



The Flaming Chalice

March 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

March Services

In-person & via Zoom

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

March 3: Mayor Mike Bradley - "Sarnia: Opportunities & Challenges for 2024" Mayor Mike will give us his thoughts on what 2024 holds for the City of Sarnia. Come with questions for Mike.

March 10: Arron Morton - "In times of great change, what can the wisdom of our bodies offer us?" Our bodies gain information from and engage with the human and nonhuman world in ways our conscious mind is often unaware of. Let's explore how developing a deeper relationship with our bodies' wisdom can support us in navigating challenging transitions.

March 17: Myles Vanni - "Inn of the Good Shepherd" Myles will speak to us about the various programs offered through The Inn. He will specifically outline the challenges with homelessness and food insecurity which have greatly changed over the last several years.

March 24: Cathy Dobson & Glenn Ogilvie - "Stories from the Streets" Cathy, reporter, and Glenn, photographer, have done a remarkable series of articles in The Sarnia Journal called "Stories from the Street." The series featured those experiencing homelessness in Sarnia and was recently awarded a national COPA (Canadian Online Publishing Award).

March 31: Laura Greaves - "Working Towards Zero Waste: Steps We Can All Take to Reduce our Impact" While living a zero-waste life may sound impossible, small changes do add up to huge results. Laura will discuss some changes that we can all make in our daily lives to reduce our impact on the planet by incorporating some simple swaps and planning ahead, when possible.

Theme—Justice & Equity

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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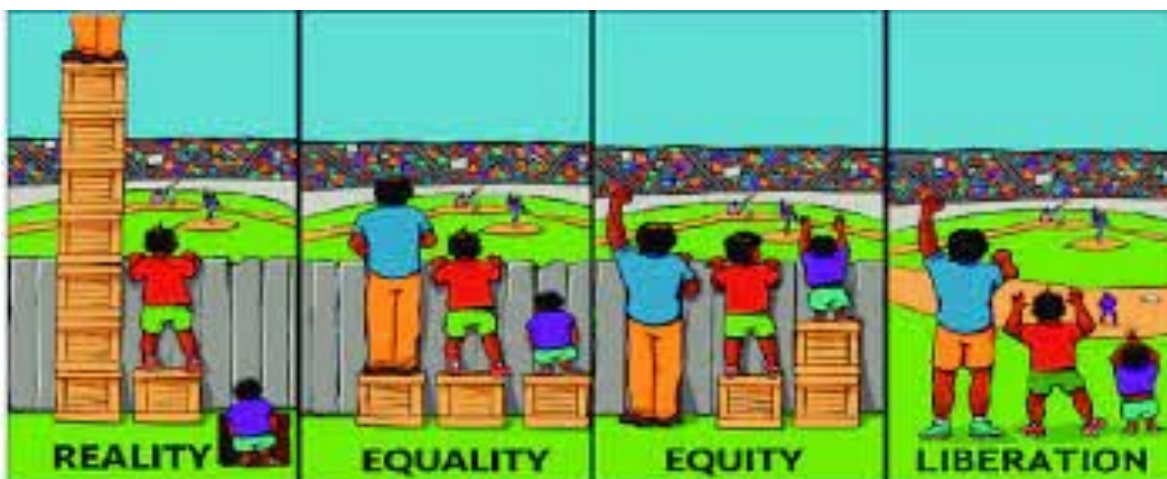
Further Service Info for March 10th



Speaker bio:

Arran Morton currently lives in Victoria, BC - though he is from Scotland and came to Victoria via the 'scenic route'. He loves to be near the ocean, the trees, and (Vancouver) island life generally. His work has focused on love-based community building as well as training and facilitation on issues related to healthy relationships, sexuality, conflict resolution and restorative justice/practices. Arran was the Director of Spiritual Exploration at First Unitarian Church of Victoria until he adopted his daughter in 2021. He is currently the Minister at Comox Valley Unitarian Fellowship.

Equality & Equity Are Not The Same



President Mark's Musings for March

March's theme is "Justice and Equity".

The UFSPH Executive Team met for the sixth meeting of 2023/24 on February 15th. It was agreed at the meeting that we would endorse the suggestion from the Program Team to investigate partnering with the London Fellowship to have an expert living in London (Dr. El-Kassem) speak on the history of Palestine.

On page 1 of the theme package (see link below) from the First Unitarian Congregation of Toronto, Angela Klassen references the concept of "sophisticated resignation" attributed to Rev. Forrest Church from the All Souls UU in New York City...

