



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 May 2010

In memory of Harriette Reives Sinclair lifelong member of Olinda, who died April 21, 2010 at home. A service in her memory were held Saturday April 24. Our hearts are with her family.

- May 2** **Transcendentalism Today**
Linda Thomson Music: Lorie Lyons
After the service– International Dinner in support of InterPares
- May 9** **When the Bus Doesn't Come**
Rev. Christine Hillman Music: Bobbye and Bill Baylis
- May 16** **If You're Not Engaged Enough**
Rev. Christine Hillman Music: Lorie Lyons
- May 23** **Where to from Here—Do Plans Change the Future**
Arthur Hillman Music: Carabel Ringrose
- May 30** **Tossed in the Turbulence of Time**
Rev. Maureen Thitchener Music: Bobbye and Bill Baylis

Important Dates

May 1, 9am-4pm

Visioning Session for the Board
Led by Linda Thomson, Condo Meeting room at 75
Riverside Dr E, Windsor

May 2

International Dinner in support of InterPares

May 13—7 pm

Board of Trustees
(note change to second Thursday)

May 15, 9 am—1 pm

Yard and Bake Sale at Church

May 16, after service

Social Responsibilities Committee meeting

May 18—1 pm

Fundraising Subcommittee meeting

INTERNATIONAL FUNDRAISING LUNCHEON SUNDAY, MAY 2

Your Social Responsibility Committee will be providing International Dishes for your eating enjoyment. You can dine on Kashmir style lamb; Korean "sauerkraut", Guacamole, Greek Salad, Tabbouleh, Flatbread, and many many other items.

Please join us for this meal after the church service. This year's luncheon fundraiser with a free-will offering is for Inter Pares, a Canadian social justice organization working to build understanding about the cause and effect of poverty and injustice in the world.

Mark your calendar to join us for a great culinary experience.



From the Hillparson

Sometimes it is just a good thing to share the newsletter "pulpit" with a colleague. I loved these words from my colleague

**From Rev. Linda Hart,
minister of the Richmond and Putney Unitarian Church in London, England**

When I was moving from Connecticut on the east coast of the US to Spokane, Washington (very nearly the other side of the country, around 2,700 miles), a good friend, Paul, came along for the ride. With all my worldly possessions being transported by a removals company, we were free to do some exploring as we made the drive over the wide prairies and the mountains. We had a few adventures, such as meeting up with several herds of cows being moved along the small roads we were travelling. There were some beautiful vistas and some urban ugliness. But my favorite moment of the whole trip happened when we were staying overnight in a small town in Montana.

We'd had a longish drive that day, and were lucky to find an inexpensive motel that offered a two bedroom apartment for the same price as regular room. I opened the boot of my new car, took a few things out and tried to close it. It wouldn't stay closed. Paul watched the car while I called roadside service. They offered to find a garage to put it in until Monday (this was Friday) and then tow it 60 miles away to be repaired. I declined. After an hour on the phone, I was finally utterly fed up and just thanked them – with a considerable chill in my voice – and hung up. Paul crawled into the boot with a flashlight and figured it out. A little bend here a bit of a push there and it was fixed. Thank the designers for having a back seat that flipped down to allow access from the passenger compartment to the boot. We were saved, but now tired and frustrated.

Paul had spotted a restaurant when we drove into town, and we decided to walk down there – a few streets away – to have a nice dinner. Not very far along the main thoroughfare of the town, a man called out to us from across the street. We stopped, puzzled. He dodged traffic, and came running over to us. "Where are you all going?" he asked breathlessly. "To dinner," we told him, even more confused. "Well," he said, "in here" – he pointed to the community hall right next to us – "there's an accordion jamboree taking place. It's not to be missed!" Now that, I said to myself, is an evangelism that I would have never imagined.

Paul didn't miss a beat. He asked the man about the event and what happened. There was a small back up band, and accordion players from far and wide each got a turn to play a couple of tunes. Some people danced, and everyone had a few beers and a good time. I peered in the window, as did Paul. The room was filled with smiling, happy people. Great, we both agreed. We'd have dinner, go get our dancing shoes and be back.

And back we went, and had a truly splendid evening. Paul and I both love polkas, swing and waltzes, and had been dancing friends for many years. The people were friendly and kept commenting on how lovely it was to have "young people" (I was 39, Paul well into his 40's) there to be part of the community.

I think of that night more often than you might expect. Often, I laugh to myself about the absurdity of actually wanting to be at an accordion jamboree – who could have imagined such a thing? More, though, I remember what made it special:

*that I was tired and frustrated and in need of some good cheer;

*that someone really went out of his way to ask me, his enthusiasm overflowing;

*and that I was welcomed and celebrated, immediately one of the community.

