

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 March, 2020

Date	Speaker	Title	Musician(s)
Mar. 1	Rev. Conrad Dippel	<i>One Star at a Time</i> – celebrating individual human dignity within the constellation of humanity.	Lorie Lyons
Mar. 8	Carrie Ann Peters	<i>Teachings from Mother Earth</i> - Carrie Ann Peters is visiting us again, sharing wisdom from water and women, and the relationships they nurture	Baylis/Stone Trio
Mar. 15	Rev. Rod Solano-Quesnel	<i>The Shocking Secret</i> - Some recipes invoke a certain degree of orthodoxy, but a home cook affirms that it doesn't have to be that way. And whether making a meal, or bringing together a community of faith, following the recipe that works best for you has its advantages.	Toni Janik
Mar. 22	Rev. Rod Solano-Quesnel	<i>The Best Worst Spanish</i> - Sometimes, making mistakes can be the best way to get it right - be it learning a language, or building community.	Toni Janik
Mar. 29	Rev. Rod Solano-Quesnel	<i>A Time to Learn, A Time to Teach</i> - Getting to know wisdom involves being open to both taking initiative, and also stepping aside, from time to time.	Indian Village Strings
Apr. 5	Rev. Rod Solano-Quesnel	<i>Steps and Paces</i> - The way we deal with stuff doesn't always follow the same trajectory that others do.	Lorie Lyons



Poor Boys' Lunch
Wednesday, March 25, 2020
11 am — 1 pm; Games at 10 am
Menu: Wieners and beans
with a vegetarian option,
buns, assorted salads and dessert
Suggested donation: \$15
Hosted by Toni Janik and Elaine Stevenson
Please sign up to attend!

Clergy Connection

I always enjoy seeing the community get together outside of Sunday morning, as we did on our **Soup Lunch Fundraiser** on **Feb. 26**. This past week, I was also able to see how some of our neighbours of faith do this, joining the Roast Beef Dinner at Knox Presbyterian last Sunday evening, helping with grace at the Community Monday Meal at Leamington United, attending the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper at St. Mike's Catholic, and attending Ash Wednesday at St. John's Anglican. I've found I'm not the only one who makes these rounds – it's good to see our neighbours!

This past month has allowed us to delve deeper into stories we might not hear often enough. Among these was a deeper look at the realities of black lives in our region that **Irene Moore Davis** offered us on her visit on **Feb. 9**.

And expanding on the teachings that she shared on Jan. 12, Carrie Ann Peters, from the Caldwell First Nation, is visiting us again for the **International Dinner** on **Mar. 8**. The format of the service will be a bit different, so that we may better accommodate the traditional teaching format that Carrie Ann is used to.

I've had a chance to experience more of this traditional teaching style, at Carrie Ann's invitation, at the Caldwell First Nation Band Hall, which included a teaching on **Indigenous Medicines** on **Jan. 19**, and a teaching on the **Pipe Ceremony** on **Feb. 2**. These teachings often take time to go deeper, and Carrie Ann will seek to adapt to our typical one-hour structure while also speaking in a manner that is more fitting to her tradition.

I attended the **Mid-winter Retreat** the weekend of **Feb. 7-9**, which allowed for expanding connections with our denomination in southwestern Ontario. Some of the programming included a death preparation workshop offered by Ahna DiFelice, who also works with the CUC. This may offer us a topic for Adult RE that has already been suggested at our Sunday Services Committee, and discussed by the Committee on Shared Ministry.

Another denominational event I attended is an online **Roundtable** on **Feb. 22** about the **names** we use for our tradition and our worship spaces. In participating, I was able to share some of the theological and historical significance of **Universalism** in the shaping of our denomination.

Thank you to everyone who participated in our **AGM** on **Feb. 23**. On that note, I'll also mention that **Registration for the CUC Conference** is now **open** and you can be a delegate representing our church. Please let us know if you're interested!

Warm regards,
--Rod

Annual Meeting Report

A big thank you to John Upcott for his dedication and leadership during the past 4 years. We all give you a standing ovation.

