



The Flaming Chalice

Summer 2016

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

... a refreshing alternative for religious explorers

Summer Services

There are no FORMAL SERVICES in July & August but members and friends gather at the usual time for a casual service each Sunday except Holidays (enter by the Forsythe St. main door).

Casual Service begins at 11:00 a.m.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1** Summer Services
- 2** Executive Team Report
- 3** President's Reflection
- 4** Celebrating 60 Years
- 5** Events
- 6** Your New Executive Team
- 7** A New Vision & Purpose for Canadian UUs

*"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*

July 3rd: Holiday weekend - No Service

July 10th: Bob McCarthy, Local Author & Historian

July 17th: Richard Maxwell, Zen Meditation Class

July 24th: Annette Verhagen

July 31st: Civic Holiday weekend - No Service

August 7th: Poetry/Spoken Word, Laurence LeCapelain

August 14th: Meri Eitzen, Spiritualist Church Minister

August 21st: Amber Bellamere

August 28th: A singalong with our "Ministers of Music" - bring an instrument (drums encouraged)

Sept. 4th: Labour Day Holiday weekend - No Service

Sept. 11th: Regular Program Year Begins

Executive Team Report

By Ann Steadman



Executive Team Highlights from May 2016

Business Arising:

- **Refugee sponsorship** - remains in a “pause” position. Once we become involved with a family an increase to our liability and no-fault accident benefits coverage may be indicated (other UU congregations have done this).
- **60th Anniversary Dinner Celebration** - plans have been finalized. Allan, Ann and Wendy Starr have been interviewed for a *Sarnia This Week* article about our Fellowship.
- **Travel Rate** - an increase provided to visiting speakers is being considered.
- **Annual Canvass** - results have been finalized. Many thanks to Bill Franks for once again heading up this initiative.
- **Canadian Unitarian Council’s (CUC) Annual General Meeting** - Wendy Starr, in person, and Ann Steadman, via the internet, represented us on May 20, 2016.
- **Unicamp** - our yearly Fellowship dues for (only \$1 per member) have been sent.

New Business:

- **Canada Revenue Agency** - Ann has been in communication with the concerning revisions that it requires to our By-Law “purposes”.
- **News from Other Congregations** - London has hired the Rev. Peter Boullata as a ¼ time minister. Peter is currently a Ph.D. candidate in spiritual care and psychotherapy at Wilfrid Laurier University and is the author of an article in the Spring 2016 UU World, [A dark night journey](#). The UU Church of Olinda has announced that the Rev. Frances Dearman will become their Interim Minister starting in August. The Rev. Lori Kyle will be continuing with the Durham congregation on a part-time basis.



Membership: As of the end of May, we have 45 Members and 9 official Friends. New member orientation materials have been purchased and received from the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA). A welcoming of new members will be included in the Flower Communion Service the last Sunday in June.

Program: Many thanks to Sharon MacKay for coordinating the upcoming summer program. Wendy Starr has connected with UU ministers at the CUC conference concerning availability for next year. The Team intends to theme the 2016-17 programming around our 6 UU sources as we move towards creating Vision Statement for our Fellowship.

Religious Exploration: The intention remains to advertise our RE program for the 2016-17 program year as long as we have the personnel to carry this through.

Finance: It is expected that we will end the year with a net budget surplus. A new ‘user friendly’ financial church management computer program will be purchased and used in parallel with our current Excel spreadsheets for the 2016-17 Program Year.

Lay Chaplaincy: So far this year our lay chaplains have presided at 12 weddings and 30 memorials.

Executive Team Meetings are open to the members of the Fellowship. They happen at 6:30 pm on the 2nd Thursday of the month from September to June at the LKC. The next meeting has been tentatively set for Thursday, September 8, 2016.

Presidents Reflection:

Some time ago, the facilitator of a group I attended asked the participants to choose one piece of a jigsaw puzzle and then to share how this represented them. Without hesitation, I decided upon an 'edge' piece.

Edges, boundary zones, transitional places/spaces have always fascinated me. These are both physically and metaphysically emergent places/spaces where change happens and growth occurs. Unitarians, it is suggested, are 'edge people' - we are open to possibilities, push boundaries and both individually and collectively create change.

In the recent *Sarnia This Week* article about our Fellowship, [Local Unitarians celebrating 60 years of congregation](#), I stated that we Unitarians have "always been on the radical fringe or on the leading edge ... There's always got to be fringes of things to move us forward. Perhaps if we become too mainstream we'd lose our edginess. And we wouldn't want that to happen. I think we punch way above our weight."

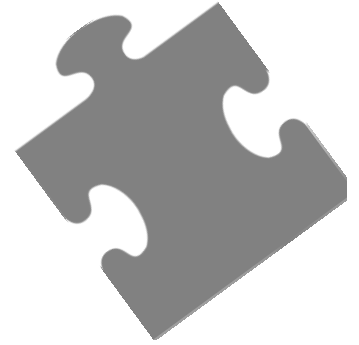
It is with some pride that I look back at the incredible contributions of UUs historically and at our own Fellowship's record of social justice activism locally. Now, as we look forward together, may we continue to push boundaries, always looking to the margins to see who and what is not yet included in our spiritual journey to become fully human.

May each and every one of us enjoy a wonderful Summer!

On Fellowship,
Ann



Wendy Starr, Ann Steadman & Allan McKeown



"We must journey to the frothy frontiers of culture, to the border between convention and controversy where the great cultural breakthroughs are struggling to be born."

Cartier Phipps,
Evolutionaries



Celebrating 60 Years!



