

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 March, 2018

Date	Speaker	Title	Musician(s)
Mar. 4	Rev. Rosalind Mariconda	<i>Nonviolent Communication in Church Ministry</i> The 4-step model of Dr. Marshall Rosenberg and its successes and problems when applied to church ministry.	Baylis-Stone Trio
Mar. 11	Rev. Fran Dearman	<i>Wisdom Literature.</i> Rev. Fran reflects on literature of special interest to UUs.	Lorie Lyons
Mar. 18	Alberto Bernal-Acero, Mexican Consul in Leamington	<i>The Mexican Consulate in Leamington.</i> Please join us for our annual International Dinner after the service.	Toni Janik
Mar. 25	Rev. Fran Dearman	<i>Palm Sunday: The Role of the Minister.</i>	Toni Janik
Apr. 1	Rev. Fran Dearman	<i>Easter Sunday: Forgiveness and New Life</i>	Baylis-Stone Trio
Apr. 8	Rev. Fran Dearman	<i>TBA: Watch for a pair of services by our new ministerial candidate!</i>	Lorie Lyons

International Dinner

Hosted by the Social Responsibility Committee
Noon, March 18, 2018
Make Your Own Tacos!
Donations to the Migrant Worker Community Program



From the Board

I believe the next two weeks could be busy for me so I am submitting my newsletter report early. I have been watching the winter Olympic events and when South Korea and North Korea entered the opening ceremonies together and joined together to form a women's hockey team, I wondered if it is too much to hope for that sport can do what the U.S. saber rattling cannot. Just maybe there could be a little less tension between nations while people are watching the games.

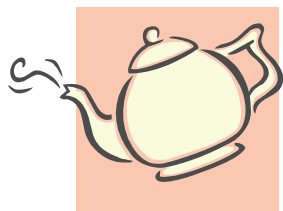
I hope all are well after three days of snow and a couple of days of cleanup. It has been a hard winter but it is half over; and, there will always be spring and warmer weather to look forward to.

At the board meeting there was some discussion on how to get more people interested in serving on the board. One way may be to give people more info on how to serve as a trustee. Folders were given to all trustees with a copy of the by-laws in the hope that the trustees who hold the office now would write down some ways they have found helpful in fulfilling their responsibilities. It would be a continuing document and passed on when someone new is elected to the office.

If you are interested in attending the C.U.C.A.G.M., it will be held in Hamilton on May 18th – 20th . We are allowed to have two delegates attend and vote. There is a business meeting every two years so this one will be interesting and if you wish to attend just let someone on the board know.

We are getting close to the time we find out who or if the search committee has found a person they feel would be the right one to be our settled minister. The search committee has been very busy and by the end of this month their decision should be reached. It seems as if it takes a long time but they need to make sure they have the best person and if there is one we will get to hear them speak on two successive Sundays.

Our largest fundraiser, the annual auction , is planned for April 14th so please plan for what you could donate and plan to attend the chili dinner that will be served before. It is a great time and a fun day so please save the date.



Tea with the Minister

Please join Rev. Fran and whoever else shows up to enjoy afternoon tea and conversation on Wednesdays, March 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 Lasagna Luncheon. If you want to attend the Luncheon, please sign up.

Financial Trustee Report

Thank you to all the members that came to the annual congregational meeting on February 25. Your board appreciates the support and comments of the congregation in all their decisions and activities.

Our annual aUuction is taking place Saturday April 14, 2018. We are shaking up the venue a bit in response to answers to our circulated questionnaire and the meeting February 4th.

All donated items of events, talents or new treasures are to be listed with the committee by Sunday April 1st and in house if not perishable. Perishables are to be brought day of auction and in a cooler if necessary, as we no longer have a refrigerator downstairs.

The chili meal (vegan option will be available) will be served at 12 noon in the upstairs dining, living room, library space. Cost is \$15 to include the dessert which will be served after the auction while the finance wizards do their magic to get everyone's totals entered.

At 1:00 p.m. we will adjourn to the basement to look at the offerings for the auction and sign up for food events and any silent auction items. Bidding starts at 1:30 pm with our auctioneers, John Upcott and Bill Baylis.

