

# 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 May 2017



Date	Speaker	Title	Musician(s)
May 7	Rev. Stephen Atkinson	<i>The Sunny Hill.</i> Life calls us to meet its challenges, and further, to attend carefully to the signs we receive that guide us toward our highest purpose and greatest task. This applies to us as individuals and to our congregations. Sometimes the task is obvious; sometimes difficult to discern, but the way to our deepest fulfillment is to work towards our highest goal.	Lorie Lyons
May 14	Rev. Fran Dearman	<i>Mothers' Day.</i>	Baylis-Stone Trio
May 21	Rev. Fran Dearman	<i>Walking to Santiago: Fran Shares Some Memories of Walking the Old Pilgrim Trail, El Camino de Santiago de Compostella, in Northern Spain.</i>	Lorie Lyons
May 28	Rev. Del Stewart	<i>Does God Have a Future?</i> Traditionally, religions have provided answers to God-questions. But in the times in which we now live, the credibility of these (traditional) answers is being questioned, and the validity of religion itself challenged. How might the current intensifying of 'God-questions answered/God-answers questioned' impact faith-understanding and faith communities in the 21st century?	Toni Janik
June 4	Rev. Fran Dearman	<i>Call and Inspiration: Some Call on their ministers for Inspiration; some ministers find Inspiration in a sense of Call. What might that look like? Sound like? Feel like?</i>	Indian Village String Quartet



### Annual Bake Sale and Lunch BBQ

SATURDAY MAY 27, 2017

At the Unitarian Universalist Church in Olinda

Please join us for Home - Baked Food and Fellowship!

Church Bake Sale: 9:00AM—2:00PM

Lunch and BBQ: 11:00AM—2:00PM

Donations of baked goods for the sale are always welcome.

See you there!

## From the Board, May 2017

The board is pleased to announce that Rev. Fran will be here as our Interim Minister for another year. The board voted unanimously to retain her services and she agreed to stay. Rev. Fran has been very instrumental in our planning for the search and increasing Olinda's profile within the U.U.A. I am sure many more prospective candidates know of Olinda because of Rev. Fran.

The preliminaries for the search have been completed and now the Search Committee can get to the business of finding a settled minister. Please, if you can, attend the service on May 7th when Rev. Stephen Atkinson will speak. Rev. Atkinson is the new transitions coach for Canada and along with Rev. Keith Kron, who will also be here, will assist our Ministerial Search Committee (M.S.C.) with the start up.

The congregation will also have a vital role to play in filling out the survey and informing the M.S.C. on the kind of minister that they are looking for. This is an exciting time in the life of this church, so enjoy the ride.

I know it is early but I am very pleased with how well the new board works together. We have a good mix of veterans and new people who are not hesitant to ask questions and join the discussions. The meetings have been productive and all are committed to making this a successful year. The congregation also has been very supportive of the board and we all are working in the best interest of the church.

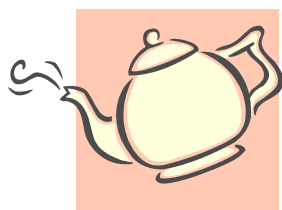
All will have a chance to voice their opinion on what they want in a minister, and that is what we need to make the search a success. The M.S.C. is committed to being as transparent as they can be but some confidentiality is necessary, so we as a congregation need to be aware of that.

The C.U.C. A.G.M. is in Toronto this month and our delegates, Karen and Stuart Millar, will be there to keep us informed, and we thank them for being our eyes and ears and bringing back information to Olinda.

All please have a wonderful holiday and this year we should be extra thankful to live in Canada and celebrate the 150th anniversary in a country which respects the rights of all.

John Upcott, President

May-2



### Tea with the Minister

Join Rev. Fran and whoever else shows up to enjoy afternoon tea and conversation on Wednesday, May 10 and 17, 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.

## Financial Committee Report, May 2017

The spring-like weather is here and we have enjoyed our annual aUuction on Saturday April 8th. We realized the 5th highest return in its 15 years history with sold to date of \$4182 with several more openings at dining opportunities. Sign-up sheets are in the Tranquility room.

What a great night we had! Great food and conversation was had at the Sinclair Inn and Gastropub! Many thanks to Toni & Dan Janik and my husband Richard for all their help in making everyone welcome and well fed.

