



# 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 2012

- Nov. 4**      **Church as "Total Immersion Spiritual Language School"**  
**WIKSTROM**  
Congregational Participation      Music: Lori Lyons
- Nov. 11**     **You Tube Wars: In Remembrance**  
Reverend Christine Hillman      Music: Bobbye & Bill Baylis, Ray  
Stone & Fred Butzen
- Nov. 18**     **"Sacralized / Desacralized"**  
Reverend Christine Hillman      Music: Carabel Ringrose
- Nov. 25**     **United Nations**  
Sunday Services      Music: Toni Janik



### Christmas Family

The Board of Trustees approved the congregation's sponsoring a Children's Aid Society family or two for Christmas. If you wish to donate to our Christmas family, please make a donation sometime in October or by November 25th, at the latest, so that the elves can go shopping December 1st, as they usually do. Thank you for your generous donation.

### Extra Calendars?

If you have any extra 2013 calendars, please give them to Mariette Preyde who will give them to Cheryl Taggart, a former guest speaker, who will distribute them to clients who do not have calendars. Thank you.



So. I'm here sitting at the computer getting a little work done while the television is on and airing is the Oprah Winfrey Network (OWN.) The particular show? "Where are they now?" a show with the premise of looking for particularly interesting and intriguing guests over the course of the 25 years of her show. For instance, LA's Rodney King gave his last (not knowing it then) interview for this program, only weeks before his death, the man made famous after a video put the L.A. police on trial for beating King and being found not guilty in the courts. That not guilty finding caused a huge riot, and during the rioting that followed the questionable verdict, Rodney King appeared on television in Los Angeles to say those most famous words, "Why can't we just get along?" He died only weeks later, drowning by accident in a swimming pool.

So, again, I'm on the computer and Bernard LaChance of Montreal, a former guest on The Oprah Show some three or four years ago. LaChance had a dream, to become a singer. To that end he spent all his savings on renting a theatre in Chicago with his name on the marquis, while he stood outside selling tickets. Giving people the chance to hear his music on a CD (back in the day, eh?), so that they could make an intelligent decision whether to buy a ticket or not. He sold a lot of tickets after a lot of rejections and ignoring by passersby. BTW, the ticket buyer got to choose his or her seat/s by marking the seat with permanent marker on the front of his t-shirt that had the theatre and all its seats on it. (Veddy interesting and clever!) But that's not all; Msr LaChance wanted Oprah and her friend Gayle to come on the show and so he had made a YouTube plea to them to come. Didn't happen. BUT. Gayle showed up at the theatre as LaChance was selling tickets, generally making LaChance speechless. Gayle indicated Oprah would not be in the country (no, she wasn't going to Montreal which would have been ironic) but that she wanted him to appear on her show in the following week. He turned into a blubbing, shaking mess, talking to his mother to share the invitation to appear on Oprah, which was such an honest response to a dream, a response he hadn't imagined. And so he appeared, he sang, the audience clapped. This year, for the new show on the new network LaChance was one of the people Oprah wanted to know where he was now.

That was a long but (I think) necessary background to make meaning out of how he explained what has happened since. He's not singing now, it became a non issue as he became a man with a wider vision for himself. He had heard Oprah say that many of us do certain things in our lives, not for the thing itself, but for validation. It struck him and it struck me as a wise truth about some of the decisions of our lives and the directions we at least try to take ourselves. Validation is a powerful human drive yet not the deepest of drives to fill a human life. And so LaChance, in his words, "opened his mind to possibility" of what was really his to do. And so, now he is host of his own television show and enjoying life, feeling validated by himself, not by others outside his life.

When we are doing our best we don't need others' validation, we feel and experience it inside ourselves. And yet the drive to seek validation is a powerful "feeling sign" that we are not yet filled up, that we may be trying to overcome harsh realities in our past or present lives. I thank LaChance and Oprah for deepening that sense of always exploring my life and work to validate whether I'm living my fullest self or whether I am simply seeking validation.

