



# 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 June 2012

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| <b>June 3</b>  | <b>God is a River Not Just a Stone</b><br>Reverend Christine Hillman                 | Music: Carabel Ringrose                      |
| <b>June 10</b> | <b>Flower Communion and Volunteer Recognition</b><br>Reverend Christine Hillman      | Music: Karen Miller,<br>Bobbye & Bill Baylis |
| <b>June 17</b> | <b>What Must We Endure? What Shall We Overcome?</b><br>Reverend Christine Hillman    | Music: Carabel Ringrose                      |
| <b>June 24</b> | <b>Soaring Inequity Comes at a Huge Price &amp; Must Be Stopped</b><br>Howard Pawley | Music: Bobbye & Bill Baylis                  |



## UU Mass Choir

The Olinda singers have been rehearsing for the UU Choir Festival in Ann Arbor, Michigan, at 4 PM on Sunday, June 3, 2012. In addition to the pieces selected by each of the nine participating choirs, one piece will be sung by the choir directors themselves, and another has been especially commissioned for the festival by the UU Ann Arbor church, which is hosting the event. Also, composer Carolyn McDade is scheduled to attend and lead the audience in one or two anthems. This promises to be the best UU choir festival ever held in Michigan, and you won't want to miss it! The Olinda singers may perform a couple of the pieces in our Olinda church, but they won't be able to match the sound of a 130-piece choir.

Directions and a map to the Ann Arbor church can be found at <http://uuaa.org/directions-and-transportation> .

Bill





“Let us not look back in anger, nor forward in fear, but around in awareness. ”

James Thurber

This quote from Thurber were the closing words of the second in a series of two sermons I offered on human emotion, the first on fear as a gift, the second on anger as a gift. These two sermons served my own understanding and experience of these deeply human emotions and I can only hope they had some such similar impact on those who heard the sermons. We so deny fear and anger as part of our membership in polite society, when, in fact, these two emotions are essential to survival and increase in us, as much as are the emotions of joy and appreciation.

It is always a bit of an odd thing to write my column for the June newsletter, as I write and send it along just as I am to sally forth to the CUC AGM (and this year, also symposium), followed by the ministers retreat. The AGM and symposium in Ottawa, the retreat in the eastern reaches of Montreal. When you read these June columns I am already back from the two consecutive journeys and adventures. As to the timing of what I write, there's a desire to be able to report on the gathering of so many Unitarian Universalists from across the country, this year in particular as the symposium is set to encourage the gathered leaders of our Canadian congregations on a whole new direction of our religious journey, that is, if we truly do the work set to us. But as ministers seldom have great internet access to the internet while on retreat, and conducting much daily/monthly church business on retreat seems to be contrary to the meaning of retreat, I can't do what I would most wish. And then there are no newsletters for such a significant column in either July or August. In September we are already looking to the new church year at hand, hardly looking back at months-old events, even as our country-wide religious tradition and movement is being changed by things said and decided at the symposium months ago.

“Perhaps my greatest wisdom is the knowledge that I do not know. The sad ones are those who wastes their energy in trying to hold it back, for they can only feel bitterness in loss and no joy in gain”

John Steinbeck in *Travels with Charley*

The book from which this quote comes is something of a journal interpreting Steinbeck's travels across the U.S. 52 years ago. I purchased the book only in part because it was written by this extraordinary and prodigious author. I bought it largely because the Charley with whom he traveled was a 10 year old standard poodle, and as the caregiver for a 9 year old standard poodle Sophie myself, (my dog named after an extraordinary UU religious educator of the mid section of the twentieth century, a woman a born a bit earlier than Steinbeck, Sophia Lyon Fahs. Both were people who “revere[d] the past, but trust[ed] the dawning future more” (a phrase from one the hymns in our grey hymnal). And they were both thinkers and writers in the midst of the meaning of their own time, a time pressing into the future. They recognized the loss to be found in using energy trying to hold the future back. May such truth be so for the people of the congregation of this dear Unitarian Universalist Church of Olinda.

Faithfully and in faith,

Rev. Christine



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## From the Board

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Your Board met a week earlier this month so that our minister could attend before leaving for the CUC meeting in Ottawa. On May 10, we reviewed the successful International Dinner in April 29 and its collection of monies to be sent to the Stephen Lewis foundation, as well as the progress of a collection to the House of Sophrosyne, and the Yard and Bake sale on May 26. Plans were also reviewed for the annual picnic at the Upcott farm on June 10 and for a recognition of Dorothy Brown and her crew for all the work they have done over the years in keeping the congregation happy, well fed, and cared for during coffee hour and potluck meals.

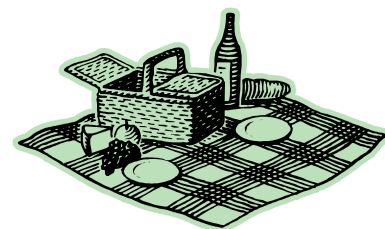
In response to concerns about the structural integrity of our historic building for solar panels, we agreed to get the opinion of an independent structural engineer. Stuart Miller is working with Doug Whaley to expedite the process in time for another congregational meeting on May 27, and once an engineer's report, Bill is to arrange a meeting with Doug Whaley and interested Board members in order to avoid misunderstanding and to promote general consensus. The Board, which is on record favouring funding of solar panels by an investment from the Lloyd fund, was hopeful that its proposal be seen as a way to provide stability to about a sixth of the Lloyd fund by replacing the sometimes wild fluctuations of the market place with a reliable and reasonable return. The actual return on the solar-panel investment depends on the sun of course, but as one Board member remarked, the sun has generally been much more reliable than the stock market!