Downstairs the busy elves set up and ran an excellent, lively and engaging aUuction. My sincere thank you to all: from the auctioneers in John Upcott and Wilf Innerd; to the computer finance wizards in Bobbye Baylis, Helen Moore and Mireya Campbell; to our wheel of chances gamesters Carol and Laurie Hylton; to our talented helpers in Liam and Luc, but most of all to the lively bidders who made the night interesting for our talented and generous donators of goods and services.

As per the Financial Report of 2016, we borrowed \$8637 from the Capital Fund to help with the cost of the new windows. We have done well towards repaying the loan.

Our next experience is our annual Bake Sale and BBQ run by Carol Hylton and Cathy Dewhurst on Saturday May 27th with chef John Upcott. More to follow.

Elaine Stevenson, Finance Trustee



## Important Dates

**May 3 9:30 am**  
Membership Committee Meeting

**May 3 7 pm**  
Choir Rehearsal

**May 4 1:30—3 pm**  
**(+ Thursday, May 11 & 18)**  
Minister's Office Hours

**May 10 1:30 pm**  
Tea with the Minister

**May 11 7 pm**  
Board of Trustees Meeting

**May 13 1 pm**  
Memorial Service for Gypsy Carroll

**May 17 1:30 pm**  
Handwork with the Minister

**May 17 7 pm**  
Choir Rehearsal

**May 21 9:30 am**  
Sunday Services Meeting

**May 21 noon**  
Social Responsibility Committee Meeting

**May 23 9 pm**  
June Newsletter reports due

**May 27 9 am —2 pm**  
Bake Sale & Lunch BBQ

## **Fran's Column for OLINDA Newsletter, May 2017**

How do ministers prepare to do ministry, to be ministers? The short answer would be: Some Assembly Required.

And were you looking for a parish minister, a minister of religious education, a spiritual director, a pastoral presence, a hospital chaplain, a prison chaplain, an executive director, or a community activist? And did you want innovation with that? prophetic voice? leadership?

There are three leading seminaries in the United States where UU ministers, including Canadians, often choose to study: Meadville-Lombard in Chicago, Starr King in San Francisco, also Harvard in Massachusetts—technically non-denominational, but rife with UUs. In addition, many UU ministers attend seminary at non-UU theological schools, whether they first served another tradition before seeking fellowship, or ordination with the UU Ministers Association, or whether they were already UUs before they committed three years or more to a Masters in Divinity programme.

It was my good fortune to study at Vancouver School of Theology on the University of British Columbia campus, six hours by bus and ferry from home. I enjoyed VST, and felt well treated and well trained there. Our studies seemed many and varied, but aligned generally in three areas.

First, Scripture: VST was sponsored by mainstream Protestant denominations; we studied the Old and New Testaments, and we were familiarized with the basics of Hebrew and some Greek, sufficient to follow an argument in a learned journal, enough to crawl through a lexicon or grasp an exegesis. I loved it. For me, this engagement with some foundational writings of western civilization was as exciting as the study of Classics—Greek and Latin Literature—had been. For some of my mainstream classmates, to see their Holy Bible laid bare was a challenge to the faith of their upbringing; to me, the challenge was to recognize how pervasive and inspiring scripture could be. The answers change, over millennia, but the questions largely remain the same.

Second, Theology and the history of religion. And I loved that too, even the horrors that ran neck and neck with splendour. VST was perhaps the most progressive seminary in Canada. We engaged Interfaith community. In addition we engaged our own denominations, including a long, long list of books that Boston expects all those aspiring to UU ministry to plumb the depths of.

Third, pastoral care, ethics, systems dynamics, and how people and groups of people tend to work out their relationships. We studied the passion for social justice, and how holy dreams present themselves in drama and song. And deeper, always deeper. And above all, know thyself.

Seminary and the M. Div. are only one step along the path to ministry. Interviews. Assessments. Sponsorship. Internship. Hospital Chaplaincy. Fellowship. Ordination. Not necessarily in that order. Some Assembly Required. And then we acquire experience, hard won and irreplaceable.

I love being a minister and doing ministry. Ministers are perhaps the last of the great generalists, and the learning curve is steep and alive, every day, embracing all time, all places, all peoples.

Yours, for the interim... Rev. Fran

## Accolades, Recognition and Thank You's

Eunice Goyette has been a longtime supporter and active in the life of the Olinda UU Church. Eunice and her husband Mel (Emile) have always been a dedicated church going couple. They came to Olinda from various other denominations. They were impressed with the friendliness of the members when they attended a funeral for one of their friends here at Olinda. The warm welcome they received encouraged them to become members from then on. Eunice continues to be a friend to many and welcomes newcomers with great enthusiasm.

