

The Olinda Outpost

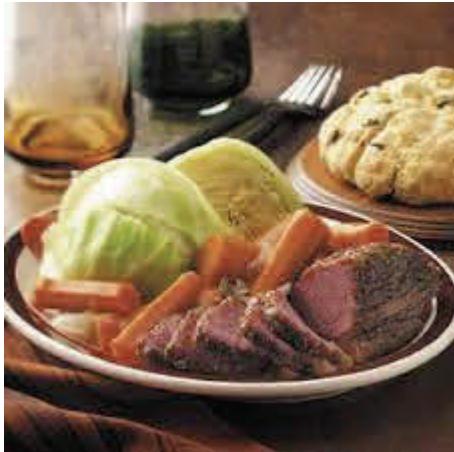
Monthly Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Olinda
2953 Olinda Side Road, Ruthven, Ontario, N0P 2G0

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



Sunday Services April 2017

Date	Speaker	Title	Musician(s)
Apr. 2	Rev. Fran Dearman	<i>Poetry Month: Singing the Body Electric. 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.</i>	Baylis-Stone Trio
Apr. 9	Rev. Fran Dearman	<i>Atonement and Icelanders: The day they locked the doors at Gimli. Palm Sunday</i>	Toni Janik
Apr. 16	Rev. Fran Dearman	<i>Easter Sunday.</i>	Baylis-Stone trio
Apr. 23	Bill Baylis	<i>Science & Religion for UUs. Science and religion are not antagonistic for UUs. Indeed, science is part of the UU religion, an essential piece of the search for truth.</i>	Lorie Lyons
Apr. 30	Sharon van Abbema	<i>Wisdom from Unitarian Poets.</i>	Lori Fithian & Jean Chorazyczewski
May 7	Rev. Stephen Atkinson	<i>Seeking Spirit: A Path in Faith towards Ministry. Both those who are born into Unitarian Universalism and those who find it along the way have in common the need to seek freely for their truth. Today, our new Canadian Transitions Coach, the Rev. Stephen Atkinson, will share part of his search, some of what he found, and how that brings him to us today.</i>	tbd



Please join us for the Annual Goods and Services aUUction
Saturday, April 8, 2017 @ 7:00PM, at the Olinda UU Church.
Supper of corned beef and cabbage, and homemade dessert
before the event at 5:00PM
at the reasonable cost of \$15.00.

From the Board, April 2017

First let me say we are all saddened by the loss of longtime member, Arnold Thompson. our deepest sympathies go to his wife, Marion, who has been a tireless worker in our church for many years. I know that I, along with the rest of his family and friends, will miss him. Rev. Frances Dearman officiated at a moving service Monday March 13. Internment followed in Graceland Cemetery by Olinda U U Church.

The Board meeting was the first for our new board . I know already that we are going to be an active Board with new and veteran members working together. We are ready for an exciting year.

We all thank Sharon van Abbema for taking on the position of R.E. Trustee for at least part of the year. The children seem to relate to her and her way of teaching. Sharon has much experience with children. With the help of Carol Hylton and other volunteers , we know this team will do well. We wish them the best.

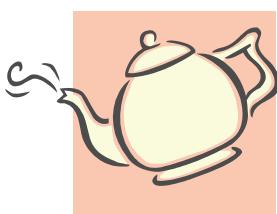
There is a new funding proposal being looked at by the C.U.C. The cost per member now is \$93 but the funds are insufficient to sustain the work of the C.U.C. The new proposal will be looked at more closely at the A.G.M. in Toronto in May. Our delegates, Stuart and Karen Miller, will be there to keep us informed.

The aUuction is coming quickly on April 8th. This is our largest fundraiser of the year. The list of items is growing but we can always use more. There will be a dinner before the auction for which you can buy tickets. More details coming soon. A number of the congregants along with Rev. Fran are planning to offer meals during the year for which you can sign up. Attendance is limited, so get your name on the list the night of the auction.