There are other capital projects that the Church wants to undertake with funds already collected. This includes a park bench for the front porch and new windows and other repairs to the basement. The park bench was a suggestion by John Haynes that received immediate Board approval, with funds to be provided by the memorial fund. A discussion of future capital improvements is to be held at a special Board meeting at 7 PM on June 7.

The next regular Board meeting is scheduled at 7 PM on Thursday, June 14, 2012. All church members are welcome to attend.

Bill Baylis, President

**Annual Picnic June 10th  
Upcott Farm**



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## Social Responsibility Committee

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The International Dinner was quite a success - good food, good discussions, and good donations! We were able to send the Stephen Lewis Foundation \$600, partly due to the generous donation of the speaker, Jake Soderlund, of his payment.

The second meeting of those studying the issues involved in becoming a Welcoming Congregation had 15 attendees, in spite of the advance warning that we were planning to cover 3 sessions at once. In fact, after two sessions we realized that, while we were all enjoying the experience, trying for one more 2-hour session would be a mistake. The committee (Rev. Hillman, Bonnie Showers-Malanoski, and I) will meet this summer and draw up a schedule for the fall, to finish the total of 8 sessions.

Our chair, Gord Taylor, is looking into another film to show next fall after church. Hopefully popcorn will be provided. Stay tuned!

Submitted by  
Bobbye Baylis, Secretary, Social Responsibility Committee

## Important Dates in June

June 2	10 AM	Rehearsal in Ann Arbor
June 3	4 PM	Choir Concert in Ann Arbor
June 6	7 PM	Book Club, <u><a href="#">Dream When Your're Feeling Blue</a></u>
June 7	7 PM	Special Board Meeting on Property Improvements
June 10	9:15 AM	Choir Rehearsal
June 10	Noon	Annual Picnic at John & Linda Upcott's home
June 13	7 PM	Choir Rehearsal
June 14	7 PM	Board Meeting
June 17	9:15 AM	Sunday Services Committee Meeting
June 17	12 Noon	Congregation photo

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## Membership Committee Report

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During May there were 2 Dinners for Eight, hosted by John & Pat Haynes & Mariette Preyde. I wish to thank the hosts. You can think about hosting a dinner for the fall and winter, they are most enjoyable.

I wish to announce that our new Olinda Directory will be ready by mid June or slightly prior to. We thank Linda Goyette for taking on this project and Bill Baylis for the publishing of it. Also we thank Linda for her organizing the yard and bake sale, Dorothy of taking care of the bake table, as well as, all others who helped make it happen. Thank you all for your contributions to make it successful, it sure takes all of us.

**Dorothy's retirement** – we would really like to have a committee in place prior to the end of June. Please let me know if you will take on this project and if you have any questions about how it might be organized, please feel free to ask me. Mainly, the committee will purchase the supplies and take care of the sign-up list and organize the volunteers to cover the Sundays. If it is done in this fashion, no one has to be obligated for every Sunday. There is a volunteer sign-up list for your Sunday social hour on the bulletin board and we would appreciate your signing up so that it will give someone an idea that they have your support, should they consider taking on the committee work. If you are interested, you can come early some Sunday and review with Dorothy what needs to happen. This summer I will work with Dorothy and make up a sheet for the Sunday routine that will begin in September.

**Without you, there might not be any refreshments after church. It takes all of us to make it happen.**

Carol Hylton

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## Book Club

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This group of congregants and friends gathers once a month (1<sup>st</sup> 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*

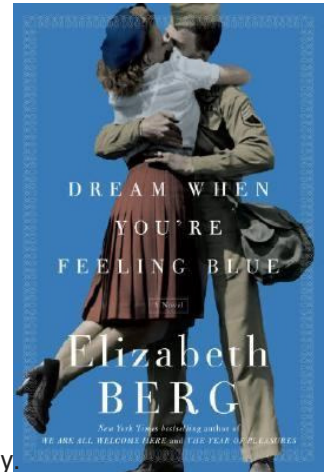
### **Book for Month – June 2012**

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**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:** June 6th, 2012; 7 pm

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## Caring Committee Report

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Summer is near and the church year is almost over.

Thankfully this report will be short because the health of this congregation, as far as I know, is in fairly good shape.

Leona Crowder and Sue Markham are both on the mend and recovering nicely and by all reports Ron Hicks is feeling much better.

We need to keep Rev. Hillman's daughter "Courtney" in our thoughts as she goes through some health concerns and tests. With some luck and good meditations from all of us everything will turn out well.

We wish Albertina Bell in Erie Glen and Jean Wallis in London a healthy and enjoyable summer and to all of you, please remember if you need anything from the caring committee or know of someone who could use a card or visit, please let me know.

**John**

