

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 March 2017

Date	Speaker	Title	Musician(s)
Mar. 5	Victoria Cross and 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.	Baylis-Stone Trio
Mar. 12	Rev. Fran Dearman	<i>Process Theology: What if the holy were evolving just as we do?</i> Rev. Fran reflects on a way of understanding the world—body, mind and spirit, sacred and profane—as evolving through time and space. Process Theology, as a way of articulating a religious posture, emerged from the challenges of early Twentieth Century science, and the colossal losses of the Second World War. Philosopher of science Alfred North Whitehead first articulated the concept.	Carabel Ringrose
Mar. 19	Rev. Fran Dearman	<i>Shinto and Spring Equinox.</i> On this day, day and night are of nearly equal length, throughout the world. Rev. Fran reflects on equinox and equanimity, and notes that March 22nd is UNESCO World Water Day.	Lorie Lyons
Mar. 26	Wilma Lamb	<i>Refugee to New Canadian.</i> Followed by the International Dinner. Funds collected by donation used to support refugees.	Toni Janik
Apr. 2	Rev. Fran Dearman	<i>Poetry Month: Singing the Body Electric.</i> With a little help from the poet Walt Whitman, Rev. Fran reflects on rhythm and rhyme and the flesh that bears them along. In particular, Fran reaches for an understanding of what it means for a body to be born transgender.	tbd



Support your

**UU Church of Olinda
Annual Goods and Services aUction
7 pm April 8, 2017**

Showcase your many talents!
Organize a fun event!
Sign-up List Available in Coffee Hour Room

From the Board, March 2017

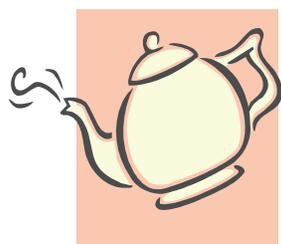
First let me say thank you to all members who are leaving the Board. You have worked well and made my job much easier.

The congregation owes you a great deal of thanks. I have some knowledge of who will be next on the Board and I am looking forward to another good and exciting year.

April 8th was set as the date of our next AUUction. The funds from this will be used to repay the capital fund for the new windows. Please keep that date open and plan to attend. You can either donate a service or something that can be auctioned off. This is our biggest fundraiser of the year. Even if you do not donate, please come and have a good time and bid on some great stuff. Plans for the day have not been finalized but stay tuned for more details.

The Board completed a six-month review on how the interim process is going. This is not an appraisal of Rev. Fran but more on the congregation and the work we have done. The transition team has done a review, now the Board has done one and Rev. Fran has completed hers. They all will be sent to Rev. Kron and the U.U.A. The Board was very clear that the process to find a settled minister was right on track and that with Rev. Fran's assistance we will remain that way. There will be another review at the twelve month mark.

At the time of this writing the Olinda A.G.M. has not taken place. It is an important time to look back with the committee reports, the minutes of the special congregational meetings and to look at the financial health of the church. This is a time to look forward to a new Board with renewed energy, to the search for a settled minister, whatever form that will take, and to work together to grow our liberal religion in this community and beyond.



Tea with the Minister

Join Rev. Fran and whoever else shows up to enjoy afternoon tea and conversation on Wednesday, March 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.

March 2017 Property Committee Report

It has been a quiet month and as of this writing we have only had to have snow removal one time and I thank Doug Whaley for his services.

Due to the installation of the new entrance doorway, it was necessary to replace the door bell and that has been done. The door bell rings in the Minister's Study (second floor). Also, we have purchased a more efficient heater with a thermostat for the Minister's Study.

Laurie Hylton, Property Trustee

Ministerial Search Committee Report March 2017

The latest news on the MSC is that a new Transitions coach, the Rev. Stephen Atkinson, has been named by UUA Transitions Director the Rev. Kron to work with Canadian Ministerial Search Committees. Rev. Stephen served as settled minister for eight years at the North Shore Unitarian Church in West Vancouver before moving to Ontario for training in hospital chaplaincy at Hamilton. More news in April.

