



# The Flaming Chalice

March 2021

## Unitarian Fellowship of Sarnia & Port Huron

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

*A loving community of spiritual explorers who stand on the side of Love and Justice.*

### March 2021 Services by ZOOM: Sundays 11 a.m.

**March 7: “Anti-racism work as Spiritual Practice” Guest Speaker Donovan Hayden**  
Summer 2020 has been described as a moment of racial reckoning. Black people, along with allies, took to the streets to protest police brutality and anti-Black racism. However, with those months of intense activism behind us, those committed to social justice must ask *“What do we do now?”* As Unitarians, committed to this struggle, it is important that we continue to engage and support anti-racism work through spiritual practice.

**March 14: “Women in Leadership: What has Changed in the Last 40 Years?” Alison M. Konrad, Ph.D., member of Unitarian Fellowship of London**

Alison writes: “I’ve been studying women’s experiences in the workplace since I took my first course in “Women in the Workplace” in 1979. We’ve seen much progress in the last 40 years, but some dynamics remain stubbornly the same. Add the last 5 years of increasingly vocal attacks on society’s diversity and inclusion gains and the progress we have made feels increasingly under threat. I’ll share my view of the evidence base on the status of women in today’s workplace, focusing on women in leadership.”

**A shared service with the Unitarian Fellowship of London to acknowledge “International Women’s Day” on March 8**

**March 21: “Winds of Change on Lake Huron: Two-Eyed Seeing Approach” Guest Speakers Natasha Akiwenzie and Victoria Serda of the Bagida'waad Alliance**

Natasha and Victoria will present an overview of the effects of climate change and human activity on Lake Huron, using scientific knowledge from academic researchers and Anishinaabe fishing families. They will share what is being done by the Bagida'waad Alliance, upcoming projects, and discuss how everyone can have a positive impact for our collective future.

**March 28: “Reading Tea Leaves” Guest Minister Rev. Rod Solano-Quesnel, Olinda**

There is no right way to make tea - except... there actually is! And that depends on what you're making the tea for, or for whom, or why. Standards matter, and it also matters when they do not. Best practices work best when we ask what they are best for.



*“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.*

#### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 2 President’s Message
- 3 Executive Note
- 4 Note from the Program Chair
- 5 Local Updates
- 6 CUC Events & Character Quotes
- 7 Links—Theme & On-line Services

## President's Message

**The theme for the month of March is 'Character'.** When I think about the word character, I always associate an adjective about character. Some adjectives that come to mind include "quite a", good, questionable, moral, etc. However, most of these are very subjective and are often shallow. For instance, "good character" and "moral character" often relates to what is expected by society at large.

However, the following quotation by Jacqueline Bisset rings true for me.

***Character contributes to beauty...***

***mode of conduct, a standard of courage, discipline, fortitude, and integrity***

***can do a great deal to make a [person] beautiful.***

Jacqueline Bisset

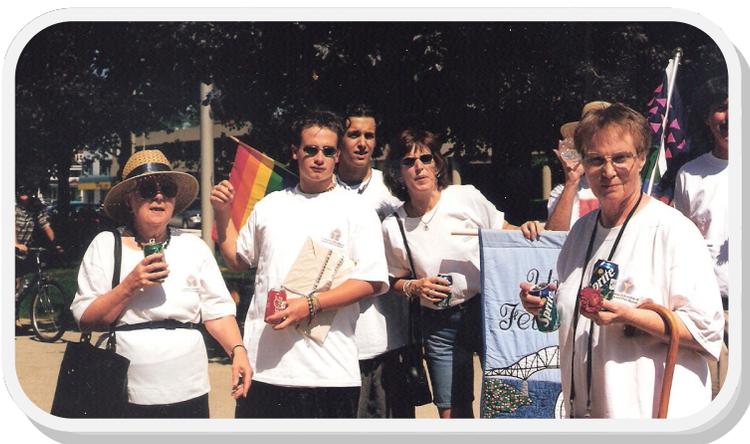
As mentioned in the quote, one measure of character is demonstrating a standard of courage, discipline or fortitude.

I see that our Fellowship has that type of character. One example has been our consistent support of our LGBTQ+ community. Our Fellowship was the only faith group in the area to march in Sarnia's first gay pride parade in 1999. Many members in the Fellowship that participated in the parade were concerned about our safety at the time. Our lay chaplains were also the first officiants to marry same sex couples in our area.

Another initiative that illustrates our true character was promoting the discussion on 'End of Life Choices' in our area in 2015. We educated ourselves, held a public debate, 'Hear Both Sides' and an 'End of Life Planning Workshop' in the face of community pushback.

These types of actions reflect the beauty of who we are- as individuals and as a faith community.

*In Fellowship, Dwayne O'Neill*



Fellowship members at 1st Sarnia Gay Pride Parade in 1999.



