



# 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 April 2013

<b>April 7</b>	<b>Compassion and the Charter</b> Joan Tinkess	Music: Bill & Bobbye Baylis, Ray Stone
<b>April 14</b>	<b>Let's Stop Wasting our Waste</b> Dennis Dick	Music: Carabel Ringrose
<b>April 21</b>	<b>Dolphins</b> Karen Miller and Steve Brennan	Music: Lorie Lyons
<b>April 28</b>	<b>Matthew Arnold and 'Dover Beach'</b> Jane Innerd	Music: Toni Janik

### Bake Sale, Food and Craft Bazaar, and Trunk Sale Saturday, May 25th

You will be hearing exciting news in the weeks ahead about our upcoming sale. We plan to have a lot of fun together while we raise money for the church. Please consider how you can help out on Saturday, May 25th. Here's what we need:

**Fresh baking:** Pies, cakes, tarts, loaves, muffins, cookies, etc. This is the most popular part of the sale so we would like to expand our baking table this year.

**Food bazaar items:** homemade pickles, jellies and jams, as well as salad dressings, flavoured vinegars, dried herbs or herbs in pots.

**Crafts:** new, handmade items such as soaps and lotions, dish cloths and placemats, handmade wooden items, and other crafts.

**Trunk Sale items.** We are also asking volunteers to sell quality second-hand items from the trunks of their cars, vans or trucks, parked in our parking lot on the afternoon of the sale. We will have a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board for a place in the parking lot. We hope for at least ten volunteers. If you can't volunteer, but have a quality item to sell, please contact Linda Goyette or Carol Hylton and we will arrange to pick it up and sell it for you.

**Volunteers:** To help us with sign posting, to help at the sale tables, or to help with special children's activities we will tell you about soon.

**Customers:** We want many more families to attend our sale this year, and get to know our church. We are asking each church member to invite friends, family and neighbours to our sale and barbecue. Please help us to spread the word.

Contact Linda or Carol with your ideas. We are grateful to John and Linda Upcott who will host the barbecue. See you at the sale!



## From the Hillparson

**Reverend Christine Hillman is on Sabbatical. Her column will resume upon her return.**

### Important Dates in April

Apr. 3	7 PM	Book Club Meeting, <i>Why I Hate Canadians</i> , by Will Ferguson
Apr. 7	Noon	aUuction Committee Meeting
Apr. 10	7 PM	Choir Rehearsal
Apr. 18	7 PM	Board Meeting
Apr. 21	Noon	Social Responsibility Committee Meeting
Apr. 24	7 PM	Choir Rehearsal
Apr. 27	2 PM	Goods and Services aUuction
Apr. 28	Noon	CUC Resolutions Meeting

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## Membership Committee

**The Membership Initiative meeting** was held on March 10<sup>th</sup>. It was attended by about 20 people and I want to thank all of you who participated. You all showed great interest in your church and expressed many of your ideas. Stuart Miller did a wonderful presentation on the Lifespan Religious Education segment that covers all ages. This is your church and your ideas are important, so please help Stuart in letting him know of sessions/ events that interest you. Stuart & I find that we share common goals in caring about our established membership and what you want as well as introducing our church to new people. Thus we will be working together at times. Once again, it was encouraging to see all the interest in the church & I thank you so much.

You showed great interest in a **new website**. Bill Baylis will oversee the website project for the time being; there is a separate website notice in this newsletter.

**Please note that there are feedback forms** with the hymn books and donation envelopes. Please give your feedback regarding church services and other important information. This will be helpful to the Board. Thank you

**Lunch in the County** – The first gathering for lunch was held on Sunday March 24<sup>th</sup> and there was a pretty good attendance. Formerly the lunch has been held on a Wednesday but it was suggested that if it was on a Sunday it opens the opportunity for people to attend who live a distance away or who work. After our first experience of this, we would like to know how often you would like this lunch to be held. Monthly, every second month or how often? Also if you have any ideas of another restaurant where this could be held or wish to continue at Colasanti's, please let us know. Because Sunday is a busy day for eating out, it is necessary for us to make reservations.

We are all looking forward to some warm spring days.

Gypsy Carrol, Kathy Brennan &  
Carol Hylton

## From the Board

Your Board of Trustees met twice in March. In addition to the regular meeting on March 21, we held a special meeting on March 15 to consider finances, the Lloyd fund, and renovation priorities. Our church in Olinda is unique among small UU churches in Canada in having an endowment-like fund to support its operation. The Lloyd fund began in 1893 with a bequest of \$13,000 to the Universalist Church of Ontario, made by George H. Lloyd from the community of Union. Through sound investments, the fund grew with inflation while supporting Universalism in Ontario. It is now valued at over \$400,000, which is close to the inflation-adjusted equivalent of its initial value. In 1983, after other Universalist churches in the province had ceased operation, it was transferred fully to our Olinda church. It has been critical to the prosperity of our church, allowing us to retain a full-time minister.