J. van Abbema, Ed.

Recognition, Accolades and Thank You

Canada is experiencing cold and snowy weather this winter. We are thankful that our Sun Parlour "micro climate" has spared us from the worst of this weather. At Olinda UU, we also have the great good fortune to have a group of volunteers to keep us clean, warm and dry.

These men, John Upcott, Walter Sinclair and Rick Stevenson, have worked diligently behind the scenes at the church to ensure our comfort in the winter. They clear snow from the entrance when it storms. They ensure that our building is heated in time for Sunday services and for other events, when the church is being used during the week.

Even the floor was washed thoroughly after some very muddy days earlier this winter. Brush was cut and gathered last fall, and then hauled away.

We appreciate what these volunteers so faithfully do for us throughout the year. Please say hello and thank you to these volunteers when you next meet them at Church. Well done, guys.

John van Abbema, Editor

Important Dates

Mar. 1 7 pm

Choir Rehearsal

Mar. 2 1:30—3 pm

(& all subsequent Thursdays)

Minister's Office Hours

Mar. 8 1:30 pm

Tea with the Minister

Mar. 9 7 pm

Board of Trustees Meeting

Mar. 11 10—2 pm

Choir Rehearsal in Ann Arbor
for Big Sing

Mar. 12 4 pm

Big Sing in Ann Arbor

Mar. 15 9:30 am

Membership Committee
Meeting

Mar. 15 1:30 pm

Handwork with the Minister

Mar. 19 9:30 am

Sunday Services Meeting

Mar. 19 noon

Social Resp. Comm. Meeting

Mar. 21 9 pm

April Newsletter Reports due

Mar. 26 noon

International Dinner

Interim Minister Rev. Fran 's Column, March 2017

March marches in—more birds, more buds, and at last spring equinox. The lunar, solar and traditional calendars meet and merge; this year the entire month of March lies within the season of Lent—a time for deep reflection and mindfulness.

I like Lent. I like the idea of sustained intentionality. Some folks like to give something up for Lent—one friend gave up her seat on the crowded Boston T-Line. Some folks give up meat for Lent—I like the idea, and the economy, of letting the spring lambs gambol in the meadows for a while, enjoying the first grass and the fresh air.

Me, I get more excited about taking on something new, rather than giving something up. In Anchorage Alaska, when I sang with the Martin Luther King Citywide Choir, we were invited to consider MLK Day as a day on, not a day off. A day on. A day of intentional activity. So that's another way to think of Lent—as a time on, a time of intentional and positive action. I've taken up the notion of writing a weekly letter to my members of parliament this first quarter of the year. Perhaps I can persist through a March of mindfulness and communication.

On another day, what might I do? Go for a walk each day? Watch for birds? Watch how the sun arrives a little earlier each day? Or to repeat some familiar task more faithfully, more lovingly, more care-fully....This year I'd like to undertake some intentional reading—such as sermons and other writings by my colleagues. I'd like to better understand this business of 'call'—vocation literally means call, what one is called to do. How did my colleagues discern their call? How do I discern mine?

Unitarian Universalist aspirants to ministry each emerge from their own unique life history. I know of one minister who paid his way through college working summers in an iron foundry. Me, I was a sailor. Some hear the call very young—ministry is all they ever wanted to do. Some try a few other things first, but the call finds them out, and leads them forth.

So that's my aspiration for Lent—to listen for the call, not just my own, but the call that drew my colleagues to this work. To read a book a day, or a chapter a day, or a sermon a day. To listen for the still small voice that drew, not just me, but others, to do what they do. I wonder what draws you to do what you do.....

Yours in the interim, Rev. Fran



Rev. Fran Dearman at the Leamington vigil, Feb. 1
Photo, Courtesy of The Leamington Sun

Finance Committee Report

Once again it is time to start thinking about the Goods and Services aUction, coming up on April 8, 2017. This evening is your chance to pick up special, home-made foods as well as one-of-a-kind items. Of course, that means it is an opportunity to showcase your culinary and artistic talents. Please add your name and your donated item to the sign-up list in the Tranquility Room. This is also the place to add the event you would like to organize for next year. During the aUction people will be signing up for your events and buying tickets.

