



The Flaming Chalice

October 2024

Unitarian Fellowship of Sarnia & Port Huron

Lochiel Kiwanis Centre, 180 College Ave. N. Sarnia, Ontario uusarnia.com

A loving community of spiritual explorers who stand on the side of love and justice

October Services

In-person & via Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83101536641>

Theme—Place



Each of us, imperfect and vulnerable bodyspirits that we are, is connected to a vast web of love which holds us and will not let us go.

Meg Riley

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Oct 6: 'The Jean Collective' - Helen Cole

Inspired by her mentor, Jean Macdougall, Helen founded The Jean Collective, a Women in Politics Initiative, which focuses on empowering women in leadership roles, especially in municipal politics. This work is inclusive, supporting all women, including those in the LGBTQ2SIA+ community.

Oct 13: "Having Enough and Being Enough" – Rev. Linda Thomson

Thanksgiving is a season for gratitude. The poet Wordsworth reflected, "The world is too much with us, and that getting and spending we waste our powers". Over 200 years ago, he observed that we give part of ourselves away when we focus on acquiring things outside of ourselves. What would it mean to settle into our current situation and foster a feeling of contentment- to cultivate gratitude?

Oct 20: "Strange Local Tales from An Historian Turned Journalist"- Phil Egan

Local author and historian Phil Egan will share some of the stories from his latest book, *Backward Glances: Historic Tales from the Imperial City*. The book features 100 stories about Sarnia's rich and memorable history that appeared in The Sarnia Journal over the course of eight years.

Oct 27: "Can democracy survive if elections are its only focus?" – Bob Sutton

In his talk, Bob will reflect on how the elections in the US and beyond show the corrosive effects on democracy of demanding simplicity in the face of complexity. Until citizens can understand how democracy works, and their own dysfunction in it, we will never be able to fix it.

OCT 27 IS ALSO 'SOUP SUNDAY'.

Reflection by President Tracy Jutras

This month's theme, "Place", conjures up many images. It can be a physical space, a future destination, a place from the past, an emotional state such as "I'm in a bad place", one's place in society and it can also mean a transitional place.

Thinking back to that period in March and April of 2020, at the beginning of Covid, we assumed that it would pass in a matter of weeks and then we would return to our routines, our lives and services.

At some point, we realized that we were not getting back together in the room any time soon. Once we faced that reality, we thought ok what's possible? Our resilience kicked in. On April 19th 2020 we had our first Zoom service, but we did a trial run on April 17th to acclimatize to this new way of meeting. At first, I enjoyed staying at home with a cup of tea and not having to travel outside on cold days to attend service. Well, I enjoyed it for a while until my world got smaller.

There is a book called *Transitions: Making Sense of Life's Changes* by William Bridges and he says, "It's not the changes themselves that will do you in, it's the transitions." The change itself, is situational but the transition is psychological. He noted that there are three stages. The first stage begins with loss, of letting go of old ways, and the work is to face the lost. The second stage is the in-between time, the old is gone and the new has not quite arrived yet and new patterns take place. The third stage is the new beginning, a new way or purpose and to rebuild. All transitions begin with an ending and end with a beginning.

Our Fellowship made it through because we had each other and we weaved in our hope and resilience as we went through those stages together. Today, we are better for it, for now we have two places that we can meet and greet each other in fellowship.

Take care and I hope to see you all on Sundays, either in the room or online.

In Fellowship, Tracy Jutras

PLACE

'Place' Theme package from the First Unitarian Congregation of Toronto:

<https://www.firstunitariantoronto.org/wp-content/publications/nh/2021/New-Horizons-2021-09-Place.pdf>

Quotes on 'Place' To Ponder

You can design and create and build the most wonderful place in the world. But it takes people to make the dream a reality. **Walt Disney**

A family is a place where principles are hammered and honed on the anvil of everyday living. **Charles R. Swindoll**

Find a place inside where there's joy, and the joy will burn out the pain. **Joseph Campbell**

