



The Olinda Outpost

Monthly Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Olinda

R.E. Class and Service held at 10:30
(followed by refreshments)

Sunday Services December 2012

Dec. 2	Origen: The Original Universalist Reverend Christine Hillman	Music: Toni Janik
Dec. 9	Justice is What Love Looks Like in Public Reverend Christine Hillman	Music: Lori Lyons
Dec. 16	Henry David Thoreau at Walden Pond Reverend Christine Hillman	Music: Bobbye and Bill Baylis and Ray Stone
Dec. 23	Historical Celebration of Winter Solstice Bill Baylis	Music: Carabel Ringrose
Dec. 24	Christmas Eve Service @ 5:00 p.m. Reverend Christine Hillman	Music: Bobbye and Bill Baylis
Dec. 30	Endings and Beginnings Congregational Participation	Music: Carabel Ringrose

Join Us

OLINDA CHRISTMAS POT LUCK DINNER

PLEASE JOIN US - SUNDAY, DECEMBER 2, AT NOON

Our traditional Christmas dinner will be held after our Church service. Two of our dedicated ladies will be providing the turkey. The remainder of our menu is pot luck style - so please bring your favorite side dish or dessert.

You are welcome with or without bringing a dish.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU.



OLINDA CHRISTMAS TREE TRIMMING PARTY

Saturday, December 1, 2012, starting at 7 PM

- Come and enjoy the festivities:
- Decorating the Tree (supplied by the Millers)
 - Singing Christmas Carols with the Choir
 - Drinking Hot Cider
 - Munching on Christmas Goodies



From the Hillparson

“Life is like a camera, just focus on what’s important and capture the good times, develop from the negatives and if things don’t work out just take another shot.”

from Facebook and posted by Troy Ringrose.

I’m sorry the page doesn’t give an author’s name to this beautiful statement of life. I thank Troy for posting it as it gives all of us another “lens” through which we might see a way to move forward, even when days are rough and painful, and even when life seems smooth and mellow.

Bobbye and I led our brood of extraordinary Olindans through our final two sessions of The Welcoming Congregation curriculum recently. I think of them as something like a brood because over the time the sessions went on they gathered together and learned each other’s sensibilities and contributions. I felt the affirmation they shared with one another. If you don’t know this curriculum, it is one designed to assess our own sensibilities around GLBT (Gay, Lesbian, Bi-sexual, Transgender) folk. To explore ourselves, learn about how these folk in the humanity community understand themselves, how they struggle with oppression and how they come to affirmation of self, as they can, despite the outright hate, or much more often subtle disdain from too many people. I will co-opt Bobbye’s approval of the following statement rather thinking she would agree, at least in principle. The experience of leading this some dozen people was a gift and a joy; we thank them for being part of the class, of being leaders to us all as well and becoming something like a beautiful gift wrapped in affirmations and inclusiveness. Thank you all!

Numbers of tasks and aspects of preparing for my sabbatical are well in hand, particularly through the efforts of those who serve on the Sunday Services Committee with Helen Moore as chair and board trustee. There is a wonderful plethora of ideas and plans and I am grateful that they are so inspired and prepared. Again, Thank you all!

My own efforts to prepare for this sabbatical are well on their way, with some aspects prepared for except the actual purchase of a plane ticket. One exciting piece of this five month time that begins after the first Sunday of January is my plan to go to England for the annual general meeting of British Unitarians which they annually schedule over the Easter holiday. I also expect to visit the Brighton Unitarian congregation which was originally a Universalist church. And between these two activities I’ll be off to London to see the Queen.

On Sunday morning November 18, one among us shared the sorrow of the death of an Indian woman living in Ireland who died from an incomplete miscarriage at 17 weeks. We did not have her name at that time. I would like to close this month’s column by calling her name into our circle of love, hope and freedom.

