

# The Olinda Outpost

Monthly Newsletter of the [Unitarian Universalist Church of Olinda](#)  
2953 Olinda Side Road, Ruthven, Ontario, N0P 2G0

R.E. Class and Service held at 10:30  
(followed by refreshments)  
Rev. Christine Hillman

## Sunday Services May 2015



- |               |   |  |
|---------------|---|--|
| <b>May 3</b>  | <b>The Powers of Recovery</b><br>Reverend Christine Hillman   | Music: Toni Janik                      |
| <b>May 10</b> | <b>Tolerance is Insufficient</b><br>Reverend Christine Hillman  | Music: Carabel Ringrose                |
| <b>May 17</b> | <b>Victory in Europe, May 1945</b> A young child's memory of freedom and joy with a lifelong enduring gratitude to the Canadians and their Allies who made it possible<br>John van Abbema | Music: Ray Stone Quartet & Bill Baylis |
| <b>May 24</b> | <b>The Promise of Spring</b><br>Nancy Philips of Wings Rehabilitation   | Music: Sharon van Abbema               |
| <b>May 31</b> | <b>The Monkey Mind</b><br>Reverend Christine Hillman  | Music: Lori Lyons                      |
| <b>June 7</b> | <b>Becoming Something New</b><br>Reverend Christine Hillman   | Music: tba                             |



### ***Bake Sale and BBQ*** ***May 23rd*** ***9 am—2 pm***

Our traditional Bake Sale with BBQ served by the Upcotts. This is the only occasion we are open to the public to raise awareness of UU Olinda. Please consider contributing baked goods, preserves. All items must be wrapped and marked ready for sale.

Pies are popular, as well as, individual servings of squares and muffins.

We will be at church Friday from 4-7 to set up for the sale and accept food items.

We will also be at the church on Saturday at 8. If you can do some baking but cannot deliver the items to the church, we can arrange for pick up at your house. If you have any questions, contact Cathy Dewhurst or myself.

Join us on Saturday and enjoy the barbeque with your friends. Purchase some of the delicious baked goods to take home!!

### **NEWCOMER GATHERING WITH THE MINISTER: Questions and Answers** May 3 (after the Maypole!)

If you've been coming awhile and want to get to know some other newcomers a little better and want to know a little more about Unitarian Universalism, join us! We'll meet in the Tranquility Room so that children can be nearby in the play room. No RSVP required, just come with your questions!

Rev. Christine

## From the Hillparson



Amazing to me that we are down to the last two months of the regular church year! Much accomplished this year with the participation and commitment of numbers of people. And joy reigneth in the morning!

Thought I would reflect on something that often comes up in conversations among ministers as well as in our congregations. That is, the best practice uses of e-mail. Most of us now have access to the internet and an e-mail account, some of us use it a lot. And e-mail lists and conversations in churches across the continent is at an all time peak, although around for much longer. I got my own first e-mail address in October, 1996 (as I began seminary) and have had various accounts with regular activity ever since. That it would mean so much to my contacts with others, business and personal, came as a surprise all the same. After all, like so many things, I had lived the first forty plus years of my life without a hitch, having no way to e-mail somebody. Like most, or many, of us.

Now, it, and other forms of internet access, have become necessary tools of congregational life. There are churches who no longer mail any paper versions of the newsletter, for example. And Olinda mails very few these days. Mireya Campbell e-mails the board minutes to us, Bill Baylis, the Board Agenda, and so on. But ever so much more common are the regular emails that criss-cross the ether from member or friend to another. A few of our churches even have e-lists for conversations, though not advisable, as so many times conversations turn ugly as there is little to help folks ask questions, smile, etc.. And here is where best practice comes in. E-mail "conversation" is not face to face. It is not even as good as a letter in framing the intended emotion of what is being said. That is to say the content sent is too readily prone to misunderstanding. Too easily used by the sender to write things they would never say directly to a person. It has happened much too often among the congregants of many churches and here is where I implore caution. People get hurt when something was said inadvertently, unintentionally, poorly, or sometimes too quick after a flare of disappointment or anger. Sometimes things said linger in the community and the pain does not easily go away. My word of caution of the day. I love e-mail, just recommend a certain caution, something you're not certain of, if it is a hard conversation, e-mail it to yourself and then look at it the following day, see if what you wrote is really what you meant. Try to "hear" it as the receiver might well interpret it. Beloved communities require caution, care and nurturing. As to social media, many people use initials standing for a statement to convey feeling. One of them is "rotfl" or a version of that. "Rotfl" stands for "rolling on the floor laughing" and used as a quick shorthand in response to someone's funny statement. The one I like best, for its ability to demonstrate a statement I've made is not meant to be taken seriously is "lol". It stands for "laughing out loud". But there is a story about that, comes from a minister out there, somewhere. A minister who didn't know what "lol" meant. And then that individual received notice by e-mail or Facebook...of a sad occurrence in someone's life and the minister, thinking "lol" meant "lots of love" responded with that as a way to convey the feeling of being with the mourning person. Don't know how that turned out but do know that such happens with real words as well as new shorthands.