Our use of the fund is not restricted as it would be for an official endowment, but policies have been approved to help ensure that the fund retains its inflation-adjusted value. However recently, financial markets have been unkind to investments. Transfers from the fund to the operating budget have nevertheless increased from an average of under \$30,000 over the past decade to \$33,000 in 2009, 2011, and 2012. The transfer last year amounted to 37% of the church's total income. It is not certain how much the Lloyd fund can afford to transfer, but the Board is committed to sustaining the long-term value of the fund. In figures provided by Doug Whaley and the Lloyd Fund committee, over the past ten years, the Lloyd fund has paid out an average of 7.33% of its value to the operating budget and retained 1.67% to increase portfolio value for inflationary growth. In response to fluctuating market conditions, the actual value of the portfolio has varied from a high of \$532,000 at the end of 2006 to a recent low of \$328,00 two years later. As the quotation goes, "prediction is very difficult, especially about the future" [sometimes attributed to Yogi Berra, but actually traced back to physicist Niels Bohr (1885 - 1962)], and we don't know what the stock market will bring. However, the Board felt that we should target a 10% reduction in future Lloyd-fund transfers so that we do not transfer more than \$30,000 annually. Of course this means that we must make up for the resulting budgetary short-fall by additional donations and fund raising and/or in reductions in expenses.

Now that our solar project is complete and bringing in monthly payments to the Lloyd fund, payments that will grow as daylight lasts longer, we need to set our priorities for other improvements to the church. Fixing the basement has long been discussed as a top priority, and funds from the AUUction have been dedicated to this project. The Board wants to replace windows, west and south walls, and the flooring in the basement this summer. We hope to have all quotes ready for a congregational meeting in May. Other important projects include adding a wheel-chair accessible washroom on the first floor and repainting the fake second-story window on the front of the church. We would also like to replace the remaining windows on the first floor with ones that are easier to operate and more energy efficient, but this is deemed to have lower priority. Funds remain in the capital fund for some of this work, but we need to retain a reserve for emergencies, in particular for replacing one or both furnaces when needed. Although the Capital Campaign wrapped up over a year ago, further donations to the capital-improvement fund are still very welcome!

The discussion at our regular Board meeting on March 21 was largely focused on recommendations from the membership meeting held after church service on March 10 by Carol Hylton with help from Stuart Miller. The mood at the meeting was reportedly very positive, and numerous suggestions were made for increasing the visibility and attractiveness of the church. In particular, it was noted that use of the internet has exploded and over taken traditional means of communication, and that this has greatly increased the importance of Olinda's website. An active and attractive website is needed with an administrator able to devote considerable time and effort to it. See Carol's report and call for volunteers elsewhere in this Newsletter.

Please note the open meeting after church service on April 28 to discuss resolutions to be voted on at the Annual General Meeting of the Canadian Unitarian Council in Calgary in mid May. Joyse Gilbert has been approved as a delegate and she would appreciate guidance from the congregation on how to vote. Visit <http://cuc.ca/governance/resolutions-process/> for a list of the revised resolutions. The next regular Board meeting is scheduled at 7 PM on Thursday, April 18, 2013. All church members are welcome to attend.

Bill Baylis, President

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## Finance Committee

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In the March Newsletter you learned that we are moving the aUuction from a Saturday evening to Saturday afternoon. On April 27 at 2 PM the aUuctioneer's gavel will fall and you will have a chance to bid on wonderful products of the talents of our congregation.

Examples:

Crafts: Afghan, handmade buttons, cutting boards, quilts, scarves

Food: granola, soups, pickles, salsas, wine (including cherry), breads

Other items such as gift certificates, day at Unicamp, and Bailey's

You can also sign up for various lunches, dinners, and the summer Bar-B-Q

If you want to start off the aUuction in the right mood, sign up for the 12:30 Lasagna Lunch that precedes the aUuction. There is a sign-up sheet for this luncheon (there is only room for 30 people) next to the sheet for aUuction items, in the Coffee-Hour room.

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### **NOTICE RE OLINDA WEBSITE**

"One of the main topics at the Membership meeting was reaching out to people who know about UU'ism and also people who do not know about it and may be searching. By far, an attractive and engaging website is the way to go in today's world.

We may be able to upgrade one of our existing sites, uuolinda.org or janik.mnsi.net, but an entirely new site is also a possibility. We do need an affordable website, and we need to appreciate the full implications of maintaining that website. If you have website experience and would like to be part of this project, please let Bill, or someone on the Board know. To remain fresh, the website needs new pictures and articles updated on a routine weekly basis. If you have material to add to the uuolinda.org site, please send it to Bill for uploading. A committee might be formed in order to spread out the work, and one or more members of our Board of Trustees can assist by suggesting and monitoring content. PLEASE LET US KNOW IF YOU CAN HELP DESIGN OUR NEW UPDATED WEBSITE AND KEEP THE INFORMATION CURRENT.