A dead-end street is a good place to turn around. **Naomi Judd**

Take care of your body. It's the only place you have to live. **Jim Rohn**

As the world becomes a more digital place, we cannot forget about the human connection. **Adam Neumann**

Home is the place where, when you have to go there, they have to take you in. **Robert Frost**



A museum is a spiritual place. People lower their voices when they get close to art. **Mario Botta**

Space is to place as eternity is to time. **Joseph Joubert**

That place of true healing is a fierce place. It's a

Pilgrims travelled to holy places. You might want to think of life as a journey towards holiness. **M. Scott Peck**

giant place. It's a place of monstrous beauty and endless dark and glimmering light. And you have to work really, really, really hard to get there, but you can do it. **Cheryl Straye**

It's not an easy journey, to get to a place where you forgive people. But it is such a powerful place, because it frees you. **Tyler Perry**

We shall not cease from exploration, and the end of all our exploring will be to arrive where we started and know the place for the first time. **T. S. Eliot**

Wherever you go, your memories from the place you grew up in always remain special. **Guru Randhawa**

I have great respect for the past. If you don't know where you've come from, you don't know where you're going. I have respect for the past, but I'm a person of the moment. I'm here, and I do my best to be completely centered at the place I'm at, then I go forward to the next place. **Maya Angelou**

I love the forest. It is the place where you hear yourself better. **Fahadh Faasil**

No distance of place or lapse of time can lessen the friendship of those who are thoroughly persuaded of each other's worth. **Robert Southey**

Never stop fighting until you arrive at your destined place - that is, the unique you. Have an aim in life, continuously acquire knowledge, work hard, and have perseverance to realise the great life. **A. P. J. Abdul Kalam**

Kathleen Pretty—March 2, 1991—September 29, 2024



Peacefully, with an eye to her next adventure, Kathleen passed away on September 29, 2024, after a challenging cancer journey. Born March 23, 1961, Kathleen is the much-loved daughter of Dave and Hazel Pretty. She is the missed sister of Bryan, Linda (Basil), Joanne (Jyrki), Bruce and Russ (Nina) and the proud and appreciated niece, aunt and cousin to many. Throughout her life, Kathleen held a very special place in her heart for her niece Amy and nephew Daniel. Rest assured, she will carry your hearts with her forever. Kathleen married the love of her life, Bob Gray on June 26, 1999, and, in doing so, joined the Gray family including "Ma" Marg, Ron and Darcie, Brian, stepsons Jason and Josh, and granddaughter Mya. Kathleen was a devoted friend to many. She saw friendship as a sacred calling and kept them close through the good and challenging times. Her friends' devotion was reciprocated many times over during her recent illnesses. It warmed her heart knowing the amount of support they offered over the years. No friend will miss her more than Margaret Capes, who she first crossed paths with during Julie Foley's 1988 campaign for elected office for the NDP. They have journeyed together ever since always walking each other home. In her chosen vocation as an executive assistant, Kathleen kept numerous businesses, elected officials and nonprofits organized over the years. She was especially pleased to be the Constituency Assistant to Bob Huget, Member of Provincial Parliament, where she helped many with their

day-to-day issues. Her final position at the Inn of the Good Shepherd allowed her to support those who are often forgotten in this world surrounded by cherished colleagues, many of whom became close friends. Kathleen was a lifelong learner. She loved to discuss new ideas, books you might be reading and debate the latest political issues. She loved her genealogical research and could trace the Pretty family history back many generations. Her culinary skills were famous and the search for new recipes never ended. A fabulous meal, whether at her kitchen table or at a favorite restaurant, combined with good conversation, was a delight to her. Her many four-legged companions over the years knew her devotion to them, especially Skeeter, who traveled these last days with her in such a loving way. The family wishes to thank Nurse Lance Marcy, Dr. Allison Crombeen and the staff at Bluewater Health Palliative Care for their compassionate care of Kathleen. A more devoted crew you could not find. A Celebration of Kathleen's life will be held at a future date. If you are able, donations to the Inn of the Good Shepherd or the Sarnia Community Foundation Affordable Housing Fund would be greatly appreciated in Kathleen's memory (cheques only at the funeral home please). Arrangements entrusted to Smith Funeral Home, 1576 London Line, Sarnia.

