

# The Olinda Outpost

Monthly Newsletter of the [Unitarian Universalist Church of Olinda](#)


## Sunday Services November 2013



- Nov. 3 Standing on The Side of Love: Welcoming the LGBTQ Community**  
Bobbie Baylis, Steve Brennan  
and Karen Miller  
Music: Toni Janik
- Nov. 10 Universalism from the 'Mother' Land to Us -- Happy Birthday!**  
Rev. Christine Hillman  
Music: Carabel Ringrose
- Nov. 17 Living our Lives into New Ways of Thinking**  
Rev. Christine Hillman  
Music: Lori Lyons
- Nov. 24 The Holy War of 1812**  
Stuart Miller and Pat  
Haynes  
Music: Bobbye & Bill Baylis and Ray  
Stone

## Congregational Budget Meeting

Vote on the 2014 Budget  
December 8, 2013  
Immediately after the Service  
(with time to grab a cup of tea)



Laurie Stone was very taken by Ron Dunn's talk last month and has been thinking about something we could do for the Windsor Downtown Mission. She has offered to take any "gently used" mittens, hats, scarves, or blankets to the Mission that our congregation would care to donate. If you would like to contribute items that would help keep homeless people in Windsor a bit warmer this winter, please bring them to the church on Sunday, Nov. 24.

## Christmas Family

It is already the time of year to start preparing for our church's adoption of a Christmas Family from Children's Aid Society. If you wish to contribute, please do so by making a donation marked, on offering envelope and cheque, to direct it to CAS Christmas Family. Since the elves go out to shop before our Christmas dinner on December 1st, please make a donation, if you wish, by November 24th in order to enable the elves to know how much they can spend. When the family information becomes available it will be mentioned at church. Thanks for your consideration!



## From the Hillparson



"For those who have learned to live at the end of the road there is a vision always accomplishing itself, a vision of human perfection rising out of history and of history rising toward that goal. Faith is the assumption that the universe makes this rise possible, hope is the expectation that we can rise thither by our own powers, and love is the knowledge that we must make the ascent together." — Barrows Dunham (1905-1995) (Thank you to The Liberal Lectinary on Facebook for this quote)

Unitarian Universalism is what is called a liberal religious tradition but we are not all that can be called liberal religious. Some of almost every religious grouping might be called 'liberal religious' at least from inside that body, and many of those who claim a liberal view on that body might well be called heretical by many of the rest. We UUs don't have that particular problem.

We do, however, often wrestle with a problem most other religions have already resolved. Boundaries. Only within the last decade or so have UU congregations truly begun to consider that guidelines/policies should be put in place for the health of the congregation, of our tradition as a whole, as well. But mostly work within congregations is what is being given growing attention. We may each believe and affirm theological persuasions and values unique or peculiar to us, we may think what we think. What we cannot do is act on ideas we may have that will do damage to an individual, individuals, or to the congregation as a whole. Nor may we act in public in ways that get in the way of the principles and values we follow or the congregation's mission statement.

Numbers of UUs struggle with the very concept that we might have rules or boundaries and we therefore end up with occasions where someone's inappropriate behavior is left unchecked by the body of the church. Unchecked, bad behavior has too often ended up (because of both the behavior AND the not standing up to it) causing sometimes irreparable damage to the congregation. Damage that doesn't stop just because the involved leave in one manner or another. The effects of this kind of damage is generational in nature, meaning that a given church's anxieties and behaviors are framed by some long ago event, long after it has been "forgotten". Unless dealt with in the moment, or managed in the future (not the best choice) bad behavior makes a church troubled and troublesome. What is wonderful is that a great many wise and caring people have developed programs to help a congregation heal, and even better, with assistance numbers of our congregations have developed covenants for how we behave with one another. It is good that each of our congregations are part of a greater body of congregations. That we identify new challenges and work through them.

My great thanks to numbers of people who assisted in making the memorial service for Olinda's great Louise Foulds a wonderful day of memory and promise. Bill Baylis, Gypsy Carroll, Jane Innerd, Carabel Ringrose, Lori Lyons, Carol and Laurie Hylton, Trudy Ware and John Upcott. I'm sure there are others and know that your contributions are as thanked as those named. Blessings to Olinda for Louise's life having been so integral to decades of the life of the congregation.

*Faithfully and in faith,  
Rev. Christine*

## From the Board

At its meeting on October 17, your Board as usual approved the agenda and last month's minutes, but then we noticed that minutes posted in the coffee room were almost a year old. Oops. The approved minutes of Board meetings are supposed to be posted so that the congregation can read about our deliberations and see the decisions made. Obviously, we had neglected this duty: no one was assigned the task and no one did it. Not that we have been swamped with complaints. Minutes of meetings may not make the most exciting reading, but they should be available!

