



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 October 2012

- | | | |
|----------------|--|--------------------------------|
| Oct. 7 | Thanksgiving
Congregational Participation | Music: Carabel Ringrose |
| Oct. 14 | The Container of Death in Life
Reverend Christine Hillman | Music: Lori Lyons |
| Oct. 21 | Henry David Thoreau: Unitarian, Transcendentalist
Reverend Christine Hillman | Music: Bobbye &
Bill Baylis |
| Oct. 28 | The Transient and the Permanent
Reverend Christine Hillman | Music: Toni Janik |

Thanksgiving Sunday Service

On Thanksgiving we will have an opportunity to express our thanksgiving in personal statements or by reading a favourite item on Thanksgiving. In our New Year's Day service each person who wished to participate brought a reading or discussed something personal on the topics of beginnings and endings. So if you wish to make a contribution to the service on the topic of thanksgiving please let me know ahead of time but if that is inconvenient, just come with a statement or reading. Thank you.



Wanted!

Do you have book cases, cupboards or file cabinets that you no longer need? Religious Education needs some to hold a variety of supplies.

If you have any, please call Sue Markham at (519)733-4556.
Thank you.



From the Hillparson

Autumn comes twice (Labour Day and sometime in the third week of September); we are now past both. We've begun to feel the change with cooler temperatures and darkness lasting longer each morning and arriving sooner each evening. For myself, there was one particular day where it seemed that at one moment it was light and day and it wasn't much past dinner time and then, after a blink or two, it was dark. "Oh," I said. And then "Oy!"

It is my personal opinion that much of life happens in this way. One day the kids are in diapers and the next you can't even pick out their clothes! I remember being called "miss" by cashiers and then one day, just like that, I became "ma'am". "What happened?" (spelling correct by pronunciation) my dad would say. Indeed, so often, "What happened?" General Motors was THE company one day and shortly thereafter, what many of us called "Generous Motors" became the formerly so. The baby-boomer generation (of which I am a proud and aging member) has lost its power as the group of people that many products are advertised to. I'm not going to "boo hoo" much about that as I don't buy that much stuff. But I do notice the shift.



At one time Olinda had no need for a newsletter or for coffee hour but ministers came who said these were needed. I can't remember who pushed for the newsletter but remember someone indicating it was that California hippy minister Rev. Conrad Dippel who encouraged having coffee hour. And here we are with a booming newsletter which now goes out electronically to most people who receive it – and it's a goodly sized newsletter, to boot! Not only did Coffee Hour become embedded but so did the group of women who regularly prepared it as their gift to the church. And that seemed would go on forever. But like so many "forever" things, this embedded assumption wasn't so much forever. I thank all these women again and congratulate the folks who have now taken over that most important task, under the leadership of committee chair Mariette Preyde. Nope, just like everything else religious institutions change. Even a relative short time ago, few would have imagined solar panels on the church roof but the work has begun. We recycle paper, we serve fair trade coffee and now we're accruing energy directly from the sun. What a gift it is that we can know to make such changes. Joy in the morning!

At the board meeting I was able to be much more specific with activities that will fill a portion of my sabbatical which starts in January. A seminar on care of oneself as a minister, a gathering of UU Ministers from across the continent (and probably from Europe, too), relearning Yoga's Salute to the Sun which I practiced every day when I was in my twenties. That last will not look so pretty as it did in the seventies but it will be a practice that reminds me of my body and its in/abilities, as well as remind me that the sun and the earth it shines on are truly beautiful. There will be more activities than these – e.g. a likely trip to a Quaker Retreat Centre in Pennsylvania called Pendel Hill. And there will be quiet reading time. Since the care and feeding of the minister seminar comes first, in January, I'll likely add some of the ways to do such to my retreat from which I will build when I return from sabbatical, refreshed and more learned. May it be so, as it will be so that the congregation will hear fresh voices while I am away. But we've got three months together yet!

