

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 September, 2017

| Date | Speaker | Title | Musician(s) |
|----------|-------------------|---|---|
| Sept. 10 | Rev. Fran Dearman | <i>Water Ceremony and Homecoming:</i> Rev. Fran shares a few thoughts on rest and renewal and on the return to Olinda's programme year. At this Intergenerational Service, all are invited to bring a small sample of water and a few words to share about how this water might inspire your plans and purpose as we return to fall routines. | Bill & Bobbye Baylis, Ray Stone, and Bob Koenig |
| Sept. 17 | Rev. Fran Dearman | <i>Reverence.</i> The opposite of reverence is arrogance. Rev. Fran will also reflect on Yom Kippur. | Lorie Lyons |
| Sept. 24 | Rev. Jeff Brown | <i>UU Basics.</i> We welcome Guest Preacher the Rev. JEFF BROWN, long-time parish minister at the Unitarian Congregation in Mississauga, now serving as a Chaplain at the Trillium Hospital there. Rev. Jeff draws on his decades of experience to share some basic teachings and evolving culture within Universalism and Unitarianism. (Rev. Fran is service leader.) | Toni Janik |
| Oct. 1 | Helen Moore | <i>Peter Singer's book: The Life You Can Save.</i> | Bill & Bobbye Baylis |



Fall Potluck!
Sept. 17 after the Service
Bring your favourite fall dish and share!

Fran's Column for OLINDA Newsletter, September 2017

Summer begins to pack her bags. And such a summer it has been--flames devouring forests, heavy rains, hurricanes, and widespread flooding! At my home in British Columbia, Outflow Winds poured down from the Interior, filling the skies of Vancouver Island with smoke from the distant fires. Early in the morning I could taste an acrid tang in the air. Vulnerable persons were encouraged to stay within doors. I happened to be out of doors the evening a shower of rain broke an eight-week drought. The winds prevailed from out of the west once more, bringing with them the freshness of the sea.

At home in Victoria, I was invited to watch the eclipse of August 21st with hospitable friends. First, breakfast on the patio, then up to the sun deck for 9 AM. My host was a professional photographer, excited about the visual possibilities of the eclipse. He had safety glasses for each of us, so we could watch without risk of retinal damage. He also had various pinhole devices (along with a handy kitchen colander!) to cast the image of the sun upon the white stucco wall of the house.

In Victoria we experienced a ninety percent occlusion over about three hours on a clear day. As the full circle of the new moon passed between the earth and the sun, first the top right portion of the sun was nibbled away, then a little more, then only a slivered crescent of the sun still visible at the top of the sun's circle, then the rest returning, sliver by sliver. At maximum coverage we felt the air grow chill around us, and reached for warm garments. The breeze had fallen away. It seemed as if the birds had grown silent and the insects had left off their foraging. The day seemed to have grown very still. Awesome.

No less awesome to me, was the opportunity for meaningful conversation. The solemnity of the heavens led us to long thoughts.... Not least, we were aware that we shared this experience with people all across the continent. The same sun shone on us all, the same moon slid between the earth and the life-bringing sun. Truly, everything is connected, under the sun and beyond.

I look forward to re-connecting with you all as I return to Olinda, and as regular Sunday Services resume.

Yours, in the interim,
Rev. Fran

The Sunday Service Committee, with Interim Minister the Rev. Fran Dearman, invites you to attend an afternoon workshop on Sunday, Sept. 24, from 1—3 pm. We will be reviewing basic skills for leading a Sunday Service. The structure, outline, and variations for a service will be discussed, along with a range of resources and some simple practicalities. You will be invited and prepared to step into the pulpit and read/speak aloud, as a service leader would do. Rev. Fran will share some thoughts on what makes a sermon and service both like and unlike other forms of public discourse. Please bring your questions and your willingness to serve. Be brave! Public speaking is a basic skill that can be learned! Lay leadership of Sunday Services is a foundational tradition of the free church, and a gift to the community.

