



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 2012

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| May 6 | The Gift of Fear
Reverend Christine Hillman | Music: Bobbye & Bill Baylis
with Ray Stone |
| May 13 | The Gift of Anger
Reverend Christine Hillman | Music: Toni Janik |
| May 20 | From Dormancy to Authenticity: What Spring Can Teach Us
Tisha Moore | Music: Carabel Ringrose |
| May 27 | Giggling with God
Reverend Andrew M. Weber | Music: Lorie Lyons |

SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING **Sunday, May 27, 2012, at 12 Noon**

A proposal from the Board will be considered to invest up to about 15% of the Lloyd fund in the solar panel project at a guaranteed 20-year return of about 10% per annum. The initial investment is \$5000 with the rest due in stages after approvals from the Local Distribution Company (LDC) and Ontario Power Authority (OPA), expected about 2 months after the application is made.

UU Olinda Bake Sale and Yard Sale Saturday, May 26 - 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Mark your calendars for our annual Bake Sale and Yard sale on May 26th -- an important fundraiser for the church and an enjoyable time for everybody. We welcome your donations of homemade baked goods, and clean, quality household items. No electrical appliances please. Bring your donations to the church in advance. You can drop off your baked goods on Thursday, May 24, between 1 p.m. and 3 p.m., or on Saturday before the sale begins.

Bring your yard sale donations to church on any Sunday morning throughout May, and store them under the tables downstairs, or bring them to the church on the Thursday afternoon before the sale. We would prefer donations to be here as early as possible.

You can also help out by taking an advertising flyer from the hall table to put up somewhere in the community, and by bringing your friends to the sale.

If you are free to help with set-up on Thursday May 24th, or if you can volunteer on the Saturday of the sale, please call Linda Goyette at [519-326-3468](tel:519-326-3468). Thanks!



There are times when it is a great difficulty to hear what the other is saying? To bend into the possibility of another point of view being closer to the mark than our own.

I come to writing this column just having been at Face Book checking who said what, what organizations I follow are reporting, etc. Lots going on! And then I checked a particular Face Book "friend's" page to see if she had read what I had posted on her page. Seems we're no longer friends. Several days ago she had posted a "proof" that the style of dress so generally preferred by teenagers of wearing their jeans at what I call "half mast" originally came from gay men doing same, especially in prison, to indicate they are gay. Well, I knew this was just not true, even though she had done what she called research. So I did research on this of my own. I went to my colleagues and asked what they know of this dress style. I got about five or six responses.

The origins are lost in the mist of time but basically the style of WAY low-riding jeans comes from where much of teen style comes from, the place of wanting to be different (if not original) and in the end to irritate one's parents. I've seen this a number of times before. The first example I can think of but before my time was the Flapper era in the 1920s, and though not so much teens, young women cut their hair short to bobs instead of their mothers' stately rolls of their very long hair piled high on the back and the tops of their heads. I remember teens wearing white t-shirts and blue jeans, with both sleeves and pants legs rolled up, perhaps a cigarette behind the ear. The boys who had dropped out of high school in my growing up community would stand at Kat's Korner, across from Kokomo High School and flaunt their dress and their smokes to the students and the faculty.

I posted the following last Saturday, well before the former friend posted her comments about pants at half mast: "Several nights ago I saw four young Canadian teens at a convenience store. All of them were wearing jeans almost hanging below their skinny butts. Being in a state of -- I don't know what -- I said (something like) to them: 'Do you realize you're wearing the clothing style of another group of people, style they created. You're not being creative at all. You're just stealing somebody else's ideas. You're young and bright you could come up with your own style and make other people want to wear what you're wearing, rather than just following somebody else and doing what they do.' They just stared at back at me. Rather than seeing a glorious goddess of imagination, they saw a saggy 62 yo woman. At least they didn't likely know I'm American -- they didn't mention that at any rate." And at least they've heard from one person they aren't being "different" even. They're just doing as teens have long done, the same thing as lots of other teens. And I would truly love to see them all be uniquely themselves not somebody else.

There are many more similar examples and most of them aren't about what kids are wearing or why. It is hard for others to hear us and for us to hear others. Like this former friend and the teens at the convenience store, we human beings have a propensity to take a stand and want to stay there without bending like a willow nor moving our arc toward anything other than the stand we have first taken or our closest friends or relatives have taken. To be stiff as trees with shallow roots standing in a great wind until the power of the wind pushes them over. It's hard work; I know from myself and my experience to bend like the willow. Sometimes it is best to back away but most often it is best to engage further, trust the motives of the ones around us and to breathe fully and calmly into new possibility.

