

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 January, 2018

Date	Speaker	Title	Musician(s)
Jan. 7	Ray Stone	<i>William Ellery Channing and His Influence on Liberal Religion in America</i> Ray shares information about this important figure in the establishment of Unitarianism in America.	Bobbye & Bill Baylis
Jan. 14	Rev. Keith Kron	<i>The Van Gogh Café.</i> Rev. Kron discusses issues facing the Olinda congregation as it seeks a new settled minister. He will present a workshop "Beyond Categorical Thinking" after church from 12:30 to 3:30 PM.	Lorie Lyons
Jan. 21	Rev. Fran Dearman	<i>UU Traditions: Something handed down, and renewed with each new generation.</i>	Toni Janik
Jan. 28	Rev. Fran Dearman	<i>The Olympian Twelve: Culture, Creativity, and the dance of Chaos and Cosmos</i>	Lorie Lyons
Feb. 4	Irene Moore Davis	<i>Working Together for Change: Stories of Faithful Collaboration Between African Canadians and Their Allies</i>	Baylis-Stone Trio

Soup Lunch; January 17, 2018



Come one, come all for a soup lunch on Wednesday January 17, 2018 from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm to be followed by "Tea with the Minister." We will be dining upstairs at the church on Vegetarian Chili, French Onion Soup and other soup selections, as well as rolls, dessert, and tea/coffee. Cost is \$10 per person. The sign-up sheet is in the Coffee Hour Room. A minimum of 10 people must be signed up by January 7th to hold this event.

From the Board

I hope all had a wonderful Holiday Season with family and friends but I know not all are able to, but I hope all are looking forward to a healthy and happy New Year.

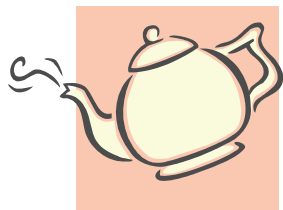
The budget meeting was held on Dec. 10th and I wish to thank all who were interested enough in the church to attend. The budget was passed as presented and now the search committee has the funds to continue their work. They have already spent many hours in meetings and now will be looking for the best person for Olin-da. Rev. Keith Kron will be presenting the service on Jan.14th so I hope all will attend to hear an interesting service and ask many questions. Everyone in the congregation is invited to meet with Rev. Kron after the service.

Thanks to all who decorated the tree and contributed warm gloves, socks and other warm clothes which were donated to local charities and food banks. The people of this church always amaze me with how generous they are at all times of year.

On Jan. 21st after the service, Rev. Fran and Lorie Lyons (Membership Trustee) will hold an orientation for new members or people interested in finding out more about our church and even for some of us who think we know everything. We all can learn and I know it will be interesting.

I do not want to sound like a broken record but we all need to take a look at what this church means to us and our community and make sure we are doing our share. If you have any problem with this church please talk to me or better yet take a position on the board. There is always room for new people and we welcome your suggestions. Nothing can change unless you make your views clear to a board member or the minister.

John Upcott, President



Tea with the Minister

Please join Rev. Fran and whoever else shows up to enjoy afternoon tea and conversation on Wednesdays, January 17 and 24 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 (this month, the fourth Wednesday) is an opportunity for handwork, in addition to the tea.

Financial Trustee Report

I am very thankful for the 25 voting members that attended the Congregational Budget Meeting on December 10. President John Upcott started the meeting off with similar sentiments that I feel. Household prices have increased but have our pledges also increased? He hated to ask, as it was not fun for him or anyone, if we could all consider increasing our support to the church.

With this in mind, I appreciated the affirmative vote that the members gave to the proposed budget with the printed amendment presented by the search committee. I put together what I hoped was the worst case scenario and would be truly grateful if we could have a repeat of the 2014 financial year when we thought we would have a deficit but instead ended with a surplus.

Treasurer Helen Moore and myself will be sitting down with the final 2017 figures in the coming weeks and will present a truer picture with the December finances and the pledge results to date. So stay tuned for my next report followed by the annual report with all the details I can provide.

Blessings

Elaine Stevenson, Trustee

Note from the Treasurer

Thanks very much for your generous donations throughout the year. We are, happily, once again in a surplus position at year end.

Helen Moore

Orientation Session

There will be an Orientation Session on January 21st at noon following the Sunday Service. All are welcome who may be interested in having a brief introduction to our church history and church affairs and learning about Unitarian Universalism in general.

