

# The Olinda Outpost

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

## Sunday Services January 2014

**Jan 5. Service of the Living Tradition**

Rev. Christine Hillman

Music: Bobbye & Bill Baylis  
and Ray Stone

**Jan. 12 To Be Resolute**

Rev. Christine Hillman

Music: Lori Lyons

**Jan. 19 The Daughter of Jephthah**

Rev. Christine Hillman

Music: Carabel Ringrose

**Jan. 26 Saul vs. Paul**

Rev. Christine Hillman

Music: Toni Janik



### Christmas Family Thank You

Thanks for your generous donations to the Children's Aid Society Christmas Family. Linda and John Upcott were our Christmas elves who shopped very effectively providing necessities including bed in a bag and pillows for the four children of the family with two parents, as well as clothing, shoes, Legos and sports balls. The request for gifts included a certificate for a family portrait. With additional money \$400 worth of gift cards for the Christmas Family's grocery store of choice were purchased. Thanks for your generosity in making Christmas such a bountiful event for a family in need!



## From the Hillparson



Happy New Year to everyone! The year begins anew and we look to it for what might call and stir us in the deep truths of our values. Alone and in community. May it be so! From Rev. Jim VanderWeele, minister at the Community Church Unitarian Universalist - New Orleans. "In keeping with our local culture, we use the final Sunday of each year to say "good by" to the old year with a jazz funeral." Sending 2013 out in local style and passion. At Olinda, the first Sunday of the year is a service of recognition that our lives are richly dense with all manner of rites of passage. There are two new year celebrations this January. The second is the Chinese New Year January 31. More Happy New Year.



Twice in December I held a tea for anyone wishing to come at 3 pm Thursday. I will be holding the same this new year. Unless you hear different, come on a Thursday and join in conversation and any topic you might wish to bring. It lasts until 4:30 pm. I will be there soon enough to turn up the heat so we needn't stay in our coats. Drinking tea with gloves and balaclava is neither easy nor appetizing. Looking forward to see all who can join in.

Thanks to Joan Tinkess for sharing the following poem to begin the year.

### Praise What Comes

surprising as unplanned kisses, all you haven't deserved  
of days and solitude, your body's immoderate good health  
that lets you work in many kinds of weather. Praise  
talk with just about anyone. And quiet intervals, books  
that are your food and your hunger; nightfall and walks  
before sleep. Praising these for practice, perhaps  
you will come at last to praise grief and the wrongs  
you never intended. At the end there may be no answers  
and only a few very simple questions: did I love,  
finish my task in the world? Learn at least one  
of the many names of God? At the intersections,  
the boundaries where one life began and another  
ended, the jumping-off places between fear and  
possibility, at the ragged edges of pain,  
did I catch the smallest glimpse of the holy?

~ Jeanne Lohmann ~ (The Light of Invisible Bodies)

NEW UU ORIENTATION, Sunday, January 26 after church in the Tranquility Room  
Anyone who would like to know more about the grounding of our religious tradition is welcome, whether newcomer or longertimer... Learn more about UUism, Olinda and have a chance to ask questions.

*Faithfully and in faith,*  
Rev. Christine

## From the Board

At our December meeting of the Board of Trustees, we celebrated not only the congregational approval of the annual budget at a meeting on December 8, but also the historic move by the church to seek recognition as a Welcoming Congregation, made by an overwhelming vote at the Congregational Meeting on December 15, 2013. We will now proceed with the official application to the LGBTQ ministries of the Unitarian Universalist Association to join the 99% of other Unitarian Universalist churches who are already recognized as Welcoming Congregations.

In other work, the Board is actively pursuing the possibility of having the Church become incorporated. This would provide official recognition for the Church as a legal entity while offering important liability protection to Board members. In addition, we are investigating possible Canadian sources for the granite marker to be added to the Memorial Garden. We also set dates for several important events in 2014, namely the Annual General Meeting on February 23, the AUUction on April 20, and the International Dinner on April 27.

Peter LeClair presented the treasurer's report indicating that the Church is within budget and is on track to end the year with a smaller deficit than budgeted. Operating deficits can currently be covered by the surplus accumulated over past years. That surplus, which amounted to \$38,000 at the beginning of the year, together with targeted funds such as the Capital Fund and the Memorial Fund, are invested together with the Lloyd Fund, and income from them provides an important source of revenue for operations. Members of the Board were at pains to emphasize the decisions described here last month: the full Louise Foulds bequest has been added to the Lloyd Fund, and income from the solar project, which is named in honour of Louise, is considered investment income for the Lloyd Fund.

