



# The Flaming Chalice

December 2023

## Unitarian Fellowship of Sarnia & Port Huron

Lochiel Kiwanis Centre, 180 College Ave. N. Sarnia, Ontario [uusarnia.com](http://uusarnia.com)

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

### December Services

In-person & via Zoom <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83460043365>

#### December 3: Bob Weir – “Peace through Forgiveness”

Bob will present the concepts of Radical Forgiveness as put forth by Colin Tipping, founder of The Institute for Radical Forgiveness Therapy, and Compassionate Latitude, a forgiveness process created by the HeartMath Institute.

#### December 10: Crystal Fach – “The Transgender Issue in Schools”

Crystal identifies as a “Queer/Non-Binary person”. They have been in leadership roles within multiple gender and sexual diverse organizations across Ontario. Crystal has a history of community and political advocacy for 15+ years and has worked as an educator and front-line worker within diverse sectors.

#### December 17: Ed Brost – “We are Witnessing an Emerging Global Hydrogen Economy. What is the Impact on Water Supply? Is there an Offsetting Water Opportunity?”

Conventional technologies require almost 10 tonnes of water to make one tonne of hydrogen. Not much is being said about that implication. But is there an upside to this implication? We will talk about water scarcity, virtual water, and a potential partially offsetting opportunity connecting hydrogen use and water supply.

#### December 24: Steve Lane – “Holiday Cabaret”

This Christmas Eve please join us to enjoy some of the musical talents of our membership for what has become an "Annual Holiday Cabaret" tradition. Members and friends are invited to sing, dance, do a skit or regale us with their musical instrument of choice. Please contact Steve Lane if you wish to participate. Hope to see you there!

#### December 31: Sharon MacKay – “Burning Bowl”

As we move beyond this present year to begin anew, we contemplate and bid farewell to that which has not served us well. Join us for the Burning Bowl Ceremony in which we symbolically release the old year and welcome the new.



### Theme—Generosity

The mission of your life should  
be to leave a better world  
behind than what you  
inherited.

- Sri Ravi Shankar

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## President Mark's Musings for December

December's theme is "Generosity".

The UFSPH Executive Team met for the third meeting of 2023/24 on November 16<sup>th</sup>. It was agreed that the Unitarian Fellowship of Sarnia and Port Huron would present a \$1250 donation to the Inn of the Good Shepherd. We show this money coming out of our "Social Justice Line Item of the USPFH Budget", but where it really originates is from the "Generosity" our Members and Friends donating their "Treasure".

In the theme package (see link below) from the First Unitarian Congregation of Toronto, Angela Klassen (Project Leader of the Journey Team), explains that complimenting donations of "Treasure"...

"Greater still are the number and quality of gifts of talent and time –that most precious commodity of all. We honour the countless members and friends who do what has to be done, week in and week out, project by project or task by task."

The Executive Team (Thanks to Ann, Chuck, Don, Joanne, Mary and Judy) is one place where members can offer their time and talent, but we have many other roles that are essential in maintaining the Fellowship. Whether it is as Auditors (Thanks Beth and Tracy Lynn), Book Keeper (Thanks Dan), Caring Committee (Thanks Sharon & Eileen), Child Minding (Thanks Brenda), Coffee (Thanks Sharon & Tracy Lynn), Kiwanis Room set up (Thanks Chuck and Dick), Lay Chaplaincy (Thanks Steve), Music (Thanks Annette, Ray & Steve), Newsletter (Thanks Ann), Service Leaders (Thanks Allan, Brenda, Don, Sharon & Tracy Lynn), Soup Sunday (Thanks Don & Kelly), Speakers (Thanks Allan, Don, Brad, Tracy Lynn & Larry) Website/Facebook (Thanks Don & Tracy-Lynn), Weekly Update (Thanks Allan) or Zoom (Thanks Ann, Dick and Theo). Thanks too, for all those that show up (in person or on Zoom) and help build the interdependent web of our Fellowship.

Our annual canvas has been circulated to Members and Friends. The canvass is an opportunity for members and friends to consider what Talent, Time, and Treasure they would like to offer. I hope in "giving" to our community you will find pleasure in "growing" our community.

*In Fellowship, Mark Woolston*



**'Generosity' theme package from the First Unitarian Congregation of Toronto:**

<https://www.firstunitariantoronto.org/wp-content/publications/tj/2023/The-Journey-2023-11-Generosity.pdf>

## Quotes on 'Generosity' To Ponder

Generosity is the classic expression of the accomplished spirit, when the self is open and unguarded and can freely share with others.

— Lewis Richmond

While you are engaging in the practice of giving you should do so with great happiness and radiance on your face. One should practice giving with a smile and with mental uprightness.

