

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 December 2014



Dec. 7 Abundance

Reverend Christine Hillman

Music: Bobbye & Bill Baylis

Dec. 14 Random Acts of Crazyness and Grace

Reverend Christine Hillman

Music: Toni Janik

Dec. 21 The Dove

Reverend Christine Hillman

Music: Lorie Lyons

Dec. 24 Christmas Eve

@5 p.m. Reverend Christine Hillman

Music: The Baylis Family

Dec. 28 Reading by Book Club

Book Club Members

Music: Carabel Ringrose

Jan 4 The Living Tradition

Reverend Christine Hillman

Music: TBA

OLINDA CHRISTMAS POT LUCK DINNER

**PLEASE JOIN US -
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14, AT NOON**

Our traditional Christmas dinner will be held after our Church Service. Two of our dedicated ladies will provide the turkey. The remainder of our menu is pot luck style - so please bring your favourite side dish or dessert.

You are welcome with or without bringing a dish

**WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU
THERE.**

OLINDA CHRISTMAS TREE TRIMMING PARTY

**Saturday, December 6, 2014
3-5 p.m.**

Come and enjoy the festivities:

- Decorating the Tree
- Singing Christmas Carols with the
- Choir
- Drinking Hot Cider
- Munching on Christmas Goodies



From the Hillparson



DECEMBER HOLIDAYS

December 21 Winter Solstice
December 17-14 Hanukkah
December 26-31 Kwanzaa



The holidays are on our doorstep. I write on November 25th, a month to the day to Christmas. From the dates above, by the time we get to Christmas there are holiday dates already begun or gone though, holidays that may be more significant to you and yours.

This month I would like to offer a few specific thoughts in regard to Kwanzaa. An African American holiday established in 1966, it is obviously not Canadian. On the other hand Kwanzaa is a week grounded in principles that can speak to us all, some straight as they are and others a tweaked a bit.

A bit of backdrop from “Lessons from the Kwanzaa Candles from UUA.org:

“The Kwanzaa candles are seven—three red, a black, and three green. The black candle is a celebration of being black, of the unique and special qualities each person brings to the whole family or community. It is a candle of the present, of today. The green candles are vision candles—candles of hope, dreams, and promises of the future. The red candles are struggle candles, past candles, candles the color of blood, candles the color of courage. All seven candles help African Americans to remember a long struggle against injustice, against unfairness, and to promise each other that they will continue to work together against injustice.”

The seven principles of Kwanzaa are:

Nguzo Saba
The Seven Principles

- Umoja ▲ Unity**
To strive for and maintain unity in the family, community, nation and race.
- Kujichagulia ▲ Self-Determination**
To define ourselves, name ourselves, create for ourselves and speak for ourselves.
- Ujima ▲ Collective Work and Responsibility**
To build and maintain our community together and make our brother's and sister's problems our problems and to solve them together.
- Ujamaa ▲ Cooperative Economics**
To build and maintain our own stores, shops and other businesses and to profit from them together.
- Nia ▲ Purpose**
To make our collective vocation the building and developing of our community in order to restore our people to their traditional greatness.
- Kuumba ▲ Creativity**
To do always as much as we can, in the way we can, in order to leave our community more beautiful and beneficial than we inherited it.
- Imani ▲ Faith**
To believe with all our heart in our people, our parents, our teachers, our leaders and the righteousness and victory of our struggle.

Dr. Maulana Karenga
Creator of Kwanzaa
©1965

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Faithfully and in faith,

From the Board

There's been a huge improvement in the looks and atmosphere of our basement, now that new flooring has been installed and the walls scrubbed to remove mold remnants. There is still minor trim work to be completed inside and further sealing and insulating outside, but we're looking forward to celebrating our freshly healthful basement surroundings at the annual winter potluck meal after the service on December 14. Many thanks to all involved in organizing, prepping, moving, cleaning, and more to make this project a success!

