



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 January 2013

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| Jan. 6 | Wheel of Life
Reverend Christine Hillman | Music: Carabel Ringrose |
| Jan. 13 | Inequality in the New Gilded Age
Bobbye Baylis | Music: Lori Lyons |
| Jan. 20 | Commentary and Photographic View of Life in Haiti
Glen Jackson | Music: Bobbye & Bill Baylis
and Ray Stone |
| Jan. 27 | On Morality 1
Wilf Innerd | Music: Toni Janik |

Annual Meeting
February 17, 2013

Annual Reports

Since the annual meeting will be February 17th, please prepare your Trustee Report for the Annual Report and submit them by January 20th at the latest so that Karen will be able to prepare the Annual Report. Thanks.

Important Dates in January

Jan. 9	7 PM	Book Club, <i>The Art of Racing in the Rain</i> , by Garth Stein
Jan. 17	7 PM	Board of Trustees Meeting
Jan. 20	9:15 AM	Sunday Services Committee Meeting
Jan. 20	Noon	Social Responsibility Committee Meeting
Jan. 23	7 PM	Choir Rehearsal



From the Hillparson

"You are a child of the universe no less than the tree and the stars; you have a right to be here. And whether or not it is clear to you, no doubt the universe is unfolding as it should."

Max Ehrmann (1872-1945)

And so the old year passes, with its mix of extraordinary and horrific, mundane and daily realities.

As I write for January's newsletter, on Boxing Day, the news in front of me is of the train workers in critical condition in Edmonton and the death of Jack Klugman, an actor whose work I long enjoyed. May the four injured workers rebound and may Jack rest in peace, leaving his body of work for us to enjoy even now. All of us face loss and all of us leave a legacy. How would you name your legacy from 2012 and how would Olinda name its collective legacy for this past year? The upcoming Annual Report will unfold most of the answers to that last portion. Only each of us can answer for ourselves, although some of our loved ones could easily add some things we hadn't noted as of legacy stature, but were to them.

My sabbatical begins soon and I may only see a few of you over these five months, and then likely only in the grocery store. While I'm on sabbatical, the minister of our fellow UU congregation in Peterborough will also have their minister, Rev. Julie Stoneberg on her own sabbatical. As well, Rev. Dr. Stephen Atkinson of our congregation at the North Shore Unitarian Church in West Vancouver also begins sabbatical. We three will see one another at the end of January for the UU Ministers Association gathering and I look forward to seeing them there.

One fellow colleague posted the Max Ehrmann quote I love so much and then another colleague posted the following cartoon adaptation of it. I like it, too~

May this year bring us all what we might call both enough and deeply satisfying.

Faithfully and in faith,
Rev. Christine



"You have the right to remain silent, you are a child of the universe, no less than the trees and the stars. You have the right to be here. And, whether or not it is clear to you, no doubt the universe is unfolding as it should."

Membership Committee

Mariette organized the Christmas dinner. It was very successful and enjoyed by more than 30. Many people pitched in to set up and clean afterwards. We thank everyone for making this happen as well as bringing all the delicious food.

Stewart & Karen Miller brought the lovely huge Christmas tree and held a 'festive decorating the tree party'. The Christmas shoppers bought wonderful gifts for our adopted CAS family, many thanks to all who donated so this could take place. A big thank you to all involved. Karen Miller brought back the Christmas Poinsettia event to decorate our church, thank you so much Karen.

We are beginning a new year. It takes many people to make this whole church operate with all that we enjoy. The Church Refreshments and Kitchen Services is chaired by Mariette Preyde. Should you have any suggestions or ideas, please see Mariette. There is a sign up sheet for volunteers to provide your services on a Sunday morning. The more people who sign up, the better.

MAY YOU ALL HAVE A WONDERFUL NEW YEAR AND ENJOY GOOD HEALTH.

Your Membership Committee,

Gypsy Carroll, Kathy Brennan & Carol Hylton



From the Board

We had a good turnout at our Board meeting on December 20. In spite of its close proximity with Christmas, practically everyone, including John Upcott for the Caring Committee, was able to attend. Only Karen Miller and Sue Markham were unable to come. Solar panels, repairs, and Christmas activities were once again on the agenda, together with Reverend Christine's sabbatical leave and the Annual General Meeting in February.