Finance Budget Schedule for 2017

In September we will start the process of creating an Operating Budget for 2018. The following schedule is being presented to inform everyone who would like to be part of this process. There are always openings on the Finance Committee for anyone who is interested in the financial health of our church.

| Date | Time | Description |
|----------------|---------------|---|
| Sept 10 | After church | Open meeting to discuss budget items. Anyone desiring to be on the Finance Committee should definitely attend this meeting and volunteer to become a member This is a follow up to an email to several members asking the questions/starting the thought process. |
| Oct. 15 | | By this date, all budget details must have been submitted to the finance trustee or the treasurer so that they can prepare the budget. Items needed: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Preliminary Search Committee Costing• Committee Chair's budget requests |
| Nov 5 | After Church | Meeting of the Finance Comm. to approve the Budget |
| Nov. 9 | 7 PM | Board Meeting at which Budget will be presented for approval. |
| Nov.19 | Before Church | Copies of the budget will be available to the congregation. |
| Dec. 10 | After Church | Congregational Budget meeting. |

Elaine Stevenson, Finance Committee Chair

Note from the Treasurer, February 2017

Thanks for donations in June, July and August as well as hours of sweat equity, which some members put in over the summer, and for keeping the church in your thoughts.

Helen Moore

Important Dates

Sept. 10 Noon
Finance Committee Meeting

Sept. 13 9:30 am
Membership Committee Meeting

Sept. 13 1:30 pm
Tea with the Minister

Sept. 14 7 pm
Board of Trustees Meeting

Sept. 17 9:30 am
Sunday Services Meeting

Sept. 17 noon
Fall Potluck

Sept. 20 1:30 pm
Handwork with the Minister

Sept. 24 9:30 am
Choir Rehearsal

Sept. 24 1 pm
Sunday Services Lay Leader Workshop

Sept. 26
October Newsletter Reports due

From the Board, September 2017

I hope all have had a wonderful summer, enjoyed the weather and stayed as well as possible. From all reports the two summer services were well attended and very informative. Thanks to all who had a hand in making them successful and to all who attended.

This will be a very interesting and exciting year. The search committee has been meeting during the summer and is working on a survey for all of us. I am sure they will have more info in this newsletter but please when you get the survey take the time to answer. Your opinion is very important to the committee and is the only way they can make a successful decision. The candidates look closely at the completion rate of the survey also to judge the interest of the congregation so please know it is important so we can get the best candidate possible.

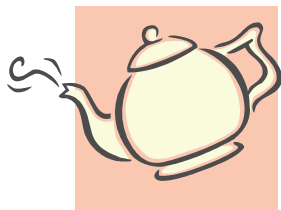
I am writing this in Aug., before the board meeting on Sept. 14th, but there will be a congregational meeting this fall to approve a change in the membership bylaws because of changes by the government rules regarding charities and their members. Lorie Lyons and her committee will be holding a meeting in early September to work out the details .

We welcome Rev. Fran back for another year and the assistance she offers in our search for a settled minister. She has been very important in our process to this point and will be very valuable in our run to the finish. She has also been important in raising our profile in the community and being there for the members of the church when we need someone to talk to.

Sharon Van Abbema has stepped down as R.E. Trustee but will continue to help and Rose Le Clair has offered to help out with R.E. and we thank them both for all they have done.

Our memorial service and bake sale was discussed but laid over until we have more time. Many Thanks to our property trustee for all the work during the summer and to all the volunteers who helped so we all can come back to a clean and welcoming space.

John Upcott, President



Tea with the Minister

Join Rev. Fran and whoever else shows up to enjoy afternoon tea and conversation on Wednesday, Sept. 13 & 20, 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.

Property Committee Report, September 2017

There have been countless hours of work spent at the Church over this summer. The upkeep of the Church only happens because of dedicated people.

Here is a list of the main things done: the sanctuary – all benches scrubbed down including the underneath side of the benches, wood walls and all the pulpit area washed, as well as dusting areas, vacuuming and scrubbing the floors. The remainder of the building – all the windows washed inside, dusted the ceilings and walls and steamed cleaned all the hardwood floors, cleaned bathroom cupboard and main floor kitchen.

The back porch entrance windows & walls washed and vinyl flooring installed. The basement – main room & kitchen cleaned and windows washed. The children's area cleaned and organized. The front porch and entrance area – power washed and windows cleaned. The ramp railings – sanded down and 3 coats of paint. The gardens in the front tidied up & trimmed.

These are the people who did the work: Elaine Stevenson, John & Linda Upcott, Helen Moore, Sue Markham, Sharon van Abbema, Carol Hylton and myself. Sorry if I missed someone. We thank everyone who helped to keep our Church building a place you can be proud of.