*Faithfully and in faith,
Rev. Christine*



From the Board

At its first meeting of the season on September 20, your Board had some catching up to do on what had and had not been accomplished over the summer. We all admired the results of the extensive work on the Louise Foulds Library and the front of the church, mentioned here last month but without due credit to the hours of work that Logan Schmidt put into painting. The church with its fresh flowers and new porch bench is now lovely and inviting, at least from the front. The back shows some peeling paint and an enclosed back porch with an ill-fitting door and rotting wood below the window. We'll see if these problems can be remedied before winter sets in. Walter Sinclair is also looking for help to bring in and distribute stone around the foundations.

While work on the library is largely complete, it has led to concerns about our archives and questions about the rug in the tranquility parlour. The Board was pleased to accept the offer of Gypsy Carroll, who with the expert assistance and advice of Mireya Campbell, has agreed to organize and update our archives. The hardwood floor in the library and dining area is so handsome, the question arose about the tranquility room rug: should it be removed, replaced (and if so, with what), or just cleaned? We haven't yet decided, and if you have any strong feelings, please let us know! Unfortunately, work on the basement to replace the east and south walls and install new windows and flooring was not finished during the summer. Helen Moore presented some less expensive alternatives for the flooring, but we are waiting for final recommendations and quotations that Stuart Miller is collecting before committing to the work.

The big news is that the solar panel project has received approval by both the Ontario Power Authority and Hydro-One so that we can install the panels and start reaping the energy of the sun before winter. As indicated in the Newsletter last month, under the new regulations of microFIT-2, the size is reduced from 10 kW AC (after the inverters) to 10 kW DC. This has the effect of reducing the number of required 250 W panels from 46 to 40 and the number of roof sections from 4 to 3. There is a corresponding reduction in cost (from \$59,980 + GST to \$54,880 + GST) but an actual increase in return on investment because the least efficiently oriented section was removed. We are now proceeding with the roofing work on the chimney, spire leak, and re-shingling on the three sections to acquire panels, and we hope that the removal and replacement of the old cinder-block chimney will also address the water leak into the archives and the dining room. Stuart Miller is kindly adding a bit of recommended reinforcing of one end of the roof over the dining area.

In other business, Reverend Christine Hillman provided more detail about the plans for her sabbatical between January 7 and June 6, 2013, and these were approved by the Board. The date for our Christmas potluck meal has been set to Sunday, December 2, 2012. The next regular Board meeting is scheduled at 7 PM on Thursday, October 17, 2012. All church members are welcome to attend.

Bill Baylis, President

Finance Committee

The main Finance Activity in the Fall is preparation of the next year's budget. That process starts after church on Sunday, Oct. 7, with the Finance Committee Meeting. Anyone interested in having input into the financial affairs of the church is welcome to join the committee or simply to attend the meeting.

Many thanks to those trustees who have already submitted their 2013 budget requests. The due date for that is Oct. 28

Important Dates in October

Oct. 3	7 PM	Book Club, <u>Wolf Hall</u> by Hilary Mantel
Oct. 7	noon	Finance Committee Meeting
Oct. 10	7 PM	Choir Rehearsal
Oct. 18	7 PM	Board of Trustees Meeting
Oct. 21	noon	Social Responsibility Committee Meeting
Oct. 24	7 PM	Choir Rehearsal
Oct. 28	noon	Welcoming Congregation Workshop

Social Responsibility Committee

The activities we have under way for this year include the Welcoming Congregation Workshops, a new film, and a possible canning/preserving workshop. We have discussed holding a canning session in the church kitchen for those of us who want to learn more about doing this from others who are quite experienced. Another option is to join with a group like the Gleaners and participate in preparing large quantities of, for instance, dried soup, to send to overseas food banks. If you have any suggestions along this line, or want to participate, please contact a committee member.

A major undertaking for the committee has been the Welcoming Congregation Workshops. Our next session will be on Oct. 28, when the two topics are Religion and Homosexuality and Experiences of LGBT People. Thanks to the Brennans, we have an interesting panel lined up for the latter session, which should be very enlightening. We look forward to a good turn-out for these invited speakers.

