

The Olinda Outpost

Monthly Newsletter of the [Unitarian Universalist Church of Olinda](#)
2953 Olinda Side Road, Ruthven, Ontario, N0P 2G0
Toni Janik, Bobbye Baylis & John van Abbema, Editors



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

Sunday Services April, 2018

Date	Speaker	Title	Musician(s)
Apr. 1	Rev. Fran Dearman	<i>Easter Sunday: Forgiveness and New Life</i>	Baylis-Stone Trio
Apr. 8	Rev. Fran Dearman	<i>April Is Poetry Month</i>	Lorie Lyons
Apr. 15	Rev. Rod Solano-Quesnel	<i>The Enduring Presence</i>	Indian Village Quintet & Bill Baylis
Apr. 22	Rev. Rod Solano-Quesnel	<i>tba (Earth Day)</i>	Toni Janik
Apr. 29	Rev. Fran Dearman	<i>The Long View</i>	Toni Janik
May 6	Rev. Fran Dearman	<i>Raven, Coyote, and other Tricksters</i>	Baylis-Stone Trio

**Congregational Meeting
To Call a New Settled Minister
April 22, 2018
Immediately after the Service
(with time to grab a cup of tea)**



Please join us for the
Annual Goods and Services aUuction
Saturday, April 14, 2018 @ 1:00PM
Chili Luncheon available at 12:00 noon
plus homemade dessert after the aUuction
All at the reasonable cost of \$15.00.

From the Board

The Board invited Peter LeClair to speak to us on incorporation. Peter has incorporated his own business and while the church would be much more challenging and more expensive, the advantages will far outweigh the problems. We send the government most of the information needed anyway and the government recommends incorporation but at this time it is not insisting but it seems clear that in the future it will be mandatory for charitable organizations.

I polled the Board by e-mail and it seems most if not all are in favour. I hope, at April's meeting, we can form an ad-hoc committee to research how to go about it and perhaps get some information about cost if possible. Incorporation would also help protect the church against some lawsuits.

After this committee has done its due diligence, we will hold, with the congregation, an informational meeting to approve incorporation and pass a budget for the funds to incorporate. The board also will research upgrading the hydro for the dining room where we are holding the fund raising lunches.

When you read this this month's search committee's report, you should know if and whom they will recommend for our next settled minister. The candidate would speak one Sunday then spend the week getting to know us and speak again the following Sunday when a vote would be taken. This has been a trying time but the end may be in sight. The search committee needs a great deal of thanks, no matter what the outcome, for their hard work and doing such a great job.

We still need two delegates to attend the C.U.C. Annual Meeting . If you are interested in representing the church, please let someone on the board know A.S.A.P.

Laurie Hylton has resigned from the board but hopefully he will continue to do the work until we can appoint a replacement. As of now, two positions on the board, Finance and Property, are open.

John Upcott, President

Greetings from Rev. Rod

I've had very a pleasant time with the Search Committee and I am very excited to meet with the wider congregation later this month. I hope to meet many of you at the aUUction on April 14.

I am already set to meet many of the teams that share leadership at Olinda and getting a deeper sense of how you're making this spiritual community thrive.

There will also be some time when you can drop in to meet me on the afternoons of Monday and Wednesday during Candidating Week. This can be a time to get to know each other's stories more closely.

Until then—warm regards,
Rev. Rod

Financial Trustee Report

Twenty lucky people were treated to a delicious lasagna luncheon hosted by Linda and John Upcott on Wednesday, March 21th. Linda generously baked extra that were sold for a total of \$420 for the event. Compliments to Linda and John Upcott on another yummy lunch!

The aUuction fund has done very well with these three winter luncheons but this will be our last for this winter, as we hope spring is here to stay. Plans are underway to resume these luncheons in the fall with spots open to host this event. Please consult the board if you would like to offer your culinary skills.

Saturday, April 14, 2018 is our annual aUuction.

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. Donation 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, Pres. 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.

Items on the sign-up sheets include food, events, liquor, art, collectables and talents. Come have some fun and conversation with rivals for that favourite item!

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 meal and fun and let's have some lively bidding!