<https://smithfuneralhome.ca/memorial/kathleen-susan-pretty-0>

Message from Inn of the Good Shepherd

We are saddened to share that we have lost one of our family of staff members. Kathleen Pretty was our Executive Assistant to the Executive Director and passed this weekend after an on-going battle with cancer. She is at peace now.

Kathleen loved working at The Inn and her energy and compassion shone through. She was a strong component to our staff team – her wisdom, sharing of home baking & snacks, humour, love of chocolate and personal support to each of us was so treasured! The number of people who loved her and cared for her at the end was a testament to the caring person she was.

Unitarian Universalist Chalice Symbol

As stated on the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) website, "A flame within a chalice (a cup with a stem and foot) is a primary symbol of the Unitarian Universalist faith tradition. Many of our congregations kindle a flaming chalice in gatherings and worships and feature the chalice symbol prominently.

Hans Deutsch, an Austrian artist, first brought together the chalice and the flame as a Unitarian symbol during his work with the Unitarian Service Committee during World War II. To Deutsch, the image had connotations of sacrifice and love. Unitarian Universalists today have many different interpretations of the flaming chalice, including the light of reason, the warmth of community, and the flame of hope."



Learn More

UUA Pamphlet: "[The Flaming Chalice](#)"
by Dan Hotchkiss

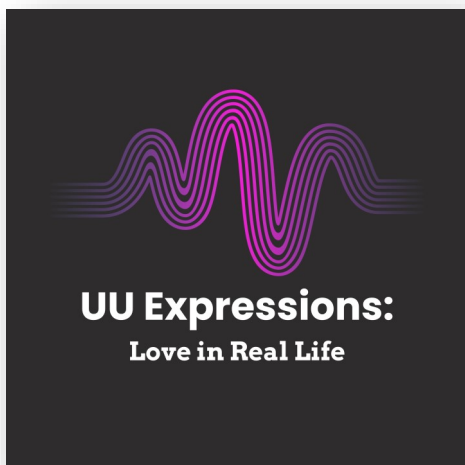
"[The Wartime Origins of the Flaming Chalice](#)"
from the *UU World*

Phil Litrenta, husband of one of our presenters last year, noticed the chalice picture on the front of the podium. As a stained glass hobbyist, he offered to replicate the picture in actual stained glass at cost. The Executive Team agreed to proceed. Many thanks to Mark and Brenda Woolston for liaising with Phil and to Dick Felton for providing the window hook. It is now being proudly displayed for our services.

There is a word for love of a place: topophilia, popularized by the geographer Yi-Fu Tuan in 1974 as all of "the human being's affective ties with the material environment." In other words, it is the warm feelings you get from a place. It is a vivid, emotional, and personal experience, and it leads to unexplainable affections. One of my fellow Seattle natives made this point to me when he said he hated the rain in Boston but not Seattle. Why? "Only Seattle rain is nice."

- Arthur C. Brooks

Canadian Unitarian Council



The Canadian Unitarian Council is excited to announce the launch of [UU Expressions: Love in Real Life](https://cuc.ca/unitarian-universalism/uu-expressions/), a 10-episode docu-series that explores, celebrates, and challenges how Unitarian Universalism is practiced across Canada in 2024.

About the Series: In May 2013, some young adults came together during the CUC's Annual Conference and Meeting. They wondered what it would be like to have a church – a community – without physical walls and created the manifesto, "The Church of Our Imagination." <https://cuc.ca/unitarian-universalism/uu-expressions/>

[LISTEN HERE](#)

The Canadian Unitarian Council staff team has continued to wonder if there is a sustainable way for diverse people to shape diverse expressions of UUism beyond congregations and, if so, what this means for our national identity.