Fran has done a great deal to help us with the process of selecting a settled minister. As several Board members were absent at the last Board meeting, we decided to poll the members by e-mail. All are in agreement that she should continue to see us through the process. Fran has promised us that she will make her decision after talking with her family. We sincerely hope that she will be able to continue in her role.

I was sorry to hear the book club is no longer meeting, but I hope it will start again.

John Upcott, President



Tea with the Minister

Please join Rev. Fran and whoever else shows up to enjoy afternoon tea and conversation on Thursday, April 13 and Wednesday April 19, from 1:30-3:00 pm. This treat is a regular occurrence usually on the second and third Wednesdays of the month. The third Wednesday is an opportunity for handwork, in addition to the tea.

Big Sing 2017

Thanks to the super-talented Choir Master Glen Thomas Rideout and the First UU Congregation of Ann Arbor, members of our Choir at UU Olinda were able to join other choir members from Michigan and Indiana in the Big Sing on March 11 and 12 2017, in Ann Arbor. The theme of Welcoming and unity in diversity was a bright, joyous UU beacon in the face of separatist, racist, xenophobic, and homophobic attitudes on ascendancy around the world. Here's a photo of Olinda participants after the concert:

Bill Baylis, Choir Director



Kiva News

Kiva is an international non-profit organization, founded in 2005 and based in San Francisco. It arranges small loans for individuals and groups around the world to facilitate growth and alleviate poverty. We have formed a *UU Church of Olinda* team of 15 members, mostly members of the Social Responsibility Committee, that provides funds for some loans, mainly to women's groups in the third world.

On International Women's Day, March 8, 2017, Kiva used a generous donation of 1 million dollars to match many loans to women. Our team took advantage of the offer to extend our reach. We made a \$50 contribution to a \$1000 loan to Sokhorn, a 27-year old rice farmer in Battambang province, Cambodia, for seeds, fertilizer, and other help with her farm. Our contribution was matched, and very quickly after our action, the entire \$1000 had been collected for Sokhorn. A few days later, Kiva wrote with statistics for the day: 16,473 women in 62 countries received 6 million dollars (U.S.) from 57,742 lenders around the world, and the entire 1 M\$ in matching funds had been used.

So far, our team has made 60 Kiva loans totalling just under \$3000. New members are welcome: consider joining us! Check out www.kiva.org.

Important Dates

Apr. 5 7 pm

Choir Rehearsal

Apr. 6 1:30—3 pm

Minister's Office Hours

Apr. 8 7 pm

aUUction, preceded at 5:30 by Dinner

Apr. 13 (Thursday) 1:30 pm

Tea with the Minister

Apr. 13 7 pm

Board of Trustees Meeting

Apr. 16 9:30 am

Sunday Services Meeting

Apr. 16 noon

Social Resp. Comm. Meeting

Apr. 19 9:30 am

Membership Comm. Meet.

Apr. 19 1:30 pm

Handwork with the Minister

Apr. 19 7 pm

Choir Rehearsal

Apr. 20 1:30 - 3 pm

Minister's Office Hours

Apr. 22 10 am

Clean-up at Point Pelee

Apr. 25 9 pm

April Newsletter Reports due

April–3

Fran's Column for OLINDA Newsletter April 2017

Spring has sprung, the bird is on the wing, and lo, earth awakes again. Spring calls us to new hope, new life. There is trouble in the world. We do what we can. But let us not forget the joy of each day, with each new blade of grass.

I find myself looking for something to celebrate. And there it is—April 7th, fifteen years since the day I was ordained by my home church, First Victoria, in 2002, twenty years since I committed to studies with the Vancouver School of Theology.

Accordingly, I invite you to join me in some modest and simple celebration on the preceding Sunday, April 2nd. Nothing major, this is just a modest personal milestone—though I believe there will be cake!

Always, there are colleagues to celebrate. Interim Mentor Kansas, Dave Johnson, had many words of wisdom for me, beginning with: “Find something to celebrate!” These days I’m celebrating the re-opening of the Essex County Libraries.