Important Dates

Jan. 2

January Newsletter Reports due

Jan. 7

Annual Reports due

Jan. 11 7 pm

Board of Trustees Meeting

Jan. 14 9:30 am

Choir Rehearsal

Jan. 14 after church

Beyond Categorical Thinking Workshop

Jan. 17 11:30—1:30

Fundraiser: Soup Lunch

Followed at 1:30 by

Tea with the Minister

Jan. 21 9:30 am

Sunday Services Meeting

Jan. 21 noon

Orientation Session

Jan. 23 9 pm

February Newsletter Reports

Jan. 24 1:30 pm

Tea with the Minister

Jan. 28 9:30 am

Choir Rehearsal

Jan. 28 noon

Social Resp. Comm. Meeting

Fran's Column

January, named for the old Roman god of doorways Janus, two-headed Janus who looks both ways, reflecting on the past as we come to understand it, watching for the future as it rushes towards us.

As the future draws closer, and the prospect of calling a candidate for settlement at Olinda, I ask myself how I can best be of service. Clearly, controlling my own anxieties would be helpful. Accordingly, I am spending more time at the Sherk recreation centre, enjoying the walkway, yoga classes, and watching the Zamboni clear the ice.

I also find myself more attentive to my spiritual discipline. Accordingly, I arose very early the morning of New Year's Day while I was home in Victoria, and drove out past the Dominion Astrophysical Observatory, over one hundred years old now, to the First Victoria Unitarian Church, my home congregation.

The January 1st super-moon was just slipping below the horizon into the deep forest that makes my Vancouver Island home so beautiful. There was a slight cloud haze, and some frost—the weather hovering just above zero. About a dozen of us were gathered at first light for the annual meditation to greet the new year.

We sat in the dim light, eyes open, and watched and waited as the day began, the rough outlines of the landscape becoming more clear, trees emerging distinct from the forest, light glimmering of the lake below us, and swans flying in formation above the lake.

I found it very beautiful, very peaceful, and also inspiring; the leader of the meditation invited us to welcome the new year with joy, and to be mindful at the close of each evening, of the joy we had met that day. The leader mentioned how one individual had made a note at the end of each week, of some great joy that week had brought, and stored it in a vase; then, at the end of the year, as the next year approached, there were 52 moments of joy to be taken out and cherished.

January is for new beginnings. Let it also be for joy. Let us be awake to the good things around us. Even in the midst of anxiety and change, even in the midst of grief and the gamut of emotions that life entails, let us remember our joys.

Best wishes for the new year, one and all.

Yours, in the interim,

Rev. Fran

Membership/Publicity Report

It is a great joy that Ben and Nancy Bernath joined our church on Nov. 5th after attending several of our church services in the past year, making them our newest members. We are very pleased they chose our Unitarian Universalist congregation as their church and hope they find comfort in the future knowing this is their spiritual home.

There will be an Orientation Session on January 21st at noon following the Sunday Service. All are welcome who may be interested in having a brief introduction to our church history and church affairs and learning about Unitarian Universalism in general.

Two of our dear church members, John and Sharon Van Abbema, moved to New Brunswick at the end of November, which Linda wrote about in the December newsletter. Since their departure I have received a few emails from Sharon expressing how much she misses the Olinda congregation but they have been very warmly welcomed at their temporary home and at their church. No matter where they go, I know they will form many friendships over the coming years. John and Sharon have been greatly missed in our church family.

Thanks to Bobbye Baylis, a revised Telephone Tree has been prepared and is available on the library table for you to pick up. It is important this is kept as up to date as possible for notifying church members and friends of Sunday Service cancellations due to winter storms and to inform people of serious news such as the death of a church member.

We had a lengthy discussion about church growth at our November Membership Mtg. and came up with a few recommendations. One of the main concerns is the importance of striving to be a welcoming congregation. For the most part I believe we are, but there may be a few individuals who do not feel the hospitality they hope to find in a new place. Many years ago I remember Lousie Foulds telling me that when she first visited our church she really did not feel welcome. However, she decided that she would put forth the effort to engage in conversation with people, and from that point on began to feel comfortable in our congregation after she got to know people. For those who may not be familiar with Louise, who passed away about 4 years ago, she was a very dedicated member of our church for many years before moving to Toronto. She was our church historian and the author of 2 books about our church found in our library and was instrumental in having our church designated as a heritage site by the Province of Ontario. John Van Abbema expressed this sentiment to me, that it takes awhile to get to know people and one of the best ways to learn about each other is to become involved in church activities. It is always best though if we, as church members, do take the first step in making new people feel welcome.