On Saturday, June 18th some 50 UU members and friends gathered at the Holiday Inn in Point Edward to celebrate 60 years of Unitarian Universalism in the Sarnia/Port Huron area.

While folks arrived wonderful music by Evan Plommer and Colin Graf as well as a slide show of Fellowship pictures provided by Betty and Richard Learn were enjoyed by all.

MC Bill Franks kept the mood light and playful with his welcome, chalice lighting, and *“Knife, fork spoon!”* blessing which was followed by jokes from Alice Walent-Bellar. On a more serious level, Ann Steadman acknowledged that we were on the traditional territory of the Aamjiwnaang First Nation while Dwayne O’Neill gave a PowerPoint presentation on *“Fellowship Highlights of the Past 20 Years”*. Dwayne ended by challenging us with this question: *“How do we see ourselves & our mission during the next 20 years?”*

While the excellent meal was warming our bellies, great fun was had with a Trivia contest between tables organized by Brad Gray and Steve Lane. Perhaps it was no surprise that the winning table included four Fellowship Presidents!

Rustic arrangements of native plants decorated the stage. Larry Cornelis talked about the various species that were represented prior to the planters being distributed to each tables’ lucky winner. Other fortunate folk had their numbers drawn for the numerous door prizes that had been gathered by Allan McKeown.

A skit featuring Allan, Bill, Brad and Steve entitled *“The Men’s Meeting”*, as humour often does, contained much truth! According to Ann, the most productive Executive Team meeting over the past 3 years was attended solely by women.

The festive evening concluded with a sing song led by Brad and Annette Dillon followed by musical offerings from the Woolston Sax and the Fellowship’s *“Joyful Noise”* drumming circle.

What an Evening, what a great 60 years and what a future ahead!



MC Bill Franks & *“Joyful Noise”*

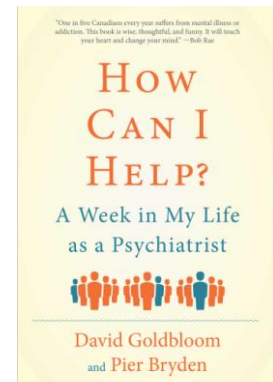
Regular Events

Book Club: Continues to meet on the 3rd Sunday of every month at 9:15 am at 'Parkside Perk' on Front St. On July 17th, we will be reviewing the book *How Can I Help? A week In My Life as a Psychiatrist* by David Goldbloom and Pier Bryden. Everyone is welcome to come out and join the discussion, whether you've read the book or not. Future selections are discussed at the meeting.

Men's Group: The Men's Group plans will be announced as they become available. Please speak with Allan McKeown or Dwayne O'Neill for further information.

Women's Circle: Future events have yet to be decided and will be announced as they are planned.

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



As Canadian Unitarian Universalists,
we envision a world in which our
interdependence
calls us to love and justice.

Announcing Your Executive Team for 2016-2017

President/Past Pres:	Ann Steadman
Vice-President:	Dwayne O'Neill
Secretary:	<i>Vacant</i>
Treasurer:	Mark Woolston
Program Chair:	Wendy Starr
Membership Chair:	Annette Verhagen
R.E. Chair:	Mary Marg McGrail
Members at Large:	Ineke Dijkhuizen Rennie Janssen



Thanks to Retiring Executive Team Members:

Dan Danner

began as a Member-At-Large in 2007 and has been our Treasurer for the past 8 years. During this time he has upgraded and updated our financial accounting systems as well as so reliably provided our income tax receipts. We greatly appreciate that Dan will continue to work behind the scenes assisting us with book-keeping tasks...

Wendy Cornelis...

has served us as Vice-President for 2 years, President for 3 and Past-President for an additional 3 years. I have enjoyed working with Wendy and have benefitted greatly from her wise counsel and friendship. You can still expect to receive phone calls Wendy!

Joanne Alexander...

has chosen not to 'stand' for the 2015-16 'Program Year' after 6 terms as our Secretary. Joanne your timely and accurate minutes have kept us (and especially me) on track. As well, your considered, insightful input and calm, steady presence at meetings will be greatly missed.

Respectfully,

Ann

Men make history and not the other way around. In periods where there is no leadership, society stands still. Progress occurs when courageous, skillful leaders seize the opportunity to change things for the better.

Harry S. Truman

A New Vision and Purpose for Canadian UUs

On May 20th, at the AGM in Vancouver, Canadian Unitarians made history. They approved a new vision for Canadian Unitarian Universalists:

**As Canadian Unitarian Universalists,
we envision a world in which our interdependence
calls us to love and justice.**



These 5 Aspirations guide us in living out our faith: As Canadian Unitarian Universalists, we are Deeply Connected, Radically Inclusive, Actively Engaged, Theologically Alive, and Spiritually Grounded.

Not only was a new Vision statement approved, a set of new charitable purposes was approved, in compliance with Canada Revenue Agency guidelines:

The Statement of Purpose of the Corporation is to promote Unitarian Universalism, Unitarianism and Universalism, in Canada and internationally, by:

1. Affirming and promoting the principles, practices, and traditions of the Unitarian Universalist, Unitarian and Universalist faiths;
2. Supporting the development and growth of Unitarian Universalist, Unitarian and Universalist religious communities;
3. Nurturing, supporting and enhancing religious communities and other groups to work together on mutual concerns for the benefit of the community; and
4. Providing basic necessities of life, including food, clean water, clothing, medical and dental care and supplies, shelter, and education, tuition and school supplies to those in need.



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

The Next Newsletter for the Unitarian Fellowship of Sarnia & Port Huron will be distributed the last week in August before the regular program year begins.

“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

