

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 February 2015



Feb. 1 **Talk on Meditation**

Bonnie Malanoski

Music: Carabel Ringrose

Feb. 8 **Michael Faraday (1791-1867) Natural Philosopher**

Bill Baylis

Music: Toni Janik

Feb. 15 **Come Sing a Song With Me**

Reverend Christine Hillman

Music: Lorie Lyons

Feb. 22 **The Immense Journey: Loren Eisley**

Reverend Christine Hillman

Music: Bobbye and Bill Baylis
with Ray Stone & Sam Stanley

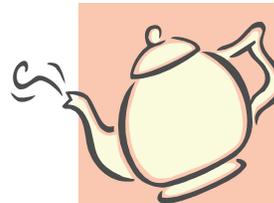


John and Sharon van Abbema during a new member ceremony
with Reverend Christine Hillman and Bill Baylis

Annual Meeting

Unitarian Universalist Church of Olinda
Sunday, February 22, 2015
following the church service

The Annual Reports will be available on Sunday,
Feb. 8, 2015



Tea with the Minister

will only be on the third Wednesday of this month, from 3-4:30 pm. Rev. Christine is out of town during the first week of February. Join her and whomever else show up to enjoy afternoon tea and conversation on February 18.

From the Board

At the first Board meeting of 2015, on January 15, our current Board, together with Rev. Christine Hillman and John Upcott, were joined by Carol Hylton and Elaine Stevenson. John represents the Caring Committee and offers sage advice on property, history, and such, while Carol came with the report of the nominating committee. In **business arising**, (1) Stuart Miller confirmed that the wintry weather has delayed completion of work by P&S Building Systems on the south wall of the church, probably until spring. However, John has been pulling back snow and grading the surface where possible to keep unwanted moisture away. (2) The new sound system seems to be working as envisioned, with several members saying that they could hear the service clearly for the first time in years. The speakers still need to be mounted on the walls, and we'll try to connect the older back speakers as well. (3) The kind offer from John van Abbema to purchase and help install a larger and higher toilet for the first-floor bathroom was accepted. John Upcott will discuss details with him and investigate the possible use of a dual-flush model. (4) A speaker was announced for the service before the International Dinner on March 15: local social activist Tracey Ramsey. An appropriate charity will be designated for donations collected at the dinner, and the Olinda Choir is trying to work out a schedule that will allow it to join the "Big Sing" later that afternoon, celebrating the 150th anniversary of the First UU Church of Ann Arbor.

We are thrilled with the new visitors attending services. The van Abbemas are becoming members here on January 18, bringing their experience and wisdom from the Unitarian Fellowship of Fredericton, NB. Enough children are now attending to hold vibrant Sunday School sessions. We hope this will continue and encourage other families to join or return to the church. Of course the new activity not only makes coffee hour more competitive, it also places new demands on Religious Education. Our RE Trustee, Stuart Miller, is working on signing up more church members as assistants, although the process is complicated by child-safety procedures set out by our insurance company. Further glad tidings came in the Treasurer's report, showing that the church finished 2014 with a surplus of over \$4700, in spite of transferring 3 k\$ less from the Lloyd fund than last year and facing a budgeted deficit of \$14,700. Details are in the Annual Report for 2014 prepared for the congregational meeting on February 22.

Carol's report gave the Nomination Committee's slate of officers and trustees for 2015. It lists 6 people for 9 slots, with vice-president and Membership&Publicity positions vacant, both Treasurer and Sunday Services filled by Helen, and RE and Property taken by Stuart. Although some recommended a smaller Board as an efficiency matter, we lack the strong standing committees and member participation to drive important ministries like Membership. Also, by regulations of the Canadian Revenue Agency, with fewer than nine members on our Board, we can have no more than one couple on the Board; other Board members must all be at "arms-length" relations. If you would consider serving as an officer or trustee of the church, please let us know!

The Board added the date for the annual Bake Sale: Saturday, May 23. This and other events can be viewed in the Church Calendar on our website, www.uuolinda.org. Also available there, under "Members Only" (look far down the home page on the right-hand side) is our password-protected directory and telephone tree. These will be regularly updated. Zoom in as needed to read. (The password was described during a recent service. Speak to any Board member if you need it.)