Erin Horvath (PhD) and Amber Bellemare, the CUC's Justice and Equity team, conceived this UU Expressions project and interviewed 27 Unitarian Universalists (UUs) across 17 unique expressions of UUism. This series uncovers how UUism is flourishing (or not!), what roadblocks exist, and what the CUC can do to support a larger vision of the movement.

The episodes reveal the diversity of UUism and the possibilities that emerge when UU values are embraced in different forms. Join us in imagining a UUism for everyone.

"This series is thought-provoking, provocative and necessary. I was drawn in, listening deeply and challenging many of my assumptions and practices. Some of the content and questions will be uncomfortable. That's okay; we can work through that discomfort together. Engage with this series as you go about your day. Listen (or watch) with open hearts and minds. The people interviewed shared their truths, perceptions, and vulnerabilities, and I thank them for their willingness and wisdom. Ask yourself, "What if..?" "How can I/we...?" "If we did that instead...?" as you imagine a thriving future for Unitarian Universalism and your part in co-creating it." - **Vyda Ng, CUC Executive Director**

[LISTEN HERE](#)

While each episode can be enjoyed individually, we encourage listeners to engage with the full 10-episode series in order. Episodes are available in audio, video, and transcript formats, with expanded show notes, research, and questions for further discussion. You can find the series on Spotify, the *Call and Response* blog, and our social media channels.

The series is being released ahead of [CUC's Co-Lab: Experiences of Transformation](#) (register now!) week-end from November 1 - 3, 2024. It will inspire our conversations, foster authentic connections, ignite inspiration, and explore big questions about change, transformation, and renewal.

Release Schedule:

- **First Episodes:** Friday, September 27 (Episodes 1-3)
- **Subsequent Episodes:** Released weekly on Fridays

[LISTEN HERE](#)



UNICAMP

Help Unicamp prepare our 2025 Programming!



Unicamp of Ontario (unicampofontario.ca) is a Unitarian Universalist camp committed to providing a safe and welcoming seasonal camp and spiritual retreat to a diverse community, serving all regardless of faith. Our program offerings range widely from yoga and meditation, creative spiritual practices, music and movement, and activities to promote a love for nature. Programs can be aimed for children, youth, families, and/or adults. Facilitators set their own program fees per participant and Unicamp aids with registration.

We are currently seeking program ideas for 2025. August is our busiest time of year, but there are also dates available in May, June, September, and October.

Our 2025 program calendar is currently being created and we'd

love to hear from you as soon as possible. Please send your program ideas to ex-ec.director@unicampofontario.ca

If you think you would be interested in applying for our Program Director 2025 position, please visit the job posting on unicampofontario.ca

Yvette Salinas, Executive Director Unicamp of Ontario, She/Her/Hers

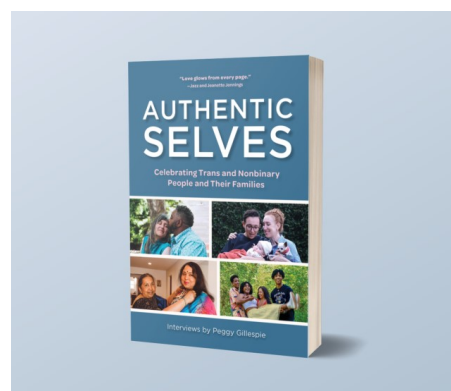
Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA)

UUA Common Read 2024-25

Authentic Selves: Celebrating Trans and Nonbinary People and Their Families (Skinner House, 2023)

Through interviews and photo portraits, the subjects of this book invite readers into their real lives--their revelations, challenges, joys, and networks of support. From the foreword by transgender activist Jazz Jennings and her mom and fellow activist, Jeanette Jennings, through the resources offered at the book's end, this Common Read invites UU groups to explore the nature of living authentically and the ways connections among us help us thrive.

As the book ends, Peggy Gillespie, who conducted the interviews, writes, "...the journey of self-discovery continues for the participants and for you, the readers. Whether you are trans and/or nonbinary, questioning your identity, have trans and nonbinary loved ones, or perhaps all of the above, please remember always that you are not alone. In every moment of your lives there are opportunities to strengthen your pride and acceptance of all people, including yourselves."