"Y'all be careful out there." And enjoy the blossoming Spring!

*Faithfully and in faith,*

*Rev. Christine*

Donations for Mother's Day (May 10) will be given to the Welcome Centre Shelter for Women, the only shelter available in Windsor for homeless women. Possible items include toiletries, bedding, night-ware and other clothing, and even food. A full "wish list," taken from their web site, is posted on the bulletin board in the Coffee Room.

## From the Board

At the April meeting of the Board on Tuesday, April 21, we welcomed our new vice-president, John van Abbema to his first meeting with us. Our Trustee for Membership & Publicity, Bonnie Showers-Malanoski, stayed home to nurse a cold and to keep from infecting the rest of us, but all the other trustees were there, together Reverend Christine Hillman and John Upcott, representing the Caring Committee. As our first item of business, we approved the minutes for the March meeting and posted them in the tea room for all to view.

Business arising from the minutes included the successful installation of the new van Abbema toilet and remounting of the loud speaker by the Clavinova. There was some concern that the new Committee on Ministry has not yet been able to meet, but it was suggested that even without its set of recommended actions, members of the Board review the transcript of the visioning session and identify concrete steps each could research, formulate, and propose for implementation.

The AUUction on April 18 was a financial success and gave everyone the opportunity to admire the bright, clean, and dry basement. Treasurer Helen Moore has already deposited the \$3,733 brought in so far, and a bit more is expected as final payments on items and functions are made. This should be sufficient to pay off the basement repairs. As Stuart Miller pointed out, P&S Construction still has work to finish along the exterior south wall, and he has reminded them of their remaining obligations.

Helen also reported that in spite of additional expenses arising from the cold and snowy winter, church finances were on track to remain within budget. Finance Trustee Bobbye Baylis recommended that the annual Mothers Day collection be donated this year to the Welcome Centre for Women, and this was approved. The Welcome Centre, a women's shelter, was very grateful for the \$270 already sent from the International Dinner in March. Bobbye also reminded us of the Bake Sale & Barbeque on May 23 and the picnic on June 14. Karen Miller is a delegate representing our church at the annual meeting and conference of the CUC in mid May. We are allotted two delegates, but if no other member applies for the second position, Christine will fill the role.

In recognition of its fiduciary responsibilities, the Board reviewed tables showing the performance of the Lloyd fund over the past fourteen years. The volatility of the tabulated return on investment (ROI) reflects the natural statistical fluctuations of a relatively small investment fund and the volatility of the stock market itself. The relatively modest ROI of the past four years was balanced by the large returns of the previous two years, and negative ROI last year reflected the drastic drop in oil prices and, as Mireya pointed out, bad timing: there was a considerable recovery of the market early in the year. We have the volunteer investment work of Doug Whaley and the Lloyd fund committee to thank for saving the church many thousands of dollars every year in management fees. The Board does have ultimate responsibility for church finances and will continue to monitor the Lloyd fund and investment strategy with the Lloyd fund committee. We are fortunate to have Mireya Campbell as secretary to the Board: she is a member of the Lloyd fund committee and can alert us to real or anticipated changes.

Our next Board meeting is scheduled on May 19, 2015, and members are invited to attend.

Bill Baylis, President

## Important Dates

**May 3 11:30 am**  
Maypole Celebration of Spring

**May 3 noon**  
Newcomer Gathering - More about UUism

**May 6 3 pm**  
Tea with the Minister

**May 6 7 pm**  
Book Club: *The Elegance of the Hedgehog* by Muriel Barbery

**May 10**  
Donations to the Welcome Centre Shelter for Women

**May 10 9:30 am**  
Meditation with Bonnie Showers-Malanoski

**May 10 noon**  
Sunday Services Committee Meeting

**May 14 7 pm**  
Choir Rehearsal

**May 17 noon**  
Social Responsibility Committee Meeting

**May 19 7 pm**  
Board of Trustees Meeting

**May 23 9 am**  
Bake Sale & Barbeque

**May 24 9:30 am**  
Meditation with Bonnie Showers-Malanoski

**May 28 7 pm**  
Choir Rehearsal

## Olinda Book Club

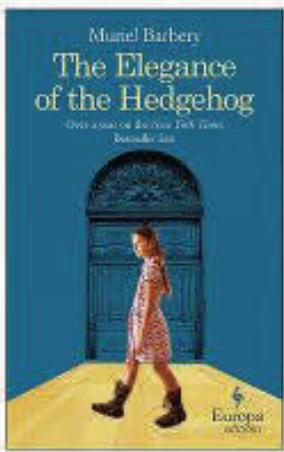
This group of congregants and friends gathers once a month (1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday) at the home of book club members, the Church, or other arranged venues.

