



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 February 2012

- | | | |
|---------------|--|---|
| Feb 5 | Anxiety, worry and Stress: How to Survive
John Postons | Music: Bobbye & Bill Baylis
with Ray Stone |
| Feb 12 | God is a River, Not Just a Stone
Reverend Christine Hillman | Music: Carabel Ringrose |
| Feb 19 | Language is the House in Which We Live
Reverend Christine Hillman | Music: Lorie Lyons |
| Feb 26 | The Bounty and Deficit of Our Humanist Heritage
Reverend Christine Hillman | Music: Toni Janik |

Annual Meeting

Unitarian Universalist Church of Olinda
Sunday, February 12, 2012
following the church service

Congregational Meeting

Sunday, February 12, 2012

following the annual meeting

To vote on the motion to approve expenditure of a maximum of \$4,000 (four thousand) to replace the carpet runners and the carpet surrounding the pulpit in the sanctuary. The expenditures are to be paid for from the Memorial Fund.



This Sunday and next I am out of the pulpit. It will still be a busy time. I'm using the time, doing many of the things I do on a regular basis but instead of writing two sermons in this time, I'm actually beginning work on next year's services. A new folder in the computer, starting the task of creating the chart of all Sundays, transferring resources from the 2011-2012 folder to the 2012-2013 folder. It isn't arduous work but it is timely work. I have filled each Sunday for the rest of this church year, til the end of June with sermon topics. If I have an insight via my own head, other ministers, the radio or, maybe, perhaps (not likely) from my dog, I'll have a place to put the beginning document and the chart to consider what Sunday I will preach that sermon. I enjoy this time of year and that work. I've learned over this past ten and a half years at Olinda that time moves fast, a bullet train of Sundays and such.

Note that Bobbye Baylis, Bonnie Showers and I will be leading eight sessions of "The Welcoming Congregation beginning March 4. Bring your own lunch and on that day we will plan together when and how regularly we all, together, want to experience the seven additional sessions - monthly, weekly, bi-weekly.... Be sure to sign up for the course, knowing that a minimum of six are necessary to make the course hum along and the sky's the limit to numbers as there can be opportunities to break up into smaller groups for discussions, etc. What a wonderful gift it is that we can now enter into this curriculum to explore the world of the LGBTQQA community - start with learning, if you haven't already, what those letters mean, and how diverse the folks who make up this community are. I'm excited; I hope you are as well!

By the time you receive this newsletter I will have led the funeral service for our dear Joan Meuser. A hard time coming, peace now for her family as they unwind from the complexities of these last months. Olinda has suffered serious loss in the last few months, long time members whose faces and commitments the congregation has come to expect, and yet they are now gone from their pews and their places, though not yet gone from our memories. Life and death come when they come, now, in the past, and also in the future. For now, people though, let's take a break from the dying! Although I can't ask such a thing, I know some of us are feeling it, or something akin to it, in any event: Let's breathe, find peace and move forward, carrying the spirits of the departed with us, as well as we invite the new into this beautiful fold..

*Faithfully and in faith,
Rev. Christine*

"It is our duty as men and women to proceed as though the limits of our abilities do not exist."
Pierre Teilhard de Chardin -

Important Dates in February

Feb. 1	7 PM	Choir Rehearsal
Feb. 8	7 PM	Book Club, Sarah's Key
Feb. 12	12 noon	Annual General Meeting, Stone Soup
Feb. 16*	7 PM	Board Meeting (tentative)
Feb. 19	9:15 AM	Sunday Services Meeting
Feb. 19	12 noon	Social Responsibility Meeting
Feb. 22	7 PM	Choir Rehearsal
Feb. 26	12 noon	CUC Democracy Workshop, Chili Lunch



From the Board

The first Board meeting of 2012 on January 19 dealt with several items that required reflection and discussion, and it kept your Board of Trustees busy for almost two and a half hours. Some of the important issues are summarized here.

We are looking forward to the Annual General Meeting (AGM) after the service on February 12. Secretary Karen Miller has been busy assembling all the pieces that trustees and other committee chairs have been writing, and there has been much to write about and celebrate in 2011. Treasurer Peter LeClair will present the bottom line in his financial report showing that the budgeted deficit was reduced to practically zero, thanks to generous donations made in spite of our substantial contributions to the capital campaign. The nature of the capital improvements will be reviewed by Property Trustee Stuart Miller, and others will discuss many other notable events. This will surely be a valuable Annual Report to save for posterity! The Annual Report will be ready to be taken and read a couple of weeks before the AGM, and the AGM itself will give all members a chance to ask questions and to vote in a slate of new officers and the Board of Trustees. The Board welcomes new blood and encourages wide participation by members. If you are willing and able to help on any committee or with any task, please speak to me, to a Trustee, or with our nominating committee (Jane Innerd, Mariette Preyde, and Joyse Gilbert). The AGM will be accompanied by our traditional stone soup (be sure to bring your tastiest stones!*) and it will be immediately followed by a short congregational meeting to consider the use of memorial funds to replace carpeting in the sanctuary.

At its meeting, the Board also considered a request by the Canadian Unitarian Council (CUC), which is the collective association of church members, of which we are a part, to hold a workshop on democracy in the CUC and to advise them on how best to balance the need for democracy with the desire to have an efficient operation that allows us to voice positions on important national and international issues, for example on human rights and social justice. The Board set the date of February 26 for a 2 to 2-and-a-half hour workshop following the Sunday service and accompanied by a chilli lunch. The workshop may also have implications for our own governance and structure.