Another mentor once said: if you want to find a new idea, read an old book. The Leamington library blessed me with James A. Michener’s “Legacy: A Novel”—and a blessedly short novel it is too, and well written. Though published in 1987, and set in the context of the Iran-Contra scandals, I found it helpful in holding today’s news in a balance of perspective and resilience.

Michener frames his novel around an Oliver North-type figure as he prepares to testify. The subject of the reflection is the emergence and growth of the U.S. Constitution—the iconic heart of America. In a series of narrations around the ongoing engagement of the narrator’s ancestors in the birth and development of the constitution, we see a parade of people, in the context of their own time, life and document shaping one another. A novel of nuance and evolvement.

Michener’s description of the months long consultations in which the representatives first shaped the US Constitution fascinated me. His analysis of the Dred Scott decision broke my heart, and brought new understanding. The resolution of his novel brought me hope.

Hard times call for deep reflection, as an aid to breadth and depth of perspective. Michener’s work came to me as a gift, towards that purpose.

I wonder what gifts bring to you some balance for perspective, and celebration....

Yours in the interim,

Rev. Fran

Property Committee Report, April 2017

Once again, John Upcott has been going to the church and working on improving the gravel distribution in the parking lot. This is looking good, John, and we all thank you so much.

SPRING CLEANUP - As I write this, it is snowing and spring seems a long way off. However, by the time you read this, it will be April and hopefully there will be signs of spring. So think about spring cleanup around the grounds of the church. The target dates of choice will be April 15th, 22nd or 29th....depending on weather.

Let me know if you are interested in helping out and the dates you will be available. As the time nears, and we know the weather conditions, I will phone you and confirm the cleanup day.

Thank you. Laurie Hylton

Spring is in the Air . . . So go smell some flowers already . . . And Enjoy!



By
Yourself
Or
With A
Friend!



Accolades, Recognition and Thank You's

Mireya Campbell recently retired from her position as Secretary of the Board of Trustees at Olinda U.U. Mireya has served as a volunteer in this position for three years, as treasurer for five prior years and as Finance Trustee before that.

She has been a life time member of Olinda; and her ancestors were founding members of the church. Her mother, Sheron Whittle Campbell, was Olinda's much loved lay chaplain for several years. Mireya and her brother Brent, have hosted an annual wine and food pairing event for the Church for many years, thereby generating fellowship for our members and providing funds for the maintenance and improvement to the church property.

Thank you, Mireya, and your family, for the many years of dedicated service to our Church community.

Lifespan Religious Education

Spring time, a ‘getting to know you’ kind of time. AND that is what we are doing in the Lifespan R. E. program. A space at Olinda UU has been cleared for all ages.

The library area will be used for the older students for their discussion sessions when the Nursery room is in use with mothers and young children. Books, toys and papers for creative work will be available in this cozy room, along with a rocking chair for an adult and a ‘table for two’ for toddlers.

Thank you Laurie and Carol for your industrious work in making this a possibility.

A few of the older students will give a hand in yard work at Olinda when spring breaks through. They have proven their prowess at bocce ball and croquinole. Wonderful appetites and strong agility and flexibility will come in handy when we also take on part of a walking trail in Ruthven area ...hiking and picking up things that do not belong on the trail. We like to make a difference.

This month the senior members in RE will be talking about our involvement in this journey called life, about the need to keep an eye out for one another and to make extra effort to encourage each other. We will also discuss the oft repeated Golden Rule that is mentioned in so many other religions around the world. We will learn by listening to each other, and sharing our ideas of what we believe to be true.

We will need volunteers from time to time to lend a hand Sunday morning with this program. Please let Carol Hylton or myself know if you are willing, from time to time, to help out when needed. THANKS.

Sharon van Abbema/Carol Hylton

Luc. Paul and
Liam having
fun with Bocce
Ball on a sunny
winter day.