Web sites: uuolinda.org and janik.mnsi.net

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## Social Responsibility Committee

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If you have ever read one of the copies of JUSTnews, you will have been impressed by the quality of the commentary in their articles. If you would like to receive your own copy, either by mail or email, you can become a member of Canadian Unitarians for Social Justice. The yearly membership fee is whatever you can pay, but the average donation is \$50. If you want more information about CUSJ, go to [www.cusj.org](http://www.cusj.org), where you can also download the membership form. I have printed this out and can give you a copy if you prefer.

For the past few years on Mothers' Day we have been giving toiletries to the House of Sophrosyne. Some have suggested we might consider another charity instead. If you have any ideas, please let me know and I will suggest this at the next Board meeting.

**Don't forget the International Dinner on May 5!**

Submitted by Bobbye Baylis, committee secretary

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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 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 – April 2013:**

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**Title:** **Why I Hate Canadians**

*Author:* Will Ferguson

**Summary:**

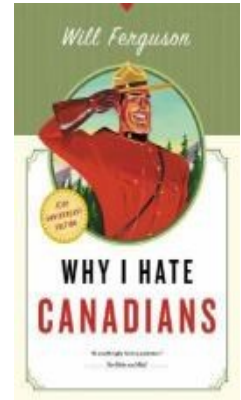
First published in 1997, this hilarious book launched satirist Will Ferguson 's career. Challenging the notion that Canadians are "nice," the book asks, "Do we as Canadians deserve a country so great?" Tackling subjects from Canada's favorite inbred royals to the mighty beaver as national icon, from sex in a canoe to all-Canadian "superhero" Captain Canuck, Ferguson rampages across the cultural landscape.

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

**Leader:** Stuart Miller

**Date:** Wednesday, 03 April, 2013; 7 pm

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book

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## Caring Committee Report

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The groundhog needs to be replaced by, maybe a chipmunk, or other such rodent, as he really missed on his prediction of an early spring. The human weather people, however, also miss sometimes on predicting the future conditions so maybe the groundhog is only human. The weather is a great topic of conversation because everyone is tired of this long winter but spring is here and I hope that by the time you read this warm temps and sunshine will be here to.

Cathy Dewhurst is recovering nicely from her emergency surgery and our thoughts are with Logan Schmidt and family on the death of his great aunt. For people in the congregation who are concerned about John and Evelyn Dresser I am here to say that they are as good as can be expected and wanted me to say to the congregation that they appreciate your thoughts and when the weather gets better they will be back. I understand that Pat Haynes is also recovering well and please hurry back as soon as you can. Hopefully by the time you read this Trudy Ware will have had her surgery and back on the road to recovery.

I want everyone to have a great Easter and a special wish to Albertina Bell in Leamington and Jean Wallace in London, I hope all is well.

Eunice Goyette  
June Blacker  
John Upcott  
Rev Christine Hillman on sabbatical

### Edna Bruner – an Olinda Original (1906-1997)

When we read Louise Foulds' Universalists in Ontario, we are reminded that our Edna Bruner, a farm girl, became the Director of the Department of Education of the Universalist Church of America in 1952. Edna grew up on the local farm of her parents, Nora and Albert Bruner. Albert Bruner, her brother, was a founder of the Leamington Radio Station, first called CJSP, 710 AM, and he was also a singer on a television show in Chicago 1949-1952. Walter Sinclair remembers the Bruner farm as being large and located on the 6<sup>th</sup> Concession. Nora and Albert Bruner, Edna's parents, were keen Universalists, active in our church. A tent evangelist who declared that marriages by Universalist ministers were invalid and the resulting children illegitimate, outraged Edna's parents and motivated Edna's career choice.

She earned her BA in 1929, her BD in 1931 and was ordained in 1930, all in the United States. Due the grinding hard times of the great depression, Edna moved into the church to assist her struggling parishoners financially in her first settlement in Iowa.

Ten years later as a field worker for the Universalist Church of America, she energetically travelled from church to church, She loaded her car with the Beacon Series books and a collection of Universalist material and professional materials. When she moved on after a few days she left an inspired and educated congregation and minister. All she needed was a 10 foot table for her display. If her visit included a Sunday she would preach a sermon. A calendar in our church archives featuring Edna states that "the congregation had received a reviving dose of enthusiasm along with some new ideas."

Her life work included serving on a local board of the NAACP, 3 parish ministries in the Universalist Church of America and the UUA (after 1961), her 23 years of educational field work in the Universalist Association of America and ultimately the pinnacle of her career, the Directorship of the Department of Education for the denomination.

Although her career was in the United States, she maintained her Olinda connections by preaching in our pulpit during vacations according to Louise Foulds in Universalists in Ontario. She corresponded with Louise, informing Louise that the Olinda church used the Beacon Series curriculum. Louise, as a member of the Church of the Larger Fellowship and the mother of a daughter, had ordered and read the Beacon Series curriculum. Because of Louise's interest in the RE program she became a Sunday school teacher of teenagers here in the early 1960s.

To learn more about Edna, her picture and life story is on the wall in our library. She shares the wall with Sheron Campbell, Louise Foulds and George Whaley.

Submitted by Gypsy Carroll