SPEAKING OF THE FRONT GARDENS

It is imperative that the front entrance and gardens be kept attractive and well kept. For many years we depended on John Haynes' dedication in caring for the gardens and thank you John. Earlier this year John retired from that duty.

In order to continue John's work that requires regular labour as gardens do, we need volunteers. This has been suggested to me: We ask for five to six volunteers to team up. Each person can adopt an area to care for all season. This will lessen the burden on any one person.

If this idea does not work out, then next spring we will have to come up with an alternate plan that will require less intensive labour in order to keep the property looking well kept. It will be up to you & I thank you for considering this.

Laurie Hylton, Property

News From the Dominican Republic

Remembering Gypsy

Last summer Gypsy Carroll, ever the optimist, was looking forward to a return to good health. When she knew that Mary Tiner and I were going to the Dominican Republic in July, she asked us to take enough funds to purchase a cow for the women's project, and she wanted the cow to be named after her.

Gypsy, always generous, gave us more money than needed to purchase a cow with the instructions to just bring her back what we didn't use.

Within two days of our arrival in Cutupú where the women's groups are situated, we had purchased Gitana (Gypsy the cow) and she was already in the hands of a proud owner, Josephine. And - there were US\$200 left over.

On my return, I attempted to give Gypsy's money back to her. She was thrilled at the thought of Gitana named after her, but about the surplus she said, "Could you not find anyone who needed it?"

My heart sank. We had a young friend, a brilliant girl who was longing to start university but had no money to even register. Gypsy's US\$200 would have been such a gift to launch her studies! However, Mary and I had no safe way to send money to the Dominican Republic. So I banked the money and waited for 2017 to come.

As soon as we landed in Cutupú on July 21, 2017, I called Mabel Ayala. To my surprise she had found a job washing hair in a beauty salon. In January, she had enrolled in university and finished her first semester. No finer student could make use of Gypsy's generosity. Mabel had gone without lunches, books, sleep, in order to get through six courses! In the case of two subjects she didn't have to write a final exam because her marks were so high.

Mabel has opened an account in a local bank, and the manager told me that now they can receive money by wire from outside the country. This is what we have been waiting and hoping for. If Mabel receives donations, she won't have to wait till the summer of 2018 to use them.

Gypsy Carroll would be pleased and proud, I'm sure, at how far her donation has stretched to give a helping hand to two worthy women.

Joan Tinkess

Upcoming Event



SATURDAY OCT. 28

9:30-4:30 P.M.

BELOVED COMMUNITY

Join us as we consider some of the ways we can begin to build communities of meaning and support – Beloved Community, during this one-day event, hosted by the Unitarian Fellowship of London



A Canadian Unitarian Council Regional Gathering

**UNITARIAN
FELLOWSHIP OF
LONDON**

55 Clark St.

London, ON

**REGISTRATION OPENS
SEPT. 12, VISIT
CUC.CA/EVENTS/ FOR
INFORMATION**

**PROGRAM CHOICES
INCLUDE:**

- **MEETINGS AND MEANING** – A consideration of the ways we can make meetings a reflection of our values
- **CONGREGATIONAL COVENANTS** – How a congregational covenant support the dream of beloved community
- **YOUTH MINISTRY** – Supporting youth involvement in congregational life. Strengthening and building vital youth ministry
- **Jr. Youth Mini Con!** – A program of exploration and UU values for ages 10-13



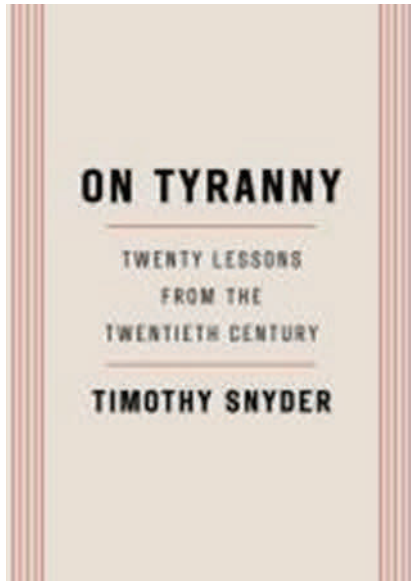
UU Church of Olinda's

Bookshelf

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.

