



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 November 2011

- Nov. 6** **Evolution as our Creation Mythos and Truth**
Rev. Christine Hillman Music: Toni Janik
- Nov 13** **We All Have Stories and Stories We All Are**
Rev. Christine Hillman Music: Lorie Lyons
- Nov. 20** **Deity in Religion**
Rev. Christine Hillman Music: Bill and Bobbye Baylis with
Ray Stone
- Nov. 27** **Small Congregations: Building Vital Unitarian Universalist Community**
Helen Armstrong, CUC Music: Carabel Ringrose

YOU ARE INVITED TO THE

Unitarian Universalist Church of Olinda Celebration Luncheon Sunday, November 13, 2011 Following Church Service (12:30) In the Willow Room at Colasanti's

This day celebrates the success of the Capital Campaign Fund,
the 131st Anniversary of the Church and
the 10th Anniversary of our minister Rev. Christine Hillman

You are invited! If you wish to attend, please sign up in the foyer of the church or call Carol Hylton at (519) 322-5939 or Joyse Gilbert at (519) 733-8327. Last date for reservations is November 6th.



From the Hillparson

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A communal task: Over the next weeks, when you come to church or stop by the building, bring a fistful up to half a bucket, whatever is not too much for you to comfortably carry – of gravel to fill that place where we cross from the parking lot onto the Olinda Side Rd. For several reasons the ground level has eroded there leaving a great place for puddles to build and make crossing more difficult. Don't buy gravel and don't take it from your neighbour. But if you have a bit yourself, I'll bet all of us together, in bits and pieces can fix this small problem soon enough. In line with that, the smaller and larger amounts of money donated have made the renewal of the exterior of the building and a great increase in protection from the cold a real thing. Oct. 23 we could see so much of the development of the stucco and half the windows and it was a wonder to see.

Sunday, November 13 will be a great day of celebration to recognize the accomplishment of the first, and largest, building renovation efforts. More to accomplish but a great deal of pride already made concrete and real, from the thoughts and ideas that began in our minds and imaginations. If you're coming to the dinner at Colasanti's after the service that day, make sure Helen Moore or Carol Hylton know so that we can give a close enough number of people participating.

There is so much joy, and for me personally, there is that part of it that acknowledges my completing a whole decade as your minister. Who knew!? I certainly had no idea in those early days, starting with how I would write a sermon almost every week for one year, let alone ten, making for well over 300 sermons and services so far. Thank you for your gifts to me in those early days as a new and maturing minister, for forgiving my mistakes and teaching me. And for listening to my thoughts as well. And already the first two months of the first year of a second day have passed, not knowing how far our pastor/congregant relationship will last, I give thanks for every day of it. And looking to the dawning future with joy.

Faithfully and in faith,

Rev. Christine

Caring Committee Report

NOVEMBURR! is here and can winter be far away. A wise man once said that there is no bad weather only bad clothing decisions so please stay warm.

Hope everyone who has a birthday, anniversary or other celebration this month has a great day and stays well. It's nice to see Gypsy doing so well after surgery and back into church, also Carabell reports that Rebecca Campbell is coming along fine and back to work.

Our thoughts and love go to Joan Meuser, Sheron Campbell, and Ruth Whaley again this month. Also to their friends and families as they go forward. If there is anything we can do please let us know, the church family will help in any way we can.

Hello to Albertina Bell in Erie Glen and to Jean Wallis in London, please stay well and know that you are always remembered.

Thank you, Caring Committee

From the Board

We had another full agenda at the meeting of the Board of Trustees on October 20. The Board is asking Karen Miller to take on the role of secretary on the Board, in order to fill the vacancy left by Jane Blackshaw's resignation. We also formalized Bobbye Baylis's move from Membership Trustee back to Finance, leaving the Membership Trustee position vacant. It will be filled for the time being by the combined efforts of Carol Hylton, Karen, and Bobbye. Karen is, in fact, busy assembling a new church directory with photographs. Please send images, hard copies if you don't have an electronic image file, to Karen, together with any other information that you would like to have added to the directory.