At the conclusion of the live auction, we will enjoy dessert with beverage in the basement (\$5 for those that did not enjoy our pre-auction meal). We hope to have the finance tallies done by 4 p.m. at which time we ask that all items be paid for and picked up.

Special thank you for all the volunteers that work hard so we can all enjoy this afternoon of fellowship. Deadlines are set so that the finance and auction people can also enjoy the meal and not be running around adding items to the lists.

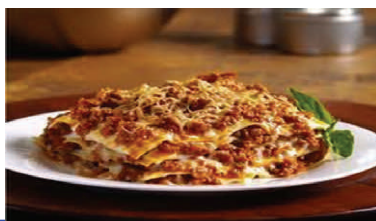
This is our biggest fundraiser of the year and we hope to finish wiping out the 2016 loan from the Capital Fund that allowed us to replace the windows in the manse and kitchen flooring. Come for the fun and let's have some lively bidding!

Blessings. Elaine Stevenson, Finance Committee Chair.

Lasagna Lunch

Come one, come all for a lasagna lunch on Wednesday March 21, 2018 from 11:30 am – 1:30 pm to be followed by "Tea with the Minister." We will be dining upstairs at the church. Cost is \$15 per person. The sign-up sheet is in the Coffee Hour Room. A minimum of 10 people must be signed up by March 19, 2018 to hold this event.

Hosted by John and Linda Upcott



Important Dates

Mar. 4 9:30 am
Choir Rehearsal

Mar. 8 7 pm
Board of Trustees Meeting

Mar. 11 9:30 am
Choir Rehearsal

Mar. 14 1:30
Tea with the Minister

Mar. 18 9:30 am
Sunday Services Meeting

Mar. 18 Noon
International Dinner

Mar. 21 9:30 am
Membership Meeting

Mar. 21 11:30—1:30
Fundraiser: Lasagna Lunch
Followed at 1:30 by
Tea with the Minister

Mar. 25 9:30 am
Choir Rehearsal

Mar. 25 Noon
Search Committee Infor-
mation Session

Apr. 3
April Newsletter Reports due

Apr. 8 9:30
Choir Rehearsal

Apr. 8 Noon
Film: Thirteenth
Bring your own lunch.

Fran's Column

Welcome March, and Spring Equinox. Equal day, equal night, and a spirit of equanimity.

My dictionary defines equanimity as calmness of mind, mental composure, evenness of temper. And may it be so. Search is pretty exciting. So I work at staying calm. My own search for equanimity takes me to the gym. I'm now registered in five classes at the Sherk Centre in Leamington—three yoga sessions and two Pilates classes, plus innumerable laps around the mezzanine walking track. This, I have found, is vital to my own equanimity as spring leaps forward into view. And an endless supply of Sudoku puzzles....

It is almost two years since Olinda invited me to walk with you into the future. I'm glad we said yes to one another. Since then the congregation has entrusted the search for the next ministerial settlement to a team of trusted individuals. Surveys and workshops and many meetings have followed. The Ministerial Search Committee (MSC) is now at the point of face to face two day interviews with actual living breathing minister persons. Wow!

So far, so good. I have great hopes for a fruitful search. By Easter we will most likely know. And so we wait, in patience, in equanimity.

Meanwhile, life goes on. Ministers come and ministers go, but the congregation goes on and on, walking into a future that the founders of 1880 might well have struggled to understand. But they'd understand love, and compassion, and universal caring. And we carry that love forward into the future.

May you find joy in this month of March, and hope, and new beginnings. And equanimity.

Yours, in the Interim, Rev. Fran

Membership Report

Our next Membership Meeting will be on Wednesday, March 21st at 9:30 a.m. Anyone is welcome to attend and I invite you to join us if you have any suggestions concerning church growth. The list about "Keys to Membership Growth" is still posted on the coffee room bulletin board. If you prefer to photocopy it to take home to read, please do that but post the list back on the board afterwards. You can email me or speak with me at church if you have something you would like to share with the Membership Committee rather than participate at the meeting if that suits you better.

