

From the Hillparson



I write my column for February's newsletter in the waning hours of Martin Luther King Jr's holiday in the States. I remember when this day was finally recognized, long late but ever so joyously engaged. And so, one day a year this great man is remembered, but generally remembered in a somewhat skewed manner. I learned that today. In a piece "Most of You Have No Idea What Martin Luther King Actually Did" and published August 2011 on dailykos.com, author Hamden Rice wrote truths which were reposted today by a number of people I know including my spouse. And so, because of the day, and what new I have learned, I share it with you even though Canada does not have this holiday and Dr. King has little direct connection to this country. On the other hand, what Dr. King is about, as Rice speaks of it, might turn Canadian memories to the nineteenth century when many enslaved men and women made their way here via the "Underground Railroad". Many, actually, truly here, Essex County. They did not find a heaven kind of haven they dreamed of and many returned to the States post war. But they did find something here which they could not have in the states, under threat of returning to enslavement. (Note here that I no longer call these people "slaves" as to do that devalues their inherent humanity. By saying versions of enslaved person, their status as slave is separated from the reality of their humanity.)

Hamden is speaking of terror and most certainly enslaved people felt terror all day and all night every day and night during the times of slavery in the U.S. But Hamden, in this piece, speaks of a very similar kind of terror experienced by African Americans up to and into the Civil Right movement. People thank MLK for integrating buses and for making it possible to sleep and eat in the same places white people did. But that isn't how Hamden's father saw it and it has rung a bell inside my head.

Hamden: "My father told me with a sort of cold fury, **"Dr. King ended the terror of living in the south."** My husband wrote (in sharing this article on Facebook), the following: "I so identify with the writing of H. Rice living with mule power on the farm, smoke house cured food, and being taught how to act around white people in the 1950's and 60's." This kind of terror Hamden and Hillman and so many others knew, even if they are sixty years old or younger. From Hamden: "It was that white people, mostly white men, occasionally went berserk, and grabbed random black people, usually men, and lynched them. You all know about lynching. But you may forget or not know that white people also randomly beat black people, and the black people could not fight back, for fear of even worse punishment. This constant low level dread of atavistic violence is what kept the system running. It made life miserable, stressful and terrifying for black people.

Another, this time, disagreeing, comment from Arthur Hillman: " I disagree with his use of the word berserk, they were not going berserk, they were demonstrating their loyalty to, and reinforcing their position at the top of the food chain of terror." Indeed. When I called him to ask permission to use his words he was reminded of an event from his childhood. He, his dad and two others of his brothers went to a local fair. At some point it began to rain and everyone (Black and White) rushed under a shelter of some kind. Within minutes there were cries from girls that their behinds were getting pinched. At that point my father-in-law-to-be Taft Hillman gathered the boys close to him and said they were going to get out of there, and, on the double they did, back to the truck and home. He knew what every African American father knew, that if white girls' behinds were getting pinched and one of them pointed at a Black male (adult or child) there would have been terrible consequences. That experience left a mark on all three boys and I am sure Mr. Hillman was glad of that--it would make them more cautious (as was necessary!) around ANY white person. Things have improved, the terror released by enduring much while protesting in those Civil Rights days of the sixties, as they saw that as bad as cigarette butts on one's head or beatings in the streets (worse acts when there were no cameras around), the paralysis of terror was worse and they weren't going to go that way anymore. That's what Dr. King taught the people. And I say AMEN as we enter Black History month, honoured by Americans and Canadians alike.

From the Board

The blowing snow on January 16 seemed reason enough to postpone the regular Board meeting that evening. However, we could not find a convenient replacement date, and several Board members had left early to be sure reaching the church in time. We therefore opted to hold the meeting as scheduled, and we were pleasantly surprised to actually have a quorum! You have a stalwart and dedicated Board! If bad storms force a change in plans that need to be communicated to all church members and frequent visitors, we have a telephone tree to speed notification. Membership Trustee Carol Hylton has now updated the tree and it will also be added to the password-protected members-only section of our website www.uuolinda.org. The wet weather also showed us that our repairs to the basement were not sufficient: some water seeped in from the south wall. While this is not a total surprise, it warns us that our planned waterproofing of that wall has high priority.

