



The Flaming Chalice

September 2021

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.

September Services by ZOOM

Theme "Acceptance"

September 5 (Labour Day Weekend): NO SERVICE

September 12: "Travel as a Spiritual Path" – Bob Weir

Join Bob highlights some of the places to which he and his partner, Cyndy Keesler, have traveled in the United States over the past two years. That will be a setting for Bob's stories about honoring the Divine Universal Energy that flows through the people they've met, the diverse political discussions they've had, the flexibility they've exhibited while living in a small travel trailer, and the perseverance they've displayed in the face of a medical emergency ... as well as avoiding the corona virus.

September 19: "Feminine Harbor" – Carolina Miranda

Carolina founded 'Feminine Harbor' as a way to bring women together to hear and to help one another. She had observed that "We women are incredibly resilient, but we are also quiet. We quietly take on huge burdens and isolate ourselves, instead of bringing light to some issues where we could educate ourselves more, find more information about and become more knowledgeable, for example, about our own bodies, our own health, our own sexuality."

September 26: "Her Name Was Margaret" – Denise Davy

Author Denise Davy will discuss her recent book *Her Name Was Margaret* which has been described as "a heartbreaking and unflinching examination of mental health and homelessness". **Please note that this will be a joint service with the Unitarian Fellowship of London.**

October 3: It is our hope begin in-person services at the Lochiel Kiwanis Centre on this date if the COVID19 situation allows. Stay tuned!



"Love is the spirit of this church, and service its law. This is our great covenant: to dwell together in peace, to seek the truth in love, and to help one another."

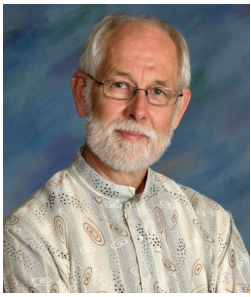
James Vila Blake.

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About Our Presenters

September 12: Bob Weir



Bob is a writer, author, speaker, editor and author's coach. Born in 1948 as one of the early baby boomers, he was raised in a family-owned farm implement dealership and country store in rural Southeastern Michigan. Now,

however, he considers himself to be a citizen of the world. He writes and presents about people, peace, social justice, and travel adventure. Bob states that "I strive to live simply and create. I have laptop, will travel...International travel and cross-cultural conversation is paramount in the quest of peace through understanding. A lover of water and aquatic sports, Robert has sailed boats and ships of various sizes on oceans, salt seas, and the Great Lakes. Click [here](#) for more info about Bob.

September 19: Carolina Miranda

Carolina is a teacher with a Masters of Education degree. She was one of the main organizers of the first Waterloo Region Women's March, and the creator and co-founder of Feminine Harbor, an organization focused on fostering female leadership and diversity through an Ethics of Care. Carolina was one of the very first ensemble actors for the internationally acclaimed theatre company, The Multicultural Theatre Space and is also writer. Some of her most recent essays and poetry can be found in the *Anthology of Social Justice and Intersectional Feminisms*.

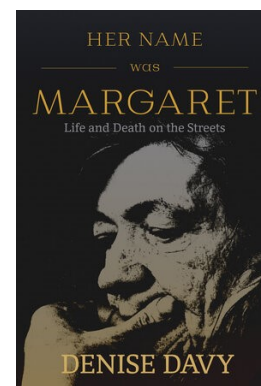


Having emigrated from Brazil in 2003, Carolina has since grown new roots in the Waterloo Region. She is the single mother of two girls who inspire her daily to

become a better person and to leave behind a better world. She maintains direct family ties in four different countries: Canada, Brazil, The Basque Countries (Spain) and The Dominican Republic. To view an article about Carolina click [here](#).

September 26: Denise Davy

Denise Davy is a nationally recognized award-winning journalist who specializes in writing about mental health, homelessness and gender issues. She worked at the *Hamilton Spectator* for 26 years and was twice honoured with the Journalist of the Year award by the Ontario Newspaper Association and is a recipient of a National Newspaper Award, several Ontario Newspaper Association awards and two awards from the Registered Nurses Association of Ontario. In 1993, the Canadian Association of Journalists awarded her for co-founding the National Women in the Media conference. She is the recipient of four national journalism fellowships, which allowed her to investigate child prostitution in Thailand, poverty in India and the crisis in children's mental health services in Canada. She is founder of Purses for Margaret, which provides toiletries to homeless women. She lives in Burlington, ON. Click [here](#) for an interview with Denise.



President's Message

The theme for the month of September is 'Acceptance'.