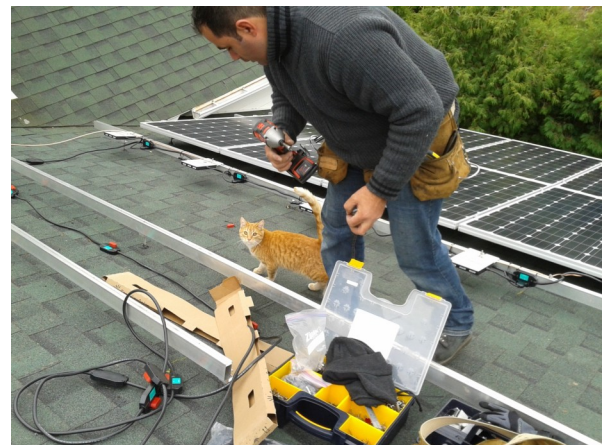
Savita Halappanavarnd

*Faithfully and in faith,
Rev. Christine*

Congregational Budget Meeting

Vote on the 2013 Budget
December 9, 2012
Immediately after the Service
(with time to grab a cup of tea)

Solar Panel Installation





From the Board

Solar panels, repairs, and Christmas activities dominated the discussion at the Board's November 15th meeting. At the time of the meeting, the solar panels had been completely installed on the church roof, and the town of Kingsville was waiting for the structural engineer's final approval. That has now been given, and the new meter and final connection to the grid by Hydro-One and commissioning of the installation should be completed by early December. It will be probably be January or even February before the first payment for electricity generation arrives in our Lloyd-fund bank account. One of the installers, Benjamin Fuehr from Green Sun Rising did provide several pictures of the work. One included photo shows a friendly little orange-striped cat who followed them everywhere, including the roof. Benjamin talked with the neighbour and ended up adopting the cat, who now lives with the owner of the company, Klaus Dohring and his wife, Tanja Nuske.

Replacing the rotting board under the back-porch window has high priority on the Board's to-do list, but as with many projects, this one continues to grow as we look more carefully at the repair: the whole window should probably be replaced and its frame clad with aluminum, the outside door needs replacing, the stairs desperately need repair if not replacement, and the floor of the porch needs new supports to make it level again. It was suggested that perhaps the whole porch should be removed, but that brings further complications, including new stairs and railing, a new back kitchen door, and adjustments to the roof and siding. We have two quotes for work but not for the same work! Once they're brought into line, the Board will be attentive to the recommendations of Walter Sinclair and his Property Committee. Basement renovations are also high on our priority list for action.

Treasurer Peter LeClair presented a multi-year overview of church finances and expressed some concern that offerings to the church have apparently dropped by 5 to 6% over the past year. This needs to be corrected if we are to maintain the strength of the Lloyd Fund during times of market weakness.

Christmas plans include Tree Trimming and music at 7 PM on Saturday December 1, the Christmas potluck after service on December 2, gift collection for a family recommended by the Children's Aid Society, preparation of cookies and flowers for UU Olinda shut-ins, and the Christmas Eve service at 5 PM on December 24. Please join us for the festivities!

The next regular Board meeting is scheduled at 7 PM on Thursday, December 20, 2012. All church members are welcome to attend.

Bill Baylis, President

Caring Committee Report

It is the holiday time again, it seems to come earlier every year, or maybe it's just advertising. Perhaps, however, we need the message of love and peace earlier and more often now. I hope someday people will really hear the message of peace and understand that we are all the same and need each other.

I was so glad to hear Albertina Bell is out of the hospital and back home. "Way to go Tina" and please stay well. Happy holiday wishes go to all the congregation but special wishes go to Louise Foulds in Toronto, Jean Wallis in London and Albertina Bell.

I do hope all of you have a healthy and wonderful holiday with family and friends and please know that the congregation is with you.

I would like to take the time to thank the people on the caring committee for all their work and help during the year and hope they have a happy holiday!

John

Caring Committee

Eunice Goyette

June Blacker

Rev. Christine Hillman

Important Dates in December

Dec. 1	7 PM	Tree Decoration and Carols
Dec. 2	Noon	Christmas Potluck
Dec. 5	7 PM	Book Club, <i>Unsaid</i> by Neil Abramson
Dec. 9	Noon	Congregational Budget Meeting
Dec. 13	7 PM	Choir Rehearsal
Dec. 16	Noon	Social Responsibility Committee Meeting
Dec. 20	7 PM	Board Meeting
Dec. 24	5 PM	Special Christmas Eve Service

Olinda Connections'

We bring closure to a year without Sheron. This has been a big adjustment in our Church life as Sheron was so much a part of many things and especially during December. We remember Sheron.....