The funds collected at the aUction will go to paying for the windows in the Manse. When the bill for those windows was paid, money from the 2016 aUction was used, but the remaining \$8637 was covered by the Capital Fund. Hence there is a need for this upcoming aUction to be well supported, as well as with another such event in the coming year! See you there.

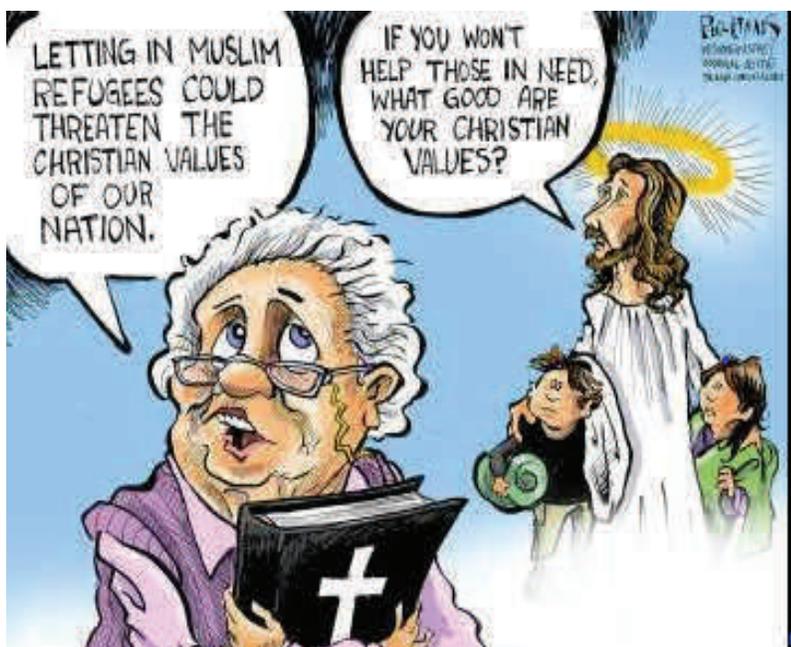
Bobbye Baylis, Finance Trustee

Social Responsibility Committee Report , March 2017

Quite the turnout for our first Social Responsibility Committee Film in a couple of years! We all found this documentary about patients with Parkinson's Disease experiencing dance classes very remarkable. Many thanks to Laurie and Ray Stone for discovering and purchasing the DVD for us to experience.

Our next project is the International Dinner, on March 26 after church, which will be dedicated to the local refugee project. The food (at least some of it) will have a Middle-Eastern flavour. We look forward to a presentation by Wilma Lamb, who coordinates refugee support groups in Leamington.

Bobbye Baylis, Secretary of the SRC



A perplexing picture of the world situation following the U.S. Immigration ban imposed since January 20.

Will we ever learn that prejudice cuts both ways? Or, that it slows the advancement of all mankind ?

Can we ever deal with this honestly?

Editor

March-5

Olinda Book Club March 2017

It's been over 10 years since a small group of Olinda congregants and friends started gathering once a month at the home of other book club members, the Church, or other arranged venues.

The composition and size of this group has varied, but has seldom been less than 8 committed members. The club now boasts 11 ... Gypsy Carroll, Leona Crowder, Rev. Fran Dearman, Evelyn Fisher, Joyce Gilbert, John & Pat Haynes, Karen & Stuart Miller, and John & Sharon van Abbema.

After selecting, reading, researching, and discussing almost 100 books together over the years, the group members have collectively decided on an indefinite hiatus. Such a wide range of authors and books have been shared, many introduced to some members of the group for the first time, some becoming crowd pleasers, and others ... not so much.

While each member has personal reasons for closing the communal book, all take with them countless memories, including the building and cultivating of friendships, the sharing of rich personal stories. Other interactions, most notably the creative refreshments which always appeared to encourage additional sustenance to spur us on. The reminiscences of this special community will not be forgotten.

We will continue to read and grow independently of course, as do members of our congregation. Recommendations and discussions of new titles, and rediscovered classics will continue to pass between us all, but for the moment at least, in a less formal manner.