The church's contributions to the Children's Aid Society family have been so generous that Helen Moore has inquired to see if there is an additional small, deserving family for whom we can offer needed Christmas gifts. Many thanks to our elves, John and Linda Upcott, who will be seeking out Black Friday specials to stretch collected funds for the presents. In its spirit of giving, the Board has also sent its annual payment to support UNICAMP, a summer haven of relaxation and inspiration that many of us have enjoyed. In a move more significant for church finances, the Board approved the budget recommended by the Finance Committee with only one minor adjustment. We are generally pleased with this budget: the budgeted deficit for 2015 is 39% lower than in 2014 in spite of extra spending allocated to membership, and this was achieved while the Lloyd fund is maintained by limiting transfers to no more than last year. The budget will be presented to the congregation for approval after the service on December 7.

By then, we should have a Christmas tree in place. It will need decorating, however, and we hope you will come to ornament the tree and sing in the season on Saturday, December 6, starting at 3 PM. There may even be a few drinks and snacks available to stoke the spirits!

After distribution of assessments and a fruitful Visioning Session on November 2, various ministries of the church are looking at ways to implement some of the (at times conflicting) recommendations. Steve Brennan, chair of the Committee on Ministry, is working on suggesting priorities. Your Board in particular will be looking into implications of shrinking its size while encouraging better communication with church members. One small step: the approved minutes of our October 2014 meeting have been posted in the coffee/tea room for anyone to read. We are also looking into the possibility of providing hearing assistance, either in the form of an electromagnetic loop that can broadcast the service to hearing aids with a telephone (T) setting or a radio broadcast to headsets that could be borrowed. As always, your comments and suggestions are invited on this or any aspect of our services.

Our next Board meeting is scheduled at 7 PM on Thursday, December 18. All members of the church are welcome to attend.

Bill Baylis, President

Important Date

Dec. 3 3 pm
Tea with the Minister

Dec. 3 7 pm
Book Club: *The Professor & the Madman* by Simon Winchester

Dec. 6 3 pm
Christmas Tree Decoration

Dec. 7 noon
Congregational Meeting on Budget

Dec. 10 7 pm
Choir Rehearsal

Dec. 14 noon
Holiday Pot Luck with New Floor!

Dec. 17 3 pm
Tea with the Minister

Dec. 18 7 pm
Board of Trustees Meeting

Dec. 21 noon
Social Responsibility Committee Meeting

Dec. 24 5 pm
Christmas Eve Service

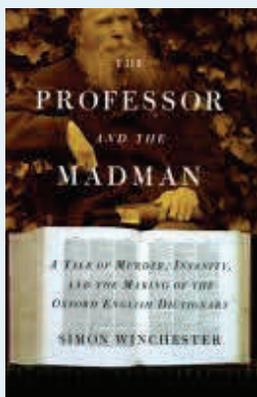
Jan. 7 7 pm
Book Club: Your Choice of a book by Peter Robinson

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* Everyone is welcome is welcome



Book for Month – December 2014:

Title: **The Professor & the Madman**

A Tale of Murder, Insanity, and the Making of the Oxford English Dictionary

Author: **Simon Winchester**

Summary: The Professor and the Madman, masterfully researched and eloquently written, is an extraordinary tale of madness, genius, and the incredible obsessions of two remarkable men that led to the making of the Oxford English Dictionary -- and literary history.

Location of Meeting: Residence of Sharon & John Van Abbema, Kingsville

Lead-

Book for Month – January 2015:

Title: **“Your Choice”**

Author: **Peter Robinson**

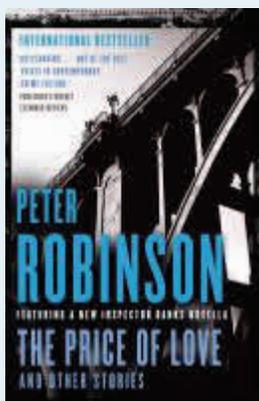
Summary: Mystery stories from crime-fiction's maestro. Best known -- and much admired -- for his long-running and bestselling Inspector Banks series, Peter Robinson is also widely and highly praised by mystery mavens for his riveting short stories. Spellbinding plots, suspense that grips and won't let go, utterly unpredictable twists, psychological truths both sweet and scary, characters you'd like to meet.

