

The Olinda Outpost

Monthly Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Olinda
2953 Olinda Side Road, Ruthven, Ontario, N0P 2G0



R.E. Class and Service held at 10:30
(followed by refreshments)

Sunday Services January 2017

Date	Speaker	Title	Musician(s)
Jan. 1	Bill Baylis	Looking Back and Forward There are a couple of ways to view the evolution of time. Here we review events of 2016 and challenges that will face us in 2017. Congregational contributions are encouraged.	Lorie Lyons
Jan. 8	Rev. Fran Dearman	Faith, Hope, and Charity: A Reflection on Giving. Interim Minister the Rev. Fran Dearman shares some thoughts on opportunities and challenges in connection with Social Responsibility.	Baylis-Stone Trio
Jan. 15	Rev. Keith Kron	Don't Think of a Minister.... Guest speaker Rev. Keith Kron is a minister from Kentucky and UUA/CUC Transitions Director. There will be soup and sandwiches following the service, and from noon to 1 pm a briefing and conversation session with Keith about the Search and Settlement process—all are welcome.	Lorie Lyons
Jan. 22	Rev. Fran Dearman	On Rabbie Burns. Celebrate the 258th birthday of famous Scottish Poet and Lyricist Robert Burns, born Jan. 25, 1759. There will be soup and sandwiches after the service, followed by a New Member Orientation Session, sponsored by the Olinda Membership Committee, led by Rev. Fran. See Rev. Fran or Membership Chair Lorie Lyons for details.	Carabel Ringrose
Jan. 29	Glen Jackson	Visitors' Day in Haiti. A film presented by Glen Jackson	Toni Janik
Feb. 5	Irene Moore Davis	Black history in Essex County. Ms. Davis is a well-known scholar of black history in the region, and February is Black History month.	

ANNUAL REPORT 2016

Annual reports (except financial reports) are due Sunday, January 15, 2017.

Please submit an electronic copy to mireyamap@yahoo.ca

Hard copies should be placed in the Secretary's mailbox at the Church

Please contact Mireya for questions or suggestions

It is important that the reports be in at that time.

From the Board, January, 2017

A new and exciting year is ahead for this church and this congregation. At the meeting on Dec. 11th we passed a progressive and responsible budget thanks to a great deal of work by the Finance Committee and by the Finance Trustee. As Finance Trustee, Bobbye Baylis, has done a fantastic job for the church for a number of years and the congregation owes her a great deal of thanks.

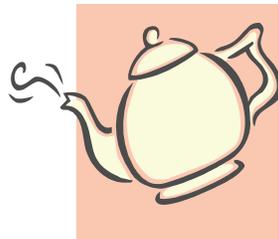
At the same meeting we voted on our Search Committee and Bobbye Baylis, Steve Brennan, Cathy Dewhurst, Stuart Miller, Linda Upcott and John van Abbema were elected unanimously to that committee. We thank them for volunteering for this very important task and knowing that all the congregation is behind them will give them a good start.

The Nominating Committee for next year will be Carol Hylton, Cathy Dewhurst, and Sue Markham and we thank them for their commitment. The board needs people to take positions for the coming year because those who work on the Search Committee cannot sit on the board, and positions have come open. Please volunteer and have a voice on how your church operates. (It is not all work, and we have some fun too.) If you can help please, talk to Carol or a board member. WE NEED YOU!

Make sure to take time to meet Rev. Keith Kron of the U.U.A. and Linda Thomson of the C.U.C. when I hope both will be here Jan. 15th. Rev. Kron, from Boston, is Transitions Director, and Linda is well known to all of us and has been a great help to this congregation over the years.

Please all have a HEALTHY and Prosperous New Year. This snow and cold will come to an end (I THINK).

John Upcott, President



Tea with the Minister

Join Rev. Fran and whoever else shows up to enjoy afternoon tea and conversation on Wednesday, January 11, from 1:30—3 pm. This treat is a regular occurrence on the second Wednesday of the month.

Finance Committee Report

Many thanks to all who attended the Congregational Meeting on the Budget on Dec. 11. It is always a comfort going into the New Year with a legally approved budget!

