



The Flaming Chalice

December 2019

Unitarian Fellowship of Sarnia & Port Huron
Lochiel Kiwanis Centre, 180 College Ave. N. Sarnia, Ontario

... an inspiring alternative for spiritual explorers

December Services: Sundays 11 a.m.

December 1: "Returning to Our Foods' Roots"

Guest Speaker Ryan Slyzuk, Service Leader Tim van Bodegom.

As a society, we have lost our connection to the food we eat. We don't know the soil it's grown in, the conditions it's grown under, or the people who've sown the seeds. Ryan is the owner of a local organic farm called "Taproots Green Gardens" and his vision is to offer an alternative to the supermarket experience. His philosophy is to buy local and be conscious of where food comes from and how safe and nutritious it is, to live simply, reduce harm, and be kind to the earth.



December 8: "Growing up male in the era of #Metoo"

Speaker & Service Leader Allan McKeown

What are the challenges boys confront in making the transition from boyhood to manhood? How can they develop a healthy masculinity and a sense of "belonging" to the world of men? And what does the future hold for male-female relationships?

"Anybody can create community with people who believe just like they do."

December 15: "My Monarch Waystation"

**Guest Speaker Karen Paterson-Durance,
Service Leader Mark Woolston.**

This summer and fall we witnessed a jaw-dropping increase in the number of Monarch butterflies in our area. Karen's "Devonshire garden" has been designated as a Monarch Waystation and certified by the North America Butterfly Association. Karen will share her interest and passion for butterflies and how we can provide resources that help them to thrive.

The true test of community rests in the ability to create it with people who disagree with us."

December 22: "A Christmas Cabaret"

Co-MCs Brad Gray and Steve Lane

This yuletide variety program will showcase the amazing talents of our members and friends! Whether you play a musical instrument, read a short story or poem or perform a short skit, we'd love to see you "strut your stuff" here! See Brad or Steve if you would like to be involved, or they may be approaching you!

December 29: Circle Discussion "Paranormal Experiences"

Service Leader and Facilitator Steve Lane

Inspired by the spirits that visited upon Ebenezer Scrooge, Steve will lead a circle discussion wherein members and friends will be invited to share their experiences with ghosts, poltergeists and other "things that go bump in the night". Yes, we have several folks in our Fellowship who have interesting stories to tell! **Please note: there is no "Soup Sunday" on the 29th. Please bring seasonal offerings to share.**

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**Executive Team Update—check back in
JANUARY**



Making your way in the world today
Takes everything you got
Taking a break from all your worries
It sure would help a lot
Wouldn't you like to get away?

Sometimes you want to go
Where everybody knows your name
And they're always glad you came
You want to be where you can see
The troubles are all the same
You want to be where everybody knows your name

Savvy viewers of television from the 80's will instantly recognize these lines as the theme song from the sit-com "Cheers". If you're not familiar with the show, it was set in a downstairs pub in Boston. A regular cast of characters were at the core of the show—and formed the centre of the community that came to life on the small screen each week for twelve seasons. Even after the show was cancelled, throngs of tourists still made their way to the location that served as the outside of the bar knowing that Sam, Diane, Norm, Cliff and Carla would not be there. Even today, the bar is still a strong tourist attraction in Boston 26 years after the show was last on air.

Why do you think that is? Well, it most likely has something to do with the theme song, which speaks to that longing so many of us have for a place where we are truly known—and loved nonetheless and all the more. That place where we are known by name. That place where we fully belong....

Where do you feel that sense of belonging the strongest? During the month of December, it's a perfect time to identify where and when that sense of belonging is strongest. Please take the time to look inwardly and decide for yourself where you believe you truly belong.

Social Justice Action Team



The Teenage Tree Program held a community tree planting on Sunday, November 3rd at Canatara Park. About 30 people gathered to plant about 90 tree saplings and shrubs. The costs were covered by sponsorship donations that were raised at the Tree Fest in October. This initiative was supported by many members and friends from our Unitarian Fellowship.