*Faithfully and in faith,
Rev. Christine*



From the Board

Your Board has been working overtime! We had a full agenda for our meeting on April 19 that kept us busy for well over three hours. Besides catching up on approvals of old minutes, we reviewed the successful pasta dinner and aUuction on April 14 (MANY thanks to all!) and discussed the next steps to be taken after the April 15th congregational meeting on repairs associated with the stucco work and on the funding of the solar panel project. In response to concerns about the structural integrity of our historic building for solar panels, we agreed to get the opinion of an independent structural engineer. Stuart Miller has offered to work with Doug Whaley expedite the process in time for another congregational meeting at the end of May, and the Lloyd Fund committee will be asked to give its assessment of the impact on the Lloyd Fund of making an investment in solar panels. See also a separate piece in this Newsletter on Solar Panels and the Lloyd Fund.

Three quotations have been obtained for replacing roofing shingles under the areas that would carry the panels, and in the process, it was noted that the tall chimney over the living quarters was crumbling and in need of repair. The chimney dates back to a time before the coal-burning furnaces were replaced by ones running on natural gas. The gas furnaces require only a flu rather than a tall chimney, and thus the present cinder-block structure can be replaced by a lower vent. This would eliminate the guy wires that are not only ugly but pose a hazard for roofers or solar-panel installers. A quotation to make the replacement for \$550 plus tax was accepted. The Board also thanked Ron Hicks for his beautiful work to install new railings for the steps up to the pulpit.

Now that Donna Marentette is retiring, the Board has agreed to arrangements for her daughter, Lenny di Santi, to take over the regular cleaning of the church. Plans for the International Dinner on April 29, the gifts to the House of Sophrosyne, on Mother's Day (May 13), and the Yard and Bake Sale on May 26 were also discussed.

Some time was spent trying to arrange for an orderly transition when Dorothy Brown and her faithful crew retire in June. They have clearly spoiled us all of the years with their dedicated work and food preparation. It will take many volunteers to replace them, and we should probably get used to leaner fare at future coffee hours.

The Board approved of Linda Goyette as one of our delegates to the CUC annual meeting in Ottawa in mid May. She will join Reverend Christine Hillman there to represent our interests. Linda has also agreed to finish the project of printing the church telephone directory after Karen Miller announced that she did not have time to finish it.

The next Board meeting is scheduled at 7 PM one week earlier than usual, on Thursday, May 10, 2012. All church members are welcome to attend.

Bill Baylis, President

Social Responsibility Committee

The International Dinner for 2012 is being held on April 29, following a service at which Jake Soderlund is speaking on South Sudan. In keeping with the theme, there will be some African dishes available, but the committee is not confident enough to stick to unfamiliar cuisine. So there will be Canadian food available, too! All donations made at this dinner will go to the Stephen Lewis Foundation.

The first workshop on Welcoming Congregations was held on April 22 and was attended by 15 people, with Rev. Christine Hillman presiding. All of us enjoyed the relaxed atmosphere of the session and learned quite a bit. We were so enthusiastic that we plan 3 sessions for May 6, which means a potluck supper will be needed to carry us through!

Incidentally, if you wonder why a dinner held in April is being presented in the future tense, it is because all reports needed to be in to Colette by April 24!

Submitted by
Bobbye Baylis, Secretary, Social Responsibility Committee

Important Dates in May

May 2	7 PM	Book Club, <u>Dream When You're Feeling Blue</u>
May 6	9:15 AM	Sunday Services Committee Meeting
May 6	12:15	Welcoming Congregation Workshop, Sessions 2, 3, & 8, Potluck Supper
May 9	7 PM	Choir Rehearsal
May 10	7 PM	Board Meeting
May 13	10:30 AM	House of Sophrosyne Donations Due
May 20	12 noon	Social Responsibility Committee Meeting
May 23	7 PM	Choir Rehearsal
May 26	9 AM	Yard and Bake Sale
May 27	12 noon	Congregational Meeting: Solar Panels
May 30	7 PM	Choir Rehearsal

Other Business

Gifts for the House of Sophrosyne

For the past few years (except when we forget), on Mothers' Day we bring donations for the House of Sophrosyne, a residential treatment centre for women with chemical dependencies. When these women enter the centre for a two-week stay, they often have not thought to bring some toiletries, so that is an additional expense for the House, which has some Ministry of Health funding, supplemented by donations. This year I called the House and asked what they particularly needed:

Special: Epson salts, Sleepytime Tea, Feminine hygiene products, baskets or toiletry bags, towels, face cloths

The usual: Toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant, liquid hand soap, shampoo, conditioner, etc.

Note: No bar soap, no liquids containing any kind of alcohol.

So if you wish to participate, bring your gift on Mothers' Day, May 13. Feel free to expand beyond the above. I remember someone bringing slippers and nightgowns one year.

