

# The Olinda Outpost

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



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

## Sunday Services February, 2020

Date	Speaker	Title	Musician(s)
Feb. 2	Rev. Rod Solano-Quesnel	<i>In Store</i> - The mid-winter time leaves some questions up in the air, and the outlook can be intriguing.	Toni Janik
Feb. 9	Irene Moore Davis	<i>Contested Memory, Complicated History: Reflecting on the Earliest Black Lives in Sandwich and Windsor</i>	Lorie Lyons
Feb. 16	Rev. Rod Solano-Quesnel	<i>Let Me Count the Ways</i> - Affection has a way of expressing itself in more ways than we know numbers.	Baylis/Stone Trio + Karen Miller
Feb. 23	Rev. Rod Solano-Quesnel	<i>Gentle Angry People</i> - The expression of anger - and the experience of it - can take many forms. And the expectations on its outcomes can also shift, from origin to receiving end.	Toni Janik
Mar. 1	Bill Baylis	<i>The Overview Effect</i> - a profound experience often reported when Earth is seen from space.	Lorie Lyons

### Annual Congregational Meeting

Unitarian Universalist Church of Olinda  
Sunday, February 23, 2020, at noon  
following an enhanced snack

The Annual Reports will be available on Sunday, Feb. 9, 2020

## Clergy Connection

This January was a very full time for many members of our church, and for people who are dear to some of our members. Many of you were able to attend the memorial services for Dorothy Brown and Wally Glass, taking time to commemorate and celebrate their life, as a community. Others among you have also been looking after yourselves, as well as after people who are important to you.

This past month, we also had an opportunity to get better acquainted with some of the stories and teachings of the Caldwell First Nation, as Carrie Ann Peters, their Cultural Development Coordinator, was our guest speaker on Jan. 12. She is enthusiastic about visiting us again for the **International Dinner on Mar. 8**. While here, she extended an invitation to a teaching on indigenous medicines on January 19, which I was able to attend. You are welcome to attend a teaching on the **Pipe Ceremony on Feb. 2** at the **Caldwell First Nation Band Hall** at 14 Orange St. **starting at 12:30pm**, and going until about 3pm.

And, during **Black History Month**, we'll also have more opportunities to delve deeper into stories we don't hear often enough, as our guest speaker **Irene Moore Davis** tells us more about the black lives in our region on **Feb. 9**. I'll be sorry to miss that service, as I will be **away Feb. 7-9**, while attending the **Mid-winter Retreat** and further connecting with our denomination in southwestern Ontario – so I look forward to hearing what you learned from Irene!

I should also mention that the **Committee on Shared Ministry** held its retreat on **Jan. 25**, taking some time to consider our past experience, historic and recent, as well as looking to our future challenges and aspirations. This was an opportunity to take a deeper look at the priorities of the church and envision some strategies that invite us to thrive. Steve Brennan offers more detail in the CoSM report.

One of the topics we discussed was how we could better serve LGBTQ+ folks in our larger community, which will invite further exploration in the coming months. This is also a conversation that is being carried out among our neighbours of faith, as I saw first-hand at an affirming ministry gathering that was held at Tecumseh United Church on Dec. 23. I also plan to attend a follow-up gathering on Feb. 11, as we search for shared opportunities to affirm the experience of a marginalized community.

Another interfaith connection was possible when my colleagues from Leamington Ministerial invited me to attend the Prayer for Christian Unity on Jan. 21 at the Municipal Building, and we were able to share a collegial lunch afterward.

I was glad to be with the community coming together on Jan. 22 for our **Soup Lunch Fundraiser** – I look forward to seeing you at the next one on **Feb. 26**. And don't forget to be part of our church's decision making at our **AGM on Feb. 23!**

Warm Regards,  
--Rod

## From The Board

The family of Dorothy Brown wishes to thank Rev. Rod for the service, the Olinda congregation for all the support and all of our friends for their help in this time of sadness. Dorothy loved this church and the church loved her. Dedicated is the word I would use to describe her, and she was the glue for our family, and I know all will miss her.