A Teenage Tree Program celebration will be held on **Sunday, December 1st from 12:30 – 2:30 pm at Return the Landscape at 100 Christina St North**. This will be an opportunity to reflect on all of the accomplishments during the year, acknowledge and appreciate the work of all volunteers and consider our plans for the coming year. Pizza and refreshments will be served.

Thanks go out to all of the members and friends of the Fellowship that have been part of a core group of volunteers for this program.

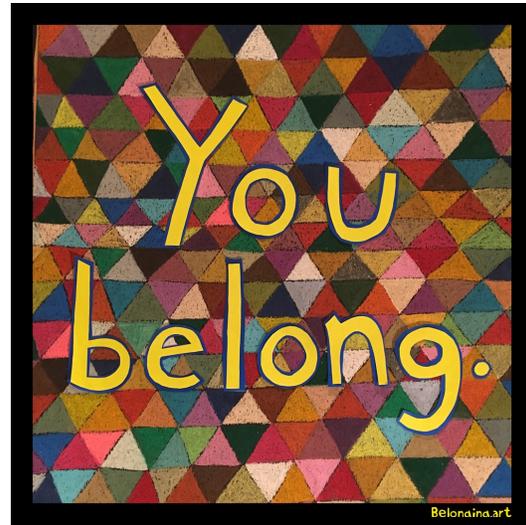
Please contact either Elizabeth Soltis, Annette Verhagen or Dwayne O'Neill for further information and to inquire how to be involved.



*This is the bright home
in which I live
this is where
I ask
my friends
to come,
this is where I want
to love all the things
it has taken me so long to love.*

*This is the temple
of my adult aloneness
and I belong
to that aloneness
as I belong to my life.*

*There is no house
like the house of belonging.*



A Birthday Invitation!

To celebrate Dwayne O'Neill's 70 trips around the sun, you are invited to drop by his home at 2377 Schafer Court, Bright's' Grove on Sunday, December 22nd between 1 – 4pm to enjoy some light refreshments. Best Wishes only.

Happy 70th Dwayne!!

Regular Events:

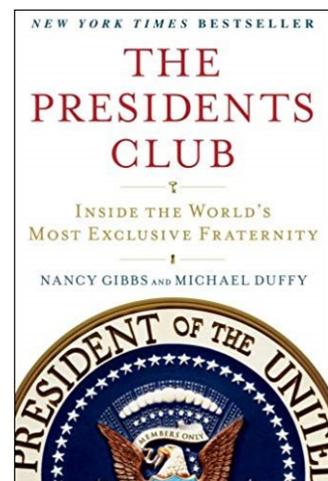
Book Club: Continues to meet on the 3rd Sunday of every month at 9:15 am at John's Restaurant on London Line. The book for December is *The Presidents Club*, by Nancy Gibbs and Michael Duffy. In December, we will decide on the January book.

Men's Group: Details will be announced as they become available.

Women's Group: Yuletide Dinner Tuesday, December 10 (details below).

Small Group Ministry: Members meet every other Thursday afternoon at chosen locations. All are welcome. Contact Betty Learn for info at: 519-337-4039

Journey Groups: Evening Group last Monday of each month 7 pm. Afternoon Group last Wednesday of each month at 12:45 pm. Contact Ann Steadman at 519-542-9708 for info.



Hi All,

Due to the positive response (20 have already replied that they can come), the venue for our **Women's Circle Yuletide Dinner** has been changed to Stokes Bay Grill & Bar <http://www.stokesbaysarnia.com/>. A small, fairly private area has been reserved. The building and washrooms are accessible and there are only 2 steps down to our dining area.

DATE: Tuesday, December 10th

TIME: 5:30 p.m.

PLACE: Stokes Bay Grill & Bar @ 485 Seaway Rd., Sarnia

For those who have not yet replied, please let me know if you plan to attend by contacting me at abwbr1@gmail.com or calling 519-869-4526.

