



The Flaming Chalice

May 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

May Services

In-person & via Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83460043365>



Theme: Interdependence

May 5: Bob Sutton – “Can Citizens Counter Democracy’s Decline?”

Given democracy’s scope of responsibility, the complexity of its structure, and the 24/7 bombardment of demoralizing news and social media, many citizens feel overwhelmed into immobility when they ponder, “What can I do to sustain democracy?”

May 12: Jim Ferguson – “Seeking Wisdom from Prophets and Sages: Themes from Abdu'l-Baha's Talks to American UU Congregations”

Abdu'l-Baha, the son of the Prophet/Founder of the Baha'i Faith, came to the U.S. in 1912. He shared his father's teachings on unity and peace speaking to close to 100,000 people. Jim will introduce Abdul-Baha as a peace advocate and focus attention on themes from his talks to Unitarian Universalist congregations.

May 19: Allan McKeown – “Come to the Death Cafe and Live Well!”

A Death Cafe is an informal and friendly social gathering where people drink coffee or tea, eat cake, and discuss death. Do you have questions about funeral options or some fears about death and dying? Increased awareness and knowledge of death and dying and overcoming fears can help people make the most of their lives. For those who can remain after the service for an hour (or less) there will be good conversations and refreshments as we enjoy a “test run” of a Death Cafe!

May 26: Michael John Kooy – “Affordable and Supportive Housing: Local Initiatives”

Finding an affordable place to live is extremely difficult, especially if you’re out of work or living rough. As the situation has worsened, the not-for-profit sector, as well as governments, have started to make efforts to provide solutions with policy and practically. Some of these efforts are being made locally. Michael John will look at these efforts, focusing on the work of the County of Lambton, the City of Sarnia, and not-for-profit players.

Instead of a creed, Unitarian Universalists share a spirit and vision of radical inclusivity, individual agency, and social justice. We create a safe space to stand out, stand up, and change your mind particularly during life transitions. We embrace personal discovery and growth through learning, engagement, and service. Our only doctrine is love.

VICTORIA MITCHELL

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President Mark's Musings for May

May's theme is "Interdependence".

The UFSPH Executive Team met for the eighth meeting of 2023/24 on April 18th. In preparation for the AGM, the Team reviewed the proposed budget for 2024/25. We considered the "interdependence" of our revenues with our expenses. We envisioned slightly higher contributions facilitating slightly higher remuneration for our paid positions.

On page 6 of the theme package (see link below) from the First Unitarian Congregation of Toronto, there is a quote from Vironika Tugaleva:

"Creating safe spaces is an interdependent process. It's not ever all about you and it's not ever all about the other person. It's about you coming together and working on the dynamics of your relationship together, taking responsibility for your own part and doing what you can to contribute to the well-being of the other."

Our Fellowship has been coming together in a safe space for over 68 years. We have worked on the dynamics of our relationships and fostered interdependence.

At our April 21st service, Allan McKeown, as service leader, invited participants to greet each other. There was a genuine feeling of connection, of catching up with long term contacts, and getting to know our newcomers.

Within our Members and Friends we have a broad spectrum of interests, experience, and expertise. Some people enjoy numbers and spreadsheets, while others excel in prose and poems. We have experts in flora and fauna, and we have experts in civics and civility. "We need not think alike to love alike". We find strength in our differences.

As a Fellowship, we have the opportunity for interdependent relationships by being open to respectfully sharing and caring. Whether through "Joys and Concerns" or chatting over coffee, we continue to build our interdependent "loving community".

In Fellowship, Mark Woolston

'Interdependence' theme package from the First Unitarian Congregation of Toronto:

<https://www.firstunitariantoronto.org/wp-content/publications/tj/2024/The%20Journey-2024-04-Interdependence.pdf>

Quotes on 'Interdependence' To Ponder

Our 7th UU Principle is: Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

When we try to pick out anything by itself, we find it hitched to everything else in the universe.

- John Muir

The whole idea of compassion is based on a keen awareness of the interdependence of all these living beings, which are all part of one another, and all involved in one another.

- Thomas Merton

Globalization has produced a new level of interdependence among us. The economy and multinational supply chains do not abide by political boundaries. A computer ordered in Brazil is designed in California and assembled in several other countries. Economic integration was the first strong evidence of a new era.

- Eduardo Paes

I believe that dialogue is the key to breaking through our tendency to separate and isolate. Dialogue changes isolation and loneliness into connection and interdependence. This, I believe, is the essence of Buddhism.

- Vinessa Shaw

The further human society drifts away from nature, the less we understand interdependence.

- Peter Senge

Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly. I can never be what I ought to be until you are what you ought to be. This is the interrelated structure of reality.

- Martin Luther King, Jr.

Life doesn't make any sense without interdependence. We need each other, and the sooner we learn that, the better for us all.

- Erik Erikson



Interdependence is a fundamental law of nature. Even tiny insects survive by mutual cooperation based on innate recognition of their interconnectedness. It is because our own human existence is so dependent on the help of others that our need for love lies at the very foundation of our existence. Therefore we need a genuine sense of responsibility and a sincere concern for the welfare of others.

- Dalai Lama

Ethics cannot be based upon our obligations toward [people], but they are complete and natural only

when we feel this Reverence for Life and the desire to have compassion for and to help all creatures insofar as it is in our power. I think that this ethic will become more and more recognized because of its great naturalness and because it is the foundation of a true humanism toward which we must strive if our culture is to become truly ethical.

- Albert Schweitzer

All ethics so far evolved rest upon a single premise: that the individual is a member of a community of interdependent parts. . . The land ethic simply enlarges the boundaries of the community to include soils, waters, plants, and animals, or collectively: the land.