Satisfied that we've thoroughly examined the issues, all that remains is to become resigned to what we know of how the real world works, to simply denounce all these as awful problems and move on.

These days, the world seems full of awful problems. Before we "move on", it behooves us to ensure we have "thoroughly examined the issues". To better understand the Justice and Equity challenges facing Sarnia, we have Mayor Mike Bradley speaking on March 3rd, Myles Vanni on March 17th, and Cathy Dobson with Glenn Ogilvie on March 24th. We are yet to schedule a date for Dr. El-Kassem regarding the history of Palestine. If anyone has any suggestions for a speaker representing the Israeli perspective, please contact the program team.

Our Fellowship often echoes the words of Francis Dávid (circa 1568): "we need not think alike to love alike". Said another way, we each have different histories, different perspectives, and different priorities. What I treasure about our Fellowship is a willingness to respectfully listen to those different ideas of others. It reminds me of the 5th habit (of the 7 Habits of Highly Effective People)...

Seek First to Understand, Then to Be Understood

March 19th is the first day of spring, and with spring comes the optimism of brighter, warmer days with new growth. Hopefully, as we move forward into 2024, the world can regroup and embrace our theme of "Justice and Equity".

In Fellowship, Mark Woolston

'Justice & Equity' theme package from the First Unitarian Congregation of Toronto:

**[https://www.firstunitariantoronto.org/wp-content/publications/tj/2024/
The-Journey-2024-02-Justice-Equity.pdf](https://www.firstunitariantoronto.org/wp-content/publications/tj/2024/The-Journey-2024-02-Justice-Equity.pdf)**

Quotes on 'Justice & Equity' To Ponder

Justice will not be served until those who are unaffected are as outraged as those who are.

- Benjamin Franklin

I am no longer accepting the things I cannot change. I am changing the things I cannot accept.

- Angela Davis

I am not interested in picking up crumbs of compassion thrown from the table of someone who considers himself my master. I want the full menu of rights.

- Archbishop Desmond Tutu

When we identify where our privilege intersects with somebody else's oppression, we'll find our opportunities to make real change.

- Ijeoma Oluo

If you want peace, work for justice.

- Pope Paul VI

I am only one but still I am one. I cannot do everything, but still I can do something.

- Edward Everett

The difference between equity and equality is that equality is everyone get the same thing and equity is everyone get the things they deserve.

- DeRay Mckesson

We all need to work together, because there are no jobs on a dead planet; there is no equity without rights to decent work and social protection, no social justice without a shift in governance and ambition, and, ultimately, no peace for the peoples of the world without the guarantees of sustainability.

- Sharan Burrow

I am unapologetic about the need for social change, greater inclusion, and equity.

- Marley Dias

Equality is leaving the door open for anyone who has the means to approach it; equity is ensuring there is a pathway to that door for those who need it.

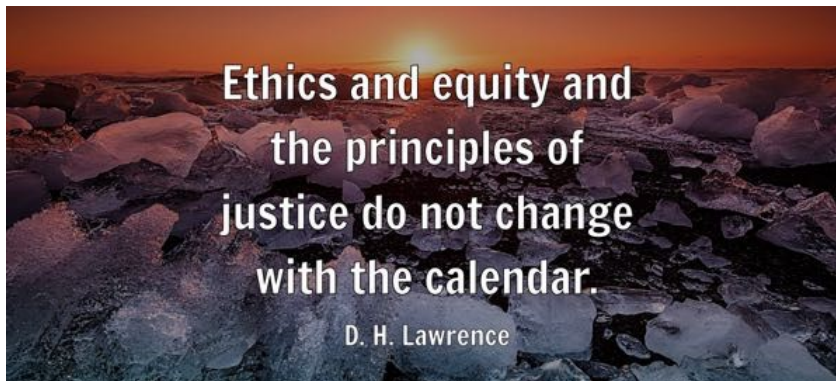
- Caroline Belden

If we want to include everyone, we have to help everyone develop their talents and use their gifts for the good of the community. That's what inclusion means – everyone contributes.

- Melinda Gates

We will all profit from a more diverse, inclusive society, understanding, accommodating, even celebrating our differences, while pulling together for the common good.

- Ruth Bader Ginsburg



When you're accustomed to privilege, parity and equity and equality may feel like oppression.

- Raphael Warnock

I learned early on about the real

meaning of equity and inclusion, and that when those guiding principles are not met, they can have devastating effects on individuals, families, and communities.