Next we discussed preparations for the Memorial Service for Louise Foulds on Oct. 19. John Upcott was thanked for his fine work sprucing up the garage for the ceremony of burying ashes in the tranquility garden. It was agreed that the generous Fould's bequest should be invested with the Lloyd fund monies, but whether it would be added to the Memorial Fund or made a component of an enlarged Lloyd fund was not fully resolved. The Board also noted with pleasure that, thanks to help from Vic Spicer and Zach Showers, our website [uolinda.org](http://uolinda.org) can now be found in Google searches. The website is a work in progress, but at least it now has some visibility. If you have items that could be added to the site, please send them to me. The minister reported that our Facebook page seems quite successful. It is managed by Reverend Christine Hillman together with Charlotte Innerd.

Stuart Miller reported on the challenges of running religious education (RE) for children when attendance is sporadic and there is no dedicated teaching staff. If you would be willing to help and fill in on occasional Sundays when needed, please talk to Stuart. There is also a need for the return of adult RE. Reverend Hillman has much experience in this area and will work with Stuart on a plan.

Since the Board is responsible for the long-term financial viability of the church, it is not surprising that reports of the treasurer and finance trustee are always a focus of discussion at our meetings. Treasurer Peter LeClair is concerned that donations are falling behind those of the recent past. He has been holding enough cash in the chequing account that he has not yet had to ask for funds to be transferred from the Lloyd fund as budgeted. This allows the Lloyd fund investments maximum flexibility in accruing value and income. However, if he continues this practice to year's end, it will consume most of the operating fund surplus. A lively discussion ensued about the health of the Lloyd fund and how much money should be taken from it to support our operations. Last spring, in response to such concerns, the Board voted to target a reduction in the amount of the transfer in future budgets from \$33,000 to no more than \$30,000. Questions about the current state of the fund and projections about its future performance were addressed to the Lloyd Fund

## Important Dates

**Nov. 6 7 PM**

Book Club: *Beautiful Mystery* by Louise Penny

**Nov. 10 Noon**

Open Finance Committee Meeting on Budget

**Nov. 13 7 PM**

Choir Rehearsal

**Nov. 17 Noon**

Harry Belafonte Film preceded by sandwiches

**Nov. 21 7 PM**

Board of Trustees Meeting

**Nov. 24**

Budget available to the Congregation. Deadline for contributions to CAS Family and for "gently used" items for Downtown Mission.

**Nov. 27 7 PM**

Choir Rehearsal

## Board Report Continued

Committee through its member Mariette Preyde, who was attending our Board meeting as a guest. Finance Chair Bobbye Baylis is working with her committee to draft the 2014 budget and asked for budget requests from all committee chairs.

Another important action was the Board's approval of a significant change in the focus and operation of the Committee on Ministry. Instead of acting largely as a support group for the Minister, it is to become a proactive agent for advancing the ministry of the church, supporting all members and implementing our mission statement. As such, it will perform a central role in church operations, acting objectively with clarity and transparency to gain the trust and cooperation of the congregation. A brochure describing the new role is in preparation. One of the first tasks of the committee is to design a tool for assessments of the ministry that should start soon and be repeated every year or two. The next regular Board meeting is scheduled at 7 PM on Thursday, November 21, 2013. All church members are welcome to attend.

Bill Baylis, President

## Finance Committee Report

On Nov. 10 after church, we will have the Open Finance Meeting to decide on the 2014 Budget to be presented to the Board and then to the Congregation on Dec. 8. All members of that committee, please make a point to be there for that meeting. Committee members are Helen Moore, Doug Whaley (Lloyd Fund), Gypsy Carroll, Mireya Campbell (Lloyd Fund), Peter LeClair (Treasurer), Carol Hylton, Mariette Preyde (Lloyd Fund), John Haynes (Lloyd Fund), Bobbye 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 2013 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 2014 Pledge card as soon as possible to Peter LeClair or myself so that we have the information for the 2014 Budget.

For the last two years we have been focussing on our historic building and have made major improvements that will assure our continuance well into the next decades. The Board is also committed to ensuring our financial sustainability with the same long-term goal in mind. In addition, the Committee on Ministry has started a new process to review and strengthen the ministry of the church. These activities may well result in changes to future budgets, but there will not yet be enough information collected nor progress in developing procedures for there to be major changes in the 2014 budget process. However, by this spring these new procedures will be in place and better information collected, and it is hoped that there can be even better communication between the Congregation and the Board on financial and other issues.