Thanks for helping out.
Bobbye Baylis

Book Club

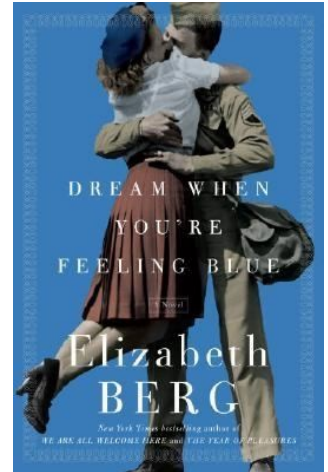
This group of congregants and friends gathers once a month (1st Wednesday) at the home of book club members, the Church, or other arranged venues.

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 – May 2012:

Title: *Dream When You're Feeling Blue*



Author: *Elizabeth Berg*

Summary: New York Times bestselling author Elizabeth Berg takes us to Chicago at the time of World War II in this wonderful story about three sisters, their lively Irish family, and the men they love. The lifelong consequences of the choices the Heaney sisters make are at the heart of this superb novel about the power of love and the enduring strength of family.

Location of Meeting: The Gilbert Residence, Kingsville

Leader: Joyse Gilbert

Date: 02 May, 2012; 7 pm

Caring Committee Report

Welcome to May, how fast the church year is flying by!

Well wishes go to Leona Crowder for a speedy recovery from surgery and to Eunice Goyette "Good Luck" in all her tests at the hospital. We all hope Buster Ringrose is feeling better after a short spell Saturday night, but I know he must be because he and Carabel were seen playing music at the Southgate Retirement Home.

A special hello to Albertina Bell at Erie Glen and to Jean Upcott Wallis in London, we hope all is well with them.

As I write this I am hearing on the radio of the Queen's 86th Birthday and her 60 year Jubilee Celebration in June. If she is reading this the U.U. Church of Olinda sends our congratulations. As always if you know of someone who needs a good wish or help in any way, please let the committee know so we can try to help.

John

Caring Committee

Eunice Goyette

June Blacker

Rev. Christine Hillman

John Upcott

Olinda Connections'

Two of the senior members of our congregation are John and Evelyn Dresser. John was President of the Universalist Convention of the Province of Ontario from 1965 into the 1980's. Evelyn was President of our Women's Association from 1957 to 1977.

John was President through the ministry of Rev. Leonard Thompson, and Rev. Conrad Dippel. When Rev. Martha Munson became minister it was time for a change. As Louise Foulds' history states, that in 1983, new By-Laws for the church were set in place and "Olinda's governance was further simplified by "retiring" the Ontario Universalist Convention of which Olinda had been the sole member since the closing of the Blenheim church in 1938 and transferring its assets, the Lloyd Fund and the building to the church."

Prior to our present day Annual General Meetings, these Convention meetings were quite an affair...at least two days (one for business meeting and the other for services and entertainment).

John recalls the Convention's centennial June 1977. The occasion drew one hundred and seventy people to the church. Rev. Leonard Thompson conducted the service with Peg Gooding, Chaplain and DRE as guest speaker. From Louise's book..."after the service John Dresser, President of the Convention, presided over the anniversary program. Special guests who spoke briefly included William De Wolfe, Stewart Moore, Adelia Minor, Dick Roe, Barbara Arnott, and Howard Bruner. Among the memorabilia on display for the occasion was a quilt made some fifty years earlier (approx. 1927) on which had been embroidered the names of all the members and children of the Olinda congregation."

John was also active on the property committee. He remembers hauling many loads of wood (thrown into the coal chute) for the church furnace. The wood came from Elmer Upcott's bush and John's family farm bush. He helped to take out the hot water heating system from the parsonage in the 40's.

He drew many loads of water for the church cistern (from E. Upcott's well). Drinking water came from an outside pump in the schoolyard across the road.

As he was a bit of a plumber, he hooked up the water line to the church, installed the copper piping in the basement (replacing iron pipes), installed the original kitchen sink upstairs and helped remove the legged tub from the bathroom and replaced it with the set in tub. He also remembers helping to shingle the church roof.

In 1959 John and Evelyn alone tore down the horse shed/livery stable built in 1889. It was in poor repair but they were able to salvage a bit of the wood to use in the construction of their garage.

John turns 90 years young this summer.

Financial Committee Report

As usual, a lively time was had by all at our annual aUction. Karen and Stuart Miller spiced it up with a cowboy theme, John and Linda Upcott fed everyone with a tasty Pasta Dinner, and Carol & Laurie Hylton, John & Pat Haynes, and Joyse Gilbert & Peter LeClair added a Wheel of Fortune to the festivities. Also music by Carabel and Buster Ringrose and intermission snacks by Linda Goyette! Many thanks to all who did the organizational work, made and brought the items, and especially those who bought the items.