The following is an article by Shawn Newton, the minister for First Unitarian Congregation of Toronto, in the April 2021 New Horizons newsletter that addressed this area:

"The third principle of Unitarian Universalism calls us to "acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations." Across almost twenty-five years of UU experience, I've come to believe this to be the principle we often think we're better at upholding than we actually are. It's not that we're necessarily intolerant; after all, we strive to embrace a diversity of beliefs and human identities.

But, the truth is, people don't always feel they can fully be themselves in our congregations. They are hesitant to share the reality of their lives for fear they will be judged. In another congregation I served was a woman who was a pillar in that religious community. She gave so much of herself in every respect to the well-being of the congregation. Yet, no one besides the ministers knew her son was in prison and that this was a source of great shame for her. She worried that if people knew the truth, she wouldn't be accepted. I think of her often when people tell me something about their lives they feel unable to share with others.

Life is messy. And people are complicated. And a community that seeks to build up genuine connections asks that we open our hearts as much as we can to hold the reality of one another's lives. So, as we take up the theme of acceptance this month, I encourage you to consider how you might make more room for people in your life—not just in our congregation—to share more of themselves with you.

Over the weeks and months ahead, may we grow in our capacity to truly accept one another.

In faith and love, Shawn"

In Fellowship, Dwayne O'Neill



Local Updates

Fellowship Website

Our upgraded website is here! <http://www.uusarnia.com/>

We're excited about the new website. We feel that it is engaging and invites people into our vision, values and actions as a community. We hope that it will entice visitors to learn more about our community and be part of it.

The website upgrade team includes Ann Steadman, Tracy-Lynn Jutras, Don Greaves and Dwayne O'Neill and Karen Minty is the website developer. Ann and Tracy-Lynn have volunteered to maintain and update the website.

Further enhancements may include short videos and photos focused on us as individuals and our involvements. Please remember to take plenty of photos over the next few months and pass them on to Ann Steadman as we build a library resource for the upgraded website.



How To Donate



Thank you for the eTransfers and the cheques that have been arriving since we stopped having in-person services.

Your continued financial support is appreciated. If you would like to make an eTransfer donation, please send it to: UFSPH.executive@gmail.com Also send an email to MEWoolston@hotmail.com so he is aware of the donation in a timely manner. There is no longer a need for a security question. If you prefer to write a cheque, please designate the payee as Unitarian Fellowship of Sarnia and Port Huron and mail the cheque to:

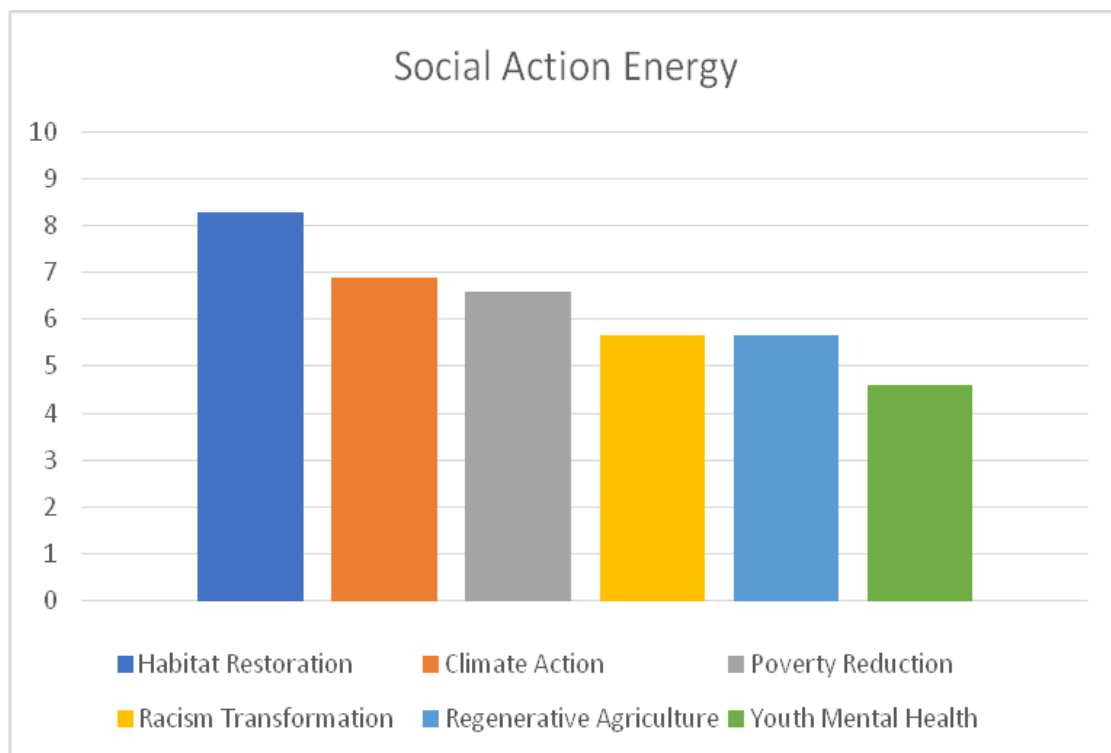
Mark Woolston, UFSPH Treasurer, 1993 Rainbow Trail, Sarnia, ON, N7T 7H6.