Installation of the solar panels is complete and all approvals have been obtained. Hydro-One should be connecting our micro-FIT project to the grid within days. Even though sunlight is at a minimum this time of year, we are anxious to start feeding electric energy into the grid and to begin accumulating a return on our Lloyd fund investment. We expect a return on investment (ROI) of roughly 9 to 10 percent, which is looking attractive given current stock market conditions. The precise ROI depends partially on what expenses are counted as the investment. Unique Roofing replaced shingles on three sections of the roof in preparation. The shingles that were replaced had been in place for over eight years and in spite of minor damage probably still had almost half of their life expectancy ahead of them. They were replaced to reduce the likelihood that the panels would soon have to be temporarily removed to permit repairs. The Board felt that it was reasonable to ascribe half of the shingling cost of \$5250 plus tax to the solar panel investment. The other half was counted as preventative maintenance. Other unrelated work on the chimney and spire skirt---to cure a long-standing leak---was performed at the same time but was not included in the investment cost.

Back porch repairs are being undertaken by John Gerhardt Construction. They include replacing the window and the rotting boards under it, leveling the floor, building new stairs from the porch, adding a railing, and installing a new exit door. As described during the budget meeting, this work is mainly for safety and secure egress, but it also significantly enhances the appearance of the church from the back. The project has grown from the initial window replacement to include several improvements whose combined cost is just under \$2000 plus tax. The cost is to be borne by Capital Campaign funds. Basement repairs incorporating new windows, new, better insulated walls, and a new carpet, are probably next on our priority list, and some aUuction money has already been set aside to help pay for this, although more funds will be needed. The Board is planning a congregational meeting, soon after the Annual General Meeting (AGM) scheduled on February 17, 2013, to discuss short-term priorities and direction.

From his November review of church finances, treasurer Peter LeClair, expects a somewhat lower level of donations than budgeted. This, coupled with a lack-lustre year for market growth of the Lloyd fund, raises concerns. We will know more once the financial statements are prepared for the AGM, but Peter has been cautious this year, leaving money in the Lloyd fund as long as possible before making withdrawals. The Board is monitoring the situation, and while it recognizes that some fluctuations are inevitable, it must act to preserve the value of the Lloyd fund over the long term.

Christmas festivities at the church went well, with the help of many well-appreciated hands. A change has been suggested for future food donations. In the past, collected items were donated to the Salvation Army in Leamington. We might instead donate them to the Kingsville Community Food Bank. Please let someone on the Board know if you have strong feelings about such a change. After the service on January 6, we will be sending Reverend Christine off on her sabbatical leave with a sandwich luncheon, organized by Mariette Preyde. Plan to stay a bit longer than usual to wish Christine a successful, healthy, and enjoyable five months!

The next regular Board meeting is scheduled at 7 PM on Thursday, January 17, 2013. All church members are welcome to attend. In the meantime, all of us on the Board send you our wishes for a happy New Year!

Bill Baylis, President

Social Responsibility Committee

The next meeting, on January 20, will discuss the problem caused by the closing of Zellers in Leamington. Carabel Ringrose will be invited to participate in the discussion, in particular with respect to buying gifts for CAS families. Anyone with suggestions is invited to attend or to please pass your ideas on to SRC members.

Finance Committee

The Congregational Meeting on the Budget on Dec. 9 was well-attended and everyone there was already well-informed on all of the issues. The Budget was passed in a near-unanimous vote. A few observations:

- The Lloyd Fund has been giving the church over \$30,000 per year but its earnings would appear to be closer to \$20,000 per year. There will be meetings involving the Lloyd Fund Committee, the Finance Committee, and the Board early in the coming year to discuss the financing of church activities while making sure the Lloyd Fund continues to stay healthy. If you have any ideas and want to contribute to this discussion, please let Peter LeClair, Mariette Preyde, Bill Baylis or me know.
- The Solar Panels will be contributing about \$6000 per year to the Lloyd Fund, which represents 10% return on its investment of around \$60,000.
- Financing of various improvements to the physical structure and appearance of the church has been through the Capital Campaign Fund and the aUuction Fund, not the Operating Fund.
- At this point it is clear that there will be a deficit in the Operating Fund at the end of December, 2012. This is less due to expenses than to a decrease in total donations.

Submitted by Bobbye Baylis, Trustee

Olinda Connections' - Eunice Goyette

One morning in the 1960s, Eunice Goyette began to talk about her unorthodox views on religion in a conversation with her friend, Bill Brundage, at the Epworth United Church in Kingsville.

