

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 February 2017

Date	Speaker	Title	Musician(s)
Feb. 5	Irene Moore Davis	<i>Black history in Essex County.</i> Ms. Davis is a well-known scholar of black history in the region, and February is Black History month.	Baylis-Stone Trio
Feb. 12	Rev. Fran Dearman	<i>Mystical Landscapes.</i> Fran reflects on her visit to the exhibit of that name at the Art Gallery of Ontario. What do we mean when we talk about mysticism?	Carabel Ringrose
Feb. 19	Rev. Jessica Purple Rodela	<i>Calling and Searching, Seeking and Finding</i> Rev. Jessica Rodela recalls her own journey into ministry, from teaching in inner city Washington DC to candidating for settled ministry with the Grand River Congregation in Kitchener-Waterloo.	Lorie Lyons
Feb. 26	Rev. Fran Dearman	<i>Covenant: We agree to walk with one another.</i> Fran reflects on the ancient roots of the concept of covenant, and its ongoing role in how we bring our best selves to our shared undertakings. The service is followed by our annual general meeting and election of officers.	Toni Janik
Mar. 5	Victoria Cross & Len Wallace	<i>Labour Law and Dispute Resolution.</i> Victoria is a Windsor lawyer, freelance writer, and social activist, and Len is a musician and Professor of Labour Studies at the University of Windsor.	tbd

Annual Congregational Meeting

Unitarian Universalist Church of Olinda
Sunday, February 26, 2017, at noon
following a bowl of Chili!

The Annual Reports will be available on Sunday, Feb. 12, 2017

Interested in **Adult Religious Education**? Fill out the form on the back page of this Newsletter and leave it in the Minister's mail slot in the Library.

From the Board, February 2017

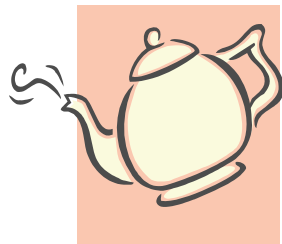
The January board meeting saw a record number of people attend, and it was great to see all the people. Plans were finalized for Rev. Keith Kron's visit and as it turned out it was a great success. He addressed the Board and Search Committee on Saturday and delivered a memorable service Sunday morning. If you missed it I hope you have a chance to hear him speak sometime in the future. After the service he answered the congregation's questions and had a private meeting with the Search Committee. Thank you to Keith for coming and to Rev. Fran for organizing his visit.

The nominating committee presented their list of people to serve on the Board for the upcoming year and I am so pleased to say that all the offices have been filled. For a congregation of this size to have six members serve on the Search Committee and still be able to have all the board positions accounted for is remarkable. I sincerely thank all who volunteered and to the nominating committee thank you for your work.

The Olinda A.G.M. is February 26th and I hope all will attend and support this outgoing Board. They all have done a remarkable job this year and they have worked very well together and put in many hours serving this Church and congregation. Thank you to those who, because of serving on the search committee or for personal reasons, will be leaving the Board. I want you to know the congregation appreciates your commitment. These people, along with Rev. Frances Dearman, make my job so much easier and I personally thank them all.

The board and I thank the Congregation this year for their moral and financial support as we will end the year with a small surplus. This is terrific but we anticipate more expenses this year as we seek a new minister. I know this congregation is up to the task.

John Upcott, President.



Tea with the Minister

Join Rev. Fran and whoever else shows up to enjoy afternoon tea and conversation on Wednesday, February 8 and 15, from 1:30-3:00 pm. This treat is a regular occurrence on the second and third Wednesdays of the month. The third Wednesday is an opportunity for handwork, in addition to the tea.