Social Action

In early July, a survey was sent out to gauge what social action direction the members and friends are most interested in. It asked- “what inspires and energizes you in this area”.

We had 17 people respond to the survey and here are the results.

The first question was around **Social Action Energy** where 10 being fully energized with head, heart and hands and a 1 would represent a good idea but doesn't energize my heart and hands.



Social Action Areas & Energy:

Habitat Restoration 8.3, Climate Action 6.9, Poverty Reduction 6.6, Racism Transformation 5.6, Regenerative Agriculture 5.6, Youth Mental Health 4.6

The area of most energy is Habitat Restoration with Climate Action and Poverty Reduction very close together at a lower level.

Habitat Restoration had almost 60% of the respondents fully energized with head, hearts and hands with no respondents at a 1 or 3 level!!

All the other areas except for Climate Action had at least one respondent feeling that it was important but no energy.

The social action team consists of Mary Steans, Eileen Zinn, Elizabeth Soltis, Annette Verhagen and Dwayne O'Neill. The team plans to explore the social action areas of most interest based upon the survey.

Lives Lived

Meri Eitzen (daughter of Jessie Rabbitt)

Meri passed away suddenly, of a heart attack, in Sarnia on Monday, August 16th. Arrangements have been made for cremation through Smith's Funeral Home. A celebration of life will likely take place in Ithaca, MI, the family's home town, at a later date. Jessie is very appreciative of the contacts made and support received by members and friends of the Fellowship.



Virginia 'Gini' Anderson (a Friend of our Fellowship)

Virginia "Gini" Margaret Anderson, in her 80th year, passed away peacefully in her sleep on August 10, 2021. She will be remembered by her daughter Letitia Bishop and her son Kendall Neave; her grandchildren Michael (Cynthia), Shane, Kayla, Roger and Katherine; and her great-grandchildren Elaine, Margaret and James. Also, by her brother Ian (Linda) Anderson, and sisters Sheila Starling and Calla Anderson. Virginia had been active in the Order of the Eastern Star, Daughter of the Nile, Beta Sigma Phi, and the Sacred Circle Dancers. A Celebration of Gini's Life was held from 1-3 pm on Saturday, August 28 at Canatara Park at the pavilion near the petting zoo.

Anne Learn (daughter-in-law of Richard and Betty Learn)

Following a long struggle with cancer, Anne passed away on Wednesday, August 4, 2021. A private family service has been held.



May we all light a candle in memory of these lives lived and for the families and friends who grieve.

Canadian Unitarian Council



CUC Events For the Month of September

For more Information about upcoming CUC events, including dates, times, and forms for registered events, [click here](#).

Acceptance Theme Questions to Ponder



1. When (or How) has acceptance been transformative for you?
2. Is there something or someone you are struggling to accept? What would help you find acceptance?
3. How has acceptance challenged you?
4. What is it in yourself you find hard to accept?
5. What are the limits of your acceptance? What are the limits of our acceptance as a UU community? Does that fit with our UU values?
6. If you fully accepted that our time is finite, that death is or may be imminent, how would that change how you choose to live?

“Tolerance and acceptance and love is something that feeds every community.”

- Lady Gaga

September's Theme—Acceptance



Please click on the link below to access the theme package so graciously shared by the First Unitarian Congregation of Toronto.

<https://www.firstunitariantoronto.org/wp-content/publications/nh/2021/New-Horizons-2021-04-Acceptance.pdf>

Links to Larger Canadian UU Churches Who Are Streaming Sunday Services

<http://www.firstunitariantoronto.org/>

<https://vancouverunitarians.ca/>

<https://victoriaunitarian.ca/>

<https://www.uce.ca/sunday-services-online/> (Edmonton)

<https://uuch.ca/> (Halifax)

Other UU links:

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

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

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To unsubscribe to this newsletter at any time, please send your request by email to:

asteadman@cogeco.ca