So far we have collected \$3228, which will go to sprucing up the basement. There is quite a list of things that need to be done, and the Property Committee will decide on the priority and start work.

Bobbye Baylis



Membership Committee Report

This is a reminder to you, to pick up your new Phone Tree List.

I am sure you will enjoy reading the **Olinda Connections** story again this month. This will give you an idea of how wonderful it is to learn a person's story. So please think about your story you might share. I am thinking ahead for the month of November newsletter and requesting that any of you who are Veterans, please make up a recap of the period that you were in the Service. Basically, include the period you were in service and where you served. You may include a special memory or event that you would like to share. It will be much appreciated and we don't want your name to be missed. As I will be away during October, I am requesting you have this information for me by mid September.

Dorothy Brown will be retiring from her many years of church duties at the end of June. We all know Dorothy best by all she has done for our after-church refreshments as well as setting up for our various dinners throughout the year. We certainly all thank her for all she has done. Also with her retirement Marion and Donna will retire as well as her newest helper Kathy. Thanks to these ladies as well. As you read this, you might all feel in a panic....what about our after-church refreshments???? What about our dinners???? We are going through big changes, and this is just one more as we are all now pitching in to see that there are flowers for each church service as Sheron used to do on her own.

We all will agree that Dorothy has spoiled us to the extremes. So now what do we do? We do not expect that we should continue to be spoiled. As difficult as it might be, we have to admit that we need to alter our expectations starting in September. This has become an important part of our church life and is a real bonding period in various ways. We know Dorothy is a tough act to follow, but please don't be afraid to tackle this, you will be much appreciated.

We are asking anyone who might be interested in heading up a committee to be responsible for this area of our church life... it is suggested that you might form a committee and then if you wish to organize some volunteers to take turns on specific Sundays; that would be your choice. The responsibilities of the committee:

Refreshments after church service - the beverages along with some cheese and crackers and if you wish some store-bought cookies. Each Sunday the conveners would arrive early to prepare items to be served, and clean up afterwards.

Purchase of the above beverage/food supplies. Also purchase all the paper products for our facility, ie. paper towels, bathroom tissue, kleenex etc. Turn your receipts of purchases to the Treasurer, Peter LeClair.

Organize set up for dinners.

Thank you.

Carol Hylton

Solar Panels and the Lloyd Fund

The need for humankind to replace the consumption of carbon-based fuels with conservation and renewable energy sources has never been clearer. The expanding energy needs of a world population of over 7 billion and growing by a billion every 12 years, are already colliding with the reality of finite fossil fuel deposits. Rising prices drive the rapid but inefficient extraction of oil from Canada's sand- and tar-laden bitumen with little accounting of environmental costs. We have added carbon dioxide to the atmosphere at unprecedented rates, reaching levels well beyond those at any time since the first appearance of humans on this planet. The direct and feedback effects are leading to unmistakable effects of global warming such as water levels rising faster than ever before. In spite of a well-organized and financed army of deniers, the scientific consensus is clear. The only question is whether we have already passed the breaking point, when such effects as coastal flooding, mass extinction of species, and extreme weather events become unavoidable.

Our UU principles include not only a free and responsible search for truth and meaning but also respect for the interdependent web of all existence. One way we can help do our part in preserving a livable habitat for future generations is to replace some of the energy currently made from fossil fuel by renewable energy such as PV solar power. Indeed, a proposal by your Board of Trustees to have about 10 kW of solar panels installed on the south and west sections of the church roof by the Windsor firm Green Sun Rising (greensunrising.com) has been accepted in principle by the congregation. It follows similar but larger projects in Guelph (guelph-unitarians.com) and Toronto (nuuc.ca/solarpanels.htm). The main remaining question has been how to fund the approximately \$65,000 project. The cost may be considered an investment that under the new feed-in tariff (FIT) rates that are guaranteed over the lifetime of a 20-year contract with the Ontario government returns about 10% per year. After considering several alternatives, the Board feels that in order for the church to reap maximum financial benefit from the project, that it be taken on as one of the investments of the Lloyd fund. It would represent about 15% of the current investments of the fund and would provide an attractive diversity in the investments. Unlike most stocks and bonds, it would not be subject to the risk of sometimes wild market fluctuations but would give a steady and reliable return that according to calculations (that I will gladly share!) exceeds the average return achieved by the Lloyd fund over the past year or over the past 4 to 8 years.

An investment in solar panels is a long-term one, and even after the end of the 20-year contract, the panels should operate at about 85% of their initial efficiency. The future cost of electricity per kWh after 20 years is not known but it will probably be several times the current rate so that even without a FIT program, net metering will continue to produce a similar return on investment.

Bill Baylis,
President of the Board