



# The Flaming Chalice

March 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*

### March Services

In-person & via ZOOM

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81431005236>



#### March 5: "Scientology" - Andrew Smith (via Zoom)

Andrew will share with us his story: how he became involved with Scientology, his experiences as a member for 10 years and his eventual expulsion. He was expelled after reading and discussing a book about the founder, L. Ron Hubbard, that portrayed him as a (brilliant) rogue rather than the faultless human being the church preferred.

#### March 12: "Peace Through Understanding" - Bob Weir (via Zoom)

"Why? Oh, why are things this way? Why am I feeling this way? Why? Why? Why?" This is the worrisome question we ask when we are bewildered, when things don't go as planned, when people don't act as we expect them to. This is the question that signals we are not at peace. But the question "Why?" can also help us regain our composure, our balance, our equilibrium ... our understanding, our peace. Bob Weir will lead us on a journey to the realm of Understanding and Peace, utilizing the question "Why?" as our guide.

#### March 19: "Biodiversity - Bring it Home" - Mike Smalls

Mike's presentation will draw attention to the loss, or reduction of native biodiversity within our community and how through simple changes in how we garden we can collectively create a nurturing environment to reverse the trend.

#### March 26: "Canada's Nation-Building Energy" - Marshall Kern

The Bowman Centre for Sustainable Energy is pushing forward with big energy projects that drive Canada to a sustainable energy future. This presentation shares our recent successes.

### Theme—Love

*"Instead of a creed, Unitarian Universalists share a spirit and vision of radical inclusivity, individual agency, and social justice."*

*We embrace personal discovery and growth through learning, engagement, and service."*

*Victoria Mitchell*

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## President Mark's Musings for March

The UFSPH Executive met on February 16<sup>th</sup> for the sixth time this year. Brenda wasn't able to join us as she was heading to Ottawa to help her 88-year-old step-mother achieve her desire of living alone in a rural setting. Our daughter, Genna, and her family helped out as well. An interesting example of love.

March's theme is "Love".

The theme package (see link below) from the First Unitarian Congregation of Toronto has a quote from Teal Swan that includes:

"Love and fear are complete opposites"

I found that an interesting insight. I would have thought the opposite of love was "hatred", Brenda suggested the opposite of love was "indifference".

Is the opposite of light, darkness? Or is darkness simply the absence of light?

Is the opposite of heat, coldness? Or is coldness simply the lack of heat?

Is the opposite of life, death? Or is death simply the end of life?

The Austrian psychologist Wilhelm Stekel said:

"The opposite of love is not hate, but indifference; the opposite  
of feeling can only be the absence of feeling."

Have you considered your definition of the opposite of love... would it be fear, hatred, indifference or maybe something else?

*In Fellowship, Mark Woolston*

## March's Theme — Love



For spiritual nourishment and inspiration, 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/tj/2023/The-Journey-2023-02-Love.pdf>

## Quotes on 'Love' To Ponder

Power without love is reckless and abusive, and love without power is sentimental and anemic. Power at its best is love implementing the demands of justice, and justice at its best is power correcting everything that stands against love.

*Martin Luther King, Jr.*

You will lose someone you can't live without, and your heart will be badly broken, and the bad news is that you never completely get over the loss of your beloved. But this is also the good news. They live forever in your broken heart that doesn't seal back up. And you come through. It's like having a broken leg that never heals perfectly—that still hurts when the weather gets cold, but you learn to dance with the limp.

*Anne Lamont*



To live our lives based on the principles of a love ethic (showing care, respect, knowledge, integrity, and the will to cooperate), we have to be courageous. Learning how to face our fears is one way we embrace love. Our fear may not go away, but it will not stand in the way. Those of us who have already chosen to embrace a love ethic, allowing it to govern and inform how we think and act, know that when we let our light shine, we draw to us and are drawn to other bearers of light. We are not alone.

*bell hooks*

There are two basic motivating forces: fear and love. When we are afraid, we pull back from life. When we are in love, we open to all that life has to offer with passion, excitement, and acceptance. We need to learn to love ourselves first, in all our glory and our imperfections. If we cannot love ourselves, we cannot fully open to our ability to love others or our potential to create. Evolution and all hopes for a better world rest in the fearlessness and open-hearted vision of people who embrace life.

*John Lennon*

Love, like truth and beauty, is concrete. Love is not fundamentally a sweet feeling, not, at heart, a matter of sentiment, attachment, or being "drawn toward." Love is active, effective, a matter of making reciprocal and mutually beneficial relation with one's friends and enemies. Love creates righteousness, or justice, here on earth... For this reason, loving involves commitment. We are not automatic lovers of self, others, world, or God. Love does not just happen. We're not love machines, puppets on the strings of a deity called "love." Love is a choice—not simply, or necessarily, a rational choice, but rather a willingness to be present to others without pretense or guile. Love is a conversion to humanity—a willingness to participate with others in the healing of a broken world and broken lives.