The other point brought up was that one of the best ways to attract new people to our church is through personal contacts. Outside of having your own circle of friends, a good way to meet people is to volunteer in the community. Not only do you meet others that way but it can be a good advertisement for our church.

Having people available to teach Sunday School to encourage families to come is another major concern, but with the ever present fluctuation of attendance over the past couple of decades, it is important to make children feel welcome in our church services by having a Story for All Ages each Sunday. The Canadian Unitarian Council knows this is a widespread problem in many churches so it is felt the direction should be to focus on "faith formation" by including children in church along with their parents.

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Membership/Publicity. Continued

Several other points were discussed about membership growth at this meeting but due to lack of space in the newsletter, I will compile a list and post them on the church bulletin board in January for your consideration. I welcome comments and suggestions so please feel free to contact me by email or at church. Thank you.

Lorie Lyons, *Chair Membership/Publicity*

Book Review

Diana Butler Bass is a prolific author, speaker and independent scholar specializing in American religion and culture. She is a historian focusing on the history of Christianity, and a leading voice in progressive Christianity.

Please check out her other books on the internet.

John van Abbema

Grounded

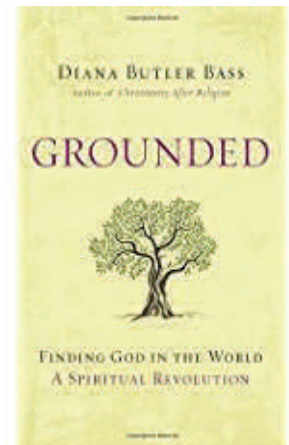
By Diana Butler Bass, Published 2015

This is a fascinating book on the state of Christian thinking in America, post 9/11. Her overall theme is that America is on the verge of a major revolution in Christian thinking, already in progress, wherein those holding onto the old jingoisms (she categorizes them as 'Fundamentalists') are being dragged forward into the change of a new world, kicking and screaming, to no avail.

Her book is peppered with numerous quotable observations, mostly her own with support from other scholars and influential theological thinkers, i.e.

"Spirituality is about personal experience...the deep realization that dirt is good, water is holy, the sky holds wonder; that we are part of a great web of life, our home is in God, and our moral life is entwined with that of our neighbor. But none of this is for the sake of feeling good, individual prosperity, or guaranteeing a blessed after-life. It is about tracing the threads of the interconnected universe, about finding God in nature and community...and... in finding God, discovering that we really are one."

"Work for justice. Know that your life is in communion with all life. The spiritual revolution, finding God in the world, is an invitation to new birth, most especially for religion. There is no better place to start than in your synagogue, mosque, temple, or church. There is nothing worse than sleeping through a revolution."



Caring Committee Report

New Year's greetings to our members of Olinda, who are shut in or unable to be at home. December started on a mild note but turned bitter at the end; hope all are well.

It was nice to see so many of the congregation at the Kingsville Legion to celebrate Buster Ringrose's 90th birthday. Good to see Emil and Eunice Buhne at church and we thank their son for bringing them. Sorry to hear about their daughter's surgery and we hope for a speedy recovery.

At this time, our hearts go out to Theresa Tetzlaff as she mourns the loss of both her mother and stepfather in this past month. Sharon van Abbema had been talking to Marion Thompson on the phone, and told me she had been fighting a cold, and we wish her well. Sharon has been keeping in touch with many congregants and we thank her for that.

We have learned that Walter Sinclair will be residing at Erie Glen Retirement Home for the winter. He has since had a procedure done and is able to speak more clearly and welcomes visitors. A big New Year's hello to Tina Bell at Erie Glen and to June Blacker, wishing her well at home.

Eunice Goyette and I delivered cookies and a plant to some special members and had a lovely visit.

Special words from our past caring committee chair.

I bring you warm greetings from the land of ice and snow in the eastern province of New Brunswick, a 1,862 km journey from Kingsville. I must admit I miss your smiling faces and your quips of humor... and your friendships. The privilege was mine to meet up with you from time to time. If an ice flow from the mighty Saint John River doesn't take me clean away, maybe in later spring I will return for a visit. I should be so fortunate! Happy 2018! May all your dreams come true.