You pick your choice from over 35 titles !

Location of Meeting: UU Church of Olinda

Leader: Gypsy Carroll

Date: Wed., 07 January, 2015; 7 pm



Social Responsibility Committee Report

The Social Responsibility Committee will be distributing a survey, containing a list of social issues, and asking your input on which are most important to you personally. In which of these areas would you want Olinda to be more active? What suggestions do you have for activities we could undertake in support of these issues?

Finance Committee Report

The 2015 Budget, developed with input from Board members and the Committee on Ministry, was passed at the Finance Committee meeting on Nov. 9, 2014. This was approved by the Board at its regular meeting on Nov. 20 and copies have been available in the church since Nov. 23 for the Congregation to read over before the vote on Dec. 7.



Congregational Budget Meeting

Vote on the 2015 Budget
December 7, 2014
Immediately after the Service
(with time to grab a cup of tea)

Caring Committee Report

Winter has come early even if we do not want it to and the Christmas season is upon us. The season of love, hope, and peace does not seem to provide a great deal of any of these in the world today, but we can do what we can to promote these in our community where we live. If we can bring this message of love, hope and peace to the people around us that will be a start to change the world.

It is good to hear that Eunice Goyette is out of the hospital and getting better and that Dorothy Brown is back in her home and getting along very well. Arnold and Marion Thompson are still having some mobility problems and may be looking into some alternative living arrangements. We all hope that everything works out.

I hope that all the congregation will have a wonderful holiday season whether spending time with family, friends, loved ones, yourself or all of the above.

The caring committee will be putting together some goodies for long time members who now have a hard time coming to church.

Please all have a safe and happy holiday and we will see you all in the NEW YEAR.



Committee Members

Eunice Goyette
June Blacker
John Upcott
Rev. Christine Hillman

Important Notices

Christmas Family: Next Chapter



Thanks for your generous donations to the Christmas Family Fund. One family of two parents with three children, two girls aged six and three and a newborn boy was our original Christmas family. Linda Upcott said that she thought there would be enough money to shop for another small family. Our second family has two parents with two boys aged four years and four months.

Thanks to Linda for her shopping. The gifts she has purchased will be available to view at church on the front bench either November 30th or December 7th.

The volunteer driver who picks up the Christmas gifts each year always comments on our church's generosity. Thank you!

Notice from Your Nominating Committee

There are still Board positions yet to be filled for next year!!

Open positions are: Vice President & Membership/Publicity

Being on the Board is a way of contributing to making decisions for your Church. We thank you for giving this consideration. If you know someone you would like to have in either of those positions, please feel free to bring it to our attention.

Carol Hylton, Gypsy Carroll & Steve Brennan, Nominating Committee

Donations

The Annual Letter of Appeal, as well as a pledge card for 2015, and your record of contributions through October 31, 2014 has been distributed at church or mailed. Please check to see if your records agree with the record of donations that you received. If they do not, please contact Helen Moore at hemoore@bell.net or (519)776-4068 or in person at church.

Donations are gratefully accepted and will be receipted for 2014 if they are received by December 31st but preferably received by the last Sunday in 2014, December 28th.

Basement Flooring

After several years of planning and improvements to the basement walls, exterior wall and windows replacement, it finally came time to replace the basement flooring. The original plan to replace the carpet was expanded to include new flooring in the kitchen and the utility room which holds the laundry tubs. Before installing the new floor, the deteriorating concrete had to be upgraded with hydraulic cement.

The board and congregation, at a congregational meeting on October 26th, chose a cushioned vinyl or fiber floor. With the absence of the carpet, the presence of the new flooring, the new dehumidifier running when the humidity is above 50%, in addition to cleaning, the basement seems a transformed area as it indeed is.

By lifting, instead of dragging, tables, chairs and any other furniture, the floor should serve us for many years. We anticipate enjoying our renewed surroundings at our Holiday Pot Luck on December 14th.