

The Olinda Outpost

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

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

Sunday Services February, 2018



Date	Speaker	Title	Musician(s)
Feb. 4	Irene Moore Davis	<i>Working Together for Change</i> Stories of Faithful Collaboration between African Canadians and Their Allies.	Baylis-Stone Trio
Feb. 11	Rev. Fran Dearman	<i>Valentine's Day.</i> Rev. Fran shares a reflection on love, from the heart of Hymn #286.	David & Sharon Light
Feb. 18	Rev. Fran Dearman	<i>Black Athena and Beyond.</i> Rev. Fran reflects on Black History Month and issues of Cultural Appropriation in mindfulness of Black History Month, and beyond...	Lorie Lyons
Feb. 25	Rev. Fran Dearman	<i>Questions Yes, Answers—Maybe.</i> Rev. Fran invites a question-box sermon. Please pass your questions to Fran in writing by Thursday February 22nd.	Toni Janik
Mar. 4	Rev. Rosalind Mariconda	<i>Nonviolent Communication in Church Ministry</i> Rev. Mariconda describes the 4-step model of Dr. Marshall Rosenberg with a focus on its application to church ministry.	Baylis-Stone trio

Annual Congregational Meeting

Unitarian Universalist Church of Olinda
 Sunday, February 25, 2018, at noon
 following a small luncheon

The Annual Reports will be available on Sunday, Feb. 11, 2018

From the Board

A very huge and generous THANK - YOU to Evelyn Fisher for her very large donation to end the year that allowed the church to finish in the black. It was amazing and we are so grateful for all of your donations but some need special acknowledgement. I am so proud of this congregation because you have never failed to come through when called upon. This is a very strong congregation and this church will never be in trouble.

I hope all had a chance to hear Rev. Keith Kron as he gave the address on Jan. 14th. The sermon was absolutely wonderful as he talked about his life and how important it is to be a welcoming congregation. He led a workshop in the afternoon as he explained how the search process will help find the settled minister that will be right for this church.

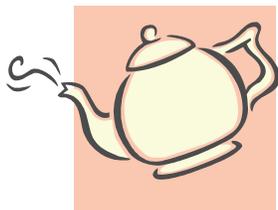
The Auction date will be April 14th so keep that date in mind and please think about what you would like to donate. On Feb. 4th there will be a meeting after church to iron out the details. This is our largest fundraiser, so, if you have any ideas to make it better, please attend.

Olinda's A.G.M. will be held on Feb. 25th and all are welcome to attend. This will be a review of last year and a new board will be elected. We would like you to join the board and lend your expertise to the running of the church. Please, if you feel you have something important to offer to improve the church, let the nominating committee know and maybe we can have an exciting election.

We all thank Toni and Elaine for the wonderful soup lunch they held at the church. It was very well attended and money was raised to support the Auction. There will be one on February 21st, so please sign up and you can have a great lunch too. We need to keep these going, and other people need to organize more fundraisers so one or two people do not do it all.

See you in church.

John Upcott, President



Tea with the Minister

Please join Rev. Fran and whoever else shows up to enjoy afternoon tea and conversation on Wednesdays, February 14 and 21 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 Tea will be preceded by the Soup Luncheon. If you want to attend the Luncheon, please sign up.

Financial Trustee Report

We have set the date for the ever-popular aUuction as Saturday, April 14.

A questionnaire is circulating looking for ideas of what you would like to happen at the aUuction along the lines of timing of meal, type of meal, types of offerings etc. Please pass your thoughts on to the board and/or attend the February 4th planning meeting.

Attending the meeting does not mean that you have to chair the group or help with the set up but we do need everyone's input to get the best possible outcome for that day.

Blessings,

Elaine Stevenson, Finance Trustee

February Soup Luncheon

It appears that our January 17, 2017 Soup Luncheon was a success with 20 adults and 1 child enjoying the delicious soups by Chef Toni Janik. \$205.00 was raised towards this year's auction.



We hope to repeat the experience on **Wednesday February 21 with a little change in that we will start at 10 a.m. for those that wish to play scrabble or cards. Lunch will be served from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.** followed by conversation, visiting with Rev. Fran or more games. Vegan options will be available.

Price is \$10 per person. The Sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in the Coffee Hour Room.