Caring Committee Report , April 2017

March is roaring in like a lion. We might have known. But spring is close as daffodils and tulips are springing up here and there. They look rather odd with a blanket of snow on them this week. Before we know it, April will be coming in like a lamb, we hope.

Marion continues at Erie Glen after saying her last farewell to Arn. His service on Monday, March 13, was well attended at Reids Funeral Home with internment in Graceland Cemetery by Olinda UU. Rev Fran Dearman officiated and the many people there experienced a memorable service.

Laverne continues with caring for Ron Hicks, hoping for him to soon have special care. In the meantime, she manages well with the help of her family.

Jim Reid and friend tried out the new Beach House Bistro one morning last week in gale force winds. The former Jade Palace on Park Street has an interesting menu, with many choices and priced reasonably. The breakfast was well worth it, great conversation, followed by hot donuts from the grill.

Albertina Bell in room 211 at Erie Glen, 119 Robson Rd., enjoys her visitors. We continue to remember our members who are unable to attend the Olinda services.

Walter Sinclair was a guest at Leamington hospital this past week for a few days. He is home now and glad to be there. He will be an out patient for a few more days, having intravenous antibiotic injections, that will help him feel well again. We are happy to know he is making progress. Home in good time for St. Patrick's day.

Eunice Goyette is kept busy sending Caring Cards with notes to our friends.

Sharon van Abbema.....Caring Committee

Committee Members

Eunice Goyette
June Blacker
Linda Upcott
Sharon van Abbema

Ministerial Search Committee

The main news this month is that Rev Stephen Atkinson will be coming to Olinda May 7, 2017, to provide the Sunday sermon as a visiting minister, and to guide the Committee through an intensive workshop for the ministerial search process while in our area.

Members of the congregation will have a chance to talk with him during his stay with us.

Editor.

April-7

Finance Committee Report April 2017

We have sprung forward with the clocks and now your Goods and Services auction committee has sprung back into action. Saturday, April 8th the Olinda church will be the place to be for great feasting and lively bidding.

The pre-auction **supper starts at 5:30 pm**. My Irish heritage is showing as the meal will be traditional corned beef and cabbage. The sign-up list is posted on the bulletin board in the Coffee Hour Room. Toni Ellen and Dan Janik will be assisting Richard and myself with the dinner while the busy team preps **the auction downstairs to start at 7:00pm**. Please add your name and your donated item to the sign-up list.

This year we have a diverse and interesting list of home-made items, gift baskets, organized events, donated items, and the Hyltons & Hayes have brought back the ever popular Wheel of Fortune.

Rev. Fran Dearman has offered several items as well as three dining opportunities for which sign-up sheets will be placed out on the night of the auction. As her table sits eight, it will be limited to eight persons and she is okay with youth, children, and adults. It will include vegetarian and allergy friendly options. She hopes to offer a sip of sherry with the tea, Rioja Spanish wine with the Camino meal, and assorted wines with the Fusion cuisine, yum yum...

(1) High Tea at the Vicarage. Enjoy a sweet and savoury Tea—a light meal—at Fran's apartment across from Leamington Marina, 3:30 –5:30 pm, Friday May 5th. Eight persons at \$10.00 each. There will be scones, a savoury, English Trifle, and sandwiches with the crusts cut off!

(2) Menu Peregrino. A four course meal modelled on the style of food she encountered while walking the Camino to Santiago in Northern Spain. At Fran's apartment across from the Leamington Marina, 6-8 pm, Friday May 19th. Eight persons at \$20.00 each.

(3) Blue Plate Fusion Special. Fran offers a four course meal with food choices drawn from places she has served in ministry in many different regions, including West Coast Salmon, Alberta beef, and East Coast fish cakes. At Fran's apartment across from the Leamington Marina, 6-9 pm, Friday June 16th. Eight persons at \$30.00 each.

As per the Financial Report of 2016, we borrowed \$8637 from the Capital Fund to help with the cost of the new windows. Let us make this a great night and help repay the loan.