A minister's sabbatical, such as the five month sabbatical I will have beginning January 2013, is an opportune time to for me to set that question of validation vs fulfillment in my own life and call, to explore. And that is something we all can do and we can all benefit from. A fulfilled life, whether it is through our work, our family, or any other reality, a fulfilled life that makes each of us whole –without making others broken—(a necessary criterion) is what fulfills the reality of life itself on this glorious and exquisitely big blue marble of a planet. The more we all turn our lives from seeking validation to seeking and living whole, the more the world will turn to wholeness, maybe an everlasting wholeness. Which is, in Hebrew, a *Tikkun Olam*. May it be so.

In faith,  
Rev. Christine



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## From the Board

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At its meeting on October 17, your Board was happy to note the completion of the work on the roof, namely re-shingling three sections that are to take the solar panels, reducing the height of the chimney and eliminating the guy wires and crumbling cinder blocks, and reflashing and sealing the spire. We can hope that the problem of water leaks from the spire and into the archives has been resolved, but I guess time will tell! The roof is now ready to accept the solar panels, and their installation should be well underway by the time you receive this newsletter. We should soon be able to celebrate our harnessing of energy from the sun! Repairs of the back porch and basement are the next major projects on our priority list, and quotations for the work are being received now. Helen Moore showed samples of flooring to replace the rug in the basement with a surface that is easier to keep clean and sanitary, especially in moist conditions. Sue Markham, Trustee for Religious education, remarked on the need for better cleaning of the basement and for new storage areas for the RE classes. In addition, Walter Sinclair, Property Trustee, is looking for help to bring in beach stone and add it around the foundations and French drain. The Board thanked Walter for the work he and his son accomplished in securing the front pew to the side wall, replacing old square nails with screws.

Thanks to initiative taken by John Haynes, the Kingsville Reporter wrote an article about developments at our historic church. The article featured a colour picture and mentioned our plans for solar panels.

The start of Reverend Christine Hillman's sabbatical leave is approaching, and Christine filled in the Board with more details of her plans. She plans to attend the Annual Meeting of the General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches in Nottingham, England. next April, and she will select some Unitarian congregations to visit during her time overseas. Helen and her Committee on Sunday Services are busy planning interesting services during Christine's absence, not to mention arranging services on November 25, December 23, and December 30.

The Christmas season is approaching and plans are already in gear to prepare for the potluck meal at noon on December 2 and to collect gifts for a family recommended by the Children's Aid Society. Remember that the Fall Gathering of the Central Region of the Canadian Unitarian Council is being held from Nov. 9 to 11, 2012, at the Unitarian Congregation in Mississauga. There are funds to defray some of the costs of attendance by church members, but arrangements should be made ahead of time.

The next regular Board meeting is scheduled at 7 PM on Thursday, November 15, 2012. All church members are welcome to attend.

Bill Baylis, President

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## Finance Committee

On Nov. 11 after church, we will have the Open Finance Meeting to decide on the 2013 Budget to present to the Board and then to the Congregation on Dec. 9. All members of that committee, please make a point to be there for that meeting. Committee members are Helen Moore, Doug Whaley (Lloyd Fund), James Reid, Mireya Campbell (Lloyd Fund), Peter LeClair (Treasurer), Carol Hylton, Mariette Preyde (Lloyd Fund), Linda Goyette, Bobby Baylis (Chair), Bill Baylis (President) and Rev. Christine Hillman. Anyone else interested in the financial affairs of the church is also welcome to come.

The Letter of Appeal will also be distributed on that date. It will include information from your Treasurer on your 2012 Pledge and how much you have already contributed toward that pledge, as well as information on your pledge to the Capital Campaign. Please return your 2013 Pledge Card as soon as possible to Peter LeClair or myself so that we have the information for the 2013 Budget.

## Important Dates in November

Nov. 7	7 PM	Book Club, <u>Extremely Loud &amp; Incredibly Close</u> by Jonathan Safran Foer
Nov. 11	noon	Finance Committee Meeting on Budget
Nov. 14	7 PM	Choir Rehearsal
Nov. 15	7 PM	Board of Trustees Meeting
Nov. 18	9:15 AM	Sunday Services Meeting
Nov. 18	noon	Welcoming Congregation Workshop
Nov. 25		Budget will be Distributed
Nov. 28	7 PM	Choir Rehearsal

### Olinda Connections'

This November, we recognize those who are current members of our Church who are Veterans or served.