THANK YOU JOHN

Board of Trustees For 2020

President	Steve Brennan
Vice President	Brent Campbell
Secretary	Ray Stone
Treasurer	
Finance	Bobbye Baylis
Sunday Services	Bill Baylis
Membership/Publicity	Toni Janik
Property	Stuart Miller
Lifespan Religious Education	Laurie Stone

Nominating Committee for 2020

Cathy Dewhurst
Jane Innerd
Karen Miller

Auditing Committee 2020

Wilf Innerd
Kathy Brennan
Gord Taylor

Financial Report

Thanks to Toni Janik and Elaine Stevenson, 17 of us enjoyed another hearty soup luncheon on Feb. 26, in spite of threatening snowfall. In addition, 3 individuals ordered and picked up take-out orders. We raised another \$330 which will go to the Operating Fund. We can look forward to another luncheon on March 25.

The annual Goods and Services aUuction will be held on Saturday afternoon, April 18. Be sure and fill in the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the Refreshment Room. Tantalizing items are already appearing:

Event: Garden Party at the Church

Food items: Soups, vanilla, pickles, wines, lasagna, cabbage rolls, pies, & other goodies.

Special items: Stratford tickets, a feel-good bag

We already have \$6,290 in the aUuction Fund and are open to your suggestions on how to spend it.

Bobbye Baylis, Finance Trustee

Important Dates

Mar. 1 9:30 am
aUuction Committee Meeting

Mar. 1 Noon
Social Responsibility Meeting

Mar. 8 "Spring Forward"
Daylight Savings Time Returns

Mar. 8 Noon
International Dinner

Mar. 12 7 pm
Board of Trustees Meeting

Mar. 15 4 pm
Big Sing in Ann Arbor, MI
Rehearsals: Mar. 14 and
2:30 on Mar. 15

Mar. 22 9:30 am
Choir Rehearsal

Mar. 22 Noon
Sunday Services Meeting

Mar. 24
April Newsletter Reports Due

Mar. 25 11 am
Fundraising Poor Boys' Lunch
Games at 10 am

Apr. 1 10 am
Membership Committee
Meeting

From The Board

After one day into my position as the newest President of the Olinda Board of Trustees, I have been asked to write the submission for the March Newsletter ... definitely intriguing, absolutely inevitable (thanks John!) and now I will attempt to be inspiring!

Change – inevitable, intriguing, never inconsequential! It is also a mandate that the new board inherits from the outgoing board and that we look forward to embracing. Our thanks to John Upcott and the outgoing board for providing us with a solid basis of building blocks to work with.

By way of focus for this “report” I have chosen to take the opportunity to introduce myself and to provide an initial awareness of where I see myself coming from within this role. The most important thing to say is that I am indeed a “work in progress”.

Originally from Toronto, my wife Kathy and I moved to Windsor 45 years ago with the intention of staying for a year while I completed a university degree and then we were leaving for New Zealand. A third degree, two children, three grandchildren and a professional private practice later, we still reside in Windsor. The twists and turns of our 50 year relationship have created a strong bond between us as well as rooted attachments to this unique geographical area.

We came to the Olinda UU Church around 9 years ago and in doing so found a welcoming spiritual community - one of shared beliefs, strong geographical loyalties and an innate honouring of both family and church histories. Since attending, I have experienced being a member on the Sunday Services Committee and the Nominating Committee, chaired both the old Committee of Ministry and the last Ministerial Search Committee, and most recently am serving as a member of the Committee on Shared Ministry (CoSM). In preparation for allowing my name to stand for this position, over the last year I attended the monthly Board meetings, obtaining a deep appreciation for the passionate energy that the past board members had in servicing the Olinda congregation.