Our Property Trustee, Stuart Miller, announced excellent progress on both the window replacements in the sanctuary and the exterior stucco work. Both major jobs should be completed well in time for our anniversary celebration on November 13. He also suggested that the work to repair the walls in the basement should be expanded to include complete wall insulation and sealing, window replacement, and new vinyl flooring and rugs. All the work needs doing and it makes sense to do it all at once. He estimated a total cost in the range of six to seven thousand dollars but will obtain complete quotations. The cost is enough that capital campaign funds will be needed. Once more details are in place, a congregational meeting will be called to see whether we all agree.

John Upcott, who attended the meeting to report for the Caring Committee, oversaw the replacement of the window curtains in the kitchen with handsome new venetian blinds. He recommended that the cost for this, as well as for a new coffee pot, come from the Legacy Fund, which the Caring Committee oversees.

Helen Moore reported further on the success of the Capital Campaign: it has reached 95% of its goal of \$100,000 and the committee hopes for a few more donations to it before it ends next month. Memorial plaques to recognize contributions are being prepared for mounting in the sanctuary. The Board also approved the sponsorship of a Christmas family or families by specified individual donations. Helen is contacting the Children's Aid Society to select appropriate recipients.

Another project the Board is looking into is greening our roof with solar panels. The Neighbourhood Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Toronto (www.nuuc.ca) has just completed the installation of a bit over 20 kW of solar panels and anticipates reducing greenhouse-gas emissions by tonnes per year as well as reaping an income of about \$25,000 per year for the next twenty years from Ontario's renewable energy feed-in tariff program. They sold debentures to help fund the installation. Olinda's project would probably be no more than half that size and we are gathering site-specific information to see what might be possible.

In place of our usual fall potluck, we look forward to a special celebration on November 13. To commemorate both the 131st anniversary of the founding of our church on November 10, 1880, and the tenth anniversary of Reverend Christine Hillman's installation in the church, we plan a special service on Sunday, November 13, at which vows will be renewed, followed by a complementary dinner at Colasanti's. We should also be able to celebrate our newly completed renovations on the sanctuary at the same time. An ad hoc committee comprising Carol, Helen, and Christine (with me as ex-officio member) is working out details of the celebration.

The next meeting is scheduled at 7 PM on Thursday, November 15. All church members are welcome to attend.

Bill Baylis, President

Book Club

This group of congregants and friends gather once a month (1st Wednesday) at the home of book club members, the Church, or other arranged venues. During the meeting a selected book, author, or theme previously selected by each member in turn is discussed. The 'fun-loving' group is in their fourth year of reading, learning and socializing.

Everyone is welcome – Contact Chairperson Pat Haynes, or Stuart Miller

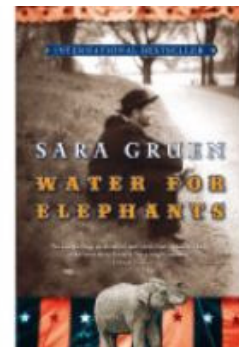
Book for Month - November 2011:

Water for elephants : a Novel

Author: Sara Gruen

Summary

An atmospheric, gritty, and compelling novel of star-crossed lovers, set in the circus world circa 1932, by the bestselling author of "Riding Lessons." Explores the 'senior experience', and the dream of 'running away'.



"Gritty, sensual and charged with dark secrets involving love, murder and a majestic, mute heroine (Rosie the Elephant).
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Location of Meeting: Haynes Residence, Kingsville: John Haynes - Leader

Date: 02 November, 2011; 7 pm



Note from the Kitchen

Thank you to all who donated cheese and crackers to the coffee hour.

Important Dates

Nov. 2	at 7 PM:	Book Club Meeting on "Water for Elephants"
Nov. 6	after service:	Finance Committee Meeting to approve Budget
Nov. 9	at 7 PM:	Choir Rehearsal
Nov. 13	after service:	UU Olinda's Celebratory Dinner at Colasanti's
Nov. 17	at 7 PM:	Board of Trustees Meeting
Nov. 20	at 9:15 AM:	Sunday Services Committee Meeting
Nov. 20	at noon:	Social Responsibility Committee Meeting
Nov. 23	at 7 PM:	Choir Rehearsal
Nov. 27		2012 Budget Available to Congregation

Financial Committee Report

Thank you to all who attended the Open Meeting on Oct. 9. The members of the committee for 2011-12 will be Bobbye Baylis, chair, Helen Moore, secretary, Carol Hylton, Peter LeClair, Gypsy Carroll, Doug Whaley, Mireya Campbell, James Reid, Mariette Preyde and Rev. Christine Hillman, ex officio.