Olinda's minister at that time was Martha Munson. Eunice served on several committees, including Chair of the Administrative Board and Chair of the R. E. program. She enjoyed working with the children and helped them develop a sense of personal worth. Eunice loves music and played the piano for Sunday services for many years. She continues as a valuable member of the Caring Committee.

Thank you Eunice for many years of service to our church community. May you continue to enjoy good health and love all that is special in your life.

John van Abbema, Editor

## Social Responsibility Committee Report

### Point Pelee Beach Clean-up

Many thanks to Reverend Fran Dearman, Laurie and Ray Stone and Linda Upcott who joined the Earth Day Point Pelee Beach Clean-Up on Earth Day from 10 to 12 a.m.. It is inspiring to have our interim minister and church members join this community event. There were approximately 50 people attending with many examples of litter picked up with gloves and garbage bags provided by Point Pelee staff.

Helen Moore



# **Olinda UU Bake Sale and Lunch Barbeque, Saturday May 27, 2017**

**You are invited to:**

**THE CHURCH BAKE SALE - 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.**

**LUNCH BARBEQUE - 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.**

**SATURDAY, MAY 27<sup>TH</sup>**

**Your participation will be much appreciated  
by contributing to the bake sale and  
by coming out to make purchases and enjoy  
lunch and socializing with your church friends**

**Items for the Bake Sale - Baked goods, breads, preserves, home made soups, or sauces.  
Food Items only please – there will be no crafts or misc items**

**John and Linda Upcott are providing their traditional hot dogs  
and hamburgers, as well as soft drinks & water.**

**We request that all your bake sale items be at the church prior to 9 a.m. Saturday. Cathy Dewhurst & Carol Hylton will be at the church at 8 a.m.**

**For your convenience, Laurie & Carol Hylton will be at the church on Friday from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. to receive your items. If you have a key to the church and wish to make your delivery other than these times, please do so and leave them on the table in the refreshments room or a note to say something is in the refrigerator or freezer. All items must be pre-wrapped at home. As well as a larger quantity packages, some individually wrapped items sell as good as a snack.**

**Tell your friends & family and invite them to come and join us. This is the only Community fund raiser we hold so we are hoping for a good turnout.**

**If you need further information, contact Cathy or Carol.**

**Thank you all so much for helping us out, we certainly cannot do it without your contributions.**

***Cathy & Carol***



## Caring Committee Report , May 2017

We are happy to have Carabel and Hector back with us after a few weeks off. Marion Thompson is doing well at Erie Glen on Robson. She plays a good hand of cards. I am returning for a re-match. Marion is happy to see a new temporary resident, Walter Sinclair who will be at Erie Glen for a few weeks stay.

Our long-time member Tina Bell always enjoys a good chat. I will be doing some research with her about life on Pelee Island. I have much to learn about that from her. Visitors are always welcome.

Laverne Hicks has let us know that Ron Hicks has taken up residence at Sun Parlor Home by the Superstore. He also enjoys visitors.

Happy Mother's Day to all our mothers. You are all special people and we remember you.

Sharon van Abbema

## Lifespan Religious Education May 2017

Our numbers are few, but those of us who attend are having a good time getting to know one another. Some of us did work on the grounds at Olinda a couple of weeks ago, raking, lifting, carrying. We made a difference. Nearby, two seniors, rakes in hand, were impressed with the effort that was made.

Next month we will tackle part of the hiking trail in Ruthven and pick up litter that does not belong on the trail. We feel good to leave a place looking better than we found it. Thank you 'gang' for your enthusiasm. Our hope is that other young people will join our group during the morning service. We have fun together and learn from each other.

We appreciate Carol Hylton and Laurie Stone who help out Sunday mornings.

Sharon van Abbema

## Ministerial Search Committee

The Rev. Stephen Atkinson retired from parish ministry following an eight year settlement at North Shore Unitarian Church in West Vancouver. His sermon on May 7 will be: **"Seeking Spirit: a Path in Faith towards Ministry."** Stephen will be visiting Olinda that weekend as he takes up his volunteer role as Transitions Coach for Canada. (MSC Start Up Workshop Retreat Weekend.) We look forward to his advice and wisdom to get us off to a good start for the responsibilities we have been asked to take on for this Church.