The Annual Convention and Meeting of the Canadian Unitarian Council will be held in Ottawa May 15-17, 2015. Some financial support is available for attendance. Please contact a Board member if you would like to represent our church there. Our next Board meeting is scheduled at 7 PM on Thursday February 19, 2015. All members of the church are welcome to attend.

Bill Baylis, President



From the Hillparson

So far, this has not been a very “bleak midwinter” as the hymn goes. More blue sky days would be nice but at least the very low temperatures didn’t last a long time and the snow is markedly lower than last year’s winter season. Hallelujah!

Even as Winter remains, a certain kind of Spring is clearly present at Olinda. John and Sharon van Abbema have joined the congregation as members and that is a lovely reality, though their loss to their former Unitarian Universalist congregation in Fredericton is likely noticeable for them. Olinda is happy! In addition, the congregation is experiencing an influx of families which is an immeasurable joy. Welcome! Welcome!! And Welcome!!!

For the new folks finding a home at Olinda ask every question you can think of. For every longer time Olindan, get to know these great new people.

One of the realities of new people coming in, for both the newcomers and the longer participants, is the sometimes itchiness of change. Knowing who everyone is, how things work, what all our acronyms and abbreviations mean, etc. A most important reminder, in regard to change, is to wear your name tag. From my own experience it takes a long time to get to know folks! Our R.E. program is not bursting at the seams yet but it IS sturdy, and held with strength with our R.E. Trustee Stuart Miller.

A note that adult programming will begin again in March, timing, topic, to be determined. And as to timing, if you have thoughts as to when a good afternoon, evening, day might serve the most the best, do let me know: 519-733-3905 and UURvOlin-da@cogeco.ca . I have never known a church who could figure that out in a way that met everyone’s needs but, in working together, we can do our best. Churches do want to do their best, I know that to be so at Olinda.

As we live our lives into and through the month of February may we all have good health, good weather and a bright spirit. In case any of these do not go so well, coming to church can help, calling the minister can also help!

*Faithfully and in faith,
Rev. Christine*

Important Date

Feb. 4 3 pm
No Tea with the Minister.
Christine is away!

Feb. 4 7 pm
Book Club: *People of the Book, A Novel* by Geraldine Brooks

Feb. 8 10 am
Annual Reports Available

Feb. 12 7 pm
Choir Rehearsal

Feb. 15 noon
Social Responsibility Committee Meeting

Feb. 18 3 pm
Tea with the Minister

Feb. 19 7 pm
Board of Trustees Meeting

Feb. 22 noon
Annual Congregational Meeting

Feb. 26 7 pm
Choir Rehearsal

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 – January 2015:

Title: People of the Book,
A Novel

Author: Geraldine Brooks

Summary: In 1996, Hanna Heath, a young Australian book conservator is called to analyze the famed Sarajevo Haggadah, a priceless six-hundred-year-old Jewish prayer book that has been salvaged from a destroyed Bosnian library. When Hanna discovers a series of artifacts in the centuries-old book, she unwittingly exposes an international cover up.

Location of Meeting: Crowder Residence

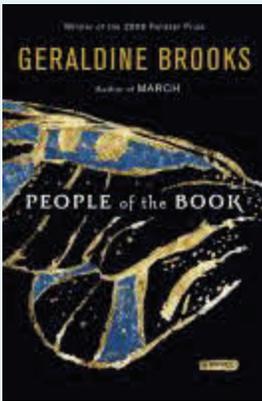
Leader: Leona Crowder

Date: Wed., 04 February 2015; 7 pm

Finance Committee Report

At the risk of ruining the surprise, I cannot resist sharing the good news that, instead of a deficit of over \$14,000, we will have a surplus of nearly \$5000 for 2014. The generosity of our members and friends is truly astonishing: nearly \$12,000 came in during December alone! Because we have been using money in the Capital Fund for important improvements to the basement, we had assumed that there would not be much of the church's money (from Special Funds) sitting in the Lloyd Fund gathering interest and other income. However, partly due to a healthy Memorial Fund, there was enough that we received an unexpected \$2500. Further good news, the Lloyd Fund Committee has assured us that, with the addition of the \$6850 per year coming into the Lloyd Fund from the Solar Panels, that fund will have no difficulty continuing to support our church with about \$30,000 per year.