Within Olinda itself, as I continued to grow in my commitment to this community, there have been many people I have to thank for their role in promoting my ongoing participation in congregational life. Three of the stronger influences to date have been:

Rev. Christine Hillman who assisted me in widening my earlier belief about ministry (steeped in my historical Roman Catholic upbringing of it being the sole responsibility of the human being who speaks from the pulpit) to my current understanding that ministry is the responsibility of the total community - supported, challenged and created through the input from all;

(Continued on next page)

From The Board, Cont'd.

Rev. Fran Dearman who modelled during her time as transition minister a calm, energetic presence – one she used to assist this church as a whole to move through a radical period of reviewing, planning and action, often reminding us to take a breath, reminding us that there is always time to breathe; and

John Upcott who from our first encounter represented the strength and vitality of the current congregation, firmly rooted in the strong familial histories woven through Olinda's essence.

As I step into accepting the President "reins" from the strong leadership of John Upcott and the past board, I do so with three personal beliefs about Olinda that will focus the energy I bring to this service position:

The need to honor, respect and grow from the grounded historical roots of Olinda UU church's journey;

The need to sustain, support and service the strength of the present members of the congregation and their day to day requirements; and

The need to generate renewable energy within the church community aimed at providing a welcoming congregation to all who would come thereby sustaining Olinda well into the future.

I thank you for your vote of confidence in supporting my stepping into this position and I look forward to meeting all of you.

Respectfully
Stephen Brennan

Big Sing

First Unitarian Universalist
Congregation of Ann Arbor
4001 Ann Arbor-Saline Rd,
Ann Arbor, MI
4 pm March 15, 2020
Detroit area UU churches;
150-voice choir performs under



GlenThomas Rideout.

Some of our choir members plan to sing and
the concert will be fun for everyone!

2019 Membership Committee Report

As I've written many times in my reports over the last 4 years as membership trustee, serving on the Board is the best way to learn how the church functions; you are privy first hand to answers to the important 5 W's: Who, What, When, Where, Why and the 6th staple question of How. It was the most beneficial way for me to interact with fellow members in the church whom I hadn't really known well enough beforehand, like Ray and Laurie Stone and even Bill and Bobbye Baylis. It was also the perfect time for me to develop a bond with our ministers, Rev. Fran and Rev. Rod, on a more intimate level. So I highly recommend taking a turn on the Board if you are ever asked, even if it is for a 1 or 2 year term if you feel you are unable to commit to the maximum 5 year term allowed. After serving 4 years as membership trustee I felt it was a good time to leave and was very happy that Toni Janik agreed to accept this position. She has been an asset to the committee since 2018 so she has a good basic understanding of the work involved already.

I attended the AGM along with most of you on Sunday which turned out to be a very calm, efficient, well organized meeting with the reports submitted being very complete and informative. There was only 1 question raised which was relevant but one that could be dealt with after the meeting. Ray and Bobbye did a fine job preparing the AGM report which is very time consuming and if anyone else helped, you all deserve a big thank you.

During the AGM meeting "President Upcott" praised everyone in the congregation for their wonderful financial support of the church which created a surplus at year end rather than the projected deficit. He also thanked Board members, Laurie Hylton, Helen Moore and myself who are leaving the Board. John has completed his 5-year term now serving as President on the Board for the 2nd time and possibly more I believe. Since I didn't have the courage to stand up at the meeting to express gratitude to John for his job well done, I will take a moment now. John was a strong leader because of his experience, diligence and patience which helped to promote an atmosphere of respect and trust within the Board. Even though the President might not have the weekly duties that other trustees on the Board have, you still need someone to call meetings and be present monthly if not more to address church business. The President's input is important too during the meetings even though unable to vote. It may not be fair but if there are any problems or concerns, it tends to be the President of the Board who may be first approached since he/she is considered the one in charge of administration. As John said, he is not leaving the church but continuing to do other necessary jobs year long, like collecting mail, helping with church maintenance and attending some church meetings with peace of mind that he is not the one in the driver's seat. John didn't actually make that latter claim but I imagine that's how he would feel.

