



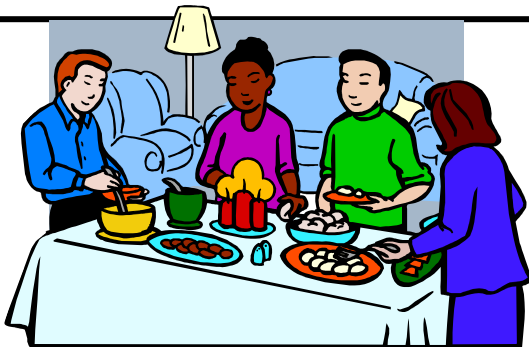
The Olinda Outpost

Monthly Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Olinda

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

Sunday Services October 2009

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|----------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Oct. 4 | Food, Faith and Ethical Eating
Rev. Christine Hillman | Music: Carabel Ringrose |
| Oct. 11 | Lotta Hitschmanova (1909-1990)
Founder of USC Canada
Helen Moore | Music: Bobbye and Bill Baylis |
| Oct. 18 | One Buddha is not Enough
Rev. Christine Hillman | Music: Lorie Lyons |
| Oct. 25 | UN Sunday
Rev. Christine Hillman | Music: Toni Janik |



POT LUCK
October 25, after service

Please bring something to share.
Great food, great conversations.



From the Hillparson

At a ministers' retreat someone read a passage from a book about why ministers make people feel uncomfortable. It is because we dress in earth-colored clothes, and when we shake hands with people, we hold their hands a second too long and gaze into their faces and say earnestly, "How are you?" All the ministers in the room howled with laughter at the accuracy of this picture.

But the passage went on to say that the real reason people find ministers weird and don't really want us to come to their parties, even if they invite us, is because we are too comfortable with death. Like funeral directors, we don't respect our society's fear of anything related to serious illness and dying. We go striding into hospitals and sick rooms as if the smells of cancer and antiseptic don't make us want to gag, as if it's no big deal to sit down by the bed and hold the dry, skeletal hands of someone who is dying, to watch people gasp out their last breath, to murmur words of comfort to shell-shocked relatives.

One December I buried a baby for the first time, a three-month-old who died of sudden infant death syndrome. The coffin was white and so tiny I couldn't believe anything could be inside. It looked like the kind of Styrofoam cooler you bring to the beach.

The parents had come from the Midwest to bury their baby next to his grandparents. At home the day before the funeral, I read the service I had written over and over until I could do it without crying...

Collected in *How We Are Called*, 2003, this portion speaks mostly of the way people look at ministers in the face of tragedy. The last sentence I included of the piece is the one that points the writer toward how ministers manage grief and loss, being with families in the face of these approaching at death. It is difficult, is the shortcut answer with a great dose of always being called back to life and affirmation. Ministers, of course, are not the only ones who experience such realities. The writer mentions funeral directors. I'd add the first responders of every community and people who work in hospitals and hospices. And then there is all of us who have experienced a death in our family. Maybe the first one an animal companion that we loved, maybe the first one as serious as a parent or sibling. The truth is none of us travel through life without loss and some of these losses affect us terribly and for a considerable time. What pulls us all back, in the end, and in my humble opinion and experience, is what I've already said, the truth and gift of life and affirmation. Interpret these thoughts to what it is that pulls you back – not caffeine or alcohol or drugs – but things more like any and every thing and person you love.

The year is off to a great start and October will close with our work to plan for Olinda's future. I'm excited and in anticipation.

Faithfully and in Faith,

Sunday Service Committee

Summer is now officially over and Fall has begun. On October 4, our minister Reverend Christine Hillman, returns from her meetings of the Canadian Unitarian Council (CUC) with a sermon on Food, "Faith and Ethical Eating" designed, no doubt, to make us (self-)conscious about food, just before the Thanksgiving weekend! On Thanksgiving Sunday, Helen Moore will help us remember the Canadian humanist Dr. Lotta Hitschmanova, the founder of what was then the Unitarian Service Committee but is now simply the USC of Canada. Rev. Hillman returns to the pulpit on Oct. 18 to give the sermon "One Buddha is not Enough." October 25 brings the first potluck of the season to Olinda, after a sermon on UN Sunday by Rev. Hillman.