'Hear Both Sides' debate participants Oct .16, 2014. L—Alex Shadenberg, Euthanasia Prevention Coalition and R— Michael Payton, Dying With Dignity. We packed the Sarnia Library Auditorium!

[Click here for article.](#)

## Executive Note From the President



I would like to share with you some recent changes to the membership of the Executive Team. Marianne and Ineke submitted their resignations from the Executive Team in early February. We would like to thank them both for all their efforts while on the Team.

*In Fellowship, Dwayne O'Neill*

*We [Unitarian Universalists] are concerned with the ethical relations and understanding of life, not about the salvation of souls. For us, salvation is by character; religion is a matter of deeds, not creeds; and this natural world is the centre of our lives.*

George Marshall,  
UU historian

*To live content with small means;  
to seek elegance rather than  
luxury, and refinement rather than  
fashion;  
to be worthy, not respectable,  
and wealthy, not, rich;  
to listen to stars and birds, babes  
and sages, with open heart;  
to study hard; to think quietly,  
act frankly, talk gently,  
await occasions,  
hurry never;  
in a word, to let the spiritual,  
unbidden and unconscious, grow  
up through the common  
—this is my symphony.*

William Henry Channing



## “Our Covid Year” A Note From The Program Chair

March is the one year anniversary of our “Covid Year”! On March 15, 2020, 2 days before St. Patrick’s Day, we held our last service of the year at the Lochiel Kiwanis Community Centre. It was a celebration of Celtic music and culture with guest musicians Tessa Catton, Christine Storey and Debbie Wellington. It was a joyful and memorable service!

The next few weeks brought some uncertainty as how we could stay connected. The Program Team committed to sending a “UU Weekly Connections” email every week and suggested on-line Zoom or You-Tube services at other UU congregations.

“Zoom meetings” quickly became a dominant feature of society and thanks to Don Greaves who introduced us to this new technology, we soon were ready to begin offering our own Sunday services by Zoom!

To state that it was a “challenge” might be a bit of an understatement! It required a learning curve and lots has been learned along the way (and more continues to be learned!). Many members and friends welcomed the opportunity to come together to worship virtually while some made the decision that “Zooming” was not for them or that they wanted a break from “Zooming” on the weekends after “Zooming” for work, school or other reasons during the week.

To those who have been part of this “Virtual” journey we say “Thank You!” Everyone who participates has learned to adapt to this temporary way to worship (“to do what is worthy”) and the present plan is to continue with Zoom services until the end of June when we will enter the traditional summer break from our regular weekly schedule.

We have also held several “hybrid” services at the LKCC and we will probably continue to use “hybrid” services in the future. This will allow us to have guest presenters from faraway places and will also allow those who cannot physically attend on Sunday mornings to still participate via Zoom.

The world will never be quite the same after pandemic restrictions are relaxed. We all must look for ways to make the world a better place and that includes ways to enhance our Sunday UU worship experiences.

*With gratitude,*

*Allan McKeown*



## Local Updates

### UU Mid Week Connection

Our next Mid Week Connection happens on Wednesday, March 3 from 7—8 pm will be moderated by Ann Steadman. The topic to get us started will be “What person or event (either uplifting or embarrassing) has significantly influenced your life journey and why?”



The ZOOM connection info will be sent out by

### Treasurer's Corner



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](mailto:UFSPH.executive@gmail.com) Also send an email to [MEWoolston@hotmail.com](mailto:MEWoolston@hotmail.com) with the answer to the security question. Please use a security question that can't be answered by referencing our membership directory. 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.

### Building Your Character



*Character isn't inherited. One builds it daily by the way one thinks and acts, thought by thought, action by action. If one lets fear or hate or anger take possession of the mind, they become self-forged chains.*

Helen Gahagan Douglas



## Canadian Unitarian Council Events



### Upcoming CUC Events

For the month of March

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

**Save the date:** Our online National Conference happens **May 14 – 16**. More information about registration is coming soon.

## Character: More Points to Ponder

People grow through experience if they meet life honestly and courageously. This is how character is built.  
- Eleanor Roosevelt

Character cannot be developed in ease and quiet. Only through experience of trial and suffering can the soul be strengthened, ambition inspired, and success achieved. - Helen Keller

Talent develops in tranquility, character in the full current of human life. - Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy. - Martin Luther King, Jr.

People do not seem to realise that their opinion of the world is also a confession of their character.  
- Ralph Waldo Emerson

The thought manifests as word; the word manifests as the deed. The deed develops into habit, and habit hardens into character. So watch the thought and its way with care and let it spring from love, born out of concern for all beings. . . as the shadow follows the body, as we think, so we become. - from the Dhammapada



## March's Theme—Character



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/2020/New-Horizons-2020-11-Character.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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