Blessings
Elaine Stevenson

Important Dates

Apr. 8	9:30 am	Choir Rehearsal
Apr. 8	Noon	Film: Thirteenth Bring your own lunch.
Apr. 12	7 pm	Board of Trustees Meeting
Apr. 14	1 pm	Goods & Services aUuction Preceded by Chili Luncheon at Noon
Apr. 15	9:30 am	Sunday Services Meeting
Apr. 15	Noon	Informal Congregational Meeting to meet Rev. Rod
Apr. 16	10 am	Finance Comm. Meet.
Apr. 16	7 pm	Religious Ed. Comm. Meet.
Apr. 17	11 am	Lay Chaplains Meeting
Apr. 18	10 am	Membership Meeting
Apr. 18	1 pm	Caring Comm. Meet.
Apr. 19	7 pm	Board of Trustees Meeting
Apr. 20	11 am	Property Comm. Meet.
Apr. 21	10 am	Sunday Services Meeting
Apr. 21	11 am	Social Resp. Comm. Meeting
Apr. 22	9:30 am	Choir Rehearsal
Apr. 22	Noon	Congregational Meeting to Call New Minister
Apr. 24		May Newsletter Reports due

Fran's Column

Dear Ones of Olinda,

A year or so ago, you entrusted to your Ministerial Search Committee the task of searching the heart of Olinda, seeking out a minister who would might walk well with you into the future, and naming that minister to be your Candidate for settlement with you, here at this church.

The Ministerial Search Committee have named that Candidate, who will visit with you for two Sundays and the week between, April 15th through 22nd. There will be opportunities to hear the Candidate preach, there will be opportunities to meet the Candidate in less formal circumstances, and there will be opportunities for the Candidate to meet you.

And following the service on April 22nd there will be a General Meeting, at which time there will be the opportunity to express your endorsement (or not!) of the MSC's recommendation by vote, and issue the Call to your choice for settled minister to serve this congregation. Following the issue of your Call, there will be opportunity for the minister to respond and accept that call (or not!).

I urge you to take advantage of these opportunities, meet with your Candidate, and begin to know them.

As Jack Mendelsohn once wrote: "The future of the liberal church is almost totally dependent on these two factors: great congregations (whether big or small) and effective, dedicated ministers. The strangest feature of their relationship is that they create one another."

As April leads us into spring, migration season, and many new beginnings, I wish you all good fortune as you take this step into the future.

As for me, I'll be around, keeping a very low profile, mostly in Perth County, visiting with my dear friend from marine college, Captain Lillian Kluka. In case of need, for example if there is a death or hospitalization or other dire emergency, then Congregation President John Upcott, the Board Trustees, Lay Chaplain Joyse Gilbert, and the Caring Committee, will know how to find me.

Best wishes for this time with your chosen candidate, and every blessing.

In the interim,
Rev. Fran

Caring Committee Report

Easter is meant to be a symbol of hope, renewal, and new life. With that said, wishing the congregation a safe and healthy holiday.

Well wishes go out to Eunice Goyette and Pat Haynes, both of whom are recovering from a fall. Eunice with a broken rib and Pat with injuries to her head. The congregation wishes them both a speedy recovery.

It was great to see that the warmer weather brought Jim Reid, Emil and Eunice Buhne and Walter Sinclair out to church; we had missed them. An Easter hello is extended to Tina Bell at the Sunparlour Home and Marion Thompson at Erie Glen Retirement Home and June Blacker at home, and Don and Sylvia Dotzert also at home.

May the renewal of life at Easter bring new blessings of love, hope, peace, good health and happiness to you and your loved ones.

Submitted by Linda Upcott

2018 aUuction Items!

As always, the 2018 Goods and Services aUuction will feature many wonderful treats for your consideration. A short summary:

Ever Popular Food Items:

Soups, pickles, salsa, cabbage rolls, breads,
Beer cheese dip, cheese quiche, tortieres
Mincemeat tarts, jam, pies, baked-goods basket, Sangria Jelly!

Memorable Drinks:

Wines, Bailey's, white rum, Caramel Apple Liquor, Almond Crème
Tim Horton's coffee & mug,

Kitchen & serving items:

Towels, cheese plate, wooden plate & glasses, beverage set, plaques
Measuring cups, dish cloths, tea pot & teas, tea kettle & basket

For your adornment:

Purse with surprise, Hawaiian jewelry

For your house:

Paintings, flowers, craft bowl, book ends, night light, photo, vases

Miscellaneous:

Collapsible tote, gardener's tote, Double-bed afghan

Plus sign-up sheets for tasty events! It's all about the food!

