

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)

Sunday Services February 2016

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|----------------|--|--------------------------------|
| Feb. 7 | The Soul That Is Within Me No Man Can Degrade
Black History Month

Irene Moore Davis | Music: Carabel Ringrose |
| Feb 14 | My Life in a One Room School House

Pat Haynes | Music: Bobbye and Bill |
| Feb. 21 | Science and the Search for Truth

Bill Baylis | Music: Carabel Ringrose |
| Feb. 28 | Lenten Reflections: Lent is a time of introspection,
reflection, and repentance. What does this look like
in a Unitarian Universalist context?

Reverend Krista Taves | Music: Lorie Lyons |
| Mar. 6 | International Women's Day

Charlotte Innerd | Music: Toni Janik |

Annual Meeting

Unitarian Universalist Church of Olinda
Sunday, February 21, 2016, at noon
following a bowl of Chili!

The Annual Reports will be available on Sunday, Feb. 7,



From the Board

Six of us gathered on the snowy evening of January 13 for the first of our monthly Board meetings of 2016. After a brief quote from Channing's "I Call that Mind Free," read by Helen Moore as opening words, the meeting continued with the usual approval of agenda, declaration of conflicts of interest (none) and acceptance of previous minutes. As part of Business Arising from previous minutes, the Board gave formal approval to the addition of Jane Innerd to the Task Force for Interim Minister. She joins Carol Hylton, Chair, Bobbye Baylis, Mariette Preyde, and John Upcott on the task force and is welcome not only for her organizational skills and knowledge of the church and its previous selection process, but also because Mariette's schedule may keep her from attending some meetings. The task force has been working on its application to the UUA and putting together the package of publications, orders of service, and other materials required.

Most personal items of our former minister, Rev. Christine Hillman, have been returned to her husband, Arthur Hillman, but many of her books remain in the second-floor office. The Book Club with RE Trustee Stuart Miller plans to review the collection with an eye to keeping those books of particular interest to the congregation. The church is still looking for a suitable high-resolution close-up image of Christine that can be used as a framed portrait for the Foulds' library. If you should have a good candidate photo, please let me know! (John Haynes has kindly supplied a couple of distant shots that could be used, but we are seeking something a bit more intimate if possible.) Treasurer Helen Moore has enquired about our telephone and learned that costs can be somewhat reduced by switching from Bell to Rogers, but there is a concern about the speed of emergency 911 access and a question of whether the church will soon want to arrange for wireless internet reception.

Secretary Mireya Campbell reported that she has received a number of the reports needed for the yearly report for the Annual General Meeting on February 21, and she will send reminders to the authors whose submissions are tardy. The printed AGM report should be available for pickup on February 7. John Upcott, chair of the Caring Committee, reported that the Nomination Committee has drafted a slate of trustees and chairs of the standing committees. The only remaining vacancy is the Trustee for Sunday Services. Helen will have completed five years in that position and, according to church bylaws, must now vacate the position. Nominations to any of the Board positions can also be made from the floor of the Annual General Meeting. John will be stepping down as chair of the Caring Committee. He received Board approval for his recommendation that Sharon van Abbema become the new chair.

Helen reported that church finances are in good shape, and even though only half of the budgeted transfers from the Lloyd fund were actually made, we closed 2015 with a surplus of over \$7,700. Mireya reported on behalf of the Lloyd Fund committee that although the recent market downturn has reduced the market value of the fund, it is still healthy and should recover as the markets do. Finance Trustee Bobbye Baylis received Board approval of her suggestion that recorded identified offerings not be split into pledged and unpledged portions in future reports.

Helen reported that Sunday Services were being scheduled as planned with frequent contributions from ordained ministers. Bill has attached the speaker in the first-floor nursery so that the services can be heard by childcare volunteers there.

Our next Board meeting is scheduled on Wednesday, February 10, 2016, at 7 PM, and it will be the last one for the current Board. As always, members are welcome to attend.

Bill Baylis, President

Social Responsibility Committee

Our January 24 meeting was mainly concerned with two important topics: Canada Post and Syrian Refugees. Sue Markham continues to keep us informed about what is happening at Canada Post, particularly in Kingsville. Apparently, not content to threaten Door to Door service, the management there is cutting service at the Post Office in half: only using one of the two terminals and having one rather than two full-time employees available to serve customers. Sue is preparing a model letter with factual details and suggesting such improvements as Postal Banking. Members of the committee will be personalizing this letter and emailing it to their MP's. Anyone else interested in this issue should ask Sue for a copy of the letter.

Syrian Refugee news:

- The Millers attended The Syrian Refugee Collaboration Meeting at St. John's Ccanno Church on 60 Erie St N in Leamington. There will be another meeting on Feb. 9, 7 pm. Topic: Syrian Culture & Muslim Faith
- Welcome to Windsor-Essex Event at the Caboto Club in Windsor on Saturday, Feb. 20.
 - 6 pm: Dinner with refugee families
 - Corporate sponsor tables (10 people): \$500
 - Group table tickets (10 people): \$200
 - Individual tickets: \$25
 - 7 pm: Public reception \$2 entry fee.
- Workshop for Building Solidarity, first topic: *Canadian Muslim Women Speak Out* University of Windsor, Vanier Hall, Katzman Lounge
Tuesday, Feb. 2, 5:30 – 7:30 pm
- Laurie Stone is collecting toys, clothing, and similar small items (not furniture!) and will drop them off in Windsor for you if you leave them in the box in the Nursery at the church.
- We highly recommend the new film, *The Big Short*. It is an excellent and entertaining portrayal of the behaviour of "the best (worst?) and the brightest" on Wall Street during the housing bubble in 2007 and subsequent crash.