— His Holiness The Dalai Lama

Generosity has such power because it is characterized by the inner quality of letting go or relinquishing. Being able to let go, to give up, to renounce, to give generously — these capacities spring from the same source within us. When we practice generosity, we open to all of these liberating qualities simultaneously.

— Sharon Salzberg

Compassionate generosity is the foundation of true spiritual life because it is the practice of letting go. An act of generosity opens our body, heart and spirit and brings us closer to freedom. Each act of generosity is a recognition of our interdependence, an expression of our Buddha nature."

—Jack Kornfield

We make a living by what we earn.

We make a life by what we give.

— Winston Churchill

Generosity should always be exercised impartially toward all —the poor, the sick, the aged, the traveler from afar — without discrimination between friend and stranger, between those on whom we count and those from whom we can expect nothing. In giving, be free of ostentation, of favoritism, and of any expectation of reward.

— Dilgo Khyentse



Be generous rather than extravagant."

— William Penn

Generosity is chiefly a state of mind characterized by nonattachment. How generous we are is an indication of how detached we are from what we have."

— Ringu Tulku

Share with others the fullness of spirit that flows from your religious life. Give to others beyond measure, just as no one has measured the great gifts you receive. Give of yourself: give time, not just money; give directly, not just impersonally. Above all, give love.

— Arthur Green

While consumerism preys on the alienated ego of modernity, generosity (dana) offers a way of loosening the grip of egoism on the heart. By practicing dana genuinely, we undermine the psychological structure of consumerism as we liberate ourselves from its selfishness.

— Santikaro

To be present is the most fundamental generosity of all. When there is nothing else to do, when we are in a situation that seems hopelessly blocked, there is still one thing we can do: We can be there.

— Lewis Richmond

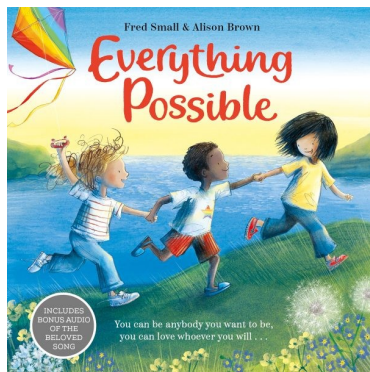
A Nigerian proverb says, 'It is the heart that gives; the fingers just let go.' What is your heart open to giving? How does this heart generosity make you feel? What is your heart closed to giving? How does this affect you? What might you like to change?

— Holly W. Whitcomb

Don't forget that the people are as generous as the clouds and their hearts can be as tender as the raindrops.

— Mahatma Gandhi

## Everything Possible: UU Children's Book Updated



For forty years, the song “Everything Possible” has encouraged children and adults to live and love freely: *You can be anybody you want to be / you can love whoever you will / you can travel any country where your heart leads / and know I will love you still.* Now, the song is getting a new life: in the form of a picture book and updated lyrics that further embrace inclusivity.

Written in 1983 by Rev. Fred Small, who was a professional folk singer and songwriter before becoming a Unitarian Universalist minister, “Everything Possible” is a favorite among UUs, LGBTQIA+ choirs, folk singers, children, families, and others. It is hymn 1019 in the hymn book supplement *Singing the Journey* and has been regularly performed by the Boston Gay Men’s Chorus and many other groups.

“It’s really been the greatest honor of my musical career that a song that I wrote has been so embraced by the LGBTQ community,” says Small, minister for climate justice at [Arlington Street Church](#) in Boston. Small wrote the song at the request of a lesbian friend whose young son was struggling to be gentle and kind when the world often insisted boys be tough and strong.

### How the children's book *Everything Possible* came to be

In late May 2023, *Everything Possible*, by Small and Northern Ireland-based illustrator Alison Brown, was published as a children’s picture book by Nosy Crow, an independent publisher based in London. Its June release coincided with the song’s fortieth anniversary

and with Pride Month.

Brown contacted Small three years ago to suggest they put his beloved song into picture-book format. A QR code inside the book takes readers to free audio-book versions of *Everything Possible*, both sung and spoken by Small.

For the book, Small made two changes to the song lyrics. To minimize gender-binary language, he changed, *Some women love women, some men love men / Some raise children, some never do*, to *Some women love women, some men love men / Some leave every label behind.*

The other change was to remove gender-specific language in the song’s lines, *There are girls who grow up strong and bold / There are boys quiet and kind.* In the book, he writes, *Some children grow up strong and bold, while some are quiet and kind.*

Small, who is a straight, cisgender man, had been contemplating the changes for some time, and made them after consulting with trans and nonbinary friends and colleagues. His hope for the book, he says, is “the same hope I have for all the songs I ever wrote: That they give people solace and a sense of solidarity, a sense of power, and a sense of possibility.”