*Carter Hayward*

## Upcoming Events

### Celebrating Betty & Richard Learn!

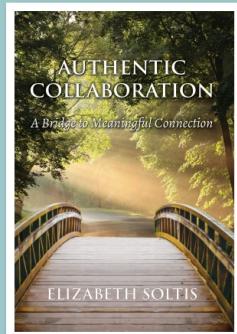


**Sunday, March 26, 2023**  
**Soup & Sandwich Luncheon**  
**Following the Service**

**Annual General Meeting**  
**Sunday, April 30, 2023**  
**Following the Service**



Join us for the Book Launch Party  
of Elizabeth Soltis's new book  
**Authentic Collaboration:**  
**A Bridge to Meaningful Connection**



**Sat., Apr. 1st, 1-4 p.m.**  
**@ the Sarnia Riding Club**

Authentic Collaboration is about more than just working together and tolerating differences. It's a holistic approach that fosters respect for self, others and Earth. This book lays out a visionary framework to build bridges toward greater empowerment, belonging and harmony.

Elizabeth will be interviewed, followed by group interaction and refreshments.

To RSVP, email [esoltis@bridgesglobal.net](mailto:esoltis@bridgesglobal.net)



## Lynn Unger: UU Minister and Poet

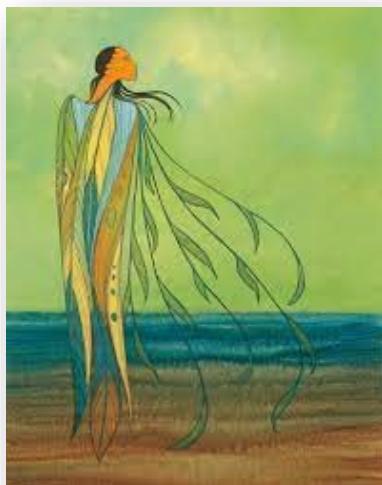
### Choice

There isn't a right answer.  
There just isn't. The game show  
where the bells ring and the points  
go up and the confetti falls  
because you got the answer  
is a lie. The preacher who would assure you  
of how to attain salvation  
is making it all up. The doctor  
who knows just how to fix  
what ails you will be sure  
of something else tomorrow.  
Every choice will  
wound someone, heal someone,  
build a wall and open a conversation.

Things will always happen  
that you can't foresee.  
But you have to choose.  
It's all we have—that little rudder  
that we employ in the midst  
of all the eddies and rapids,  
the current that pulls us  
inexorably toward the sea.

The fact that you are swept along  
by the river is no excuse.  
Watch where you are going.  
Lean in toward what you love.  
When in doubt, tell the truth.

— Lynn Ungar



"Ever since I read Lynn Ungar's [Camas Lilies](#) — a poem that has touched the lives of thousands of people—I've hoped she would publish a collection of poetry. *Bread and Other Miracles* is a wish come true.

—Parker J. Palmer

<http://www.lynnunger.com/>

On Sunday, June 4th, Rev. Unger will be speaking to us via Zoom from Vancouver, Washington.

The Unitarian Fellowship of London will be joining us for this service.

## Canadian Unitarian Council

### CUC National Symposium: Living Into Our 8th Principle Friday, May 19 – Sunday, 21, 2023 Ottawa, Ontario or Online



In the spring of 2023, the Canadian Unitarian Council and First Unitarian Congregation of Ottawa, in collaboration with the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Ottawa, invite you to a national symposium. Join us in person at Algonquin College in Ottawa or online to renew your spirit, reconnect with friends, and celebrate what it means to be Unitarian Universalist (UU).

You may have noticed that we are referring to this event as a symposium, not a conference. That's because it will be organized around a single issue rather than a general theme. Through engaging presentations, rich discussions, and worship, we will explore our newest principle, which calls us "to dismantle racism and systemic barriers to full inclusion in ourselves and our institutions."

The Annual General Meeting will be held on Friday, May 19th, from 1:00 to 4:30 pm ET, and will have online and in-person participation.

Registration information coming soon!

Nobody has ever measured, not even poets,  
how much the human heart can hold.

- *Zelda Fitzgerald*

Love doesn't just sit there, like a stone, it has  
to be made, like bread; remade all the time,  
made new.

- *Ursula K. Le Guin*



**Check Out Our Website—[uusarnia.com](http://uusarnia.com)**



The screenshot shows the website's header with a green background. On the left is a small stained-glass style image of a chalice. To its right, the text "Unitarian Fellowship" is written in large blue letters, with "of Sarnia & Port Huron" in smaller blue letters below it. In the top right corner, there is a "Follow us on Social Media" section with links for Facebook and YouTube. Below the main title is a navigation bar with links for HOME, ABOUT UU, SERVICES, WEDDINGS & CEREMONIES, SOCIAL JUSTICE, DONATE, CONTACT, and MEMBERS ONLY. A "Log In" link is also present.

## UPCOMING SERVICES

Join us every Sunday at 11 am on zoom  
or in person at the Lochiel Kiwanis  
Centre.

[Contact Us for Link](#)

[Click here for  
January Newsletter](#)



**January 29**

Wild Church Experience\*

**Please note that at the very beginning of our website you can access the monthly service info, newsletter and social media posts (top right).**



## 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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