seems on the surface to be an easy concept but it flows much deeper, out of the belief in the inherent worth and dignity of all.

Mar. 8, 2015

**“International Women’s Day”** with Wendy Starr

First created in 1911, this day is celebrated around the world to mark the achievements and advancement of equal rights for women. With this year’s theme of “Make it Happen”, we will listen to our own women speak about their own lives, successes, challenges and changes.

Mar. 15, 2015

**“Our 4<sup>th</sup> UU Principle”** Sharon Mackay

As Sharon leads us in this exploration of our 4<sup>th</sup> principle, “A Free and Responsible Search for Truth and Meaning”, we may discover that it leads us to our own spiritual path to discover depth, subtlety, love and worth..

Mar. 22, 2015

**“Spring Equinox”** with: **Wendy Starr**

As we finally begin to thaw from a long, cold and snowy stretch of winter, we begin to shift our focus to the warmth and growth of spring and summer. In this pagan circle, we will meditate on what it is that we each wish to plant in the rich soil of our beings.

This is also SOUP SUNDAY!

Mar. 29, 2015

**“Forgiveness vs. Fairness”** Guest Speaker **Lori Kyle**

We all experience times when we are called to consider forgiveness, either of self or of others. On this Sunday, Lori Kyle joins us to explore the process that leads to arriving at a place of forgiveness, including the relevance of betrayal and grief. We will also consider the realities and effects of the absence of forgiveness, as well as the relationship between forgiveness and justice from a Unitarian perspective.



## **President's Message**

**Executive Team Highlights from February 19<sup>th</sup>, 2015 Meeting:**

**Special Membership Meeting and Annual General Meeting (AGM):** Please mark your calendars! On Sunday April 19<sup>th</sup> there will be a Special Membership Meeting following the service to present a report from the Investment Options Team (Dwayne O'Neill, Dan Danner, Mark Woolston and Ann Steadman). Our AGM will be held on Sunday April 26<sup>th</sup> to receive reports from our various Teams and to elect a new Executive for the 2015-16 Program Year (July 1, 2015 - June 30, 2016). Allan McKeown and Annette Verhagen have agreed to serve as our Nominating Team. Do consider joining the Executive for 2015-16. Friends of the Fellowship are welcomed to attend the AGM. Only Members, however, can vote and stand for election to the Executive Team.

**Preliminary Budget for 2015-16:** A draft budget was agreed to by the Executive and will be used for the March Fellowship Canvass. A final budget for 2015-16 will have to be approved by the membership at the AGM.

**By-Law Changes:** A number of important by-law changes were agreed to by the Executive Team. These will be brought to members of the Fellowship for discussion and approval at the AGM.

**Canadian Unitarian Council (CUC) Annual Meeting:** This is set for May 15 - 17, 2015 in Ottawa. In 2016 the venue will be Vancouver. After 2016 the gathering will be held bi-annually. Our Fellowship is entitled to send two delegates to the AGM. **Would you be interested in attending as a representative for our Fellowship? Please contact me at 519-542-9708 for more details.**

**Social Action:** Plans have been finalized for an *End of Life Planning Workshop* to be held on Wednesday, April 22nd 2015 from 12:30 - 4:30 pm at the Strangway Centre. Seating is limited so register as soon as possible. Twenty-five spaces will be reserved for members and friends of the Fellowship until April 1, 2015. **See the poster that accompanies this newsletter for more details.**

**UU Salon:** To date we have had four very enjoyable Salon evenings. We greatly thank Christy and Evan Plommer for opening their home for the last one held on February 12<sup>th</sup>. Further Conversation Salons will be organized. If you would be willing to host a Salon please contact Ann Steadman (519-542-9708).

**Executive Team Meetings** are open to the members of the Fellowship. They happen at 6:30 pm on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month from September to June at the Lochiel Kiwanis Centre in our basement "Unitarian Room". The next meeting will be on March 19, 2015.

## March Reflection

Well this has certainly been one long, cold winter and, for me at least, January 1<sup>st</sup> didn't seem like the beginning of a New Year, but rather just like another cold winter day! Maybe the ancients had things figured out better. March, from the Latin *Martius*, was the first month in the earliest Roman calendar. This was the beginning of the season for both farming and warfare and so the month was named for *Mars* the Roman god of war who was also regarded as the guardian of agriculture. In the Northern Hemisphere, March 1<sup>st</sup> is actually the meteorological beginning of spring while astronomical spring equinox will happen on March 20<sup>th</sup> this year.