Further thanks to all who donated so generously to the Children's Aid Society Christmas Families. The board had requested families most in need and living in the County, so Children's Aid gave the church two single-parent families, mothers with 2 and 3 children. Linda and John Upcott spent days shopping for the two families spending \$1202 to fulfill the families' wish lists and included \$500 in grocery store gift cards. We especially thank them for their time and thoughtfulness. The volunteer driver who picked up the gifts thanked us effusively for our generosity.

Recognition, Accolades and Thank You

We recognize the services of Carabel and Hector (Buster) as we start the New Year.

Carabel Ringrose is a fifth generation Universalist. Both her mother and her Aunt Mabel played piano in the church for many years. Carabel has continued the family tradition and continues to play piano on a regular basis. We enjoy hearing her upbeat music. Carabel served us in many areas: President (moderator) of the Board in the '80's; President and Secretary-Treasurer of the Women's Association; and, with Buster and other members of our church, a founding organizer of the Ruthven Apple Festival in our larger community.

"I came as a little girl", she said. "This church touches me deeply. It is part of my heritage. I come here to be refreshed and renewed. This religion makes a lot of sense to me."

Hector Ringrose joined when he married Carabel. We know him affectionately as 'Buster'. He served on the property committee and helped maintain the building in good shape over the years. In the larger community, Buster served as a parade band leader for 46 years, and mentored many a youth learning to play in a marching band.

Today, Buster is our friendly greeter at the door. When Buster is there on Sunday morning we know that all is right with our world.

Many thanks to Carabel and Hector for their volunteer service over many years in our community and in our Church.

Important Dates

Jan. 4 7 pm

Book Club: *The Burning Room* by Michael Connelly

Jan. 5 7 pm

Choir Rehearsal

Jan. 11 1:30 pm

Tea with the Minister

Jan. 12 7 pm

Board of Trustees Meeting

Jan. 14 6 pm

Dinner with Rev. Keith Kron, Board, Search Committee

Jan. 15

Annual Reports Due

Keith Kron Briefing of Congregation about Search

Jan. 19 7 pm

Choir Rehearsal

Jan. 22 9:30 am

Sunday Services Meeting

Jan. 22 noon

UU Orientation Session

Jan. 24 9 pm

February Newsletter Reports

Interim Minister Rev. Fran 's Column , January 2017

January—hinge of the revolving year. And a significant turning point in Olinda's search for the next minister, also. Mid-January brings a very special visitor to Essex County—UUA Transitions Director the Rev. Keith Kron.

I've known Keith for over a dozen years now. Keith used to live and work on the West Coast, and attended ministerial gatherings in Vancouver BC. I always enjoyed his company, especially because, in a small way, I share Keith's passion for children's literature. I am awed by Keith's comprehensive knowledge of how UUs "do" church; Keith has visited well over five hundred churches in the course of his career

After many years with the UUA Staff and the "Beyond Categorical Thinking" programme , Keith became UUA Transitions Director. I was not alone in thinking that Keith would be eminently well suited to receive the reins from John Weston—no one I know, knows more about congregations than Keith Kron.

Keith visits Olinda January 14th and 15th. On the Saturday evening Keith will meet with Olinda Board members and the members of the Ministerial Search Committee (MSC) whom Olinda formally affirmed at the congregational meeting of December 11th, 2016. It is the task of the MSC to seek out a suitable candidate for ministerial settlement here—one more minister to serve this congregation since 1880, and every one of them unique.

On the Sunday morning, January 15th, Keith will present the sermon. Following the service there will be soup and sandwiches, then back to the pews for a Conversation with Keith, the man who can tell you more about the UU settlement process, in theory and in practice, than anyone on the continent. Keith looks forward to answering your questions. CUC Staffer the Rev. Linda Thomson will also be present, as will I.

The work of the Ministerial Search Committee (MSC) begins in earnest in mid-January. Keith will meet with the MSC, a Start-up Retreat for the MSC will be scheduled, and the MSC will begin the first of many meetings. The MSC's first public task will be to conduct a survey; Olinda needs to know where they are headed, before inviting a minister to walk there with them. When the MSC invites you to contribute to this survey, please do so, promptly and generously. They would be hard pressed to make bricks without clay! And straw as well!

Best wishes for rest and renewal at midwinter. I'll be home in Victoria for the twelve days of Christmas. I look forward to seeing you again in the New Year.

Yours, in the Interim,
Rev. Fran

Property Report January 2017

It is a pleasure to report the installation of the new windows and front entrance door has been completed.