... Editor

### Committee Members

Eunice Goyette  
June Blacker  
Linda Upcott  
Sharon van Abbema

### Members, MSC.

Bobbie Baylis  
Steve Brennan  
Cathy Dewhurst  
Stuart Miller  
Linda Upcott  
John van Abbema

## Property Committee Report, May 2017

**The Church grounds** - First I want to thank Liam and Luc Labbe, along with John V & John U, for all their hard work doing the spring clean up. Thanks, Sharon, for organizing this. Helen Moore and Laurie Stone have volunteered to take care of the flowers in the front gardens of the church, we appreciate their offering.

**The basement stairway** - We are looking into the possibility of having a stair lift installed to provide easier access to the basement. A secondary access is long overdue and we hope this will be the answer.

**The doorbell** - Our first attempt did not work out so now we have moved to another plan that is more involved. We will eventually accomplish this.

Laurie Hylton, Chair.



## UU Church of Olinda's Book-Shelf

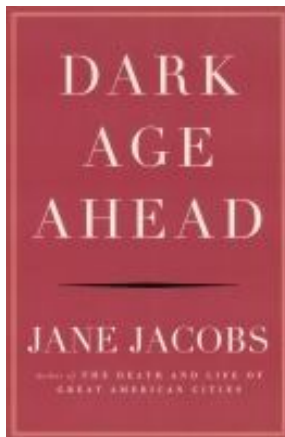
This is the first issue of a new forum.

Church members, and friends are invited to contribute, share titles, & discuss books that each feel will bring to our community ideas, knowledge, thoughts and values that we find important.



**May 2017:**

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**Title:**            **Dark Age Ahead**

**Author:**            **Jane Jacobs**

**Comment:**

Books that present a critique on human systems can be very imposing. Often they forecast doom & gloom. Here's one that offers practical methods for change.

I've been aware of this author for years. She lived in New York City in the '60's, and stressed how city streets and people could function (The Death & Life of Great American Cities). As a young architecture student, I looked up to her as a prophet.

Then Ms. Jacobs moved to Toronto, and remained very prolific, writing constantly. In 2004 she wrote this book. Based upon a wide review of well-researched historical and economic precedents, Jane singles out five pillars of culture that form our foundation.

Jane states that these are showing signs of decay. Her ideas resonate clearly with today's seemingly wayward international political and economic state of confusion.

She suggests that there is hope.....ways we can protect and strengthen our culture and communities.

... *Stuart Miller*

# Gratitude by Mary Oliver



## Gratitude

### What did you notice?

*The dew snail;  
the low-flying sparrow;  
the bat, on the wind, in the dark;  
big-chested geese, in the V of sleekest  
performance;  
the soft toad, patient in the hot sand;  
the sweet-hungry ants;  
the uproar of mice in the empty house;  
the tin music of the cricket's body;  
the blouse of the goldenrod.*

### What did you hear?

*The thrush greeting the morning;  
the little bluebirds in their hot box;  
the salty talk of the wren,  
then the deep cup of the hour of silence.*

### What did you admire?

*The oaks, letting down their dark and hairy fruit;  
the carrot, rising in its elongated waist;  
the onion, sheet after sheet, curved inward to the  
pale green wand;  
at the end of summer the brassy dust, the almost liquid  
beauty of the flowers;*

### What astonished you?

*The swallows making their dip and turn over the  
water.*

### What would you like to see again?

*My dog: her energy and exuberance, her  
willingness,  
her language beyond all nimbleness of tongue, her  
recklessness, her loyalty, her sweetness, her  
sturdy legs, her curled black lip, her snap.*

### What was most tender?

*Queen Anne's lace, with its parsnip root;  
the everlasting in its bonnets of wool;  
the kinks and turns of the tupelo's body;  
the tall, blank banks of sand;  
the clam, clamped down.*

### What was most wonderful?

*The sea, and its wide shoulders;  
the sea and its triangles;  
the sea lying back on its long athlete's spine.*

### What did you think was happening?

*The green breast of the hummingbird;  
the eye of the pond;  
the wet face of the lily;  
the bright, puckered knee of the broken oak;  
the red tulip of the fox's mouth;  
the up-swing, the down-pour, the frayed sleeve  
of the first snow—  
so the gods shake us from our sleep.*

~ Copyright Mary Oliver ~

(What Do We Know)

For more on Mary Oliver please visit:  
<http://www.poetryfoundation.org/archive/poet.html?id=5130>

More Inspired Writings available in our  
Reading Room