Caring Committee Members

Eunice Goyette
June Blacker
Leona Crowder
Linda Upcott

“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).

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

Pre-conference training events:
(Our Whole Lives and Lay Chaplains)
Are scheduled for May 16-18.

Church Grounds & Gardens

Now that spring is here there is much work to be done to get the surroundings of the Church tidied up. We need to have a spring clean up crew in place to come sometime in April to do this initial clean up. The day will be determined according to the participants and the weather.

The front gardens require maintenance all season into the fall, including the summer months. We need someone or a team to be as dedicated as John Haynes was and be willing to work once a week and water. In order to continue the gardens as John designed them, and you have that desire, then you are the person to take over this duty and organize those who wish to help you. Otherwise, we will be forced to have a low to no maintenance garden area in the front which will be mainly bark cover with small decorative evergreens, bushes or shrubs.

Due to planning, it is necessary that I hear from you right away. Please contact me by email or phone if you wish to participate in the spring clean up or the ongoing maintenance of the front gardens. **We do not want our Church to look abandoned at any time.**

Thank you for showing you care. *Laurie Hylton*

Social Responsibility Committee Report

The 2018 International Dinner was on March 18 and featured beef and fish tacos with all of the toppings. The speaker for the service was the Mexican Consul in Leamington, Alberto Bernal-Acero. Aline Menard, Director of the Migrant Worker Community Program, and Martin Varela, Chair of their board, also attended, and they presented the church with a certificate of appreciation for our supports. The donation collected at the dinner, \$420, was given to the Program.



The next SRC event is a film after church on April 8. Ray and Laurie Stone bought this 2016 American documentary by director Ava DuVernay, entitled **13th**. 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.) Bring your own sandwiches.

Bobbye Baylis, Secretary of the SRC

Membership Committee Report

The membership committee is working on updating the Directory and the Telephone Tree to have it ready for this Fall and our new minister. If you have noticed any phone numbers or addresses that need changing or names that are missing, please notify Lorie Lyons (chair), Helen Moore, or Bobbye Baylis.


This committee will be meeting with Rev. Rod during Candidating Week, at 10 on Wednesday morning, Apr. 18. Please feel free to join us if you would like some time with Rev. Rod as part of a smaller group. Who knows, you might decide to join the committee! We do miss Sharon van Abbema.

The Unitarian Universalist Church of Olinda Board of Directors

is pleased to announce that

Rev. Rodrigo Emilio Solano-Quesnel

will be coming for

Candidating Week, April 15  22, 2018

Following a very successful ministerial search process, the Olinda Ministerial Search Committee (MSC) unanimously agreed to offer an invitation to **Rev. Rodrigo Solano-Quesnel** to attend Olinda UU Congregation for a Candidating Week. Rev Rod (as he is known) enthusiastically accepted the offer.

By way of introducing Rev Rod (ordained: June, 2016) to you, the MSC has chosen to highlight some of his various skills as they relate to the most important qualities of the NEXT minister, as identified by you. These were seen as either crucial and/or significant, when you, the Olinda Congregation, completed your responses to the Congregational Survey in the fall of 2017:

With respect to Rev Rod's skill level with Home/Hospital/Personal visiting and counseling:

Rev. Rod has completed two Clinical Pastoral Education Units, one at the Kingston General Hospital and the second at the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health offering spiritual care in their forensic psychiatric unit. He is currently a part time Chaplain at Sunnybrook Hospital in Toronto as well as being in the process of completing a two year contract with the UU Fellowship of Ottawa in a half time role as Developmental Minister. Within this role one of his responsibilities has been to provide support counseling and visitation to congregants as needed. Prior to being ordained, Rev Rod completed almost two years as a Lay Chaplain with the 1st Unitarian Congregation of Ottawa. Rev Rod also performed the visiting and counseling duties during his time as Intern Minister for the 1st Unitarian Congregation of Toronto.

