



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 March 2010

March 7 Spiritual Growth– Feeling Fear

Rev. Christine Hillman

Music: Lorie Lyons

March 14 Spiritual Growth—Living to the End of Your Life

Rev. Christine Hillman

Music: Bobbye and
Bill Baylis

March 21 Spiritual Growth—To Wait and Then to Wait Again

Rev. Christine Hillman

Music: Carabel
Ringrose

**March 28 Something Burned along the Border:
Poetry, Faith, and the Language of Love**

Bob Stewart

Music: Toni Janik

Olinda Choir Makes Festival International

Every two or three years, UU Choirs of Southeastern Michigan join forces for a Festival Choir Concert. This year will be the third time that members of the UU Olinda Choir have joined them, giving the Festival international status. The gathered singers, over a hundred in all, will sing one piece selected by each participating choir, this year at the Northwest UU Church in Southfield, Michigan. Olinda's contribution is Tony Turner's "Circle of Song", which you will certainly have a chance to hear in Olinda in the near future. However, the sound of the massed choir singing it, as well as the other numbers, promises to be special and well worth the trip. The concert starts at 3 PM on Sunday, March 21. The Northwest UU Church is located at 23925 Northwestern Highway, on the Southbound Lodge Freeway between 9 and 10 mile roads.

Bill Baylis

Important Dates

Thursday, March 4 at 7 PM

Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, March 11 at 7 PM

Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, March 14 2 AM Daylight Savings Time
Move clocks ahead one hour!

Sunday, March 14, 9:15 AM

Sunday Services Committee

Sunday, March 14 after service

Social Responsibilities Committee

Thursday, March 18 7 PM

Board Meeting

Saturday, March 20 1 PM

Choir rehearsal in Southfield, MI
at NorthWest UU Church

**Sunday, March 21 1:30 PM rehearsal and
3 PM UU Choir Concert at NorthWest UU
Church**



From the Hillparson

I write this as the Olympics are coming to a close but before the Paralympics begin. Would that most of us could see the glory in these later games as we do in the Olympic games of ultimate fitness and the at least perceived perfect health of the Olympic athletes. That so many of us tend to see the disability first, makes it difficult for us to see the athletic prowess of paralympians. I remember not long ago seeing Rick Mercer playing hockey with people dealing with paraplegia. Playing hockey while strapped to the part skate, part wheel chair makes sledge hockey one of the most athletic, skill-demanding and dangerous sport—of any kind. But we don't watch it, admire it, see it, know about it.

"The Canadian Paralympic Committee is a non-profit, private organisation with 43 member sports organisations. We are responsible for creating an optimal environment for high-performance Canadian Paralympic Athletes to compete and win in the Paralympic and ParaPanAmerican Games, and by promoting their success, inspire all Canadians with a disability to get involved in sport."

Look for these games in the news and on the television beginning March 12 and be inspired.

Before the month of March ends it will be Spring – early Spring. Looking at the Spring hymns in *Singing the Living Tradition*, what I found were lyrics of the fullness of the season, not it's early iterations. The hymns, the songs, the poems. There are no hymns praising the dregs of dirty snow, the mud that sticks to our shoes and splatters onto our cars, the common evidences of early spring, the bare beginnings of change from Winter. The grey of Spring before its glory.

Until the crocus and the asparagus let us learn how to lie in the muddiness of change – as in all things!

Faithfully and in faith,
Rev. Christine

Caring Committee

A warm and joyful "Hello" to everyone. I do hope you are looking forward to the month of March with a smile and anticipation of spring as much as I am.

We send many warm and sincere "Thinking of You and Get Well" wishes to Robert Bryon who is a patient in Metropolitan Hospital also to Michael Harrison who is now at home and recuperating from a heart attack. Get Well Wishes to Doug Whaley as he recuperates at home from hip surgery. A big "Hello" to Harriette Sinclair, Albertina Bell, Ruth Whaley, Joan Meuser and Jean Upcott Wallis we do hope you are well.

If I have missed anyone please let me or any of our Caring Committee contacts know. Rev. Christine Hillman, June, Eunice Goyette, and Carabel Ringrose

Wishing everyone a good month of March and a "Happy St. Patrick's Day" ..

Carabel "March brings breezes loud and shrill, stirs the dancing daffodils". Sara Coleridge

From the Board

Your new board welcomed Sue Markham as Trustee for Lifespan Religious Education. We will miss Joyse Gilbert and thank her for her dedication over the last five years. I know Sue will do a great job in her new office and if you wish to serve or have an interesting any committee please let the trustee know or just attend any meeting.

This is a very hard working and energetic board and their knowledge and work will make my short term as president a very easy one.