Another item that required discussion at the Board meeting was the possible installation of photo-voltaic solar panels on the roof of the church. We now have three quotations for the work. What we don't know at the moment is what the feed-in tariff (FIT) will be that the church will be guaranteed for generating energy under the micro-FIT program. The Ontario government has considered the issue and is expected to lower the rate by 15 or 20% from its current rate of 80.2 cents per kWh, more or less balancing the reduction that has occurred in the cost of PV solar modules. A return on investment (ROI) in the neighbourhood of 12 to 14% is still anticipated. There are many implications that need broader discussion in the church, and the Board decided to hold an information session following church service on March 4.

Be sure to read other reports in this newsletter for more information on your Board's activities, and remember to pick up your Annual Report a week or two before our AGM on February 12.

The next Board meeting is scheduled on February 16, 2012 at 7 PM, although this might be changed to suit the new Board. All church members are welcome to attend our Board Meetings.

Bill Baylis, President

* cans of non-cream vegetable soup are also welcome.

Financial Committee Report

During January the Treasurer pays the last 2011 bills and can pull together all of the financial reports for 2011. This is our chance to see how we have managed our financial responsibilities for the past year. When we took on the responsibility to do major renovations on the exterior of the church, we knew it was going to require a lot of money. That we managed to gather enough money in time for each of the major steps in the renovation was a great credit to our members and friends of our church. In spite of these major outlays, our congregation was also able to trim the budgeted operating deficit for 2011 from almost \$8000 down to under \$400. These were certainly quite the accomplishments.

The only other Finance Trustee news is that a date has already been set for the aUuction: April 21. If anyone knows why this date should be changed, please let me know. Also we will be looking for volunteers to help with the organization and running of the aUuction. Most important is to start thinking about what you would like to donate. A sign-up sheet will go up in the Coffee Room during February, so we will have plenty of time to collect an impressive list for use in advertising the event. Incidentally, the Board has voted to use the proceeds from this aUuction to pay for renovations in the basement. More details to follow.

Congratulations to all!

Bobbye Baylis

Social Responsibility Committee Report

Several activities have been undertaken in the last couple of months by the committee.

1. The curriculum for a Welcoming Congregation adult education class has been chosen, and classes will start on March 11.
2. An attempt to learn about potential extended quarry operations in the area was made, but there was no information available. We would appreciate your help in our continuing to keep an eye on this.
3. We are looking for films or knowledgeable speakers on Free/Fair Trade, extra-legal government activities, or unintended consequences of the Omnibus Crime Bill. Please contact anyone on the committee with suggestions.
4. Our Local Foods initiative has stalled due to an excess of information. We would appreciate input on your favourite sources of healthy and ethical foods so we can be a bit more selective in posting suggested food-related businesses.
5. Solar panels could become a reality for the UU Church of Olinda! More on that on March 4.
6. The Sunday Services Committee suggested we chose April 29 as the date for our International Dinner. On that Sunday Jake Soderlund will be speaking. He has spent time in the Congo, so it would be reasonable to focus on Africa for our dinner and for the recipient of any funds collected at the dinner.

There are several important issues about which we need to be more informed, such as the privatization of part of Jasper National Park and the Canada Post Declaration. We will be putting links to some of these activities on our blog site, uuolinda.org.

Please let us know your thoughts on any of the above activities. Your input will make your SRC more effective.

Bobbye Baylis, secretary of the SRC

Book Club

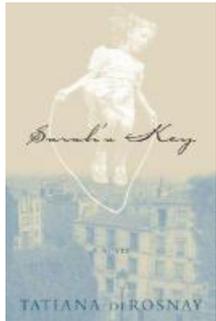
This group of congregants and friends gathers once a month (1st Wednesday) at the home of book club members, the Church, or other arranged venues.

During the meeting a selected book, author, or theme previously selected by each member in turn is discussed. The 'fun-loving' group is into another year of reading, learning and socializing.

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

Book for Month – February, 2012:

Sarah's Key (2007)



Author: Tatiana de Rosnay, (1961 -)

Summary:

Paris, July 1942:

Sarah, a ten year-old girl, is arrested with her family by the French police in the Vel d'Hiv' roundup, but not before she locks her younger brother in a cupboard in the family's apartment, thinking that she will be back within a few hours. Journalist Julia Jarmond is asked to write an article about this black day in France's past.

Through her contemporary investigation, she stumbles onto a trail of long-hidden family secrets. As she probes into Sarah's past, she begins to question her own place in France, and to re-evaluate her marriage and her life.

Location of Meeting: The Haynes Residence, Kingsville

Leader: Pat Haynes

Date: 08 February, 2012; 7 pm

(Note that this is actually the 2nd Wednesday of February – The date has been 'pushed' to better accommodate our retired friends, and their world excursions)

Caring Committee Report

On January 20th Joan Meuser passed away after a long and hard illness. She will be missed in our congregation and by those who called her "friend". She taught me English at Kingsville High and was the first person to introduce me to William Shakespeare and fostered my interest in theatre. Our hearts go out to her family who were there all through her illness.

February has been a month where love rules and I hope it always will. Happy Valentine's Day to our shut in's Jean Wallis in London and Albertina Bell in Erie Glen and to all of you.

Caring Committee

Eunice Goyette – 519-398-9565

June Blacker – 519-735-5154

Rev. Christine Hillman – 519-326-4352 or 519-733-3905

John Upcott – 519-733-5172 or 519-551-6577