With respect to Rev. Rod's skill level in ability to Preach:

Rev. Rod introduced himself in his initial Ministerial Record (rèsumè) as one who offers "powerful preaching". He held many ministerial positions as he was completing his Master of Divinity from the Montreal School of Theology (seminary: 2009-2012), his Certificate in Bilingual Ministry (2012) and his internship resulting in his ordination in 2016. This allowed Rev Rod to develop his preaching skills, putting them into practice in his last two years as the Developmental Minister in Ottawa. The Olinda MSC had the privilege of observing Rev Rod during his Neutral Pulpit at the time of his Pre-Candidating Weekend. We found him to be knowledgeable in content, engaging in presentation, versatile in the use of various modalities within his preaching, and creative in how he wove the theme of his sermon throughout his entire service.

With respect to Rev. Rod's skill level in providing Spiritual Guidance:

Rev Rod described his base theology as being able "to see divine worth throughout everything in the Universe" and seeing his spiritual quest "as a process toward feeling connected to that divinity". He was clear that while he did not "feel the need to change" anyone's perspective, he did see one of his strengths as being his willingness to challenge congregants "of all theologies" "to be open to the wealth of wisdom and insight that different perspectives and traditions have to offer". During the course of the Ministerial Search Process, the MSC had the opportunity to interact and observe Rev. Rod in various settings and situations. A key strength that came through time and again related back to a comment that he wrote in his initial resume: "My pastoral approach involves compassionate listening, some perspective and a commitment to be present with care-seekers. I rather look to validate others' experiences and explore ways in which they can find guidance and support".

With respect to Rev. Rod's Leadership development and ability to foster leadership in others:

Rev Rod is currently the Eastern Region Trustee on the Board of the Canadian Unitarian Council. In the past he has been on the Governance Task Force for the International Council of Unitarians and Universalists; a member of Neighborhood UU Congregation of Toronto Lifespan Learning and Worship Team; and a member of the Danforth Multifaith Community where he represented the UU presence and found "opportunities to build bridges across traditions, learn, and offer more of ourselves." One key to Rev Rod's development as a leader – and assisting others to step into leadership – came from his undergraduate degree in Public Affairs and Policy Management from Carleton University in Ottawa. Mixing all of these with his personal life experience of immigrating from Mexico in 1991, learning English as a second language and then beginning his whole high school, University, and working life within Canadian culture has led Rev Rod to be aware both of how to lead, when to lead and where to stand when leading – an ongoing process that he speaks about with passion and awareness.

With respect to Rev. Rod's ability to Interact and socialize with Congregants:

In observing Rev Rod throughout the process of his Neutral Pulpit, the MSC commented frequently on his natural "charisma" that would draw congregants of all ages to him, interacting with him naturally and him with them. His ability to discuss multiple topics of diverse interests at different levels of understanding provided a natural connection between him and congregants of all ages. One of his key strengths lies in his passionate interest in "story telling" – an ability of his to both tell a story as well as to draw out the personal "story" of others. Rev Rod, along with his partner Sarah, bring a wide musical background with them including being organizers and members of the Samba Elegua (percussion band), choir membership, musician (piano) and other various instruments. An example of Rev Rod's focus on socializing with congregants in that, upon hearing that Olinda's UU Auction would be held the day before his initial Sunday preaching, Rev Rod has requested that he arrive on Friday, April 13 thereby providing him with the opportunity to attend this social gathering, allowing for congregants to meet him, and vice versa prior to seeing him in the pulpit the next day.

With respect to Rev Rod's Community building and membership growth abilities:

Initial items of attraction by the MSC to Rev Rod concerning these two areas were: his dual cultural background – Mexican and Canadian; his ability to speak three languages: Spanish/English as a first language with French considered a second language; his background of multifaith exposure; his overlapping interest of science and theology; his basic ability to connect across all generations; and his passion to "understand/listen to/ comprehend the stories" inherent in the lives of all peoples. Rev Rod engaged the MSC in a process of exploring many diverse ways of outreach into the surrounding communities, incorporating processes that may diminish the historical fear while honoring the historical "story" of the Olinda Church.