Happy bidding!

Elaine Stevenson, Finance Trustee

Olinda UU Membership Report

It is wonderful to see more people attend church on a regular basis in the last few months. With winter now officially ended, perhaps even more will be able to visit us for our Sunday services in the warm seasons to come.

In March, one of our long time church members, Arnold Thompson (husband of Marion Thompson), passed away peacefully at the age to 95. Not many in our present congregation knew this good natured, well-respected farmer from Olinda, who seemed to have 9 lives as some would say. I remember him as always smiling and being a very jovial Santa Claus for our Christmas programs at church for a few years when I was a child. Our thoughts are with Marion and her family. There is a box on the hall table of the church for anyone who wishes to make a memorial donation in his honour.

By now the International Dinner has been held and I'm sure all who attended enjoyed the meal and are very grateful for the efforts of the Social Responsibility Committee, Mariette Preyde and any others who assisted in setting the tables, preparing the food, and cleaning up afterwards. In order to raise awareness for the cause of supporting refugees, we had submitted an ad in both the *Leamington Southpoint Sun* and *The Kingsville Reporter* which ran for 2 weeks. Hopefully this attracted some visitors to our church but if the ads were not successful, at least we know an effort was made to advertise this important cause and our church.

If anyone is interested in hosting a "Dinners for 8" in May, please let me know. In April, people will be able to gather in fellowship and enjoy a fine meal before the Annual Church Auction to be held April 8th. Thank you to Elaine Stevenson and Toni Janik for hosting and preparing this pre-auction dinner. At this time, the next gathering planned for church members and friends will be in June for our Annual church picnic at the home of our President and "First Lady", John & Linda Upcott.

The next Membership/Publicity Committee meeting will be held on April 19th at 9:30 a.m. at the church.

Lorie Lyons



Well! Hello there!
Is that really you,
Spring?
Am I ever glad to
see you!
Welcome!
Come, and stay
with us
for a while.

Credit: Richard Austin, from the Internet

Thoughts for a Spring Day

The spring season is a time for renewal at many different levels for all existence. Babies are born, birds sing, fish spawn, trees flower and farmers ready their farms for the coming growth and harvest of our foods.

Below is a poem from the Native tradition of Faith that strikes a tone of wonder for anyone who feels a deep connection with all the facets of creation around us. The poem was written by Ted Palmanteer, a published writer from the Colville Nation in Washington State. Enjoy.

This Is Real

**And then was the time I was formed,
Shaped from a ball of mud.
Don't think my thoughts impossible,
For nothing is more real –**

**I did not remain a ball of mud.
A clear, clean breath of air brought me to
life.
I relive vast happinesses when snow falls;
Pure air rushes, gushes makes me ring.
I ring loud, I ring clear, and people are
astonished, How can one so simple be so
happy?**

**Ah, but have I ever told you who my par-
ents were?
(Spirit) is my father, Nature is my mother.
And you still wonder?
Through, in, out of this deep knowledge,
I live content; I have no worries.**

**Millions of little lights are fluttering in me –
Lights of wisdom, of love, of happiness, of
completeness.**

**These lights glow bright, intense, through
living darkness.
Others wonder at this. Lights? What lights?**

**Friendliness, loyalty, honesty, helpfulness,
and love –
These are the attributes we all know,**

**And still we ask,
What are they?
They are simply here, they happen,
Out of nowhere. out of mud, perhaps.**

**But they, too, are real . . .
As bright and warm as lights.
They are why we want to live tomorrow,
And the next day,
And the next . . .
Forever . . .**

**Through shadowed memories, travel flick-
ering thoughts,
Alighting here and there,
Peering into your eyes,
Kindling a soft glow
As you smile. I feel your warmth,
I live and travel,
Knowing unknown knowledges,
Guided by little lights.**

**They mark the path toward how to live
forever and ever.**

**For life is real,
You are real and
Overwhelming me to smile,
And still you ask,
Why must he smile?**