Bobbye Baylis, Finance Trustee

## Olinda Book Club

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*

**Title:** **Beautiful Mystery**

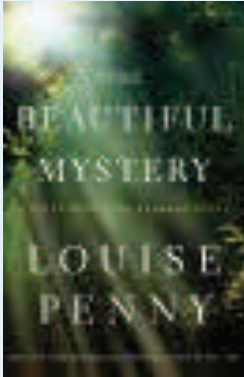
**Author:** Louise Penny.

**Summary:** No outsiders are ever admitted to the monastery of Saint-Gilbert-Entre-les-Loups, hidden deep in the wilderness of Quebec, where two dozen cloistered monks live in peace and prayer. They sing. Ironically, for a community that has taken a vow of silence, the monks have become world famous for their glorious voices, raised in ancient chants whose effect on both singer and listener is so profound it is known as "the beautiful mystery." But when the renowned choir director is murdered, the lock on the monastery's massive wooden door is drawn back to admit Chief Inspector Armand Gamache and Jean-Guy Beauvoir of the Surete du Quebec. Before finding the killer, before restoring peace, the Chief must first consider the divine, the human, and the cracks in between.

**Location of Meeting:** Gilbert Residence, Kingsville

**Leader:** Joyse Gilbert

**Date:** Wednesday, 06 November, 2013; 7 pm



## Caring Committee Report

As I write this I have just returned from a very impressive, well attended and well organized memorial service for Louise Foulds. She would have loved all the stories, all the laughter and all the music that was part of the tribute. She will always be remembered as an important part of our church, and her wise council over the years always moved our church forward. SHE IS MISSED.

Get well wishes go to Mariette Preyed who fractured her arm while riding her bike. To bad they do not make helmets for arms as well as heads. Get well wishes also go to Allan Chambers after his two surgeries. We all hope for a speedy recovery and for Allan to be up and around soon.

Congratulations to two wonderful people, Buster and Carabel Ringrose, for their award in recognition of all their work over the years in the community. Well done you two. Congratulations also to Tony and Dan Janik on the marriage of their son Doug; children grow up so fast.

I hope all is well with our special members Jean Wallis in Brantford and Albertina Bell in Leamington and let us know if we can help.

John Upcott

Eunice Goyette  
June Blacker  
John Upcott (Chair)  
Rev. Christine Hillman

## Lifespan Religious Education

Our usually quiet RE programme is taking on new spirit !

The children's lessons in the newly renovated lower classroom are becoming busier. Recent visitors to our church are returning, and bringing their youngsters, to supplement our current young student classes.

We now have 2 separate courses for different age groups.

To meet this new demand, we now need more leaders and assistants to help out downstairs Sunday.mornings. With a greater number of adults participating, this volunteering could occur infrequently, like once every two months.

A police clearance is required for adults teaching youngsters. To start this process, ask Stuart Miller or Bill Baylis for a letter requesting police clearance.

As several congregants have been discussing adult religious education, your Trustee is working with our Minister to develop new small group programmes. Circulars will be distributed through the congregation soon requesting topics and areas of interest that could possibly be offered during the upcoming fall and winter seasons.

*Stuart Miller, RE Trustee*

## Membership Committee Report

Just a reminder that if you enjoy refreshments after church, your participation of your time preparing and/or cleaning up after is what makes it possible.

Your Committee did not meet in October but will in November. We will review the Minutes from the March 10<sup>th</sup> Membership meeting that so many of you attended.

*Carol Hylton, Membership Trustee*

## Social Responsibility Committee

The committee has a special November treat for you! On Sunday, Nov. 17 we are offering a film about Harry Belafonte: ***Sing Your Song, the Music, Hope, and Vision of a Man and an Era.*** Many of us have enjoyed his music over the years but were unaware of his social justice activities. This is an opportunity to learn more about this remarkable man. Many thanks to Rev. Christine Hillman, who is letting us use her (or Arthur's?) copy. The committee will supply light sandwiches between the Sunday service and the start of the film. Don't want anybody to become faint from hunger.

*Bobbie Baylis, committee secretary*

## Special Notice

Sue Markham will be leaving soon for a trip to India and Nepal, where she will visit Child Haven, the orphanage founded by Bonnie & Fred Cappuccino. She has already collected funds from the CUPW National Women's Committee and will be glad to include any donations from Olinda, too. If you want to help, please give her your donation by Nov. 10 at the latest. For information on Child Haven, go to [www.childhaven.ca](http://www.childhaven.ca).