**John (Upcott) Dresser**, Active Leading Seaman with the Royal Canadian Navy.

- Enlisted July 1942 in Windsor at 19 years of age.
- Sent to Halifax, Nova Scotia to train on the HMCS Reindeer
- Served on the HMCS Medicine Hat (a Minesweeper)
- Served on the HMCS Lachine (a Diesel Escort Ship)
- Served on the HMCS Gattineau (a Destroyer)
- Took his Discharge August 1945



#### James Reid

Joined the army in Regina in January, 1944 after his eighteenth birthday. Was sent to Camp Chilliwack in B.C. for training in the R.C.E. (Engineers). After completing training most of the older men in his group were sent overseas. About thirty of the eighteen year olds were kept back and given training in teaching. He was then training new recruits. When the war in Europe ended, he volunteered for service in the Pacific. Was on the way to join the Pacific group in Camp Petewawa Ont. when the war ended. Was sent to camp Borden Ontario for training in the Provost Corp (Military Police) Posted to Nanimo, B.C. for police duty, then for a short time to Vancouver . Next to Regina for discharge in June, 1946

#### George Arnold Thompson

Joined the army for WW II January 1943. Discharged January 1946. He was a tank driver in the British 79<sup>th</sup> armored division and later the Kangaroos, also a British Unit. He was in England, France, Germany, Belgium, & Holland.

#### Marion Alberta Thompson

Joined the CWAC in Calgary, Sept. 1942 – discharged Aug. 1946. Stationed at Currie Barracks, Infantry Training Centre for 3 years and one year in London England at CMHQ. She met Arnold while in England and married on October 1946 in Windsor.

#### Laurie Hylton

Joined the Canadian Military in March 1959. Stationed in Petawawa, ON. with the First Battalion Canadian Guards. After 20 weeks of basic training, he was a member of the very first trouping of the colors on Parliament Hill. Was transferred to Zoest Germany, Fort York. On duty during the building of the Berlin Wall in 1961. Left Germany in March 1962 and discharged in April.

#### Hector Ringrose

Joined the Essex Scottish Reserve in 1948 and trained until leaving in 1953.

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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*

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### **Book for Month – November 2012:**

**Title:** Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close

**Author:** Jonathan Safran Foer emerged as one of the most original writers of his generation with his best-selling debut novel, *Everything Is Illuminated*.

**Summary:**

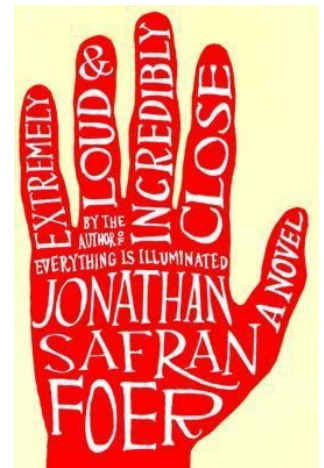
Now, with humor, tenderness, and awe, he confronts the traumas of our recent history. Nine-year-old Oskar Schell has embarked on an urgent, secret mission that will take him through the five boroughs of New York. His goal is to find the lock that matches a mysterious key that belonged to his father, who died in the World Trade Center on the morning of September 11. This seemingly impossible task will bring Oskar into contact with survivors of all sorts on an exhilarating, affecting, often hilarious, and ultimately healing journey.

**Location of Meeting:** The Miller Residence, Leamington

**Leader:** Stuart Miller

**Date:** Wednesday, 07 November, 2012; 7 pm  
(All members urged to bring a 'homemade' 'Pot Luck' dish with New York City Theme)

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## Social Responsibility Committee

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The Social Responsibility Committee continues to make micro-loans through KIVA and to research films for another Film Afternoon.

Our big undertaking of the past months is close to the finish line: the "Welcoming Congregation" workshops. The last workshop will occur on Nov. 18 after church and will consist of sessions called "How Homophobia Hurts Us All" and "What Now?" That last session will be an opportunity to discuss possible next steps, which could include holding a Congregational Meeting to decide whether to become designated a Welcoming Congregation. If you have queries on the topic of this work being done, do be sure to contact Rev. Christine or Bobbye Baylis. And do feel free to attend these sessions, even if you have not attended before; the larger the attendance the greater the understanding and opportunity to both learn and share.