SPRING BAKE SALE AND POSSIBLE TRUNK SALE????

You have already read in recent newsletters about the idea of having a Trunk Sale; the time is now coming that we will have to know your intention to participate.

It would be on the same day as the Bake Sale and the date set is Saturday, May 28th. This is in place of a yard sale. You bring your items to be sold, you sell them from the back of your vehicle. You donate your receipts to the church and the amount you donate becomes a taxable benefit for you. (more beneficial to you than donating your goods to the yard sale) It can be a fun day sharing conversation with your church friends while you raise money for the church.

In order to make it practical to have the trunk sale, we need at least 10 participants. You can let me know sometime prior to mid March so that we can decide if it is a go or not.

We want to know by then so the people who do wish to participate can have time to get ready for their sale if it will take place. We already have a couple of people interested, so come join them.

Important Dates

Feb. 3 7 pm

Book Club: *Wisdom of the Donkey* by Andy Merrifield

Feb. 7

Annual Reports available

Feb. 7 9:45 am

Sunday Services Committee Meeting

Feb. 10 7 pm

Board Meeting

Feb. 11 7 pm

Choir Rehearsal

Feb. 21 noon

Annual Meeting preceded by Chili

Feb. 25 7 pm

Choir Rehearsal

Feb. 28 noon

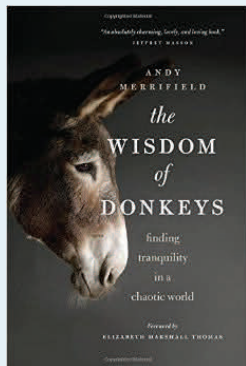
Social Responsibility Committee Meeting

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.*



Title: **The Wisdom of Donkeys**
 Finding tranquility in a chaotic world

Author: Andy Merrifield

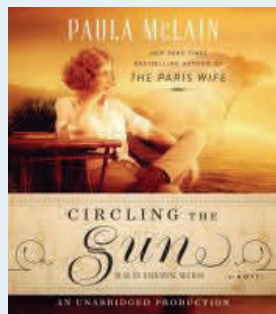
Date: Wed., 03 February, 2016; 7 pm

Leader: Leona Crowder

Location of Meeting: Crowder Residence

Summary:

A walk in the French countryside with a donkey inspires this literary ode to peace, presence, and fulfillment. In this enchanting book, Andrew Merrifield sets out on a journey of the soul with a friend's donkey, through the crumbling ruins and spectacular vistas of southern France's Haute-Auvergne, reminding him time and again that enlightenment is all around us if we but seek it.



Title: **Circling the Sun**

Author: Paula McLain

Date: Wed., 02 March, 2016; 7 pm

Leader: Evelyn Fisher

Location of Meeting: UU Church of Olinda, Ruthven

Summary:

Set against the majestic landscape of early-twentieth-century Africa, McLain's powerful tale reveals the extraordinary adventures of a woman before her time, the exhilaration of freedom and its cost, and the tenacity of the human spirit.

Readers may find associations with this book, and the film 'Out of Africa' (starring Meryl Streep, and Robert Redford).

Title in April : *This Way We Walk*

Author: Wab Kanov

Caring Committee

According to some the winter is half over and we do not have any reason to complain. The parking lot has not had to be plowed out yet and very little shoveling has had to be done on the church steps. This is a win win except for the people who supplement their income with the snow removal.

Jim and Romell Reid seem to be doing as well as can be expected and have a nurse coming in every other day and a support worker every day. They are busy with appointments also but like visits and thank all who have come with food or just to say hello. Jim would just like you to call first.

The death of Howard Pawley in the last week of the year was a shock to all even though Wilf and Jane had kept us updated on his condition. We extend our sympathies to Adele and family and while I could not attend the service in Windsor, many of our members did and said it was a very fitting service to a man who served his country so well and for so long.

This is my last report as chair of the caring committee as my six year term is up. The board, on the recommendation of the committee, appointed Sharon van Abbema as chair. She has been on the committee for a while and I know she will do a great job. I wish to thank the congregation for all the help I have received while chair with visiting, offering rides to appointments and church and taking food when needed. We really are a caring congregation and we know that we all are part of the caring committee. I will write reports while Sharron is still in the south and remain on the committee.

Finance Committee

As expected, we will have a surplus for 2015 in the Operating Budget. In spite of taking only half of the projected \$30,000 from the Lloyd Fund, we ended the year with a surplus of \$7,700. Given the present state of the Market, we felt it prudent to leave \$15,000 in the Fund. Since we clearly will not have a full-time minister until September, 2016, at the earliest, we wrote the 2016 budget to again take only half of the usual \$30,000 payment. The generosity of our members and friends is also to thank for a healthy Memorial Fund balance of over \$18,000 and a Capital Fund balance of \$25,000. It is good to know we have a healthy cushion in the Capital Fund should one (or both) of our elderly furnaces give up the ghost. We can also start thinking about replacing some of the leaky windows in the rectory section of the church.

You will be pleased to hear that we have set the date for the ever-popular aUUction as Saturday, April 16. 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. Since the 2015 aUUction finished paying off the basement repairs, we are now free to decide on a new purpose for the 2016 aUUction profit!

Committee Members

Eunice Goyette

June Blacker

John Upcott

Sharon van Abbema