Submitted by Sharon van Abbema and Linda Upcott

Caring Committee Members

Eunice Goyette
June Blacker
Leona Crowder
Linda Upcott

Ministerial Search Committee Update

Happy Holidays to all.

As you are aware, the Ministerial Package went live on our church website the end of November. By the time this newsletter goes to print, we will hopefully see names of interested candidates.

We all had a very informative conference call with Stephen Atkinson, our UUA contact person, the end of December.

The Congregational Record is part of the package and there are copies in the Library should anyone want to look it over. There is more about the church on the Ministerial Search 2018 page, but it is password protected. If you have forgotten the password, see a member of the Search Committee.

We want to have a video of activities in the church on the website. Since it would include pictures of our congregants busy enjoying themselves, we need your signatures on the sign-up sheet that is on the table below the name tags.

Following a fast-paced fall in which the Search Committee completed the pre-work for submission to potential ministers, we are now entering the next phase of the selection process. This will entail reviewing applications from those ministers interested in Olinda, working as a committee to create the list of candidates we want to meet with, setting up pre-candidate weekends and then finally deciding on a candidate for presentation to the congregation for approval to be called.

We are looking forward to a busy next four months and will keep you posted as we move through the process.

Cathy Dewhurst,

For the Ministerial Search Committee

Beyond Critical Thinking Workshop

This Workshop, led by the Rev. Keith Kron of the UUA Ministerial Transition Office, will occur on Sunday 14th January 2018, following the Sunday Service, also to be lead by Keith.

All are welcome to become involved with this recommended part of the new Ministerial Selection Process. This will be an opportunity for the whole congregation to explore concerns about calling a minister of a particular identity, whether it be race / ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, or disability.

Starting at 12:30, following an enhanced coffee hour (talk to Mariette before bringing any food), this structured discussion will wrap up before 3:30 in the afternoon.

Mark your calendars; let us work together to assure ourselves that the new minister will be a perfect fit.

Property Committee Report

Due to the old vacuum cleaner giving up, I purchased a new vacuum cleaner. It is a canister type making it easier to do the stairs. As well it has an attachment for hard surface floors and one for carpets and should fit our needs that are not frequent. This vacuum was on sale for half price so with tax came in under \$150.00. The cleaning person brings her own vacuum.

The downstairs refrigerator has been shut off. Gord Taylor thinks it is the compressor and we thought it was drawing excessive electricity. The only contents of it for months and even for our Xmas dinner were a few bottles of pop, bottle of wine and some ice. Mariette said she does not use it.

I recommended for the time being we do not replace it and if a basement refrigerator becomes useful, we can purchase one then. The Board agreed.

Best in the New Year to All. Laurie Hylton

Social Responsibility Committee Report

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

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 will be making a trial video showing our church and its congregation for posting on our web site.

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

Canada Post news: There is still no new information from the Federal government regarding door- to-door postal delivery. They have had their most profitable year ever. Fran will write a letter to both MP's (Tracey Ramsey and Dave Van Kesterin) and indicate the support of the Social Responsibility Committee for continuing (and reinstating) door-to-door service.

International Dinner March 18: Make Your Own Tacos. Laurie Stone will talk to the Mexican Consulate about speaker to discuss challenges faced by migrant workers and difficulties with their places of employment. Fall-back source of speaker: South Essex Community Council. Fran will be the service leader.

Bobbye Baylis, Secretary of the SRC

A Summer Playground At Rest After the First Snowfall

Nature's Wisdom, While Winter Sleeps.

The rain has given drink to a thirsty soil
All living things are
Now refreshed and ready to grow.
The sun will shine again.

Summer will be back soon.
Trees will give shade,
Bright flowers will bloom,
And, in the fall, we will harvest
The fruit that Nature provides.

Nature is my Father's house,
Wherein the moving seasons give me
Food, beauty, shelter and happiness,
Which I can share with my friends.

Nature gives me faith and piece of
mind.
and gives me the confidence
To look forward to each coming day.

By my favourite poet, Anonymous.

John van Abbema, Editor

**A guiding word for this New
Years' Resolutions:**

*"Bloom wherever
you are planted"*



“Soon, the geese will be back, the hares will turn brown, fish will be looking for food on the fly and children will come back happily, noisily playing their games of summer. “