Myrtle Sheron Whittle was born on June 26, 1939 to parents Ruth Cook and Jack Whittle. Both Ruth and Jack were members of the Universalist Church of Olinda and thus little Sheron attended Sunday School learning all about universalism along with her cousin Nancy (Whittle) Burgess, Helen (Klassen) Moore, Carol (Upcott) Hylton and Winston Upcott, Orton and Whaley children. Sheron like her father Jack embraced the Universalism principles. They welcomed all creatures (people, dogs, cats, maybe not bats) into their lives. They would seek out "lost souls" and help them back onto a happier, more included path of life.

Sheron was married in the church to Douglas Campbell. They moved to the Niagara area and had four children (Mireya, Roger, Bryce, Brent). When their marriage broke up in 1982 Sheron moved back to the family farm to live with her mother Ruth. Full of a never-ending energy, Sheron returned to the now Unitarian Universalist Church and became fully involved in all aspect of its workings:

Board member for many years including Moderator (now known as President)
Sunday school teacher
Sunday service leader (especially in those times when we were without a minister)
Member of the choir (she loved to sing)
Created flower arrangements for Sunday services (from her very own garden)
Head of the archive committee (she was excellent at scrapbooking)
Worked with Joan Meuser on the Poinsettia project every Christmas
Read "The Night Before Christmas" at many Christmas Eve services (it became tradition)
Newsletter editor
Hosted an annual BBQ in August at the family farm (Indian Ridge)
Donated three 11-quart baskets of peaches to the aUUction each year
Co-hosted a wine & food pairing event with children Brent and Mireya
Made "sticky rolls" for the Ruthven Apple Festival and other church bake sales
Helped with the annual yard clean-ups
And donated numerous hours of her time to many other church activities....

Sheron lived a very full life as she was just as active in her family life and professional life. She has left some very BIG shoes to fill. It will take many of us to fill those shoes. However, the things we will miss most are her smile and her laughter. Sheron passed away on November 29, 2011.

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 – December 2012:

Title: *Unsaid, a Novel*

Author: Neil Abramson

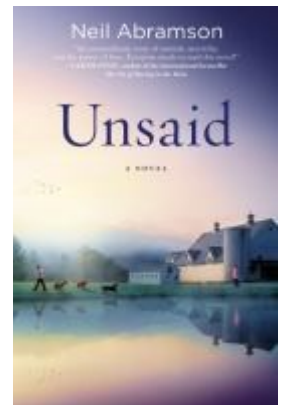
Summary:

After veterinarian Helena Colden dies of breast cancer, she is unable to move on and narrates the emotional deterioration and struggle of her attorney husband David as he becomes involved in a court case to save the life of a chimpanzee.

Location of Meeting: The Gilbert Residence, Kingsville

Leader: Joyse Gilbert

Date: Wednesday, 05 December, 2012; 7 pm



Social Responsibility

On Sunday, Nov. 18, we completed the last of the Welcoming Congregation Workshops. We spent some time discussing the next steps we might take in progressing to become registered as an official "Welcoming Congregation" with a plaque and all. It is somewhat distressing to note that we are nearly the last congregation in Canada to become registered, and it may give a falsely negative impression to some other UU's that happen to notice this fact. We have always been welcoming, and we need to decide whether in fact it is time that we register as such!

It is too close to Rev. Hillman's sabbatical to initiate this process, so those who have been attending the workshops would like to undertake some additional activities over the next 5 months. We all much enjoyed the panel discussion by the 5 members of the LGBT community, organized by Steve and Kathy Brennan. All of these people were very friendly and articulate, and we learned a lot. Steve has said they also had a good experience and would be willing to come again, so we are considering offering such a panel discussion as possibly an upcoming Sunday Service. Certainly members of the committee have expressed willingness to offer a service on what we learned during the course of the 8 workshops.