



The Flaming Chalice

September 2015

Unitarian Fellowship of Sarnia & Port Huron
180 College Ave. N. Sarnia, Ontario
www.unitarian.sarnia.com

... a refreshing alternative for religious explorers

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September Services

Sunday services begin at 11:00 a.m. 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!

September 6: No Service in observance of Labour Day.

September 13: Annual Water Communion

This annual service, the first of the program year, welcomes everyone back from summer. Please bring a small amount of water from a source that is special to you. As the waters are mingled, be prepared to share where your water comes from and why your contribution is special. The water represents our shared faith which comes from many different sources.

September 20: Autumnal Equinox

At this time of rich harvest, we look back and give thanks, we look forward and offer hope, all things in balance. We will create a pagan circle ritual this Sunday as a container for our gratitude and hope.

September 27: "Piecing in Peace" - Rev. Lori Kyle

On September 21st, the world celebrates International Day of Peace. As people invested in the spiritual dimension of our lives, the concept of peace is a central component to experience fulfillment. Rev. Lori Kyle will join us as we explore how peace is not only an integral part of our existence, but also how it can come to us in unexpected ways.

"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*

President's Message

By Ann Steadman



Celebrating a New Season, a New Program Year and our 60th Anniversary!!

“Summer time has turned the star-wheel Autumn is upon us.”

A warm welcome back to our Fellowship's regular services for our 2015-16 program year! Great thanks to Sharon MacKay for ensuring that our informal and interesting summer gatherings happened!

I particularly resonate with the song “Chant for the Seasons” (#73 in *Singing the Living Tradition*). The ‘Chant’ for Autumn goes like this:

“Summertime has turned the star-wheel autumn is upon us. Sweet the angling sun, sweet upon the air the smell of blue mist rising. Summertime has turned the star-wheel autumn is upon us. Glorious the trees, glorious the sight of rust leaves falling, falling. Summertime has turned the star-wheel autumn is upon us.”

As for our new Program Year:

- We welcome Melissa Stewardson as our new RE Children's Teacher. As well, we are pleased to announce that both Jayden Kipling and Jacoba Plommer will continue to job-share child-care duties (for those children 5 and under).
- Your Program Team has worked hard to ensure that our Sunday Services will be both meaning-filled and diverse over Autumn and beyond.
- As you may have noted from an email communication, the new Executive Team has already had to make a decision concerning our website. Our old provider, EBTech went out of business. Thanks to the expertise of our webmaster, Christy Plommer, we have secured a web presence at little cost to the Fellowship. Please go to and bookmark the new website at <http://www.uusarnia.com/>



Now for Our History

By: Ann Steadman

“ Starting in 1955, we were a fellowship in the ‘planning and first meeting stages’ and we met in the Harrington Hotel in Port Huron, Michigan (see photo)



In 1956, 15 people met with a Boston Unitarian layman who travelled widely to assist ‘free-thinking’ people establish lay-led Unitarian Fellowships. A steering committee was appointed to form a Port Huron Unitarian Fellowship. Semi-monthly Sunday evening meetings began. By-laws were submitted and a Charter was granted.

There were many obstacles to overcome; meager funds and unsuitable meeting places. Because several Sarnia residents began to attend frequently, advertising was extended to Sarnia.

Sarnia members began holding meetings regularly at the Sarnia Public Library in 1959. In 1960, meetings began to be held on both sides of the border and the name was changed to the Port Huron-Sarnia Unitarian Fellowship.

To read the whole story, go to.....

<http://www.uusarnia.com/?our-fellowships-history,27>

In Fellowship, *Ann*

Anyone interested in the General History of Unitarian Universalism is welcome to borrow the Fellowship’s DVD series “Long Strange Trip” by Ron Cordes. The series covers the history of UUism from the beginning of the Christian era to what we know today as Unitarian Universalism.

The set consists of 6 separate DVD’s.

Please see Ann if you are interested.

The uua Bookstore has many books on UUism. Visit their website at:

www.uua.org

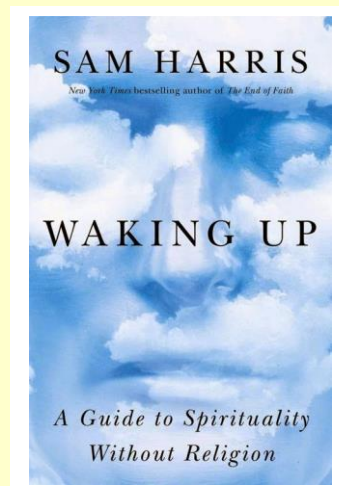
Regular Events

Book Club: Continues to meet on the 3rd Sunday of every month at 9:15 am at 'Parkside Perk' on Front St. In September, we will be reviewing a book suggested to us by Allan *Waking Up - A Guide to Spirituality without Religion* by Sam Harris. This book had been scheduled earlier in the year but unfortunately was never reviewed. Future book choices will be discussed at the September meeting. 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 will be announced at a later date as both Allan and Dwayne are currently away.

Women's Circle: No concrete plans have been made for a September gathering. Annette Verhagen will e-mail members with the next gathering information once it is finalized.

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



“Because of the role that religion has historically played in denying gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people their full humanity, I believe that we now have a special calling to reach out to our GLBT sisters and brothers. We need to offer an explicit welcome, because the world can still be a very unwelcoming place. We need to offer radical acceptance, because neither family nor society can always be counted on to be accepting. We need to offer unconditional love, because Love is at the heart of religious community.”

– Allison Barrett, Canadian UU Minister

Other News

Rev. Christine Hillman, UU Olinda

Reverend Christine Hillman died peacefully Friday night, August 7, 2015, around midnight in the Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak, Michigan. She was very special to the members of UU Olinda and will be missed.

A memorial service for Christine will be held at the UU Church of Olinda at the regular service time on Sunday, Sept. 20, conducted by Reverend Allison Barrett and Reverend Linda Thompson.

Condolences have been sent on behalf of our 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. 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"*.

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/>.



"Bolder Ways of Being ... will focus on better connections among UUs, greater public awareness, and deepening spirituality."

"No matter where you are located, you can join our online spiritual community"

Please consider sharing this newsletter with a friend and invite them to a service. Every Sunday is “Bring a Guest” Sunday!

Each issue of the “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 email to: wendycornelis55@outlook.com



We Are A Green Sanctuary Congregation

(certified by the [Unitarian Universalist Association](#))

The Green Sanctuary Program:

- Invites congregations to embark on an exploration of what it means to live today within a religious community on an imperiled Earth.
- Is a way for all Unitarian Universalists to join our efforts, both symbolically and explicitly, in becoming stewards of the Earth.

Learn more about [the Green Sanctuary program](#).