This will be my last board report, as my term is up, but I know good people will be joining the board and I am encouraged for the future. I do need to say a word about the board that served the church these last few years. As I wrote in the Annual Report, I am so proud of the way this board handled every challenge that came their way and worked hard to solve them. We lost our long time minister who passed away, we found and hired an interim minister, we appointed a search committee and they found a settled minister, who seems very capable. We took on incorporation and made it happen and handled all of the regular business with a lot of skill and dedication. I wish to thank all of them for working together and making my time as president so easy for me.

I want to thank the congregation for allowing me to serve as your president, I have learned a great deal and hope you think that while everything did not go perfectly, it was fun. I am just leaving the board, not the church, and I plan to attend a lot of board meetings. If there is any help I can give the new board, I will. I have great faith in this congregation; you are good people, and every time the church needs you, you are there financially and every other way. This year we seemed like we were going to have a hard time to balance the budget but you stepped up again and the church thanks you. This church is important to a lot of people and I am certain it will continue to grow. THANK-YOU and see you in church.

John Upcott, President

### Soup Luncheon

Wednesday, February 26, 2020

11 am —1:00 pm; Games at 10 am

Menu: Soups (Chicken Pot Pie Soup, Potato Leek, Beef Barley and Vegan Minestrone), buns and dessert

Suggested donation: \$15

Hosted by Toni Janik and Elaine Stevenson

Please sign up to attend!

## Important Dates

**Feb. 9**

Printed Annual Reports Available

**Feb. 9 9:30 am**

Choir Rehearsal

**Feb. 9 Noon**

Film: *Still I Rise*

**Feb. 13 7 pm**

Board of Trustees Meeting

**Feb. 16 Noon**

Sunday Services Meeting

**Feb. 23 9:30 am**

Choir Rehearsal

**Feb. 23 Noon**

Annual Meeting

**Feb. 25**

March Newsletter Reports Due

**Feb. 26 11 am**

Fundraising Soup Luncheon Games at 10 am

**Mar. 1 Noon**

Social Responsibility Meeting



## Financial Report

We all have reason to celebrate the good financial health of our church; the end of 2019 has brought us an amazing surplus instead of the significant deficit we predicted. Thank you all: Trustees and Committee Chairs, Lloyd Fund managers, hard-working fundraisers, but especially very generous donors!

Speaking of fundraisers, we are lucky that we know how to have fun when we are raising money. So consider signing up for the next soup luncheon on Feb. 26 and start planning your contribution to the annual aUction, which is scheduled for April 18 in the afternoon. A sign-up sheet will appear soon.

Bobbye Baylis, Finance Trustee

## Social Responsibility Committee Report

Thanks to Rev. Rod's membership in the Leamington Ministerial Association, we learned about the Monday Meals initiative by the Leamington United Church. It can be supported by financial contribution or individual service. On Sunday, Jan. 26, Rev. Rod announced that financial contributions can be made during the upcoming services by noting on a separate offering envelope that this is for the Monday Meals. Cheques should be made out to Leamington United Church. Tax receipts for contributions over \$20 will come from them, so include your mailing address. If you want to volunteer, check with their minister, Rev. George Bozanich, to avoid duplication of services.

The February 9 service by Irene Moore Davis is in honour of Black History Month and will include stories of early black settlers in Windsor and Essex County. It will be followed by a film, *Still I Rise*, which is the story of Maya Angelou, a black poet and activist. Since this is a full-length film, it is recommended that you bring a bag lunch to tide you over.

Details of the annual International Dinner are coming together. It will be on March 8 and will follow a service at which Carrie Ann Peters will be the speaker. Carrie Ann spoke on Jan. 12, presenting some of the oral truth stories of the Caldwell First Nation. We have found some recipes on line and will be preparing some First Nations' dishes for the luncheon. Stay tuned!

Submitted by Bobbye Baylis  
Secretary, SRC

## Caring Committee Report

Positive thinking is more than just a tagline. It changes the way we behave. And I firmly believe that when I am positive, it not only makes me better, but it also makes those around me better. With that being said, I have successfully recovered from a rotator cuff surgery and all is good. Getting much rest and lots of TLC.