Our suggestion is that this column in our monthly newsletter remain open. We would like to retain this column as a form of bookshelf for all members, and friends of the UU Church of Olinda, to collect, contribute, and share the titles of the volumes that each feel will bring to our community the ideas, thoughts and values that we wish to share. Please pass your book selections to either the Newsletter editorial staff or myself.

Respectfully, Co-chairperson Stuart Miller.

Choir Alert

One of our choir's favorite events is the Mass Choir experience, singing with about 150 Michigan choir members. The First UU Congregation of Ann Arbor has hosted several Big Sings. Their talented choir master Glen Thomas Rideout makes the weekend event an inspirational joy. It returns this year on March 11-12. There's a rehearsal from 10 AM to 2 PM (includes lunch) on Saturday, March 11, and the concert call is at 2:45 PM Sunday, with the concert performance at 4 PM. The concert is well worth hearing even for those unable to rehearse. But don't arrive late; the auditorium fills up early! The Olinda participation makes it international.

Bill Baylis, Choir Director

Caring Committee Report , March 8, 2017

Spring is in the air. Our grass is green, and the sage and savory are attempting to grow. I tell them to go back. Winter is not quite over yet. They do not listen.

A big hello to Laverne and Ron in Ruthven. I am told Ron enjoys Olinda's Newsletter, reading news from the outside world each month.

Marion Thompson and her cat Tiger are keeping well occupied at Erie Glen and await news of Arn's move to a facility that can take care of his needs. We all say a big hello to Tina Bell. She enjoys conversation with friends.

For those of you who know some of these Unitarian Universalist friends of ours, a visit or a call is a welcome reminder that we remember them. Hello as well to Emil and Eunice Buhne as they deal with their own health issues.

More signs of spring are not too far away. Let these be the days when we let others know we appreciate their friendship.

Sharon van Abbema

Soles for Souls

In February, the Bio Ped Footcare Clinics continued their charitable collection of used shoes for needy people in the Dominican Republic. A successful drive was organized in Haiti in 2015, with their motto..."Wearing Out Poverty."

Many in these countries walk barefoot. As a result of the shoe drives, foot-care is improved, children can play sports and attend school, women can work in places where shoes are mandatory. The program provides employment for others to repair, stitch and glue footwear before they are taken to market. The repaired shoes are then sold by vendors who are able to set up their own micro businesses. For more information, please google: <https://soles4souls.org/>

The goal this year was to collect 100,000 pairs of shoes. We were able to collect at least five donation boxes (two carloads) of good quality used shoes from Olinda U.U. Thank you everyone for your generosity. These shoes will be distributed in the Dominican Republic in April 2017.

Sharon van Abbema

Committee Members

Eunice Goyette
June Blacker
Linda Upcott
Sharon van Abbema



March -7

Support for a Sister Faith Community

The tragic shooting of Muslims at prayer in a Quebec City Mosque, has touched all of us in many significant ways. How one person can be so violently callous towards strangers, whose religion and customs he does not understand, is incomprehensible.

I did not know the victims, but I have had a uniquely profound and personal relationship with them. They are and were, my people. After World War II my family, also, were immigrants to Canada. Like our Muslim friends, we dressed differently, and did not speak the language when we arrived. We were poor and did not know the customs of this country. We were escaping from the harsh economic conditions in our native land and the threat of war with Russia in Europe. Lifetime friends and relations were given up to pursue a better future for all of us.

Since then we have come to know many immigrants from many lands. We have all lived a similar path of separation from the familiar and hope for the future. Hard work, intelligence and support from Canada and Canadians have moved us on to greater freedoms and opportunities, especially for the next generation.

Sharon and I had the good fortune in recent years to become surrogate grandparents to an Arab family. The youngest child, age ten at the time, is now studying law at the City University in London, England. Her dream is to become a lawyer for women who cannot afford to pay for lawyer's services when they need them. We are grateful to have had this opportunity to assist.

For these reasons, we were out to a vigil on a cold winter night in Kingsville on January 30 to show solidarity with the Muslim community, along with other Unitarian Universalists from Olinda. Rev Fran Dearman led the service in style and with meaning.

May we, our families and our community, all be safe from unprovoked violence.

Let us live together IN PEACE. Ensha'allah

John van Abbema, Editor.