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*

### Book for Month – May 2015:

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**Title:** *The Elegance of the Hedgehog*

**Author:** Muriel Barbery

#### **Summary**

In a bourgeois apartment building in Paris, we encounter Renée, an intelligent, philosophical, and cultured concierge who masks herself as the stereotypical uneducated super to avoid suspicion from the building's pretentious inhabitants. Also living in the building is Paloma, the adolescent daughter of a parliamentarian, and she cannot bear to live among the rich. Although they are passing strangers, it is through Renée's observations and Paloma's journal entries that the book reveals the absurd lives of the wealthy.

**Location of Meeting:** van Abbema Residence

**Leader:** John van Abbema & Stuart Miller

**Date:** Wed., 06 May, 2015; 7 pm

## Finance Committee Report

One of Olinda's lesser-known miracles is the fact that each year, somehow, the Goods and Services aUuction is even more fun than the last. The aUuctioneers (John Upcott and Wilf Innerd), demonstrator (Laurie Stone) and the audience really got into the swing of things! There were lots of lovely items available, the products of hours of hard work by, among others, Ron Hicks, Cathy Dewhurst, Dorothy Brown, Linda Upcott, Pat Haynes, Bill Baylis, John van Abbema and Toni Janik. Special thanks to Laverne Hicks for making Marion Thompson's special recipe Sour Cherry Jam available to us. Also to the Haynes and Hylton families for providing us with intermission entertainment and to John Upcott and Mariette Preyde for organizing the Pasta (Lasagna) Dinner.

Our Treasurer, Helen Moore already has \$3,733 from the aUuction to deposit in the bank, and will be receiving another \$400 or so once all of the event tickets have been paid for. So we have again broken our \$4000 mark! This will finish paying the bill for the basement repairs done in 2013 summer. Now we get to start making suggestions for the next project to be paid by the aUuction so we can continue having fun at our annual aUuction.

## Social Responsibility Committee Report

The elimination of doo-to-door delivery of mail continues to be a major concern for the Committee. Sue Markham is organizing a Town Hall meeting for Tuesday, May 26, at the Kingsville Legion at 7 pm. More information will be available later, but everyone concerned about this loss of service should mark that date and plan to attend. What with the Postal Service now posting record profits, there is no clear rationale for eliminating a service sorely needed by many people. And the logistics around these Community Mailboxes is, to say the least, problematic. Some cities are already outright banning the things.

For years we have been donating toiletries to the House of Sophrosyne on Mother's Day, but this year the Committee decided to help the Welcome Centre Shelter for Women, a new organization suggested to us by Tracey Ramsey and Evelyn Pigott-Washington. They are the only shelter for homeless women in Windsor and offer food and clothing as well as shelter.

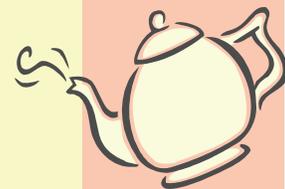
A list of possible donations will be posted in the Coffee Room, but practically anything will be accepted. All toiletries (no problem with liquids such as mouth wash) are welcome, as well as food (they have a Food Bank), bedding (for single beds) and clothing.

The Committee is now discussing a donation to one of the men's shelters for Father's Day. More later.

In January we published a Survey to help us focus on activities of interest to the Congregation. We have not received more than a couple of responses, so once again the Survey is attached to the email notifying you about the Newsletter. The Survey is also to be found on the back page of this Newsletter. There will be a box on the table in the library for your completed survey form, or you can email it to [bbaylis@xplornet.com](mailto:bbaylis@xplornet.com). Please do not feel obliged to fill in every blank! If you only want to tick a few boxes, that is perfectly fine. Rating every item in the list would be quite a task!

### Tea with the Minister

will only be on the first Wednesday of this month, **May 6th**, from 3-4:30 pm. Join her and whomever else show up to enjoy afternoon tea and conversation.



## Caring Committee Report

The grass is turning green, the sun has some warmth to it and the front of the church, thanks to John Haynes who has worked his magic, is looking bright with the flowers in bloom. I am sure there will be some setbacks with weather but my potatoes are in the ground and I am getting ready for the rest of my garden.

Rev. Christine Hillman is recovering from a fall but with nothing broken reports say she is well on the mend. Erie Glen is on an outbreak and visitation is limited and reports say Albertina Bell is not feeling well. We wish her a speedy recovery and good health to Arn and Marion Thompson who are also there. Good health wishes also to Jean Wallis in Brantford and we want all to know that we miss seeing them in church and they are always remembered. Thanks to all who offer to give rides to people who might otherwise not get to church, it is nice to be a part of such a caring congregation.

### 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.