Thank You.

Alice Walent-Bellar

For Inspiration

We are lonesome animals. We spend all our life trying to be less lonesome. - John Steinbeck

We don't have a word for the opposite of loneliness, but if we did, I could say that's what I want in life.
- Marina Keegan

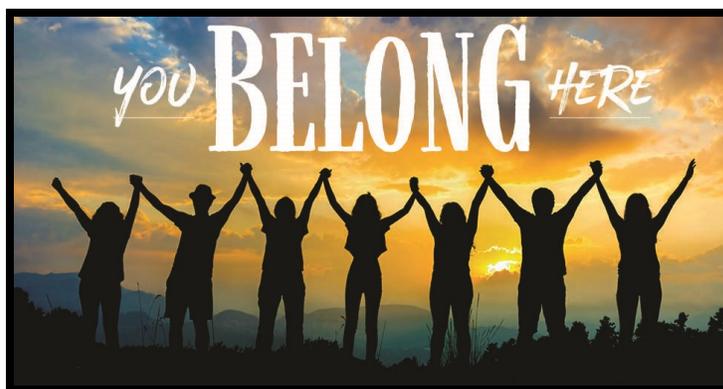
Because true belonging only happens when we present our authentic, imperfect selves to the world, our sense of belonging can never be greater than our level of self-acceptance... Vulnerability is the birthplace of love, belonging, joy, courage, empathy, and creativity. It is the source of hope, empathy, accountability, and authenticity. If we want greater clarity in our purpose or deeper and more meaningful spiritual lives, vulnerability is the path. - Brené Brown, *Daring Greatly: How the Courage to Be Vulnerable Transforms the Way We Live, Love, Parent, and Lead*

Anyone can be in community when it aligns with our interests; the challenge is to remain in community when our companions disappoint us. – Stefan Jonassan

Service is taking life personally, letting the lives that touch yours touch you. These days many people seem to think that being touched is a form of weakness... The best definition of service I have come across is a single word, BELONGING. Service is the final healing of isolation and loneliness. It is the lived experience of belonging. - Rachel Naomi Remen, *My Grandfather's Blessings*

Spiritual practice among Lakota peoples is grounded in the expression “All my relations,” which proclaims that spiritual activity is not only for those immediately participating in it but for all beings everywhere. - Joan Halifax, *The Fruitful Darkness*

Most human beings take it totally for granted that I am “me,” and that “me” is this body, this mind, this knowledge and sense about myself which so obviously feels separate from other people. The language in which we talk to ourselves and to each other inevitably implies separate “me’s,” and “you’s” all the time. All of us talk “I” and “you” talk, we think it, write it, read it, and dream it with rarely any pause. There is incessant reinforcement of the sense of “I,” “me,” separate from others. Isolated. Insulated. Not understood. How is one to come upon the truth if separation is taken so much for granted, feels so common sense? The difficulty is not insurmountable. Wholeness, true being, is here all the time, like the sun behind the clouds. Daylight is here in spite of cloud cover.





“Because of the role that religion has historically played in denying gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people their full humanity, I believe that we now have a special calling to reach out to our GLBT sisters and brothers. We need to offer an explicit welcome, because the world can still be a very unwelcoming place. We need to offer radical acceptance, because neither family nor society can always be counted on to be accepting. We need to offer unconditional love, because Love is at the heart of religious community.”

— Allison Barrett, Canadian UU Minister

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<http://cuc.ca/cuc-eneews/>

For the Unitarian Universalist Associations latest **UUWorld** click on this link:

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

Pease consider sharing this newsletter with a friend and invite them to a service.

Every Sunday is “Bring a Guest” Sunday!

Each issue of the “Flaming Chalice” newsletter is printed by the Organization for Literacy Lambton (OLL): helping every person acquire the gift of literacy.

Newsletter Editor: Wendy Cornelis

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