Important Dates

Feb. 4 Noon
aUuction Committee Meeting

Feb. 7 10 am
Membership Comm. Meeting

Feb. 8 7 pm
Board of Trustees Meeting

Feb. 11 9:30 am
Choir Rehearsal
Annual Reports Available

Feb. 14 1:30
Tea with the Minister

Feb. 18 9:30 am
Sunday Services Meeting

Feb. 18 Noon
Social Resp. Comm. Meeting

Feb. 20
March Newsletter Reports due

Feb. 21 11:30—1:30
Fundraiser: Soup Lunch
Preceded at 10 by
Card and Board Games
Followed at 1:30 by
Tea with the Minister

Feb. 25 9:30 am
Choir Rehearsal

Feb. 25 noon
Annual General Meeting

Fran's Column

February approaches, and the quickening of the world.

We are now closer to March Equinox than Solstice, and have left the deep dark behind us. A faint flush begins to glow from the deciduous trees. An illusory thaw may call us out of doors, then retreat, sniggering behind an iced mitten, as winter weather returns for some serious misery—no time to let down one's guard!

Another sure sign of approaching spring is emerging news from the Annual General Meeting of the Canadian Unitarian Council, accompanied every second year by National Conference. This year Canadian UUs will gather in Hamilton, Ontario, over the May holiday weekend. Our Whole Lives and Chaplaincy training events will precede the General Meeting; Conference will follow. And the annual five-day UU Ministers of Canada Retreat will follow that. Exciting times!

One spinoff for Olinda is that the Rev. Meg Roberts will stop by and preach here in Essex County, dropping in for a visit on her way to present at the national conference. I look forward to hosting my friend and colleague. I also look forward to hearing of her work with a theatre project that builds on the work of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

Theatre heals. Another friend of mine teaches Greek Tragedy at the University of Victoria. When we visited over Christmas my friend told me of some exciting new work that had put together the timing of Euripides' Tragedy "The Madness of Heracles", matched the date of that theatre event with the date of a notorious, horrendous military debacle, and come to the conclusion that Euripides was essentially engaging a city-wide eruption of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD)—broken soldiers who had come home and wreaked havoc on their own families. In effect, Euripides was offering therapy to the entire body politic of Athens.

Theatre heals. Theatre is part of the history of the UU Church of Olinda, as the heavy curtain hooks back of the pulpit still attest. The Bank Theatre renovation project in Leamington will enhance the resources for theatre in Essex County and beyond. I encourage you to invite spring and renewal a little nearer into your life, with a lift of the head, a wave at the Bank Theatre as you pass through Four Corners in Leamington, or a trip to your local library.

May you find joy in February this year, and new beginnings.

Yours, in the interim,

Rev. Fran

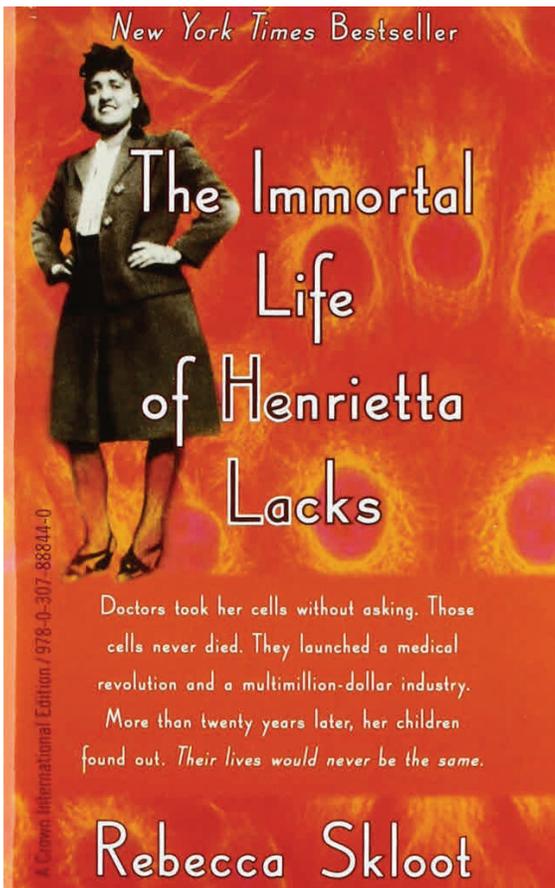
“The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks”

By Rebecca Skloot

Henrietta Lacks, the central character in this true story, was diagnosed and treated for cervical cancer at the Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, Maryland, in February, 1951. She died there later in the same year in what was called the Coloured Ward of the hospital. Her unusually aggressive cancer cells, never before discovered, were later named after her by the medical profession as HeLa Cells (the first two letters of given and family names). This book is a true story about Henrietta Lacks’ family as they struggle with the repercussions of modern medical research.