Many of you have told us that you are very pleased. This project was made possible by your generous donations to the Memorial Fund and Capital Fund as well as your contributions to the yearly Auctions. The previous



door was installed in 1986 in memory of Stanley & Viola Upcott by their children, Glen Upcott and Jean (Upcott) Wallis. They were all members of our Olinda Church. Thanks to all of you.

Many thanks to John Upcott who was on duty during the installation process in my absence and also to John van Abbema for sending me many pictures during the installation.

Have a Happy & Healthy New Year,

Laurie Hylton

Social Responsibility Committee Upcoming Activities

Feb. 12, noon: Film and Sandwich Exchange. Details in Feb. Newsletter.

Mar. 26, noon: International Dinner. Details in March Newsletter.



Olinda Book Club

This group of congregants and friends gathers once a month (1st Wednesday) at the home of book club members, the Church, or other arranged venues.

During the meeting a selected book, author, or theme previously selected by each member in turn is discussed. The 'fun-loving' group is into another year of reading, learning and socializing.

Book for Month – January 2017:

Date: Wed., 04 January, 2017, 7 pm

Leader: John Haynes

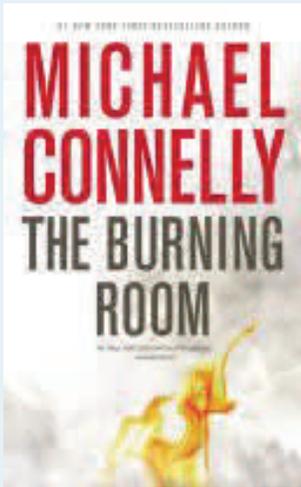
Location: Haynes Residence

Summary:

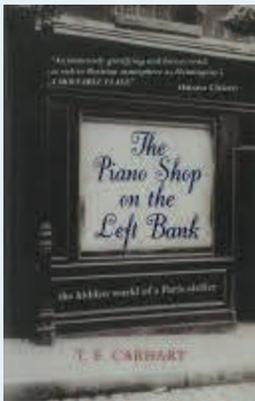
In the LAPD's Open-Unsolved Unit, not many murder victims die almost a decade after the crime. So when a man succumbs to complications from being shot by a stray bullet nine years earlier, Bosch catches a case in which the body is still fresh, but all other evidence is virtually non-existent.

Bosch is one of the most popular and enduring figures in American crime fiction. - Chicago Tribune

The finest crime series written, by an American Author – Washington Post



Title: The Burning Room,
Author: Michael Connelly



Title: The Piano Shop on the Left Bank (The Hidden World of The Paris Atelier)
Author: Thaddeus Carhart

Book for Month— February 2017

Date: - Wed., 01 February, 2017, 7 pm

Leader: Rev. Fran Dearman

Location: UUC of Olinda - Tranquility Room

Summary:

Ever since the piano was invented, people have longed to own one. When T.E. Carhart came upon Luc and his atelier, his life changed.

In this wonderfully atmospheric book, full of Parisian life, the story of a musical friendship and a mutual obsession is intertwined with reflections on how pianos work, their glorious history and the people who care for them, from the most amateur pianists to the tuner and craftsmen who make the mechanism sing.

Caring Committee Report , January 2017

Happy 2017. Each year seems to pass so quickly. “Time flies when you are having fun” is often said. We must be having fun!

“Go placidly amid the noise and haste, and remember what peace there may be in silence.” I tell this to myself and try to not be anxious about things I cannot do.

We think of Marion as she awaits Arn’s arrival from rehabilitation and trust their reunion will happen soon. Albertina was pleased with her plate of goodies from Linda Upcott of the Caring Committee. We had a grand visit with the people at Erie Glen Manor over the season.

We remember Laverne Hicks as she oversees the care of Ron. We wish a speedy recovery to Carabel Ringrose as she regains her health, and we say hello to Don and Sylvia Dotzert in Tecumseh and to Evelyn Dresser in Cottam, always a pleasure to visit.

I thank Jim Reid for a good cuppa tea on a frigid December afternoon...a two bag pot...and a great conversation.

Merry Christmas one and all...a season to remember old friends and make new acquaintances. Wishing you all a good measure of health and peace.

Sharon van Abbema
Call if you would enjoy a visit.