September 2017:



Comments:

The American Founding Fathers tried to protect citizens from the threat they knew, the tyranny that overcame ancient democracy. Today, our political order faces new threats, not unlike the totalitarianism of the twentieth century. We are no wiser than the Europeans who saw democracy yield to fascism, Nazism, or communism. Our one advantage is that we might learn from their experience.

With *Twenty Lessons*, Snyder draws from the darkest hours of the twentieth century to provide hope for the twenty-first.

*Recommended by Ray Stone,
for the Social Responsibility Committee.
... Stuart Miller*

Title: *On Tyranny,
Twenty Lessons from the
Twentieth Century*

Author: *Timothy Snyder*



Caring Committee Report , September 2017

Marion Thompson and Tina Bell continue to live at Erie Glen. They both enjoy visitors and good conversation. Marion has her own cards and enjoys King in the Corner. She was the winner this week. Sharon will return for a challenge match.

Albertina Bell celebrated 101 years on Sept 4. Congratulations Tina!

On Sept. 4 Mariette Preyde sent this message: "It is with a heavy heart that I write. Gord Taylor's wife Pat died this morning at 5:20 am. She was in the hospital for over 3 weeks. Although she seemed to be rallying, she still could not pull through." We all send Gord and Mariette our condolences.

Don Dotzert is at home, but feeling unwell with various issues.

James Reid put on the kettle for Sharon this week. He makes a good cuppa tea.

Carabel and Buster were out of town for the weekend attending a family wedding. Ask her all about it.

We remember our members who are no longer able to attend Olinda. They are missed and we think of you.

Submitted by Sharon van Abbema

Ministerial Search Committee Update

The air is cooler and fall is just around the corner. Everyone's busy summer is coming to an end and your search committee has been busy as well. We have finalized our covenant and it will be posted on the bulletin board in the dining room. This area of the bulletin board is where we will post any information that the committee is permitted to share with the congregation.

We have completed the questions for the survey and the committee will be asking for you to complete the questionnaire about the second or third week of September. Your input from this survey will be very helpful to us as we work through the process of finding a settled minister. For those who have access to a computer, there will be an online version, and for others, we will provide hard copies that you can complete and return. We thank you all in advance for your contribution.

Cathy Dewhurst, Search Committee Communications

Committee Members

Eunice Goyette
June Blacker
Linda Upcott
Sharon van Abbema

Members, MSC.

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

One Afternoon Some Time Ago

"I came across Ms. Safford's booklet this summer and realized how suitable this essay would be the next time we suffered the loss of someone associated with this Church. We offer our heart-felt condolences to Gordon upon the passing of his wife, Pat. Also, we honour the memory and spirit of Gypsy Carroll and her generous personality as described on an earlier page herein."

John van Abbema,
Editor

One afternoon, some time ago, I brought my little baby out to visit a very, very old neighbor who was dying that year, quietly and gracefully, in her gracious home. We were having a little birthday party for her, with sherry and cake and a few old friends gathered round her bed. To free a hand to cut the cake, I put my baby down right on the bed, right up on the pillow—and there was a sudden hush in the room, for we were caught off guard, beholding.

It was a startling sight. There in the late afternoon light were two people side by side, two human merely beings. Neither one could walk, neither one could speak, not in language you could understand, both utterly dependent on the rest of us bustling around, masquerading as immortals.

There they were: a plump one, apple-cheeked, a cherry tomato of a babe, smiling; and a silver-thin one, hollow-eyed, translucent, shining, smiling. We revelers were hushed because we clearly saw that these were dancers on the very edge of things. These two were closer to the threshold, the edge of the great mystery, than any of us had been for a long time or would be for a while. Living, breathing, smiling they were, but each with one foot and who knows how much consciousness firmly planted on the other side, whatever that is, wherever that is, the starry darkness from whence we come and whither we will go, in time. Fresh from birth, nigh unto death, bright-eyed, they were bookends there, mirrors of each other. Radiant.

Cake in hand, and napkins, knife, glasses, a crystal carafe a century old, we paused there on the thresholds of our own momentary lives. Then, "What shall we sing?" said someone, to the silence, to the sunlight on the covers, to the stars. It was the only question, then, as now, years later. What on earth shall we sing?

From, *"Walking Toward Morning"*, a book of meditations by Victoria Safford, Minister of White Bear Unitarian Universalist Church, Saint Paul, Minnesota