Johns Hopkins was the second of 11 children born to devout Quaker parents. They were the wealthy owners of Whitehalls, near Baltimore, a five hundred acre tobacco plantation with five hundred slaves to work it. Given the social justice issues of the day on abolition, they emancipated their slaves in 1807, and he had to quit school to help out at home.

Hopkins evolved as a successful entrepreneur, a prominent abolitionist, and a philanthropist. He determined to use his great wealth for the public good. In 1870, he set aside 7 million dollars, for the incorporation of a free teaching hospital, a university and an asylum for coloured children. This was the largest bequest ever bestowed in U.S. history to that time, a value today worth \$235 Million .



The author takes the many strands from various people’s lives over more than 150 years in recent history and weaves them together to form a enlightening work of art. She blends many different levels of altruism, race, education and ethics. These people’s lives came together in 1951 to give us one of the greatest medical advances ever seen in history.

Opening Quote to the Book

“We must not see any person as an abstraction. Instead we must see in every person a universe with its own secrets, with its own treasures, with its own sources of anguish and with some measure of triumph.”

Elie Wiesel

Reviewed by John van Abbema, editor

“Save the Date” Notice

Biennial National Conference and Annual General Meeting
of the Canadian Unitarian Council (CUC)
18-20 May 2018 in Hamilton

The Annual General Meeting of the Canadian Unitarian Council
will take place Friday May 18th,
at McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario,
in the Michael Degroote Centre for Learning and Discovery,
and in McMaster Student Union Building (MSUC).
Pre-conference training events:
(Our Whole Lives and Lay Chaplains)
Are scheduled for May 16-18.

Annual General Meeting takes place May 18th; Conference follows.

Registration Opens January 31st, 2018.
See the CUC Website for details.
Early Bird registration, until March 31st, is \$275.



Michael Degroote Centre for Learning and Discovery

Book and Hymnal Orders From the UUA

The Sunday Services Committee will be ordering a couple more large-print hymnals from the UUA bookstore by the end of February. Personal orders can be included in the Church order by those who find the print in our regular hymnals too small to easily read during services .

We will also be happy to include additional personal orders from the large catalog at <https://www.uuabookstore.org/>. Putting our orders together should save a bit on shipping, but anyone placing an order should plan on paying the cost of the books plus the exchange rate plus shipping and HST.

Please see Bill Baylis before the end of the month if you wish to add your purchase to our order.

Bill Baylis, Choir Director

Social Responsibility Committee Report

Reminders:

Interior Video of the church: A sheet has been created for signatures of those willing to have their photographs appear in public materials. Ray Stone and Gord Taylor will be making trial videos showing our church and its congregation for posting on our web site and sending to potential ministers.

Upcoming Film Alert: Ray located and Bill Baylis has uploaded the film *Thirteen* from U Tube for showing after church, date to be determined. This film documents the dangers of privatizing prisons.

International Dinner March 18: Make Your Own Tacos. The speaker at the Service will discuss challenges faced by migrant workers.

If you would like to donate any **7/11 Bonus Bucks** to a good cause, Fran collects them from the clear plastic envelope on the bulletin board in the Refreshment Room and delivers them to The Bridge Youth Resource Centre in Leamington.

Bobbye Baylis, Secretary of the SRC

Ministerial Search Committee Update

The search committee is very busy, having received a number of applications followed by lists of references for these candidates. We have each taken one reference per candidate and are calling them to learn more about the candidates. We are nearly finished with this phase and will soon meet to discuss the next steps, which are 1) organize a video conference with each candidate and 2) decide which candidates to invite to give a sermon at a neutral pulpit. We already have 4 neutral pulpits lined up in case we want to hear as many as four candidates.

We were very fortunate that Rev. Keith Kron, of the Transition Office of the UUA, could come on Jan. 14 to speak to Olinda about keeping an open mind with regard to the various ways we might categorize people. Everyone who attended the workshop following the service came away much energized.