Membership Committee

The Visitor table now has many pamphlets, booklets and items of interest for our visitors. In the Library, you will see a basket of the Church Hasty Notes as well as Louise Fould's book 'Universalists in Ontario'. Please purchase either or both if you do not already have the item. There is a jar beside them for your payment & we thank you.

If you do not have your copy of the church directory or phone tree, please see someone on the Board. There is a phone tree on the bulletin board if you wish to take a look at it.

The Church Refreshments and Kitchen Services is chaired by Mariette Preyde. Should you have any suggestions or ideas, please see Mariette.

I will be away during October & until Nov. 25th. If you have any questions or concerns during that time, please see Gypsy Carroll or Kathy Brennan. So that our trip will be a happy one, we want all of you to stay well. Cheers, *Carol*

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 – October 2012:

Title: *Wolf Hall*

Author: Hilary Mantel

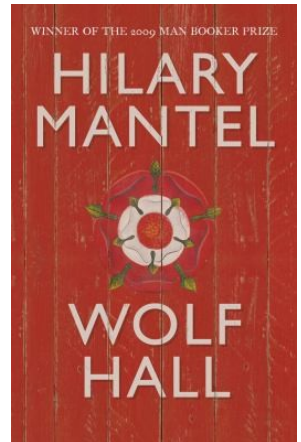
Summary:

A breakthrough novel and fascinating read with a teeming canvas of characters. The texture and feel of Tudor London in the time of Henry VIII is marvelously rich and authentic. The style has a powerful immediacy. Mantel persuades us that we are there, hungry to know what happens next in the making of our English world.

Location of Meeting: The Haynes Residence, Kingsville

Leader: Gypsy Carroll

Date: Wednesday, 03 October, 2012; 7 pm



Caring Committee

Welcome to Fall, my favourite season. The birds are gathering on the wires and the sky has that Autumn look.

Get Well Wishes go to Albertina Bell who is in Leamington Hospital at the time of this report. I hope that by the time that this is read Tina will be home and as chipper as ever.

Hello to Jean Wallis in London and I hope she is also feeling better, and to Louise Foulds in Toronto, our thoughts are always with you.

If there is anything the Caring Committee can do to help, please let us know.

Stay positive.

John

Caring Committee

Eunice Goyette

June Blacker

Rev. Christine Hillman

John Upcott

Olinda Connections'

How Gord Taylor Found the UU religion - 'My Introduction to UU' by Gord Taylor

One autumn day in the late 1990's while driving to work at GM Transmission, I noticed a portable sign in front of the Optimist centre on Memorial Dr. in Windsor. The sign read "Theo Coburn speaking here, UUWR" and the time and date of the presentation. **Theo Colborn** is Founder and President of The Endocrine Disruption Exchange (TEDX), based in [Paonia, Colorado](#), and Professor Emeritus of [Zoology](#) at the [University of Florida, Gainesville](#). She is an [environmental health](#) analyst, and best known for her studies on the health effects of [endocrine disrupting](#) chemicals. I attended her speaking engagement and was happy to see so many like minded people in attendance. At the end of her talk I asked someone "who was the organization that had brought her to Windsor" and was told by a gentleman (Mike Gilbertson) it was the UU's. He suggested I come to a Sunday service to learn about Unitarian Universalism. Having left a mainstream Church long ago because of their positions on social issues important to me, I wasn't anxious to fall into another religious conflict but interest in this particular group of citizens got the better of me so I attended their UU service the following Sunday.

When I arrived at their door on Sunday morning I was greeted by a gentleman (Sandy Tyndale) who welcomed me and gave me an order of service. When inside, I recognized an acquaintance (Yvette Le Page) whom I had worked with at the Citizens Environment Alliance where she was a volunteer. We struck up a conversation at coffee hour and she told me that I would enjoy belonging this group of people and I would find they share my interests. After attending a few services I realized she was right, I had found a religious home and a group of friends who not only shared my thoughts and beliefs but also practiced them. From that day in November, the UU seven principles have made my life's journey a wonderful experience.



Merci

'A THANK YOU' for all the lovely birthday cards and your thoughtful cards and notes of concern and caring for me. They are all much appreciated and brighten my days. Thank you so much.

Albertina Bell