UU the Vote—UUA “Good Trouble Congregations”

Boston, Mass. (September 19, 2024) – More than 80 Unitarian Universalist (UU) congregations have been designated “Good Trouble Congregations” as a part of the 2024 [UU the Vote](#) initiative, the Unitarian Universalist Association’s (UUA) nonpartisan civic engagement initiative focused on advancing democracy and organizing for justice and accountability.

“As we have so many times in history, Unitarian Universalists are meeting the moment when it comes to building a democracy rooted in justice, liberation, and the shared values that UUs hold dear,” said Rev. Dr. Sofia Betancourt, the UUA’s president. “Our faith transforms us spiritually and roots us in community, and we know that our participation in democratic processes can help transform the world we live in.”

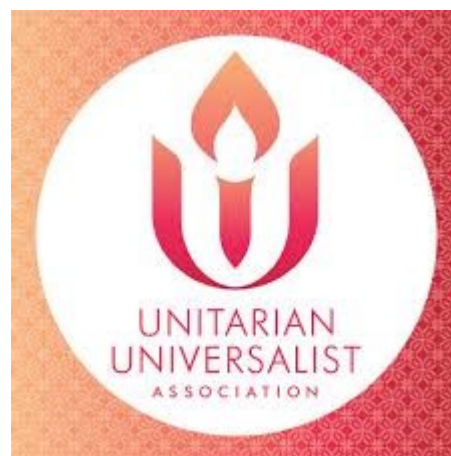
The UU the Vote campaign is in the process of recruiting over 10,000 volunteers from 500 Unitarian Universalist (UU) congregations to reach out to 3 million voters across the country. Additionally, UU the Vote will host and support events in key states over an eight-week period. Those key states include Arizona, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Texas, and Wisconsin. The initiative will also focus on ballot initiatives related to protecting, defending and expanding access to abortion care in Arizona, Colorado, and Florida.

“Good Trouble Congregations” are UU churches that have met a more significant standard to answer that call to organize their communities and engage in the multiple, necessary tactics to help build a multiracial democracy. To achieve the designation, congregations must meet two criteria in both organizing and voter contact goals. The criteria include: turning out five percent of its members at a partner public action or 10 percent of members at UUTV political education event; acting as a ballot initiative petition hub; having at least 2 congregants act as line warmers, poll workers, Election Defenders, or non-partisan poll observers; a robust “doorknocking” effort, averaging 20 doorknocks per member; a strong ballot petition initiative, averaging 10 ballot petition signatures per member; and more. Those interested can read the full list of criteria at the [UU the Vote website](#).

“These efforts are critical towards strengthening both our communities and our democracy,” said Nora Rasmann, the UUA’s Democracy Strategist. “We do this work in partnership with others – our congregations, justice-oriented organizations, and those dedicated to a more just world by expanding our democracy. Our work helps to develop collective power and create local relationships that will allow us and future generations to continue to build democratic practices more broadly.”

The UUA successfully conducted its first UU the Vote initiative in 2020. More than 450 UU congregations and more than 5,000 volunteers participated in voter mobilization, get out the vote, and election defense efforts across the country during that presidential election year. In 2022 during the midterm elections, more than 3,000 volunteers from 400 UU congregations from across the country contacted more than 2 million voters. As a part of that election cycle, UU the Vote expanded its efforts into ballot initiatives and targeted its efforts in 12 states, while continuing its work in all 50 states.

Those interested in learning more about UU the Vote can do so at the [Side with Love](#) website, the [UU the Vote](#) website, and at [YouTube](#).





Vision

*As a spiritual community,
We embrace diversity,
We explore openly,
We stand on the side of love and justice.*
Community ... Spirituality ... Service



Other UU links:

Canadian Unitarian Council <https://cuc.ca/>

Unitarian Universalist Associations latest **UUWorld** <http://www.uuworld.org/>

Newsletter Editor: Ann Steadman

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asteadman@cogeco.ca