I am so pleased to hear that the luncheons started by Elaine and Toni are very well attended. It is always worth trying something different because it is the only way to know for sure if it will work.

Thank you,
Lorie Lyons, Membership Trustee

Note of Thanks, Leamington Area Ecumenical Refugee Comm.

Dear LAERC Supporters,

December 30, 2017

We thank you again sincerely for your continued support for LAERC's work with refugee newcomers. It is only with your financial support, that LAERC is able to continue assistance to refugees. Since being formed in 2005, LAERC has sponsored 19 family groups. That's 84 people, from Colombia, Iraq, Burma, Syria and Sudan. We receive these families by working through the United Nations Refugee Committee, a Sponsorship Agreement Holder and Immigration Canada.

A marvelous example of your support at work happened in September 2017. LAERC sponsored a family of 10 from South Sudan. The adults are taking English classes at SECC and the children attend LDSS or M.D. Bennie where they get support to learn English. After more than ten years as refugees they are so, so happy to be in Canada. All together and all healthy. Thank you for all your contributions that enabled us to provide meals when they first arrived. Then later, clothing, and furnishings helped us to set up a home for them. Thank you to everyone who has opened their hearts and arms to make the newcomers feel welcome and loved.

This past summer, many of our sponsored kids played on Leamington soccer teams and nine of the kids attended week long summer camps. The skills, the experiences, the confidence and the self esteem the kids acquire through these activities is without measure. Again, through private donations, we are awarding our 5th \$500 bursary, this year to a Burmese girl studying at University of Windsor.

Two more families bought houses, young people are getting their licenses and vehicles, more have earned their Canadian Citizenship and gotten passports. These are huge achievements in a fairly short time. LAERC joins with them as new babies are born, graduations attended, baptisms and weddings performed, new jobs secured, the goodness of life celebrated and gratitude expressed.

We hope you will include LAERC in your 2018 budget and continue to support refugee families with your goodwill and prayers. Tax receipts will be given through your church or Knox Presbyterian Church. When we each give a little, we can achieve a lot. Our financial records were examined and found to be in good order.

You are always welcome to join our committee, to drive to an appointment, to help someone learn English, to share your gifts and strengths, to make a difference in another's life. We can always use more hands. Try it. It is humbling and uplifting to be a part of this dedicated group who care about those needing refuge.

The families that LAERC sponsors are very grateful and want me to pass on their personal thanks. You are God's hands in the world.

Sincerely, Wilma Lamb-Stewart
Tel. (519) 733-3344
2Wilma@cogeco.ca

UU Church of Olinda's Bookshelf

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.

March 2018: _____



Title: **Poles Apart**

Author: **Terry Fallis**

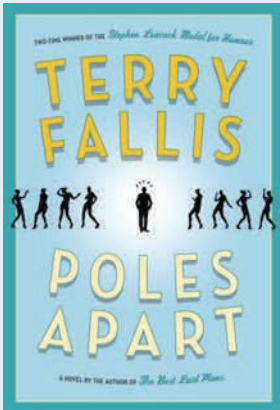
Published: 2015

Comments:

Eve of Equality, a new feminist blog, becomes an overnight sensation when a wildly popular talk show host stumbles upon it, tweets about it, and promotes it on her show. The anonymous blog is intelligent, thoughtful, and bold, brazenly taking on various injustices in the lives of women. The blogger...meet Everett Kane, aspiring writer and a fervent feminist !

Hilarious, light but insightful, this book offers a timely commentary on a subject that is flooding our headlines, newsfeeds, social media, and conversations.

Posted with fond memories of Gypsy Carroll ... This author was one of her favourites. Respectfully, Stuart Miller.



Property Report

Things are pretty quiet for projects going on this time of year. However, I wish to take this opportunity to express, on behalf of all of us, our thanks to those who have worked hard to clear snow in January & February. We have had an abundance of snow and it has made up for what we didn't receive last winter.

We thank Doug Whaley for seeing that our parking areas are cleared. Also John Upcott and Richard Stevenson for clearing snow & ice from the entrance area as well as opening the church to get it warm for us. What would we do without them?