The congregation will be electing a new Board at the Annual General Meeting on February 23. This is a chance to infuse new ideas and energy into the operation of the church, and the Nominating Committee has been at work to formulate a new list of Trustees. If you or a friend are interested in playing a role on our Board, please talk right away to any member of the current Board or to the Nominating Committee (Carol Hylton, Steve Brennan, Jane Innerd). While most Trustees are willing to carry on for another year after the AGM, as I write this, three key positions are unfilled: vice-president, treasurer, and membership trustee. A new Board member could also start in another position with current Trustees shuffling positions. The Board is not wedded to holding its meetings on Thursday evenings. Other meeting times, such as Sunday afternoons, are also possible. The congregation will also decide at the AGM whether or not it is in favour in principle of having the church incorporate.

Our current Treasurer, Peter LeClair, submitted his report by telephone from his snowed-in home on the lake, and it was a report worth celebrating! We had been prepared for a sizeable deficit on the order of \$10,000, but thanks to generous donations in December, we actually finished the year with a **surplus** of \$2,700, our first surplus since 2010.

The Committee on Ministry (CoM) has been preparing for an assessment of the Ministry of the Church. The procedure and purpose will be briefly described during the service on February 9, evaluation forms will be distributed starting February 16, and we hope all will be returned by March 2. Results will be analyzed by the CoM and reported to the congregation. They should form the basis of constructive changes to improve the Ministry and how well the church fulfills its mission. Such assessments are to be conducted every year or two.

In other actions, the congregation will be asked at a meeting on March 16 to decide what type of memorial stone they would like for the Memorial Garden, the second part of the film on Harry Belafonte has been rescheduled to noon on February 16, the date of the popular aUuction has been moved to April 12, 2014, in order to avoid a conflict with Easter weekend, and the Bake Sale this year will concentrate on food items and will be held on May 24.

Our next Board meeting is scheduled at 7 PM on Thursday, February 20. All members of the church are welcome to attend.

Bill Baylis, President

Important Dates

Feb. 2 Noon (not 9:15!!!)

Sunday Services Meeting

Feb. 5 7 PM

Book Club: David & Goliath by Malcolm Gladwell

Feb. 6 3 PM

Tea with Christine

Feb. 12 7 PM

Choir Rehearsal

Feb. 13 3 PM

Tea with Christine

Feb. 16 11:30 AM

Sandwiches then Film: Second Installation of Harry Belafonte, Activist

Feb. 20 3 PM

Tea with Christine

Feb. 20 7 PM

Board of Trustees Meeting

Feb. 23 Noon

Annual Meeting preceded by snacks

Feb. 26 7 PM

Choir Rehearsal

Feb. 27 3 PM

Tea with Christine

Finance Committee Report

At the risk of ruining the surprise, I cannot resist sharing the good news that, instead of a deficit of about \$8000, we will have a surplus of nearly \$3000 for 2013. The generosity of our members and friends is truly astonishing: \$17,000 came in during December! Further, Doug Whaley has assured us that, with the addition of the \$5000 per year coming into the Fund from the Solar Panels, the Lloyd Fund will have no difficulty supporting our church with about \$30,000 per year. And this was true even before we included the generous Memorial donation from Louise Foulds into the Lloyd Fund.

You will be pleased to hear that we have moved the date for the ever-popular aUuction from our original choice, which was the Saturday before Easter, to Saturday, April 12. This has the additional advantage of moving it a bit farther from the International Dinner April 27 and the Bake Sale in May. We all need to start thinking right away about dates for events we want to offer and about foods and crafts we might want to sell at the aUuction. A list will appear soon in the Coffee Room (Tea Room? Refreshment Room?) for you to fill in your events, goods, and services.