We are also pleased that Cathy Dewhurst has been able to offer administrative support even though she cannot easily attend the meetings and do all of the travelling. Thank you, Cathy, for your continued help!

Personally, I have found this committee to have offered an exceptional experience. In reading their applications, I have been able to “meet” some marvelous people and get to “know” them far better than one usually gets to know people after many years! The References have also been remarkable people and very thoughtful. Especially I want to thank those in other churches who have scrambled to make space for us in their pulpits and been very gracious about it. Service on this committee has indeed taken a lot of time (They did warn us!) but it has been worth every minute. Makes us understand why we became UU’s—you get to meet such great people.

Bobbye Baylis,
Member, Ministerial Search Committee



No, we are not going there. This is the UU Church in Madison, Wisconsin, designed by Frank Lloyd Wright. But we can dream, can't we?

Caring Committee Report

February is a month that is associated with love, but hopefully every month should be associated with love. Happy Valentine to all the congregation.

With it being such a cold, snowy month, many people find it difficult to get out. If possible, please remember them with a phone call or visit.

Tina Bell had a fall at Erie Glen Retirement Home and is presently being assessed. Jim Reid these days finds it difficult to walk and we hope he gets better soon. Marion Thompson and Walter Sinclair are managing well at Erie Glen and June Blacker and Don and Sylvia Dotzert at home.

At this time I would like to welcome Leona Crowder to the caring committee, and please feel free to call any of us if you know anyone in need.

Submitted by Linda Upcott

Nominating Committee Report

Please note: when you read the 2017 Annual Report, you will see there are two openings for Board positions: Finance Trustee & Lifespan Religious Education Trustee. Please refer to the December Newsletter for outlines of duties.

It serves the Church well to have all Board positions filled and also will give a positive image to any prospective minister.

Your offer to bring your ideas and services to the Board will be appreciated, it takes all of us to make the church happen. Try it out for just one year to see if it is right for you.

You may talk to one of the Nominating Committee members if you have any questions and if you decide to get involved, you can let us know.

We thank you so much for considering to help us out.

Cathy Dewhurst, Sue Markham & Carol Hylton

Caring Committee Members

Eunice Goyette

June Blacker

Leona Crowder

Linda Upcott

In honour of Black History Month, we are featuring the life story of James Mercer Langston Hughes. Though we know little of him from our everyday lives, he is featured four times in our songbook, "Singing the Living Tradition": Nos. 60, 545, 488 and 528.

Langston Hughes was an influential American poet, social activist, novelist, playwright, and columnist. He was born in Joplin, Missouri, the second child of schoolteacher Carrie Mercer Langston and Nathaniel Hughes. His father, Nathaniel, left his family and travelled to Cuba and then Mexico, seeking to escape the enduring racism in the United States.

Hughes has a complex ancestry. Both of Hughes' paternal great-grandmothers were enslaved African Americans and both of his paternal great-grandfathers were white slave owners in Kentucky. Hughes subsequently grew up in a series of Midwestern small towns under the tutelage of his maternal grandmother, Mary Patterson, a descendant of African-American, French, English and Native American ancestors. She was one of the first women to attend Oberlin College.

During high school in Cleveland, Hughes wrote for the school newspaper, edited the yearbook, and began to write his first short stories, poetry and dramatic plays. Mary Langston instilled in her grandson a lasting sense of racial pride. Later, Hughes would study engineering while his father provided the tuition for Columbia University. Langston left in 1922 because of racial prejudice. He was attracted more to the people and the neighborhood of Harlem than to his studies, although he continued writing poetry.

Hughes' poetry and fiction portrayed the lives of the working-class blacks in America, lives he portrayed as full of struggle, joy, laughter, and music.

Hughes is quoted as saying "My seeking has been to explain and illuminate the Negro condition in America and, obliquely that of all human kind." He confronted racial stereotypes, protested social conditions, and expanded African America's image of itself.

Hughes stressed a racial consciousness and cultural nationalism devoid of self-hate. His thoughts united people of African descent, and Africa across the globe, to encourage pride in their diverse black folk culture and black aesthetics. His African-American race consciousness and cultural nationalism would influence many foreign black writers.

"Langston set a tone, a standard of brotherhood, friendship and cooperation, for all of us to follow. You never got from him, 'I am the Negro writer,' but only 'I am a Negro writer.' He never stopped thinking about the rest of us."



By John van Abbema, editor

Sourced from various websites on the internet.