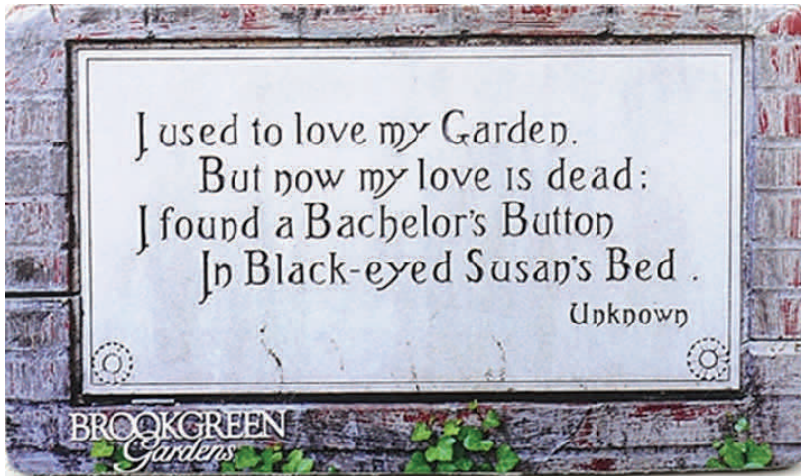
February 2016 Property Committee Report

After a snow fall in December, the town of Kingsville made a mistake and cleared our parking lot of snow. In the process, they pushed back much of the gravel that had been placed last summer.

My contact person in Kingsville has assured me that they will correct this situation in early spring. In the meantime, we might have to do a quick repair ourselves in the area near the road.

Laurie Hylton, Property

Happy Valentine's Day!



In honour of Valentine's Day and the beauty of the flowers in the roadside garden at our front door garden, we offer this little bit of whimsical humour.

John van Abbema, Editor

Accolades, Recognition and a Thank You

For the past eight years, John Haynes has taken it upon himself to build and maintain the flower garden in front of our Church. His husbandry of this plot of land has been a constant and welcoming joy to observe throughout the seasons of the year. Even passersby admire his handiwork. They stop to take pictures and even wedding photos in the summer. This garden gives our grounds a feeling of useful occupation and peace within. Thank you John for your caring efforts over the years.

John has said that 2016 would be his last year to garden. Beginning this Spring, we will be looking for a volunteer or volunteers to carry on the work. If you think you have a green thumb or the ambition to enhance the beauty of this Church, please talk to a member of the Board.

John van Abbema, Editor

Important Dates

Feb. 2 9:30 am

Membership Committee

Feb. 2 7 pm

Choir Rehearsal

Feb. 8 1:30 pm

Tea with the Minister

Feb. 8 7 pm

Book Club: *The Piano Shop on the Left Bank* by Thaddeus Carhart

Feb. 9 7 pm

Board of Trustees Meeting

Feb. 12 Noon

Film: *Capturing Grace* and Sandwich Exchange

Feb. 15 1:30 pm

Handwork Wednesday

Feb. 16 7 pm

Choir Rehearsal

Feb. 19 9:30 am

Sunday Services Meeting

Feb. 19 Noon

Social Responsibility Committee Meeting

Feb. 21 9 pm

March Newsletter Reports due

Feb. 26 Noon

Annual Congregational Meeting

Interim Minister Rev. Fran 's Column, February 2017

Welcome February. We are midway and more towards spring equinox. Life quickens in the earth, unseen, underground, or hidden in the blush of twigs.
Festina Lente~~Make haste slowly.

During December, the congregation commissioned the Ministerial Search Committee (MSC) to seek out their next settled minister. The six individuals who have accepted this trust are: Bobbye Baylis, Cathy Dewhurst, John van Abbema, Linda Upcott, Steve Brennan, and Stuart Miller.

During January, UUA Transitions Director Keith Kron visited Olinda along with CUC staffer Linda Thomson. What a weekend! Keith met with the Board and the MSC, preached Sunday morning, and held conversation with the congregation after lunch. Linda and the MSC have scheduled a weekend in May for the MSC's Start Up Workshop.

Keith also serves as Ministerial Settlement Representative (MSR) for Canada. Keith has knowledge, skill, and experience; his role is to advise, show up, and serve as a resource both to ministers and to congregations. The final choice lies with the congregation.