On a sadder note, the caring committee extends our sympathies to the family of Lorie Lyons, on the passing of her brother-in-law Wally Glass. Rev. Rod conducted an inspiring service at Reid's Funeral Home. Also sympathies are extended to Dan and Toni Janik, and Richard and Elaine Stevenson and all the Sinclair family on the passing of their uncle Myles Sinclair. The Dewhurst and Upcott families share in the loss of our dear mother, sister, and sister-in-law Dorothy Brown. She was loved and respected by all who knew her. She will be greatly missed.

Get well wishes goes out to all congregants who have been battling colds and flu symptoms. Some of the committee members enjoyed an afternoon with our church members who reside in facilities. Good conversation and fun was had by all.

A valentine hello to all shut-ins. With being such a cold month, many people find it difficult to get out and about. Please remember them with a phone call or visit.

Submitted by;  
Linda Upcott



Maya Angelou, poet and activist, whose story is told in *Still I Rise*

### Caring Committee Members

Eunice Goyette

June Blacker

Leona Crowder

Linda Upcott

## **Committee on Shared Ministry (CoSM):**

It has been a while since the Committee on Ministry – now called the Committee on Shared Ministry (CoSM) – has had an update in the newsletter: almost 5 years to be exact!

This article will bring the congregation up to speed as what has happened since 2015, why and where the NEW CoSM is at currently. There is a fuller accounting to be found in the upcoming 2019 Annual Report due out in a few weeks.

From the historical perspective, the Committee on Ministry went through the following journey since 2015:

As per the guidelines set out by UUA, the Committee on Ministry (CoM) that existed at the time of Rev. Christine Hillman's death in 2015 folded.

This action provided the way for the establishment of a Transitional Minister Search Committee who, in 2016, recommended and the congregation subsequently approved Rev. Fran Dearman being brought in as the two year Interim Minister in 2016;

At that time, the Transitional Search Committee became the Transitional Support Committee for Rev. Fran during her two (2) year transitional tenure. During this time there was no CoM structured due to the nature of Rev. Fran's tenure being both short term and with the specific purpose of preparing the Olinda Congregation to conduct a formal Ministerial Search for their next minister;

In 2017, the Ministerial Search Committee was established, whose purpose it was to pursue the process of finding a minister to recommend to the congregation; and

In 2018, the Search Committee made the recommendation to the Olinda Congregation to offer a call to Rev. Rodrigo Solano-Quesnel. In April of the same year the Olinda Congregation did so and Rev. Rod made the decision to accept.

With the arrival of Rev. Rod in Sept. 2018, the UUA guidelines provided for the re-establishment of a Committee of Ministry. Under the auspices of the UUA, a change concerning the focus of the CoM had occurred during the intervening three years with the name now being the Committee on Shared Ministry (CoSM).

Moving forward, the Board of Directors and Rev. Rod worked towards the reconfiguration of the CoM with the first meeting being held on May 18, 2019. Together they decided that membership in the CoSM would be offered to current community members who were part of the former 2015 Committee and still expressing an interest in continuing. It is important to note that the 2015 CoM that folded at the time of Rev. Hillman's death had just been created, and had not had the opportunity to meet prior to Rev. Hillman's death. It was agreed therefore that establishing the current Committee in this way provided an appropriate beginning for this new CoSM.

## Committee on Shared Ministry, Cont.

For the initial period, it was also agreed by the CoSM members that Rev. Rod would act as chairperson in order for the establishment of a basic foundation to the committee's purpose and responsibilities to occur.