And I think that it's the same with our religious community, too. We offer a place of hope, inspiration and care for the weary and lost. Our enthusiasm for what we receive as members of the community can invite others in, and we think of any who enter our doors as part of us, if only for those few moments. I hope we're all willing, like that breathless man, to proclaim who we are and our worth to those we meet.

Thank you Linda!

Faithfully and in faith, Rev. Christine

From the Board

It was with regret that the Board accepted the resignation of John Haynes as membership and publicity trustee. The church benefited from his work and the Board will miss his knowledge. A search for a new trustee has already begun.

The visioning process that was to take place last fall, but due to illness and weather was postponed will take place the May 1st weekend. Linda Thompson will come from the C.U.C. to lead the Board in the process and in turn the Board will work with the congregation in developing a vision as to where the church needs to be in the future. The mission statement was a great first step and when the visioning is in place all the work that is done by the Board and all the committees will be towards the same goal that the congregation has established.

As I write this the auction has just taken place and was a great success. More than a thank-you is needed for Bobbye Bayliss and all her committee for making the night run so smoothly. Thank-you also, to everyone who contributed in any way to the great time. The auction could not happen without the generosity of everyone who contributed either with time or goods or bidding on items or just having fun. A good time I am sure was had by all.

The Yard and Bake Sale on May 15th will be asking for donations of time and items to be sold. Please take the time to go through your closets and garages looking for treasures that someone else may want and take them to the church. There will be a light lunch provided for a small charge, so if you would just like to come and browse, come on down and have lunch. Remember to make the articles that you bring good and useable so they can be recycled treasures for someone else.

Please plan to attend the International dinner on May 2nd.

I hope all are well or getting better in time to enjoy the spring!

See you in church.

John

Caring Committee Report

Hello to all our members and friends and those who are unable to be with us on Sunday mornings.

We send warm and caring thoughts and wishes to all those recuperating, including Carabel. A special greeting to Alberta Bell, Jean Upcott Wallis and Ruth Whaley. Our heartfelt condolences for The Sinclair Family.

If you have a joy or concern you would like the Caring Committee to know please contact, The Reverend Christine Hillman (519-326-4352), June Blacker (519-735-5154), Eunice Goyette (519-967-7627) or Carabel Ringrose (519-733-5207)

Carabel

Financial Committee Report

On Saturday, April 17, we held another (the fifteenth!) successful Goods and Services Auction. Thanks to the hard work and imagination of those who provided the goods and services and the food (Linda and John Upcott and Michael Harrison,) and to the performance of the Auctioneers (Karen Miller and Bill Baylis), it is fair to say that everyone had a good time and left happy. On that evening we collected \$3360, which will no doubt be supplemented when everyone has a chance to sign up for the summer events. As announced, the proceeds from this year's Auction will go toward the projected 2010 deficit. Hopefully 2010 is the only year that this will be necessary, and future Auctions will continue to go toward physical improvements to the church.

The Fundraising Sub-Committee (Carol Hylton, Peter Le Clair, and Bobbye Baylis) has been meeting and developing other fundraising options. The first idea, a Computer Club, is described in another article in this Newsletter. Stay tuned for other developments!

Bobbye Baylis, Finance Trustee

Proposal for an Olinda Computer Club

Learn how to use your computer at the UU Church of Olinda Computer Club! The plan is for Peter LeClair to be available at a set time, at least monthly, to answer questions and show you how to perform various actions on your computer. He is supplying computers, loaded with the normal MicroSoft Office software, which you can use in this learning process.

Before mounting this activity, the Fundraising Subcommittee needs to know whether this service will be useful to our members or their friends. Please let Peter, Carol Hylton, or Bobbye Baylis know whether you would be interested in finding out more about, for example:

- how to set up email
- how to install updates
- how to use Excel or other spreadsheet programs
- how to install freeware browsers, email, office applications
- how to protect your computer from viruses, worms, etc.

Or do you have other questions about the use of software on your computer? We welcome suggestions. It will be helpful to the committee if you can respond by May 8.

Note: due to liability issues, it will not be possible to correct hardware issues on your own computers.

House of Sophrosyne– Mother Day Donations

For the past few years, on Mother's Day, we have been donating toiletries to the House of Sophrosyne in Windsor. The House offers residential treatment to women who are addicted to alcohol or other drugs. These women often come to the House for their multi-week treatment without any soap, shampoo, toothpaste, etc., and the House has to supply these items to them. Our donations serve to decrease the cost to the House for this part of their service. So please remember to bring something to donate on May 9. For health reasons, they cannot use bar soap, and because they are dealing with addicts, they cannot use liquids that might be consumed such as mouthwash. Another possible category to donate: nice-looking women's clothing. If the residents cannot use the clothing items, the House can sell them for additional revenue.