- Lori Lightfoot (*Mayor of Chicago*)

Equality of opportunity is not enough. Unless we create an environment where everyone is guaranteed some minimum capabilities through some guarantee of minimum income, education, and healthcare, we cannot say that we have fair competition. When some people have to run a 100 metre race with sandbags on their legs, the fact that no one is allowed to have a head start does not make the race fair. Equality of opportunity is absolutely necessary but not sufficient in building a genuinely fair and efficient society.

- Ha-Joon Chang, (*South Korean Economist*)

UU Pub Night Invitation to Members, Friends & Guests

Maud's Variety
125 Mitton St. S.
(beside Shoppers' Drug Mart)
6 p.m.
Thursday, March 7th

This is an informal social gathering to enjoy each other's company. Maud's sells a large variety of alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks as well as appetizers and snacks.



We are Unitarians and Universalists

We are people of many paths who are brave, curious, and passionate thinkers and doers. We are diverse in faith, ethnicity, history, and spirituality, but are aligned in our desire to make a difference for the good.

We have radical roots and a history as self-motivated spiritual people. We think for ourselves, and we recognize that life experience is the strongest influence on our beliefs.

We live our values in our work for social justice. Unitarian Universalists have advocated for affordable housing, choice in dying, and world peace. We sponsor refugees and seek truth, healing, and reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples. We work for racial justice, criminal justice, and climate justice. And for more than forty years we have been at the forefront of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer inclusion.

We are called to love and justice through our interdependence on each other and on the world around us. We aspire to be deeply connected, radically inclusive, actively engaged, theologically alive, and spiritually grounded.

We seek to welcome you: your whole self, with all your truths and your doubts, your worries and your hopes. Find out what it means to live your deepest values out loud. Join us on this extraordinary adventure of faith.

Unicamp 2024

Unicamp brochure now available!: Make your plans for the coming season

What's in store for your spring summer and fall of 2024? Unicamp of Ontario has a wealth of programming for you to look forward to this year.

Whether you are looking for a summer camp for your children and youth, a special week away at family camp, an opportunity to engage in stimulating and creative adult programming (from yoga to art, writing, drama, dance, nature hikes, music workshops, drumming and more), or just some time for quiet R & R, Unicamp has it all.

The [2024 brochure is now available](#) and bookings are open to [register for children's camp and youth programming](#). To check out and register for the multitude of offerings this season and make your spring, summer and fall plans, visit our new [registration portal on Retreat Guru!](#)

For any questions about the above links, get in touch with bookings@unicampofontario.ca.

Unicamp of Ontario, now celebrating its 55th year, is a Unitarian Universalist camp committed to providing a safe and welcoming seasonal camp and spiritual retreat to a diverse community serving all, regardless of faith.

Unicamp is located in Dufferin County, just north of Shelburne, Ontario, within the UNESCO Niagara Escarpment Biosphere Reserve. It boasts 50 beautiful, peaceful acres of meadows, forests, streams, caves and two beaches on a spring-fed 2.5 acre pond. It's a magical place to relax and explore, meet new people, and reconnect with self, community and nature.

Stay up-to-date on Unicamp's happenings by signing up for the monthly newsletter on the Unicamp website [here](#).

Yvette Salinas
Executive Director
Unicamp of Ontario
She/Her/Hers



Canadian Unitarian Council Social Justice Initiative

Dear Members & Friends:

This is the letter I sent to M. Gladu MP. The wording is exactly as suggested by the CUC for UU individuals and/or congregations to send to their MP's. Perhaps you could consider doing the same?

From: Allan McKeown

Date: On Wednesday, February 28th, 2024 at 9:13 PM

Subject: Israel-Palestine

To: marilyn.gladu@parl.gc.ca <marilyn.gladu@parl.gc.ca>

Dear Marilyn Gladu MP,

As a Unitarian Universalist, I join other people of faith and/or conscience who are calling on the Government of Canada to seek a peaceful resolution to the situation in Israel and Gaza, one that honours international human rights agreements and our commitments to international law and international conventions.

The Principles of my faith affirm and promote “the inherent worth and dignity of every person” and aspire to “the goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all.” I do not believe that the solution is for more armed military, and I am in opposition to actions that violate the spirit and letter of international law. The starting point is to recognize our shared humanity.

I call on you and your Party to take a just, constructive, and human rights-based approach to addressing this humanitarian crisis and bringing peace to the region, while taking into account the extreme power imbalance between the two states. Canada must condemn all violence against civilians in Israel and in Gaza.

Sincerely,

Allan McKeown (he/him)

allanmck@protonmail.com

Respectfully submitted by Allan McKeown





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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asteadman@cogeco.ca