You will be pleased to hear that we have set the date for the ever-popular aUuction as Saturday, April 18. 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. Toni Janik and Elaine Stevenson are already planning an event, a Pancake Breakfast, for Sunday, April 26. 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 Report

At our January 18 meeting we had a record 13 attendees! There were lively discussions of several topics:

- Sue Markham is keeping us abreast of the activities being undertaken to retain Door to Door Postal Service. We also learned that even rural Mailbox to Mailbox delivery is in peril.
- Karen Miller is organizing the collection of letters to use in an Amnesty International campaign for Saudi Arabia to release Raif Badawi, the journalist who had been sentenced to 1000 lashes, to be delivered at 50 per week. The first 50 had rendered his condition such that he was considered medically unfit to receive the next week's 50, so they were postponed. The committee has agreed that this type of protest action should be organized through the committee. Persons wanting to collect letters in support of an activity can present their case to the committee, which meets the third Sunday every month. On the first Sunday of the next month, the materials related to that activity will be distributed, and the resulting letters of support will be collected on the last Sunday of the month. They will then be bundled and delivered to the appropriate authorities.
- Kim DeYong pointed out that local water, which has never been treated with fluoride, may eventually come under provincial legislation. This is something to keep an eye on.
- We compared the weight of news coverage and resultant public outrage given to the assassination of 4 cartoonist & other employees of Charlie Hebdo in Paris with the coverage and outrage about the slaughter of possibly 2000 villagers in Nigeria. We agreed that greater balance is needed in the media. Since we have no power over major media outlets, committee members will prepare a list of alternative media sources.

The last page of both this and January's Newsletter contain a survey through which the committee hopes to learn the particular social justice issues of interest to the congregation. Please fill this out and give it to either Gord Taylor, Mariette Preyde, or Bobbye Baylis. We will use this information to help us organize activities, suggest topics to the Sunday Services Committee, and find themes for our International (turning local) Dinners. Those of you who receive the Newsletter by email will also receive a word file of this survey, which can be filled in and returned by email to bbaylis@xplornet.com.

Speaking of which, our International Dinner on March 15 will be part of Women's History Month, in keeping with Rev. Christine Hillman's services for that month. The speaker during the service on that date will be Tracey Ramsey, a local women's rights activist.

Caring Committee Report

Ground-Hog Day is here and so take heart because the winter is half over and it is all down hill from here "I hope".

I want to take some time here to thank Eunice Goyette and June Blacker for all their years on this committee. In the annual report I praised their work and service, but for those who do not get the report I want to thank them here. Eunice sends all the cards with a personal touch and June takes care of the Windsor members, which is not as busy as it once was but is still very important.

Sympathies go Linda Upcott on the loss of her sister on Dec. 22 and again another family member to pass away during the Christmas holidays .

A special winter hello to Jean Wallis in Brantford and to Albertina Bell and Arn and Marion Thompson in Erie Glen Manor in Leamington.

John Dresser was admitted to Leamington Hospital on Sunday night with an infection and received an M.R.I. on Thursday, still waiting for results. He is able to have visitors and Christine has been there.

Please all stay well and remember spring is on the way.

Committee Members:

Eunice Goyette
June Blacker
John Upcott
Rev. Christine Hillman

Social Justice Issues Survey

This is a survey to determine our congregation's interests and priorities regarding social justice issues. Please indicate how important the following issues are to you:

(4 = most important, 3 = very important, 2 = somewhat important, 1 = low importance, and 0 = not important)

- | | |
|---|---|
| ___ Environmental issues | ___ Racism |
| ___ Climate Change | ___ First Nations, Inuit, Meti |
| ___ Immigration issues | ___ Reproductive rights |
| ___ LGBTQIA Rights | ___ Transportation equity |
| ___ Income/Wealth Inequality | ___ Urban sustainable development |
| ___ Net neutrality | ___ Voter rights |
| ___ Prison reform | ___ Public Service (Postal, parks, etc.) |
| ___ Water issues (control of resource, pollution, etc.) | ___ Access to Public Data, Freedom of Speech for Public Servants (e.g., scientists) |

Another Issue that is important to you _____

What organization(s) are you currently involved in or actively support?

Would you like to join the Social Responsibility Committee? _____

Name: _____

Phone number(s): _____

Email address: _____

Please place this completed form in the box on the table in the library or email it to

bbaylis@xplornet.com.