Similarly, Linda Thomson is a CUC staffer for congregational development; her role is to advise, show up, and offer resources in support of the MSC and congregations.

The congregation entrusts the search process to the MSC; the MSC will scan the field, select and interview potential candidates, and lift up one recommendation to the congregation. A Candidating Week will be scheduled; the candidate will preach two Sundays, and meet with folks the week between. The final choice lies with the congregation.

As Interim Minister (IM), I am also a resource. As IM, I assist with logistics, insights, and communications. I can bring concerns to the attention of the MSC, and offer my response to various documents. I can write a Letter for the Packet. I am available for a mock interview. I am available for feedback on various documents and drafts, e.g. a draft letter of agreement.

I will make no comment on any particular candidate. No comment. Ever.
And when Candidating Week arrives, sometime after Easter 2018, the IM gets out of town, available for pastoral emergencies, but otherwise out of sight. And a new ministry, never seen before, will arise as the candidate and the congregation meet one another.

Festina Lente—we make haste, but slowly, surely, carefully, and with respect for all engaged in this process of ministerial settlement and transition.

Yours in the interim,
Rev. Fran

Finance Committee Report

Much to our delight, we will have a surplus for 2016 in the Operating Budget. In spite of taking none of the budgeted \$15,000 from the Lloyd Fund, we ended the year with a surplus of almost \$3000. The generosity of our members and friends is also to thank for a healthy Memorial Fund balance of nearly \$16,000 even after spending almost \$5000 on a new front door and a picture window for the Library.

We used the aUuction balance to pay for new flooring in the kitchen plus new windows for the rest of the Manse. Actually we did not have that much money in the aUuction fund so the Capital Fund paid the difference, to be repaid by future aUuctions. Even after having “donated” \$8637 to pay for the windows, the Capital Fund balance is over \$16,000. It is good to know we have a healthy cushion in the Capital Fund should one (or both) of our elderly furnaces give up the ghost.

Now the aUuction Fund owes the Capital Fund over \$8000, so we all need to start thinking seriously what goods and services we will be bringing to the next aUuction in April. Watch for the sign-up list to come in sometime in the next weeks.

Bobbye Baylis

Social Responsibility Committee Report

On Sunday, Feb. 12, at noon, the Social Responsibility Committee is presenting a film, following a Sandwich Exchange.* The film is titled *Capturing Grace*, directed by Dave Iverson, released in April, 2015. The running time is 64 minutes.

Summary: It seems like two disparate realms. One occupied by some of the most acclaimed dancers in the world, people who move for a living. The other occupied by people who often struggle to move, people who have Parkinson's disease. This is the story of what happens when those worlds intersect. We followed individuals with Parkinson's as they prepared to stage a first ever dance performance, under the tutelage of two long time dancers at the Mark Morris Dance Group [Brooklyn]. It's a story about determination, adversity, contending with doubt, the transformative power of art and the strength of the human spirit. This is the story of a remarkable community of dancers who have come together to rediscover the meaning of grace.

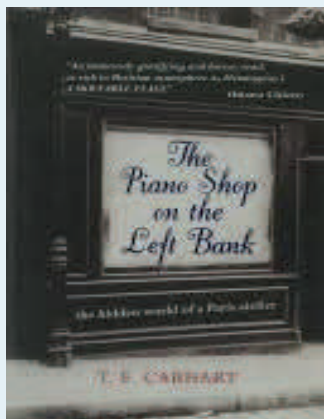
*Sandwich Exchange: If you would like to stay for the film, bring a couple of sandwiches (to make sure people who forgot do not starve) that you would be willing to eat. If you are daring, you can put your sandwiches into the common platter and pick something else to try!

Olinda Book Club

This group of congregants and friends gathers once a month (usually the 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.

Everyone is welcome – *Contact Chairperson Pat Haynes, or Stuart Miller.*



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

Author: Thaddeus Carhart



Title: The Secret Keeper, A Novel

Author: Kate Morton

Book for the Month of February 2017

Date: Wed., 8 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 (workshop), 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.