*Everything Possible* is available from [inSpirit: The UU Book and Gift Shop](#) and other retailers. Click this link to view the trailer. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l4NSlvxvvo>

Article from UUWorld Fall/Winter 2023

(Editor’s Note: Thanks to Allan McKeown for suggesting we purchase this book. We have done so and it will be our ‘Story For All Ages’ on December 10th.)

### Fellowship Donates to Inn of the Good Shepherd



In years past, Fellowship Members & Friends, led by Sharon MacKay, made and served a monthly Sunday meal at the Inn. More recently, we gave the proceeds from our monthly 'Soup Sundays' to the Inn. Since Covid, we have maintained a yearly donation from our General Fund's Social Action budget line to support those most in need in Sarnia Lambton.

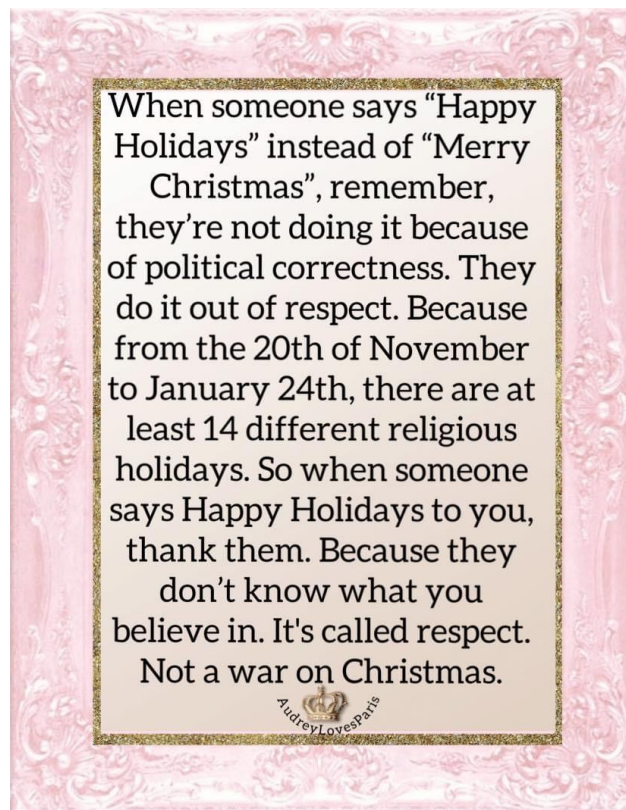

**This year, like last year, the Fellowship has donated \$1,250 to The Inn.**

Our Membership Chair, Don Greaves presented the cheque to the Inn's ED, Myles Vanni.

(Photo by Kathleen Pretty, Nov. 28th, 2023)

### Thoughts For The Holidays

  
**Christmas To-Do List**  
*Be*  
~~-Buy Presents~~  
~~-Wrap Gifts~~ *Someone in a hug*  
~~-Send Gifts~~ *Peace*  
*Donate*  
~~-Shop for Food~~  
*Be*  
~~-See the Lights~~  
  
SIMPLY-WELL-BALANCED.COM

  
 When someone says "Happy Holidays" instead of "Merry Christmas", remember, they're not doing it because of political correctness. They do it out of respect. Because from the 20th of November to January 24th, there are at least 14 different religious holidays. So when someone says Happy Holidays to you, thank them. Because they don't know what you believe in. It's called respect. Not a war on Christmas.  


## Canadian Unitarian Council

### A Letter from Vyda by Vyda Ng, Executive Director

Greetings,

I recently returned from Prague, where I was fortunate to attend “Leading into the Future,” a gathering of more than 50 Unitarian Universalists (UUs) from a dozen countries. Revs. Diane Rollert (Montreal) and Ndagijimana Fulgence (Ottawa) and I were there to represent Canada in a global conversation on theology and lay leadership.

From North and South America, Asia and Africa, we came together in Prague to imagine what a new global UU and Free Christian organization might look like. What is needed internationally to sustain and grow our faith, and how can we collectively answer those needs?



Similar conversations are also taking place closer to home. The Canadian Unitarian Council is initiating a strategic planning process called [Living into the Future: Emergent Sustainability](#). In the coming months, we will be inviting you to share your thoughts, desires, and questions about the future of the Canadian Unitarian Council and Unitarian Universalism in Canada. How can we remain relevant and sustainable?

I believe the answer can be found, in part, in our [aspirations](#), in our desire to be deeply connected; radically inclusive; actively engaged; theologically alive; and spiritually grounded.

May it be so.

Be well,  
Vyda

To read the full edition of the latest CUC eNews click [here](#).





### 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/>

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