The current Committee has met six (6) times to date, inclusive of a half day retreat held Jan. 25, 2020. As a result, the CoSM has arrived at their purpose having five (5) particular tasks:

1. The CoSM would assist the Olinda congregation in "setting directions" rather than in "making decisions" for them;
2. The CoSM would be about working in collaboration, embodying the concept of "covenant", seeking alignment with Olinda community mission statement;
3. The CoSM would focus on "ministries" rather than "Governance";
4. The CoSM would encourage exploration of assumptions and voids – encourage the Olinda community to be open to curiosity and innovation;
5. The CoSM would assist the Olinda congregation to explore/examine current ways of handling the balance of differences and commonalities;

At their half day retreat the members identified the following focus for the coming year:

The oversight of the five (5) areas of CoSM involvement found within the **Letter of Call and Ministry Agreement** signed between the Board and Rev. Rod on April 22, 2018;

Principle initial oversight completion of the **Review for Preliminary Fellowship Evaluation** of Rev. Rod before the end of June, 2020;

Oversight of the identified concern within the Olinda UU Community regarding the dwindling church membership and future sustainability of the church as a whole; and

Identification of processes, in conjunction with all Olinda UU church ministries, which will support and augment the Olinda UU Community's sustainability.

As the CoSM prepares to move into an active year, it also recognizes that it is still in its initial phases of formation. As such the members view a key focus of their next stage to be outreach to all ongoing ministries for the purpose of supporting their continued and renewed focus around the health and vibrancy of the Olinda UU congregational community.

We all look forward to working with the board, the congregation and the extended community in this coming year.

Respectfully submitted by the CoSM as a whole:

Rev. Rodrigo Solano-Quesnel, Minister, Olinda UU Church, member of CoSM;

Ms. Carol Hylton, member of CoSM;

Ms. Mariette Preyde, member of CoSM;

Mr. Stephen Brennan, member of CoSM.



## Membership Committee Report

It is a new year filled with aspirations to offer opportunities for making connections both inside the church and in the wider community, for providing Sunday services that are interesting and thoughtful covering a wide range of topics, and providing a number of ways for members and friends of the church to help support the church. Although New Year's Day took place a month ago, it seems like it is a beginning after the Annual General Meeting when the new board is elected paving the way for change or perhaps keeping on the same path. I wish them the best and my gratitude as they move forward.

Our current membership stands at 55 as of the end of January. Sadly, another one of our beloved, long time members, Dorothy Brown, passed away on January 1st. She was a stalwart kitchen committee member for as long as I can remember, and I know my mother enjoyed her company every Sunday morning. I will miss her friendly smile and words of support she shared with me over time. I also remember Dorothy took her turn teaching Sunday School when I was young and I'll never forget the Cootie game she brought for us to play with at the end of the lesson one Sunday; I knew she was a fun teacher after that! However, life moves on and it is with joy I'd like to report that Brent Campbell has joined the church as of January 9th. He is no stranger to our congregation as most of you know, after spending many years helping his mom, Sheron, decorate the Christmas trees and taking part occasionally in a Christmas production. It has been very nice to see him attending our Sunday services now and then over the past year.

The January 22nd soup luncheon was attended by 19 very satisfied people who enjoyed a delicious meal of a variety of soups and bread pudding. Thanks to the dedication and work of Toni, Elaine and Richard, they were able to raise \$360.66 for this meal which will go the church auction fund. After this luncheon Helen dropped in to see me for a few minutes and she gave such rave reviews about it that I just might make it to the February 26th soup luncheon. Remember, if it would suit you better, they have been known to give take out soups for the suggested donation of \$15.00 if you let them know ahead of time. That came in handy for John so he could take home some tasty comfort food for Linda who is recovering from surgery.

In closing, I'd like to extend get well wishes to Linda following her surgery and trust that she is making good progress in healing. I do hope John has a dishwasher to help him overcome the shortage of help around the house!



**Black History Month  
in Essex-Windsor  
at the  
*Unitarian Universalist  
Church of Olinda***

Guest Speaker

**Irene Moore Davis**

Author, Educator, Historian

***Contested Memory, Complicated History***

*Reflecting on the Earliest Black Lives  
in Sandwich and Windsor*

Followed by a **Film Screening**

*Maya Angelou: And Still I Rise*

*Free of charge*

**February 9, 2020**

*Service with Guest Speaker 10:30am*

*Film Screening 12 noon*

**Unitarian Universalist Church of Olinda**

2953 Olinda Side Road (at 5<sup>th</sup> Concession)