Book for Month of March 2017

Date: Wed., 8 March, 2017, 7 pm

Leader: Sharon van Abbema

Location: van Abbema Residence

Summary:

From pre-WWII England through the Blitz, to the fifties and beyond, discover the secret history of three strangers from vastly different worlds--Dorothy, Vivien, and Jimmy--who meet by chance in wartime London and whose lives are forever entwined.

"The Secret Keeper" explores longings and dreams, the lengths people go to fulfill them, and the consequences they can have. It is a story of lovers, friends, dreamers, and schemers told--in Morton's signature style--against a backdrop of events that changed the world.

Caring Committee Report, February 8, 2017

All is calm, all is bright. Flus and germs are out of sight. We were hindered from visiting at Erie Glen this past month due to a virus that was rampant, going from one seniors' home to another.

We remember Tina Bell and Marion Thompson at Erie Glen. Both of our Olinda Unitarian members enjoy visits from time to time. Arn Thompson is waiting for a suitable placement as his needs have changed. Laverne continues looking after Ron in their home. We think of them. They are one of us.

Evelyn Dresser celebrated her 91st birthday and we were pleased to see her at the Olinda service this past month. Evelyn's family partied at her home to celebrate...a good time had by all, I am sure.

Happy St Valentine's day one and all. Remember a phone call or a visit with your sweetheart, or a good friend and maybe a glass of wine.

Sharon van Abbema

Why I Wear a Safety Pin

Since November I have been in the habit of wearing a safety pin on my clothing. The idea of wearing a safety pin originated in the U.K. after the Brexit vote because of the sharp increase in the incidence of hate crimes and the harassment of individuals on the streets. After the Presidential election a similar phenomenon was observed in the America .

The reason for doing so and why I wear a safety pin is to express solidarity with those affected and as a commitment to action. While there has been criticism of the practice by some activists who argue that it does nothing to address the systemic issues of racial injustice and serves merely to make some white people feel better about themselves. I work in a university library where I interact with lots of people of diverse backgrounds, many of whom are young.

My hope is that when a person sees my safety pin, they will know it is safe to talk to me and get any necessary help. It may be only a small gesture but I hope that it is one which will have a positive impact, however small, in making the world a better and a safer place.

By Charlotte Innerd

Committee Members

Eunice Goyette

June Blacker

Linda Upcott

Sharon van Abbema

Membership Committee Report

In case you were unable to attend the Jan. 22nd orientation session, please feel welcome to take home a copy of "All About Us", an 8 1/2" x 11" booklet located on the library desk. We have several extra copies available on the library shelf as well if you would like to take more than one. We also have a very good supply of informative pamphlets on display, so take your time and browse; you might find something very meaningful to you.

Carol and Laurie Hylton are hosting a Dinners for Eight on Feb. 11th earlier in the day for people who prefer not to drive in the dark. The sign up sheet was filled the same Sunday it was advertised in the church announcements. Thank you Carol and Laurie for offering your hospitality. The Social Responsibility Committee is hosting an International Dinner at the church on March 26th, so perhaps someone would be willing to host a Dinners for Eight in April or even March would be fine too. Please let me or someone on the Membership Committee know.

In case you are considering becoming a member of the church in the future, there are Membership Request Forms located in a display stand on the library desk along the east wall.

The criteria that must be met to join, according to our Church By-Laws is quite concise and simple; it is included on the front of the form. We would be thrilled to see our church family grow.

Lorie Lyons



Olinda UU Transition News

A congregational meeting was held at the Church Sunday, January 15; and, the Search Committee had a further meeting that afternoon with Rev. Kron and Rev. Thomson. In the interest of keeping everyone informed, here is a little more information about what you can expect over the next eight months. The Search Committee appreciated the questions and suggestions from the congregation and made a commitment to be mindful of all members' concerns.