I also want to express immense gratitude to Helen who is retiring from the Board after serving for 14 consecutive years! I know she served as treasurer for at least 10 of those years. It was an extremely important role that she undertook which she carried out skillfully and diligently with some guidance from Gypsy Carroll in the first five years and then Peter LeClair in her last term.

(Continued on next page)

2019 Membership Committee Report, Cont'd.

They both helped Helen to meet the demands of the job and she has told me more than once how much they meant to her in making sure the financial records were done properly. Helen will still be carrying out some treasurer jobs until another church member offers to accept the trustee position. At least there is a bookkeeper to assist with some important tasks now.

Helen also played a vital role in getting our church incorporated. We were so fortunate that she was trustee at this time because of her devotion and willingness to perform the many jobs needed to be done including many phone calls, meetings and communication with CUC and the CRA to meet the requirements of incorporation. She persevered for many months to accomplish this goal. I

Ca don't think many people in the congregation realize that this was such a huge undertaking. I wish I could have verbalized all these words of sincere appreciation at the AGM but without my notes prepared I would have missed some of the meaning of my message that I wanted to share with others.

See you in church. I will continue to contribute to the life of the UU Church of Olinda with my music and garden care as long as I'm able.

Respectfully submitted,
Lorie Lyons, 2019 Membership Trustee

Indoors or out, no one relaxes in March, that month of wind and taxes, the wind presently disappears, the taxes last us all the year. March has come, may this new month bring us good luck and happiness. Happy New Month.

It is with great sadness to report the passing of Dean Hicks, son and brother of Laverne and Shannon Hicks. Also sympathies to Theresa Tetzlaff and family in the passing of her sister. Thinking of all of you at this most difficult time. Get well wishes extended to Doug Whaley and Peter Lyons. Hoping you regain your strength soon. Wilf Innerd is recovering slowly from a heart procedure. Looking to see you all in church soon.

A St. Patrick hello to all our shut-ins, wishing that all is as good as can be expected. The cold weather has kept many away from church services but on March 8th we spring ahead in time, and that is a good sign of warmer weather to come.

A St. Patrick riddle, "Never iron a four-leaf clover, cause you don't want to press your luck."

See you in church.
Submitted by Linda Upcott

Caring Committee Members

Eunice Goyette

June Blacker

Leona Crowder

Linda Upcott

Social Responsibility Committee Report

Thanks to Ray Stone, we were able to watch the film *And Still I Rise*, which is the story of Maya Angelou, a black poet and activist, following the very informative February 9 service by Irene Moore Davis in honour of Black History Month. We distributed flyers to local libraries and will continue that practice for future films as part of our outreach to the wider community.

On **March 8** we look forward to another educational presentation by Carrie Ann Peters, Cultural Development Coordinator, Caldwell First Nation. This will be followed by our **International Dinner**, for which some of us will be attempting First Nations' dishes, using recipes found on the Internet. Examples: Corn Soup, Fried Bread, Three Sisters Soup, Baked Pumpkin, Beef Stew and Pork Roast.

Submitted by Bobbye Baylis
Secretary,
Social Responsibility Committee



2020 Membership Committee Report

My thanks go out to Lorie Lyons for her leadership over the last four years in chairing the membership committee and ensuring my smooth transition into the role. I hope to be able to do as well as she has.

On February 26 my sister Elaine Stevenson and I hosted another very successful soup luncheon. Our thanks to everyone who came out to help us fundraise for our church whether you chose to dine and socialize with other members and friends or you ordered a take out lunch. We are so pleased that so many are taking advantage of our winter events. It's a great way to chase away the blues and get to know one another better.

Our next event is a Poor Boy Lunch on March 25 at 11 am. If you would like to play games such as Scrabble, please join us at 10 am. The menu for this event will be Weiner and Beans, assorted salads, buns, coffee, tea and dessert. For those who like to pre-order a vegan or vegetarian meal we will be offering a Mediterranean salad plate.

On April 1 the membership committee will be having its first meeting of the new year and I am pleased to announce that Nancy Burgess has joined Bobbye, Helen, and myself on our committee.