November 6 will be our big day, when we put the 2011-12 budget together for approval by the Board, then the Congregation. This is a very important meeting and I hope that all committee members can be there, as well as anyone else interested in the financial affairs of the church.

In passing, we all want to congratulate Stuart Miller and the Capital Campaign Committee for the marvelous transformation we see taking place on our church. We are especially grateful for the generosity of the congregation that has made this possible.

Bobbye Baylis
Finance Trustee

Ruthven Apple Festival

I am pleased to be able to give a very good report about our booth at the Ruthven Apple Festival.

First, I wish to thank all the people who provided bake goods and preserves. Without you we couldn't have had a booth. Some of the items that were very good sellers, were the jams & jellies and in particular the lime marmalade. Pies went very well as did the loaves. The individually wrapped date squares sold very well and thus brought in more money than sold in larger lots. So that was a good idea. There were also other items that gave us some variety. If the Church is to have a booth in the future, there are some other ideas we can incorporate as this is a learning process.

I wish to thank Steve & Kathy Brennan for helping to organize the event and their help; John Upcott for his setting up the booth and Bill Baylis for his tent. The tent was an excellent idea that protected the booth from rain that didn't happen, as well as keeping the welcome sun from shining on the bake goods.

Last but not least, thanks to Helen Moore, Dorothy Brown, Donna Upcott & Cathy Dewhurst for their coming by the booth and taking care of sales so we could have a break. I will also thank Laurie, my husband, for all the help he gave me before and during that day. I could not have done it on my own.

At the Apple Festival, the proceeds were \$380. Sales of the remainder of the items at Church the next day, brought the total earned to \$557. We paid \$100 for the booth so \$457 went into the church funds. Thanks again to all for making the booth successful at the Ruthven Apple Festival.

Carol Hylton

Social Responsibility Committee Report

The Social Responsibility Committee is looking into a few new projects:

- The Megaquarry near Unicamp is a source of great concern to the people living in that area, as well to everyone in the watershed. Your committee is collecting information about quarries in our area, and we would appreciate anyone with information to pass it on to a committee member. Thanks to Sue Markham, we already have sections of the Kingsville Official Plan relating to resource extraction.
 - We are starting to compile a list of vendors of local food, with an emphasis on organic foods and ethical treatment of animals. Please bring your recommendations to committee members.
- Each of our International Dinners has been to support a charity with goals fitting our Principles. We have not decided on a charity for 2012 and welcome your suggestions.

Committee Members: Gord Taylor, chair, Bobbye Baylis, secretary, Carol Hylton, Karen and Stuart Miller, Sue Markham, Mariette Preyde, Helen Moore, and Rev. Christine Hillman and Bill Baylis, ex officio.

Bobbye Baylis
Secretary, Social Responsibility Committee

CUC Fall Gathering, Oct 21, 2011

Bill Baylis, Karen and Stuart Miller and I attended the Fall Gathering in Peterborough, Ontario. We all had a great time, meeting new UU's, eating Kosher vegetarian meals, and most especially attending music workshops with Nick Page. Bill and I were very fortunate in that we stayed with Jo-Anne and Tony Fondyga, who certainly went more than the extra mile in making sure we were well taken care of.

In the music workshops we were taught how to introduce new music to a general group (not just to a choir) and how to make it fun. Hopefully our Congregation will benefit from our experience. Nick Page is a marvellous musician and most especially, a marvellous person. The chance to experience his energy and perspective was priceless.