- Aldo Leopold

No kind action ever stops with itself. One kind action leads to another. Good example is followed. A single act of kindness throws out roots in all directions, and the roots spring up and make new trees. The greatest work that kindness does to others is that it makes them kind themselves.

- Amelia Earhart

Things derive their being and nature by mutual dependence and are nothing in themselves.

- Akkineni Nagarjuna

Jessie Rabbitt Is 98!



Our dear Jessie's 98th birthday was recognized at the Fellowship on Sunday, April 28th complete with cookies of Jessie's choosing marked with "98".

Sharon MacKay organized the event and ensured that Jessie was in attendance.

Both Sharon and Brenda Woolston gave lovely tributes to Jessie. Her time as our Religious Exploration Teacher was especially noted.

Not only was Jessie a wonderful teacher but she has been an accomplished artist. At 91 years of age, she held her last art show. This event was featured in the Sarnia Journal. Please click on the link for the full story from April 24, 2017.

<https://www.thesarniajournal.ca/top-story/91-tear-old-artist-staging-solo-show->

Sharon MacKay to be Celebrated as Honorary Life Member!

Mark Your Calanders

Sunday, May 12, 2024

Sandwich lunch to follow service

"Honorary Life Memberships may, from time to time, be awarded by the Executive Committee to members who have provided exceptional and meritorious service to the Fellowship and/or who have made a significant contribution to the cause of Unitarian Universalism."

Congratulations Sharon!



Fellowship Executive for 2024-25 as Elected at AGM



Position	Willing to Stand
President	Tracy Jutras
Past-President	Mark Woolston
Vice-President	Mary Stearns
Secretary	Joanne Alexander
Treasurer	Chuck MacKenzie (Dan Danner – Bookkeeper)
Membership	Don Greaves
Program	Ann Steadman
Religious Exploration	
Member-at-Large	Dick Felton
Member-at-Large	Brad Gray

Musical Memories With Steve Lane

Musical Memories is an interactive 1-hour session at the **Strangway Centre** whereby songs are played by request as well as a variety of themes like “Broadway”, “TV”, “The 60’s” where attendees can guess at titles. A great way to go smiling back into time!

Please register at www.sarnia.ca/RecRegistration

OR call (519)332-0330 ext: 3131

(Member: \$8, Non-Member: \$10)

Dates and Times:

- Monday, May 6 - 11:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.
- Monday, June 3 - 11:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.
- Monday, July 8 - 11:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.
- Monday, August 12 - 11:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.



Doreen Robertson

Canadian Unitarian Council (CUC)

National Worship Sunday Service: My Muzungu Eyes Are Improving Sunday, May 19 – 1:00 pm ET



Join us for a CUC National Service on Sunday May 19th, 2024: My Muzungu Eyes Are Improving – featuring Liz James.

How do we help effectively across a culture gap? Drawing from more than a decade of personal experience, Liz James tells a story that has it all ... Humour, thoughtful analysis, and confrontations with lions. Not a metaphor. Real lions.

Liz James is the founder of a 230,000-person online UU community called the Unitarian Universalist Hysterical Society (UUHS); half of The Cracked Cup podcast; and working on a book with Skinner House Press.

Liz is based out of Saskatchewan, where she is building a tiny house with her own two hands. She believes in a Unitarian Universalism that is filled with meaning and joy, and that sees change as an adventure.

Join the national UU community in a livestream of this service on Sunday, May 19th at 1:00 pm ET on Zoom. A coffee hour conversation will follow the service. Join at this [link](#).

CUC Annual General Meeting 2024 Saturday, May 25,, 12:30 pm ET Online via Zoom

The CUC's Annual General Meeting brings together congregations and UUs to make decisions about matters that affect our collective national faith community.

This year, the AGM is held online and motions include proposals to add *Terra Nullius* to the CUC's 2023 Doctrine of Discovery resolution (First Toronto congregation), Defunding Fossil Fuels (Vancouver Unitarians) and CUC Goal and Strategic Priorities 2024-2026 (CUC Board).

Access the updated motions [here](#).

Ann Steadman will be our delegate this year.



No Easy Answers at Rainbow Park by Cathy Dobson

[No easy answers at Rainbow Park: PART I - The Sarnia Journal](#)

[No easy answers at Rainbow Park: PART II - The Sarnia Journal](#)



An estimated 50 people live in a collection of about 25 tents along the park fence overlooking the St. Clair River.

Glenn Ogilvie photo

(Cathy & Glenn presented to us about their first series "Stories from the Streets" on March 24, 2024.)

Planting Native Species



Mike Smalls

Interest is growing in planting native species in Sarnia-Lambton to help biodiversity, says a retired landscape designer helping co-ordinate projects.

"My goal is to get more stuff in the ground," said Mike Smalls. "And if I can contribute the knowledge that I have and the energy that I have, I'll run with this as long as it's got some legs."

Eight planting projects alone are set for early May at local schools, with school board and sponsorship money, and aid from the local Golden K Kiwanis club, he said.

<https://www.theobserver.ca/news/local-news/interest-in-planting-projects-growing-in-sarnia-lambton-advocate>

Please Note:

March 21, 2024 Executive Team Minutes:

7.6 Social Justice 7.6.1 Environment—Mark has contacted Mike Smalls and Brian Sandiland (Supervisor, Forestry and Horticulture, City of Sarnia) regarding planting in Mike Weir Park. We are awaiting approval from the City. NuSarnia has also expressed an interest in planting trees.

To watch Mike's presentation to our Fellowship on March 19, 2023 please click on this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HpT4HJRL5Y>



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

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

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