Rev Rod is in a committed couple relationship with Sarah Wert - an ongoing partnership supporting both of them as they pursue their lives individually and together. Sarah attended the pre-Candidating weekend with Rev Rod, participating in many of the meals, attending the Neutral Pulpit service, engaging with the service congregants in her role as his partner afterwards, and connecting to the MSC throughout the weekend. Sarah comes from a Mennonite background, having begun to explore Unitarian Universalism before the two of them met. Sarah currently works as a teacher and engaged the MSC in conversations relating to the use of her skills, talents and profession both within the church and the community at large. In the event of an offer of a CALL to Rev Rod and his acceptance of such a CALL, Rod and Sarah have indicated their joint commitment to moving to this community.

We sincerely hope that you will warmly welcome Rod and Sarah, taking advantage of the various opportunities offered during Candidating week to meet them See Important Dates on page 3.

Protocol and Compassion

The palliative care and funeral processes for those leaving us are fraught with chances of saying or doing things hurtful to the memory of the deceased.

The stories here are my experiences, from the very bad (The Siblings) to the exceedingly good (The Three Close Friends).

Churches have a duty to develop a strong leadership role in guiding lay members in the protocols of ensuring that family and friends are left with pleasant memories of their loved ones.

No one in their final days should be left to call an unattended answering device asking for friends to come and visit. If well planned, there are usually enough volunteers available to answer the call.

J. van Abbema, Editor

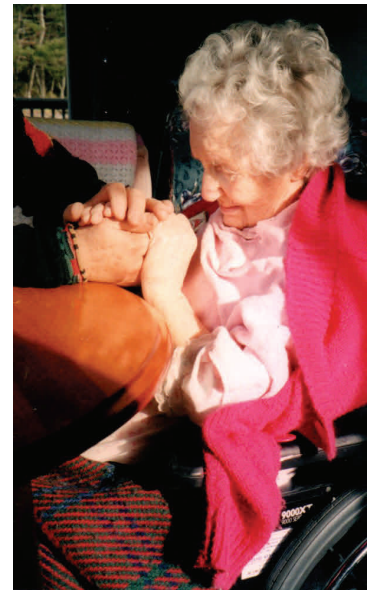
“An Injustice to One Is an Injustice to All”

The Siblings and Their Sister. My children’s mother died at 47 after a two-year battle with cancer, leaving three children ages 9 -17. Her siblings came for one visit, a month before she passed. Well-intentioned but ill-prepared, they came in like a storm, offering unsolicited and conflicting advice, each one on top of the others. The housekeeper left in a huff, the crisis deepened, and I was left to find other health care arrangements.

The Woodsman. My neighbour, an existence farmer, logger and handyman all his life spent much of his 85th year in hospital as his health deteriorated. I saw him last when I brought him clean laundry and the newspaper. The nurse was adamant that I could not see him (Doctor’s orders.) Bliss heard me at the nurses’ station and strongly countermanded the nurse. We had a wonderful visit at his bedside. Later the family asked me, a newcomer to the community, to be a pallbearer at his funeral, and he bequeathed me his prized .12-gauge shotgun.

Three Close Friends. Jane (UK) had been her husband’s caregiver for many years. Now in palliative care herself, her two best friends decided to look after her needs. Maria (Uganda) became the gatekeeper and Sharon (Canada) the family counselor and eulogist at the celebration of life ceremony. Jane expressed how much she enjoyed her time in palliative care, enjoying regular visits with all her friends, when she was able. “I wouldn’t have missed this part for anything,” she confided with a laugh.

Marie’s Life Force. She came to Canada, a penniless Irish farm girl in 1921. She quietly raised a family, fulfilling an immigrant’s dream to raise her children with more hope for opportunities than she had ever had. In her late 80’s she suffered two strokes that finally took her from us. With few friends living close by, she drew love and strength from those close at hand. This photo was taken five days before she passed. Note how strongly she holds on to the warmth of life and love. Dressed to the nines, hair coiffed, and tightly clasping her son-in-law’s hand, she seems to be saying, “I love you all.”



The Priest and The Professor. The respected professor had passed after a long illness. Over 300 colleagues, family and friends overflowed the university chapel. Many of them had hoped for a little time to talk about him; but, having foreseen the quandary, the priest had earlier arranged with the widow to limit these talks to eight people. To reduce chances of hurt feelings, he invited the rest of the mourners at the beginning of the service to rise and reminisce with their pew neighbours about their favourite stories of the deceased. For five minutes the Sanctuary exploded with happy babble, followed by the designated speakers and the rest of the ceremony. The priest had worked his magic, and the people were satisfied.