Staff Absence

Interim Minister the Rev. Fran Dearman will be visiting family in Victoria BC, departing late Christmas Day, returning January 7th. In event of emergency during Fran’s absence, members of the Olinda Board and the Caring Committee will know how to reach her by telephone. Fran will be monitoring e-mail from time to time during her visit in Victoria.

Note that Fran will be “on deck” for all services from January 8 through January 22, including the service at which the Reverend Keith Kron is speaking.

Committee Members

Eunice Goyette

June Blacker

Linda Upcott

Sharon van Abbema

Olinda: Historic Past, Bright Future

The first Universalist congregation in Canada was formed in the small hamlet of Olinda, ON, in 1880. The Unitarian Universalist Church of Olinda still stands proudly at the same four corners where it was raised in 1881. The Church serves a strong and diverse membership in the most southerly part of Canada, drawing congregants from the Kingsville-Leamington area, Essex County, Windsor, and even from Detroit, MI.

Sadly, we lost Rev. Christine Hillman, our minister of 14 years, to cancer last year. We are fortunate to have Rev. Frances Dearman join us this September to serve our community as Interim Minister and help us through the process of finding a new settled minister.

Our small church loves its music. Four talented pianists in our membership rotate on a weekly basis. We are also blessed with member Ray Stone's string quintet, consisting of friends who are Grosse Pointe Symphony members.

John van Abbema



The Ray Stone Quintet graces services and events at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Olinda.

This article first appeared in the Fall 2016 issue of The Canadian Unitarian. It appears here with minor revision...Ed.

Membership Report:

The Membership Committee will be preparing Orientation packets for newcomers to the church. They will be similar to what has been used in the past with information being filed in a duo tang format. Copies will be available in the church library by the middle of January.

An Orientation Session has been planned for January 22nd from 12-1 p.m. with Fran leading the gathering. There will be soup, sandwiches and refreshments following the service that day for everyone to enjoy. If you know of anyone who seems to be interested in our church, please invite them to attend.

A special ad was placed in the Leamington Southpoint Sun for our New Year's Day service. Maybe this will attract someone who is looking for ways to start out the new year by making a change in their life.

I'd like to thank Linda Upcott for her kindness and generosity making cookies for the shut-ins of our church family this Christmas. I hadn't realized this custom was being continued by some individuals after the Women's Association ceased operating. Every Christmas season a few ladies from the church would get together in the parsonage bringing home baked cookies to pack and distribute to our elderly and frail church members. Also, a special mention to the Christmas elves who bought presents for the Christmas families which were supported by the Church this year and to John Upcott for providing us with a lovely Christmas tree. An extra special thank you to those of you who made donations to the Christmas families and mittens for the Mitten tree that were taken to Hiatus House.

Here's looking forward to the New Year when we hope to have more Dinners for 8 to enjoy, fascinating Book Club gatherings to challenge the mind and heart, cozy teas with the Minister to look forward to, more Board and Committee Meetings for stimulating conversation and bonding, and future meaningful Sunday services by Rev. Dearman. These highlights in the coming year are just a few of what we have to offer and if anyone has a new idea about activities they would find interesting, please let me know or another member of the committee.

Our next Membership Committee Meeting will be on Feb. 2nd at 9:30 a.m. As a reminder, Membership Committee members include Sharon van Abbema, Bob-bye Baylis, and Helen Moore. Fran attends our Committee meetings as well, which is very much appreciated since she often has some wisdom or advice to share with us.

Lorie Lyons
(Membership Chair)

Thanks from the Treasurer

Thank you for the many donations for the mitten tree. If you look very hard at the picture below, you may be able to spot the colourful mittens on the beautiful tree John Upcott brought us. Reverend Fran Dearman took the mittens to Hiatus House where they were gratefully received. Warm socks, dental hygiene kit, gloves and mitts were also taken to the Salvation Army Food Bank in Essex.

The blue church birthday bank donations go to the minister's discretionary fund. Reverend Fran Dearman has taken the proceeds to the Kingsville Food Bank. There is a large hamper at the front left of the church where donations of non-perishable food items can be placed. The items are taken to the Kingsville Food Bank regularly.

Thank you for all your donations of money for the operation of the church and the cost of ministry. It appears, even though all donations may not have arrived yet, and some bills are still anticipated these last days of December, that we will end up well into the black. Thank you also for all your gifts of service without which the church could not operate. Many thanks.

Helen Moore

Christmas 2016 At Olinda