"You know what you are, Eunice?" said Bill. "You're a Unitarian, and you don't know it."

Eunice Goyette knew nothing about the Unitarian Universalist Church of Olinda at the time, and it would be another twenty years before she and her husband Mel discovered this community of like-minded people. That happened when Mel attended a memorial service here for Pat Gauthier of Kingsville. He returned home to tell Eunice: "I've found the church where we belong."

They joined UU Olinda soon after, and brought their friend Joan Meuser along with them. They felt completely at home in this congregation, as if they had belonged here all along.

The daughter of British immigrants, Eunice was born in Innisfree, Alberta in 1925, and raised as a church-going Anglican. Through the Depression and war years, her family moved frequently across the country. As a child and teenager she lived in Winnipeg, Toronto, and a wilderness road construction camp on the Skeena River in northern B.C. Shortly after moving to Ottawa, Eunice met the love of her life, Louis Emile Goyette, in 1945. Mel had been raised in the French-Canadian Baptist tradition but was a free-thinking man who preferred open debate on all topics, including religion. The young couple settled on the more liberal United Church, and remained active members until the mid-1970s.

Once they found UU Olinda, Eunice and Mel took active positions on the board, and in various volunteer positions. They loved the friends they found in the church. Eunice served as the Religious Education teacher for several years. When Mel died in 2001, Sharon Campbell led the memorial service, and helped the family considerably.

Eunice has four children living in Leamington and Kingsville - Ann, Linda, Paul and Alan - and one daughter, Allyson, in Alberta. She has eight adult grandchildren, and two great-grandsons. Her spirituality has always been connected to the inspiration of music and nature, and the love of family. The 'u' in Eunice stands for Unitarian.

Committee on Ministry

The Committee on Ministry met in December. We want the congregation to know that we will still function while the Minister is on sabbatical. So if you have a "joy or concern" please feel free to contact one of us. If you need the services of a Minister while Christine is away, the Rev. Myron Andes of the London Congregation has agreed to be available for us.

Our 4th Principle is "A free and responsible search for truth and meaning." The Minister's sabbatical gives her time to do just this, search, by taking courses and workshops and in her travels. An enriched Rev. Christine will return to us in June.

Committee Members: Joyse Gilbert, Carol Hylton, Jane Innerd (Chair)

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 – January 2013: *(Happy New Year !!!!)*

Title: The Art of Racing in the Rain, a Novel

Author: Garth Stein

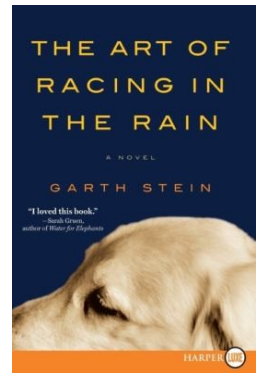
Summary:

Enzo, the dog, feels sure that his next life will be spent in a man's body. In preparation, he closely studies human behavior, and it's from Enzo's observant point of view that Stein writes his moving third novel, his aching insights into the limitations and joys of the canine and human worlds; and his infinite capacity for love.

Location of Meeting: The Haynes Residence, Kingsville

Leader: Pat Haynes

Date: Wednesday, 09 January, 2013; 7 pm



Caring Committee Report

Happy, Happy, Happy, New Year and All the Best on 2013!!

The end of the Mayan calendar and we are still here.

Good to see Wilf Innerd recovering from his procedure and after sinus surgery, I am doing much better. We have good people working in hospitals but the buildings and equipment need improvement. Best wished to Trudy Ware on her upcoming surgery.

The sympathy of all the congregation goes to Don and Sylvia Dotzert on the loss of Don's brother. There is never a good time, but over the holiday's is especially hard. We are all thinking of you.

A special New Year Wish goes to Albertina Bell in Leamington, Jean Wallis, who I understand is still in hospital in London awaiting a new home, and to Louise Foulds in Toronto. The congregation wished good health and happiness in the New Year to these special people. This time of year one reflects on the past and I remember all the people who for one reason or another cannot make it to church as they have done in the past. Andy and Margaret Connelly come to mind as do Ann Purtell and Judy Carter. Michael Harrison, Bonnie Malanoski and Jack Moore, Ron and Louise Vermeiren, Jodi Wipp and so many more. I hope all have a great New Year and please know the caring committee will help if we can.

**John
Caring Committee**

*Eunice Goyette
June Blacker
Rev. Christine Hillman
John Upcott*