

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"

SUMMER 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/>



Summer Services:

Summer Services at our Fellowship are much more casual than our regular services. Although still held at the Lochiel Kiwanis Centre, attendees are more likely to find that less ritual and more lively discussion are the order of the day. Following is the summer schedule as it stands at the time of this newsletter printing:

- July 5th:** Instead of meeting at the LKC, attendees will gather at the home of Colin & Zena Graf (110 Bright St.) for a Sunday Pot Luck Brunch. Please bring a dish to share.
- July 12th:** Steve Lane will facilitate a discussion about Imperialism.
- July 19th:** A Presentation by the Lay Chaplains of the Unitarian Fellowship of Sarnia and Port Huron; Wendy Starr, Bill Franks and Allan McKeown.
- July 26th:** “Can the World be Disarmed: While we long for a world without guns and war, is this really possible in today’s global culture? Discussion led by Chuck McKenzie.
- Aug. 2nd:** **NO SERVICE IN OBSERVANCE OF CIVIC HOLIDAY WEEKEND.**
- Aug. 9th:** The subject is “Music” – learning new songs for our Sunday services and singing some old favourites. Everyone is encouraged to bring their own musical instruments, especially drums because we would like to incorporate drumming into a few regular services throughout the program year.
- Aug. 16th:** Wendy Starr brings us a Ritual for Healing Grief and Sadness.
- Aug. 23rd:** The “Bucket List” – a participatory service. What is important to you? What would you like to accomplish or do with your remaining years in this life?
- Aug. 30th:** The “Elevator Speech”. How would you describe Unitarianism to a stranger within 1 or 2 minutes (the average elevator ride)?
- Sept. 6th:** **NO SERVICE IN OBSERVANCE OF THE LABOUR DAY HOLIDAY.**





President's Message

Executive Team Highlights from June 18th, 2015 Meeting

New Executive: Mark Woolston (in-coming Co-Treasurer) and Mary Marg McGrail (incoming R.E. Chair) attended the meeting and were welcomed onto the Executive Team for the 2015-16 Program Year. Sharon MacKay, who is going off the Team, was thanked for all her efforts as the Membership Chair.

Religious Exploration: The potential RE Co-ordinator/Teacher for the upcoming year will be contacted and invited to the last service in June. An orientation to the Fellowship will also be provided.

Finance: As of the end of May we are continuing to show a net budget surplus. Two GICs mature on June 26th. The monies from these is being deposited to our Investment Savings Account. The Investment Review Committee will meet in August to determine a potential strategy for how best to steward our resources. Some \$1600 U.S. (equivalent to \$2,000 CDN) has been made available to the KIVA Team to begin the process of making micro-loans.

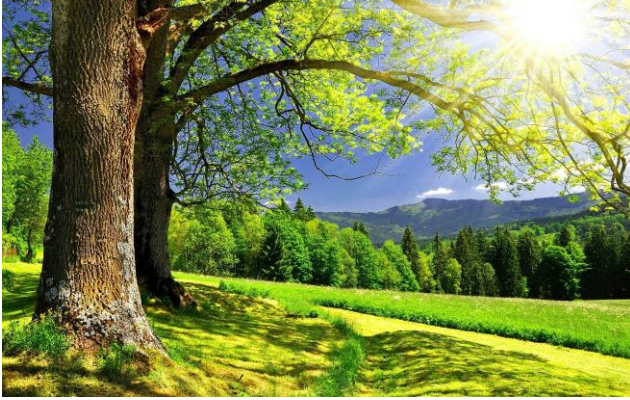
Membership: With one other person signing the Membership Book we now have 44 Members and 8 official Friends.

Program: Sharon MacKay has organized Sunday services for the summer months. **Please note that on Sunday, July 5th, in lieu of a service, we will be meeting at the home of Colin and Zena Graff for a pot-luck brunch. As well, there will NOT be services on the Civic Holiday weekend (August 2nd) and on the Labour Day Weekend (September 6th).** The Rev. Lori Kyle is finding that her schedule is quickly filling up so an attempt will be made to book her into three Sundays during the spring of 2016.

Social Justice: Fellowship Members and friends will be polled in early September regarding a new Social Justice focus.

Lay Chaplaincy: A number of Members have been asked via an email letter to seriously consider becoming a Lay Chaplain. Two members so far have expressed some interest and will join the Lay Chaplaincy Team for the 2015-16 Program Year in order to further explore Lay Chaplaincy. As of May 31st our Lay Chaplains have performed 15 weddings and 14 Memorials.

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 September 17, 2015.**



Summer Message:

Sarnia has once again benefitted by the presence, insight and eloquence of David Suzuki. The Imperial Theatre was entirely sold out for his book promo/speaking engagement on June 22nd. The proceeds from ticket sales went 50/50 to the David Suzuki Foundation and to the Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Sarnia/Lambton.

Two things in Suzuki's presentation especially resonated with me:

1. If we do not recognize that climate change is real and do not make change happen around this issue then we, as a human species, as well as many other species, will soon be extinct while the Earth will continue.
2. Those of us who are the 'elders', who no longer have to "play the game" can now "speak the truth from our hearts".

Suzuki presented as a very humble person. He interchanged comments with the reading of excerpts from his latest book, *Letters to My Grand Children*. It seemed to me that both the writing and reading were from the heart. As an atheist, he is committed to making change happen for his grandchildren and for all further generations who live on our planet Earth.

He also talked about his "last campaign", Blue Dot, <http://bluedot.ca/> (awesome stuff here). The vision is to start with communities, to get them to sign on, one by one, through municipal declarations in support of the right to a healthy environment ... clean air, water and soil as basic rights. So far from Victoria to Montreal to Yellowknife, some 30 municipalities have made such declarations. Why not Sarnia too?

As a Fellowship, looking toward establishing a new Social Justice focus, could we consider joining in the "Blue Dot" initiative? To be realistic, if climate change is not addressed, then no other social justice issues will really matter.

Warm summer wishes to all. May you enjoy vacations, more opportunities to connect with relatives and friends, and just have some time to enjoy the rays from our wonderful Sun.

In Fellowship,
Ann

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 July is "Annabel" by Kathleen Winter, a 2014 "Canada Reads" selection and a Scotiabank Giller Prize finalist. Future selections will be discussed at July's meeting. Everyone is welcome to come out and join the discussion, whether you've read the book or not.

Men's Group: Details of the next men's group gathering can be obtained from either Allan McKeown or Dwayne O'Neill.

Women's Circle: On Tuesday, July 14th at 6:30 p.m. ladies will meet for dinner at Victory Buffet on London Rd. (the old Panda Garden beside the Superstore). Discussion about upcoming events will take place.

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

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](https://www.facebook.com/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/> .

The next issue of this Newsletter will be for September, 2015.

*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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