The process seems long to many, but we are working with the schedule and the conditions set by the American and Canadian Unitarian Universalist Head offices. They have spent years working out the best practices and we were constantly told we should do our homework well and to take our time to find a minister that would be a best fit for Olinda.

This month we are reading and studying all we can find on the subject. The two main source documents are the "Transition Ministry Handbook", already used by the Interim Search Committee to find an Interim Minister; and, the "Settlement Handbook for Ministers and Congregations." Both are published by the UUA, and you may find and read them at transitions@uua.org. If you can set aside the time, you are urged to look up these handbooks and study them, so that you will be as up to date as the Search Committee.

By March and April, the Search Committee should be in a position to organize focus groups to determine the wishes of all congregants. We will need everyone's participation in this activity for two reasons: a) to gain knowledge of your views and needs before we advertise for a minister; and, (b) to show prospective applicants how supportive you are in finding the right minister for our needs.

To attract the best minister, we will need a high rate of response on these questionnaires. No one would like to start a career with us if a large percentage of congregants fail to return the questionnaires or absent themselves from the focus groups. Please be forthright in your responses and discussions. Open communications and high participation will be a huge asset to our task.

An all-day retreat for Search Committee members will be held in early May. Rev Linda Thomson, or her stand-in, will guide us in our deliberations. From there on, an information packet about our church will be prepared for the UUA for distribution to prospective applicants. The UUA will collect packets from applicants and handle the exchange of packets between our Church and interested applicants.

This summer will be super busy for the Search Committee and an interesting year for all of us. You will be kept informed of our monthly progress through this column in the Newsletter.

John van Abbema, Editor.

February-9

Unitarian Universalist Church of Olinda, QUESTIONNAIRE

Concerning Adult Religious Education for February-March-April 2017.

Interim Minister the Rev. Fran Dearman would like to offer some Adult Religious Education in early 2017. Fran wonders what folks might be looking for along those lines. You are invited to fill out the following brief questionnaire accordingly, to see what possibilities might emerge. Leave this questionnaire in the Minister's box in the Library.

Ideally, classes should include at least seven persons. Class would likely meet at the church in Olinda; a Windsor class is possible if seven persons sign on for a coffee-shop venue there.

First, SCHEDULING: if you were interested in an adult religious education class, when would you be available? Classes would be twice a month, February-March-April, every second week.

PLEASE CIRCLE TIMES THAT ARE POSSIBLE FOR YOU:

TUESDAY	afternoons 2-4 pm	yes	no	maybe
TUESDAY	evenings 7-9 pm	yes	no	maybe
WEDNESDAY	evenings 7-9 pm	yes	no	maybe
THURSDAY	afternoons, 2-4 pm	yes	no	maybe
THURSDAY	evenings 7-9 pm	yes	no	maybe

Second, CONTENT:

One useful vehicle is the tried and true, "[Building Your Own Theology](#)", infinitely adaptable. Perhaps you did BYOT years ago, before it was revised into three volumes. Many have found it useful, helpful, and compelling, to return to the same vehicle many years later.

Or Google <<[UU Programs for Adults/UUA.Org](#)>> and ponder the wealth of offerings yourself.....

Is there something you see here that appeals? _____

See especially <<[Tapestry of Faith Programs for Adults](#)>> Fran's eye was caught by a series of two-hour workshops entitled, "[Faith Like a River: A program on Unitarian Universalist History for Adults](#)". Fran also likes to work with materials generated by UU minister the Rev. Thandeka, such as, "[What Moves Us: Unitarian Universalist Theology](#)". Alternately, Adult Religious Education can be shaped around an ongoing discussion group or covenant circle led by Rev. Fran, focussing on a range of resources and topics, including uua programme materials.

TOPIC _____

Your thoughts? Please include name and contact info, e.g. preferred e-mail address:

NAME _____

Thank you for your comments and feedback,

Interim Minister the Rev. Fran Dearman, January 28th, 2017