Since Carol Hylton was on vacation, it was left to me to report on the Committee on Ministry (CoM). The CoM is developing a tool for the evaluation of our ministry and how well we are fulfilling our mission, and how the ministry can be improved. The tool should be simple but inclusive: everyone in the church will be invited to contribute. The results will be carefully analyzed and reported, and I anticipate that they will lead to new congregational meeting(s) on our vision and on active steps to implement that vision. In a separate matter, the CoM was pleased to hear that our Minister had played a crucial and effective role in helping a parishioner through a difficult situation. The Board welcomes the weekly teas organized by Reverend Hillman as an informal sounding board for communication and ideas of all sorts. Please join in if you are able!

Our next Board meeting is scheduled at 7 PM on January 16, 2014. As always, you are welcome to attend. Happy New Year!!

Bill Baylis, President

## Important Dates

**Jan. 2 3 PM**

Tea with Christine

**Jan. 8 7 PM**

Book Club: *Mystic River* by Dennis Lehane

**Jan. 9 3 PM**

Tea with Christine

**Jan. 12**

Deadline for Annual Reports

**Jan. 12 Noon**

Film: Second Installment of Harry Belafonte

**Jan. 16 3 PM**

Tea with Christine

**Jan. 16 7 PM**

Board of Trustees Meeting

**Jan. 19 Noon**

Social Responsibility Committee Meeting

**Jan. 22 7 PM**

Choir Rehearsal

**Jan. 23 3 PM**

Tea with Christine

**Jan. 26 Noon**

New UU Orientation

**Jan. 29 7 PM**

Choir Rehearsal

**Jan. 30 3 PM**

Tea with Christine

## Finance Committee Report

Many thanks to all who attended the Congregational Meeting on the Budget on Dec. 8. Everyone came well prepared and there was a full and frank discussion of important issues. In the end the 2014 budget passed nearly unanimously. It is always a comfort going into the New Year with a legally approved budget!

## 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 at that time. On January 12 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.

Mark April 27 on your calendar for our annual International Dinner after church. The theme for this year is about saving food from being wasted and a presentation by Tina Quiring of The Gleaners is planned.

## Caring Committee Report

I hope everyone had a great holiday season and all got just what they wanted from Santa. I do not make resolutions for the new year but I hope that Love and Peace become more than just words. There seems to be more violence and intolerance around and respect for other people seems to be on the decline. If we can not work with each other to build a better community, society and world, what will the future hold?

I heard from Jane Innerd that Ann Purtell is recovering from cataract surgeries and that Judy Carter will have another angioplasty and have another stent put in. We all wish them the best of luck and hope that 2014 will be their year.

Please be careful because I know that the flu and severe respiratory infections have been going around and this time of year is always the worst.

I had the pleasure of visiting with some members before the holidays and would ask you to remember that all of us are the caring committee and if you have some time a visit is very rewarding and makes both feel better.

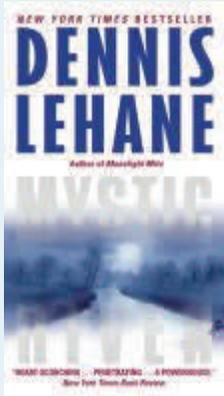
A big HELLO and new year's wish to special members Jean Wallis and Albertina Bell

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 (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*

### ***Happy New Year !***

#### **Book for Month – January 2014:**

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***Title:*** Mystic River

***Author:*** Dennis Lehane

***Summary:*** "There are threads in our lives. You pull one, and everything else gets affected." A tense and unnerving psychological thriller, Mystic River is also an epic novel of love and loyalty, faith and family, in which people irrevocably marked by the past find themselves on a collision course with the darkest truths of their own hidden selves.

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

***Leader:*** John Haynes

***Date:*** Wednesday, 08 January, 2014; 7 pm

## Membership Committee Report

I wrote this message prior to leaving the first week of December since we will be away all month. I hope you all had a wonderful Holiday Season and I want to thank all of you who made December a festive month at Olinda in whatever way you contributed. Now we are starting a new year.

I am inviting anyone who wishes to host a 'Dinner for Eight' to announce in Church that you wish to do this and when. It is a most enjoyable way to really get to know your church friends. Just another reminder to offer your help so refreshments can be provided after our Church service. Let Mariette know and thank you.

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

*Kathy, Gypsy, Christine & Carol*