Social Responsibility Committee

In November we screened a film on Harry Belafonte showing his social justice activities and filled with his wonderful music. Since this was a full-length feature film, we only showed the first half. On February 16 you will have the opportunity to see the second half. Given the powerful inspiration in the first half, I can't wait to see what follows! Thanks go to Arthur Hillman, who is loaning us his copy for these showings. (Incidentally, if you sense you are seeing this notice for the second time, you are right. Since January 12 was the first service in 2014, due to the snow on Jan. 5, I completely forgot about it and was not prepared with a computer, etc.)

Remember to hold Sunday, April 27, open for our annual International Dinner, with tasty dishes supplied by the Social Responsibility Committee and friends. The focus will be on Local Foods, so some might question whether we should call it Local Dinner....

Submitted by Bobbye Baylis, secretary of the SRC

Caring Committee Report

February 2nd, Ground Hog Day, is considered by most old farmers as the mid point of winter. In times long ago one would want to have half of their hay and grain remaining to feed the animals until spring. This year has been a very hard winter and on a serious note please be careful every time you go out. On one of those very cold days I slipped on some ice and while I was lucky and not hurt it could have been serious. Please make sure if you go out you have adequate supplies in your car and you are very careful when walking because there could be ice hiding under the snow.

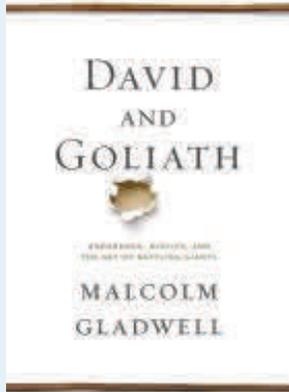
Marion Thompson is having some mobility problems and we miss seeing her in church but hope she gets better soon.

Happy Valentines Day to all but especially to Jean Wallis in Brantford and Albertina Bell in Leamington. I hope everyone is well and remember winter should be half over.

John Upcott

Caring Committee

Eunice Goyette
June Blacker
John Upcott
Rev. Christine Hillman



Olinda 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 – February 2014:

Title: *David and Goliath - Underdogs, Misfits, & The Art Of Battling Giants*

Author: Malcolm Gladwell

Summary: "The names David and Goliath have stood for three thousand years for the battles between underdogs and giants. David's victory was improbable and miraculous. He shouldn't have won. Or should he have? In *David and Goliath*, Malcolm Gladwell challenges how we think about obstacles and disadvantages, offering a new interpretation of what it means to be discriminated against, or cope with a disability, or lose a parent, or attend a mediocre school, or suffer from any number of other apparent setbacks. In the tradition of Gladwell's previous bestsellers--*The Tipping Point*, *Blink*, *Outliers* and *What the Dog Saw*--*David and Goliath* draws upon history, psychology, and powerful storytelling to reshape the way we think of the world around us"

Location of Meeting: Haynes Residence, Kingsville

Membership Report

I have made up a new telephone tree along with a supplemental list. In order to simplify the phone tree, there are some people not included. The people not on the telephone tree are on a Supplemental list that identifies the persons to make the phone calls. The persons being phoned do not need to phone someone else. It is important all are notified of church cancellation, or when necessary, other church information. See Gypsy Carroll or me for your copy.

Carol Hylton, Membership

Golden Girls

The "Golden Girls" is an informal ladies group who meet every 4 to 6 weeks for lunch. It started as a group of 3 and we are now 8 in number. The group enjoys lunch and conversation and being with one another. We meet at an eatery in Kingsville - usually the Kingsville Golf Club from May to December and the Mettawas Station in the winter months. If anyone is interested please speak with Carol, Ann, Gypsy, Pat, Leona, Joyse, Romell or Carabel.