I attended the Mega-Quarry Workshop and learned more about its present status. One of the activities recommended by the organizers was that we all keep informed about the status of the attempt to place this quarry in northern Dufferin County, near Unicamp. Highlights of the history:

- Over past 5 years, The Highland Companies purchased land to establish an industrial potato farming enterprise.
- In 2009, they announced the Mega-quarry plan for a significant portion of this land, to create the largest quarry ever proposed in Ontario.
- Mid-March, 2011, they filed an application with the Ministry of Natural Resources for a licence for a load-unlimited quarry covering 2,316 acres in Melancthon Township. No environmental assessment is required in the case of such an application.
- Concerns about the effect on the water table and water quality caused local residents to organize resistance: See www.ndact.ca for details.
- The more detail that has emerged on the operation of this quarry, the more the concern. The system proposed to protect the water supply raises more questions than answers, and there is no reason for confidence that the quarry organizers have really considered all of the consequences of their project.
- The 4,000 letters of objection, the 5-day walk in the spring from Queen's Park to the quarry site, and the recent Foodstock event on Oct. 16 have had the positive result of forcing the Provincial government to insist on a full Environmental Assessment. While this will slow the issuance of the licence, it will not necessarily stop it. Continued vigilance is required by all parties with an interest in this issue. Which should include all of us.

What we can do:

1. Keep in touch with www.ndact.ca for details of petitions, etc.
2. MP David Tilson's petition for a Federal Environmental Assessment is available on his web site: **www.davidtilson.ca/left-icons/default**
3. Push your own MP on this issue.
4. Make connections with other anti-Mega-quarry groups: Council of Canadians, Water Watchers, etc.

Incidentally, one of the suggestions was to have a quarry service. Thanks to Gord Taylor, we are ahead of the curve on that one!

Submitted by
Bobbye Baylis, secretary of the Social Responsibility Committee



If you feel you have a sense of yourself as a Unitarian Universalist and believe yourself ready to become a member of the UU Church of Olinda, please let the minister or board president Bill Baylis know. We will have a membership ceremony on November 13. Welcome!

Capital Campaign

It surely is exciting to see the changes taking place on the exterior of the church with varying colours appearing. One day it was blue and the neighbour rushed over to say, 'You aren't going to have a blue church, are you?' (There are those amongst us who did vote for blue.) Another day it was muddy green though there was much discussion of what that colour really was. The north surface is now china white. The four workers from Alba Stucco and Plastering are working diligently on scaffolding to transform our 130 year old sanctuary.

The original plan was to have the new sanctuary windows installed prior to having the stucco completed. The current plan is to have the windows installed when they are completed. It is the culmination of many years of planning and discussions to begin the Capital Campaign, originally accepting contribution in 2010, in order to replace the sanctuary windows and install a more permanent stucco which does not require scaping and painting every eight to ten years. Proceeds of the last five auctions have been earmarked for church improvements, especially energy saving improvements.

The Board of Directors set the goal of \$100,000 so that the windows and stucco could be replaced in the sanctuary and that additional maintenance and improvements on the church could be made. We continue to make progress toward our goal with all the windows paid for or pledged within the next two years and the cost of the stucco also being paid for.

Thank you for all your generous contributions. If you still wish to make a contribution, please know that we are continuing to accept donations. In anticipation of reaching our goal, we have scheduled a celebration luncheon to combine the successful progress of the Capital Campaign, the 131st anniversary of the founding of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Olinda, the 130th anniversary of the sanctuary and the tenth anniversary of Reverend Christine Hillman's ministry at our church.

Respectfully submitted:
Helen Moore
Capital Campaign

Children's Aid Society Christmas Family



Hard to believe that it is already that time of year when we begin to think of our Christmas projects. The Board of Directors, at our meeting on October 20th, approved the sponsorship of one or more most needy families who are supported by the Children's Aid Society. Carabel Ringrose regularly notifies the Christmas elves to shop for the family or families on the last Saturday in November or the first Saturday in December so that the gifts can be displayed at church and then prepared to be picked up and distributed to the Christmas families.

If you wish to make a contribution to our Christmas family, please do as early in November as it is convenient for you so that the elves know how much they can spend. We will, of course, accept money whenever you are able to make a contribution! Please mark your contribution envelope and cheque, if you contribute by cheque, Christmas family or CAS.

Thank you for your consideration. Helen Moore