There are a number of events coming up in the next few months as this busy church year continues. April 17th will be the Auction and Pasta Dinner. Remember to bring a friend and your cheque book to bid on some exciting items. Please list what you will be donating, whether it is a service or item, on the sheets in the coffee room. The International Dinner will be held on May 2nd, the Yard and Bake Sale on May 15th and the Picnic on June 6th. The Reverend Maureen Thitchener, who served here from 1988-1991, will be here in May to speak and visit some old friends in the church, please make sure you come out and say hello.

With the reduction in the Lloyd Fund income this year the board spent some time in discussion on how to lower the deficit. The finance committee will hold a meeting at the church after the service on February 28th to look at ways to raise money, please plan to attend.

The next board meeting will be March 18th at 7:00pm. Please note the time change.

How many Paczki's did you eat on February 16th?

See you in church.

John

INTERNATIONAL FUNDRAISING LUNCHEON SUNDAY, MAY 2

Your Social Responsibility Committee will be providing International Dishes for your eating enjoyment. Those who attended last year enjoyed themselves. More details will follow in the next newsletter but mark your calendars now !



March Update

Featured program for 2010: every Friday in August, there will be a weekly drum circle followed either by storytelling or dancing! 2010 brochures are available at your congregation's Welcome Table.

Looking for somewhere to have your church picnic or board retreat? Why not at Unicamp? Contact admin@unicampofontario.ca to make your reservation today!

In July, Unicamp offers week-long camps for children ages 7-13 and youth 13-15, as well as a Counselor in Training and Leader in Training program. In August, there are 3 weeks for families to come to camp as well as weekend programs such as Sacred Circle Dance and the Magic of Music.

If you've never been to Unicamp, 2010 is the year you to discover and experience the magic yourself. Contact admin@unicampofontario.ca or telephone 519-822-6353 to make your reservation. Or find out more at www.unicampofontario.ca

Social Responsibility Committee

Join the UU Church of Olinda Team on Kiva

The Social Responsibilities Committee has invested \$300 of the funds from last year's International Dinner in small international loans through Kiva. You can track the progress of the loans and their repayment by visiting the Kiva website: www.kiva.org. If you click there on "Community" and Search for UU Church of Olinda, you can find our team and details about the three loans we have made so far. As the money is paid back, we can reinvest it in other projects.

While you're there, please consider joining our team. The Kiva site gives our church some exposure, but we don't look very impressive with only two members listed!

Financial Committee Report

During the Budget discussions in late 2009, the process used in estimating deficits was clarified and, we think, corrected. In the recent past, the projected deficit had consistently been considerably higher than the actual deficit at the end of the year. Examination of the reasons for this led to a better estimate for the 2009 deficit, which we in November 2009 projected would be \$1500, rather than the \$15,000 projected earlier using the old procedure. In fact, we all celebrated a surplus of \$1300 at the end of the year! Nonetheless, this 2009 experience indicated that our new budgeting procedure should give us deficit numbers that will be within \$2000 or so of the actual number, rather than being consistently roughly \$12,000 too high.

Based on our better results for 2009, we believe that our projection of a deficit of almost \$8000 for 2010 is not going to be more than \$2000 too high, if we are as fortunate as we were in 2009. One factor increasing the 2010 deficit is the lowered (by \$3000) contribution from the Lloyd fund. The recession took a toll on that fund, and we don't expect its health to fully recover in time to allow for the normal \$33,000 contribution during 2010. Based on this projection of a deficit of between \$6000 and \$8000, the following solutions are in the works:

- 1) An Open Finance Committee Meeting after church on Feb. 28 to discuss new fundraising options. As before, this is a meeting of the members of the Finance Committee, but is open to any member of the Congregation who would have suggestions for fundraising activities or would simply like to participate in this discussion.
- 2) At the Board Meeting on Feb. 18, a motion was passed to dedicate this year's Auction revenue to help pay down the expected deficit. This decision was based on the recent financial crisis and will definitely not be a precedent for the future. Since the Auction typically brings in about \$4000, that will go a long way toward relieving the 2010 deficit.
- 3) There will be another Finance Committee Meeting in May to discuss the procedure for determining the pay-outs from the Lloyd Fund. There needs to be more transparency in the decision process behind this contribution and on whether any change should be made. The reason for waiting until May is simply that we hope the stock market situation will be clearer by then.

Last but not least is the reminder that the Goods and Services Auction will be on April 17, preceded by the ever-popular Spaghetti Supper, hosted by the Upcotts. Sign-up sheets are available in the Coffee Room. Please enter your items (goods or services) soon and also sign up for the supper to assure sufficient food is ordered. There are already some tantalizing food and gift items on the list.