Thank you fellows,
Laurie Hylton, Property Committee Chair

Caring Committee Report

As I write this, the weather seems to be warming, the snow is disappearing and with any luck no more large snow storms are on the horizon. It is just March however, and anything may happen.

Regretfully, we learned that Evelyn Fisher was admitted in the hospital and is now released and recovering at home. Some of our congregation spent the month with colds and flu symptoms, wishing them a speedy recovery.

A cheery hello to Tina Bell who seems to be adapting well at the Sun Parlor Home, also to Marion Thompson and Walter Sinclair at Erie Glen and June Blacker at home. Jim Reid welcomes visitors, but please call first.

Had a pleasant visit with Emil Buhne over the phone and they are coping as best they can with help from their family. The congregation sends sympathies to Doug Whaley and family on the loss of his father-in-law.

Submitted by Linda Upcott

“Save the Date” Notice

The Biennial National Conference and 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.

Ministerial Search Committee Information Session

Noon, March 25, 2018

This is your chance to ask the committee any questions you have.
We will do our best to answer them.

Caring Committee Members

Eunice Goyette

June Blacker

Leona Crowder

Linda Upcott

Work as An Agent of Social Change

The Parable says: "If you give a man a fish, he will eat for a day. If you teach a man to fish, he will eat forever." Well, almost. What if there aren't any fish to catch? What if the man or woman is in the middle of the tall grass prairie? or Vancouver's downtown east side? Or rural Nova Scotia? Or northern Canada?

To make a real social impact, what you do has to be sustainable. Philanthropy alone is not enough. Training someone and then turning them out in the same world they came from to make a living isn't enough. We must provide a way to find the fish and we must get them to market. Or, we will have to bring the market to them.

The Truth and Reconciliation Report brought the very real issues facing First Nations, Metis, and Inuit Peoples to the attention of all Canadians. **The Report highlighted Corporate Canada's responsibility to help.**

The Maritimes, for example, have, an aging, shrinking and migrating population. We have increasing health care costs and a decreasing workforce resulting in an ever-growing deficit. Conversely, in the **Information Technology industry (IT), we have many more jobs than there are people to fill them.** IT jobs are unique in that they are not tied to a physical location. They can go anywhere the workers are.

The fastest growing demographic in Canada is young Indigenous People. Exactly the people we need in IT careers. The majority want to stay in their communities and there are 15 First Nations in New Brunswick. But they are not entering the IT workforce. What are the barriers that prevent that? Those are the problems I was thinking about and I realized I had a solution.

Barriers Faced by Indigenous peoples for accepting work assignments:

Education. In response, we created a training course that would prepare them for entering the workforce. We made it short enough that they could see the end. We made the entry requirements as achievable as possible. We made the course directly applicable to the work that my company does, software testing.

Location. Many indigenous communities are not close to major urban areas. Just like many of us, indigenous people do not want to leave the communities that they grew up in. Family connections are so very important. So, we offered the course in or near their communities.

Employment. How do you get a job if it is in a city far from home? How do you get a job if you have to compete as a complete outsider with people who have more experience and more education and more connections?

A very good friend of mine, a member of Pasqua First Nation, told me the story of walking down a city street thinking he should apply for job at one of the great tall buildings with big signs of famous companies on them. But he didn't know anyone who worked there. Nobody who looked like him worked there. How could he possibly work there?

To lower the barrier, we created a company that would hire the graduates and give them their first full time employment in IT. **That company is PLATO* and it tests software for companies around the world.** LinkedIn in LA, Intuition in Dublin, Suncor in Calgary. The work can come from anywhere and be done anywhere there is an internet connection. It is being done in rural New Brunswick and downtown Vancouver.

***PLATO. Professional Aboriginal Testing Organization. A company founded in 2016 by Keith McIntosh** with the express purpose building a network of Aboriginal software testers across Canada.

Work as An Agent of Social Change, cont.