As Unitarians Universalists, we are known for our care of the earth and for the importance of being in tune with the cycles of nature. Our 7<sup>th</sup> Principle calls upon us to have "respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part." Certainly we are social justice gardeners sowing and nurturing the seeds for a more inclusive and just society.

As Unitarian Universalists, we are known for waging peace, not war. That is exactly what some 12 members and friends of the Fellowship did on Saturday, February 21<sup>st</sup>; we took up the invitation of the Sarnia Muslim Association and participated in a multi-faith peace gathering held at the Air Cadets' Hall. It is hoped that a meeting between some of the local Muslim women can be arranged with our Women's Circle (stay tuned for details). In this small way we are ***Standing on the Side of Love, the UUA*** campaign which I talked about in the last newsletter. This is all about harnessing love's power to challenge exclusion, oppression, and violence based on sexual orientation, gender identity, immigration status, race, religion, or any other identity. <http://www.uuworld.org/news/articles/147261.shtml>

In Peace,

*Ann*

### **Annual Members & Friends Canvass**

***Make your membership meaningful by sharing your special talents, time and treasure, knowing that often what we receive rests in how much of ourselves we have invested.***

(UU New Member Ceremony - author unknown)

Our annual Fellowship Canvass gives everyone the opportunity to provide feedback about the activities of the Fellowship through an Evaluation/Needs Survey and to make a financial pledge for the upcoming program year. Unitarian Universalists throughout Canada and the U.S. have traditionally followed this process to enable congregations to plan effectively.

Your Executive Team is very pleased to announce that our Canvass Co-Chairs are Bill Franks and Wendy Starr and that our canvassers this year are Ann

**Steadman, Bill Franks, Brenda Woolston, Dwayne O'Neill, Judy Lindberg, Mark Woolston, Sharon MacKay and Wendy Starr.**

The Evaluation/Needs Survey wrapped up on February 28th. The collated results of this survey including all comments will be made available to members and friends. During this month of March, canvassers will visit members and friends to discuss the survey results and to explore other thoughts and suggestions about the fellowship. Financial pledges for the Fellowship's 2015 -16 Program Year will also be requested.

You are invited to reflect upon what you hope to contribute for 2015-16. What percent of your income do you currently give to the Fellowship? Can this be increased? However, as Mother Theresa has said, "It's not how much we give but how much love we put into giving."

### **Regular Events:**

**Book Club:** Continues to meet on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of every month at 9:15 am at 'On the Bay' on Front St. Because there was no meeting in February, the book for March is "*Alias Grace*" by Margaret Atwood. Future selections will be discussed at the March meeting. Everyone is welcome to come out and join the discussion, whether you've read the book or not.

**Men's Group:** Next Men's Group get together will be announced by Allan at the March 1<sup>st</sup> meeting.

**Women's Circle:** Information on gatherings is distributed by Annette Verhagen. Please contact Annette for further information. 519-384-8549. February's event will be attending the 8<sup>th</sup> annual "Empty Bowls" event at Lambton College - 5:00 p.m. seating.

**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**

**St. Patrick's Day Circle Dinner** - This year's annual St. Patrick's Day circle dinner is being hosted by Steve Lane at his home - 866 Lakeshore Road. On Friday, March 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. Everyone is encouraged to bring a dish to share, your musical instruments, and your best Irish lilt so you can join in a rousing sing-along after dinner.

Give Steve a call if you need further information - 519-330-5314.

#### ***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](http://www.firstunitariantoronto.org) under “Social Justice” - Central America Project.

### ***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”.

Keep an eye out for information on our next UU Conversation Salon.



***Save the Date! End of Life Planning Workshop – Wednesday April 22, 2015  
12:30 – 4:30 pm***

### **Other News**

***Canadian Unitarian Council (CUC) e-newsletter.*** To receive this electronic newsletter from the CUC once per month, go the website at [www.cuc.ca](http://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](http://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](http://www.cusj.org) They are also on Facebook: [cusj-l@uua.org](mailto:cusj-l@uua.org) to stay up to date on developments and to offer ideas, opinions and feedback!

***R.A.V.E.N. Respecting Aboriginal Values and Environmental Needs***  
RAVEN is an NGO focusing on enforcing Aboriginal groups’ legal rights to environmental protection. They need support from all Canadians. Please visit their website at [www.raventrust.com](http://www.raventrust.com) to learn more

### ***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/> .

*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*

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