From the Board

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The Board met on September 17 at the new time of 7:30. We will try this for a month or two to see if it suits everyone. Attendance was good, only Bonnie was unable to make the meeting.

It was confirmed that the Visioning Process will continue with an all-day session for the Board to be facilitated by Linda Thomson, who helped us at an earlier stage. The session will be held in the party room at 75 Riverside Drive in Windsor, on Saturday, October 31, starting at 9:00 a.m. and finishing in the late afternoon.

The Standing on the Side of Love banner has been received from the UUA and will be displayed on the outside of the building once we are able to get the necessary equipment to put it there. Stuart is in charge of the procedure. Currently the banner is hung behind the pulpit in the Sanctuary.

Jane Innerd reported on behalf of the Committee on Ministry that revisions to the Minister's Letter of Agreement are well under way. Thanks are due to Pat Haynes, who did much of the preliminary work. The Rev. Christine briefed the Board on the protocol for handling request for support from strangers. An announcement will be made to the Congregation in regard to the protocol before the summer months.

Trustee Reports were received and a number of decisions made. There will be a Family Dinner in December but no Santa Claus. Gifts will be generic, chocolates and candy. Toys already purchased will be donated to the CAS or the Salvation Army. All Church locks will be changed in February and stricter control of keys will be instituted at that time. Stuart reported that the process for securing a professional examination of the Church structure is well under way. The stove has been checked and the pilot lights adjusted which should take care of the oft-reported gas smell. A discussion took place in regard to new members and how they might be introduced to the Church and/or UUism. Christine suggested a possible meeting after Service at some time in November for potential members. Helen submitted the Treasurer's Report. It had no surprises. Bobbye presented a draft of a document entitled The Process for Determining the Annual Budget. She asked that Board members respond to it ASAP before it is presented to the Congregation on Oct 4.

We concluded the Meeting at 9:30 and went out in to a beautiful late summer evening, perhaps the last for a while. Next meeting: October 15 at 7:30.

Wilf



Special thanks to Carol Hylton who organized the upstairs and basement kitchen. It was greatly appreciated.

Dorothy Brown

Financial Trustee Report

Budget development time is upon us again and the first meeting of the Finance Committee is after church on October 4. This meeting is open to the entire congregation, and those of you interested in financial matters are encouraged to attend. The agenda for the meeting includes:

1. Status of new Procedure for Developing Annual Budget.
A draft procedure has been written (following past practice) and has been presented to the Board of Trustees for review. This will be presented, in its draft state, at this meeting.
2. Invitation to become a member of the Finance Committee
According to present church documents, the following must be on the Committee: the Finance Trustee (as chair), the Treasurer, the Manager(s) of the Lloyd fund, the President of the Board, and the Minister (ex officio.) There are additional places on the Committee available for other interested persons. (Note: we always draft Gypsy for one of these open positions for obvious reasons.)
3. Further ideas on use of the Auction Money
Ideas were collected at the previous open meetings, but it was agreed that the next step is to obtain a report on the state of the building and the priority repairs, from an engineering standpoint. One quote for this survey has been obtained, and the Property Trustee is looking for two more. Hence this report will not yet be available at the time of the open meeting. However, should anyone have a new suggestion, it could be offered at this time.

Another important deadline: Please, all Trustees and Committee Heads, submit your budget needs for 2010 to the Trustee or the Treasurer by October 18.

Bobbie Baylis, Trustee for Finance



Caring Committee Report

A beautiful October "Hello" to all. I do hope you have enjoyed the beautiful September weather, hopefully October weather will be as nice.

We extend our deepest sympathy to Betty Fischer on the passing of her sister also to Conrad, Lois, and Tamsen Dippel on the passing of Lois mother Jean Richer.

It was so good to have Sheron Campbell and Wilf Innerd in church this past Sunday as both had surgery in early September.

We send "thinking of you" thoughts to Albertina Bell, Harriette Sinclair and Ruth Whaley. A special "Hello" to Cathy Thompson in Alberta and Jean Upcott Wallis in London, Ont.

If there is a joy or concern you would like the Caring Committee to know please contact the Rev. Christine Hillman, June Blacker, Eunice Goyette, Carabel Ringrose.

Carabel

"October is a second spring when every leaf is a flower"

Albert Camus