So now we have people working, full-time in professional jobs. What does that change? **For the employees it gives stability.** it allows them to stop worrying about tomorrow's meal and start thinking about a future plan. **For their communities it brings new money into the economy.** More importantly, it provides visible success stories and role models for their youth. **For the youth of the communities, it provides hope, it provides incentive to stay in school, it provides options. And for PLATO it provides a workforce to produce necessary and valuable work product and grow a profitable software testing company.**

I believe that I can create 1000 jobs testing software. There are many other opportunities in IT. In things like call centers, data migration, content validation. There are many entry levels, high volume tasks in IT that are suitable for this type of company. If Amazon sets up its new HQ in Canada, there will be more.

I chose to focus on engaging Indigenous Canadians. But the concept could be applied to any marginalized community. I have been approached by an organization representing **unemployed coal miners in West Virginia** and another working with **inner city youth in New York City**. An entrepreneur I know in San Francisco is teaching women in Africa and South America to do data entry tasks and bringing work from companies like Amazon and Microsoft to their villages.

To change people's lives, you need to do more than give charity dollars. **You have to create good outcomes and change circumstances.** You need to give opportunity and you have to help people take advantage of that opportunity.

Albert Einstein said, "We cannot solve our problems with the same thinking we used when we created them". There are many government programs that will give money for training and for that I say thank you. Many companies offer to sponsor courses and mentor students and I say thank you. But it's not enough. We must fundamentally change the approach.

I truly believe that corporate Canada takes the responsibility to help seriously but they don't know always how to engage. To corporate Canada I say, let me help you. Let me give you the opportunity and let me help you take advantage of that opportunity.

What we really need is work. Real work that needs to be done. We need you to carve off a bit of work that might otherwise go offshore or to a large corporation and give it to people who just need a chance. Honest pay for honest work brings dignity and pride; and, dignity and pride changes lives.

Thank you for letting me share my views with you.

Keith McIntosh

This talk was adapted for inclusion in the Newsletter by John Van Abbema, Editor.

About this Article

This article is an excerpt from a talk given by Keith McIntosh in January 2018. Keith is the Chief Executive Officer of Professional Quality Assurance Ltd, which he founded in 1997.

PQA Testing is Canada's leading independent solutions provider of quality assurance and software services through a team of over 100 professionals from Halifax to Vancouver.

Services have been delivered to both national and international clients from a variety of industry sectors including Financial Services, Insurance, Healthcare, Gaming, Telecommunications, Government and e-Learning.

PQA Testing offers:

- Software quality assurance
- Content quality assurance
- Learning and content development.

More information can be found at:
www.pqa.ca

Social Responsibility Committee Report

Thanks to Laurie Stone's diligence, we have a very interesting International Dinner program. The Mexican Consul will speak at the service on March 18, followed by a lunch of "make your own" tacos; the ingredients will be supplied by the Committee, organized by Mariette. Donations made at the luncheon will go to the Migrant Worker Community Program, which was recommended by the Consul. See below for details on the services this group is providing. The Consul suggested that he would give a short talk and then ask for questions. So you might want to consider what questions you would like to ask.

Another treat organized by our Committee is in store for **April 8. The film, Thirteenth**, will be shown following the service, and will run about one and a half hours. You might want to bring a snack to tide you over. **13th** is a 2016 American documentary by director Ava DuVernay. The film explores the "intersection of race, justice and mass incarceration in the United States;" it is titled after the Thirteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution, which freed the slaves and prohibited slavery (unless as punishment for a crime).

Ray Stone has been taking video footage of church activities to post on our web site. He recorded much of the last two Sunday's services. Please sign the Video Permission sheet on the table in the lobby area (under our name tags) so he does not have to chase you later or edit you out of the video!

Bobbye Baylis, Secretary, SRC



Migrant Worker Community Program

Activities:

- Annual Health and Information Fair in Spring
- Monthly Information Sessions (e.g., on Pesticides)
- Fiestas Patrias in September (Latino music, dance and food)
- Bicycle Safety Tips and Materials
- Introductory Spanish Course
- Translation & Interpretation Services
- Day Trips (e.g., Niagara Falls)
- Basketball & Baseball Leagues
- Liaison with other community organizations (e.g., health care & legal clinics)