

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 January 2016

- | | | |
|----------------|--|---|
| Jan. 3 | 2015: Year of Transition? To What?
Bobbye Baylis | Music: Carabel Ringrose |
| Jan. 10 | The UU Character: A Path of Personal Growth
Reverend Thomas Schade | Music: Toni Janik |
| Jan. 17 | Our International Responsibility to Protect
Jake Soderlund | Music: Bobbye and Bill
Baylis with Ray Stone |
| Jan. 24 | Invisible Privilege
Todd Lukaniuk | Music: Lorie Lyons |
| Jan. 31 | Syrian Refugees
To be determined | Music: Carabel Ringrose |
| Feb. 7 | The Soul That Is Within Me No Man Can Degrade
Irene Moore Davis | Music: TBA |

Christmas Families

Thanks to all who donated so generously to the Children's Aid Society Christmas Families. The board had requested families who were most in need and lived in the County. Since the church has been so generous, Children's Aid gave the church three families: a mother with a 9 year old daughter and 3 year old son, a mother with 3 daughters aged 15, 13 and 10, and a mother with a 10 year old son. Linda and John Upcott spent days shopping for the three families spending \$1693.77 to fulfill the families' wish lists and included \$650 in grocery store gift cards. That is the largest number of families ever shopped for and the most ever given by the church. The volunteer driver who picked up the gifts said how generously our church gives and how much the gifts are appreciated. Thank you.

From the Board

Several Board members were unable to attend the meeting on December 9, but we did manage to assemble a quorum and proceed with business on this last regular meeting of the calendar year. The office on the second floor still has many items from our former minister, Rev. Christine Hillman. Personal items should be returned to her husband, Arthur Hillman, but her many books can be distributed to new homes where they would be useful. The Book Club and RE Trustee will look through the collection and recommend which volumes the church should keep.

Bill reported that the telephone answering machine had several messages and the message on the machine needed to be updated. He would attempt to remedy the situation. Although the Property chair was absent, we did hear from Carabel Ringrose who asked that the ramp be fixed so that it was less slippery. A rubber or rug runner was suggested. Helen Moore and John Upcott volunteered to look into a solution. John subsequently found rug remnants from the former basement floor covering and was able to fashion runner pieces from them.

Helen reported that church finances are in good shape. She anticipates a surplus at year end even without making the last couple of transfers from the Lloyd Fund. Finance trustee Bobby Baylis reported that the proposed budget for 2016 had been approved at the meeting on Dec. 6. It plans on a reduced contribution from the Lloyd fund during this transition year. One of the questions at the meeting asked about the financial return on the solar panels. Bill has posted the information on our website: it shows a return so far of \$18,000, representing an annual return of slightly better than 10% on investment. Another question concerned the telephone bill, and Helen said she would compare other options including Rogers for service.

Helen reported that Sunday Services were being scheduled as planned with frequent contributions from ordained ministers. Some of the talks have been sent in electronic form to Bill and he has added them to the website for all to enjoy.

Several dates for the first half of 2016 were proposed: the AGM will be held on February 21, and the Annual Report for the AGM should be available by February 7; written trustee and committee reports for the AGM are due to the secretary by January 10; the International dinner is set for March 20; the Auction scheduled on April 16; bake sale can be held on May 21 or 28; and the picnic will take place on June 5 or 12. Our next Board meeting is scheduled on Wednesday, January 13, 2016, at 7 PM. As always, members are welcome to attend. In the meantime, Happy New Year wishes to all!

Bill Baylis, President

Social Responsibility Committee

At the meeting on Dec. 20 we discussed the documentary film by Naomi Klein's husband, *This Changes Everything*, based on her book. We also agreed to work on influencing our Members of Parliament to promote postal banking as well as letting our municipal councilors know our stands on the location of the new mega-hospital, or even whether such a development is truly needed.

The Committee has also been active in learning how we can support the refugees from the war in Syria being brought to our area, 17 people coming to Leamington at last count. Various local churches have organized to bring in a family and the Syrian Canadian Committee in Windsor is actively setting up systems that we can access. You might find these contacts useful:

LUMC Leamington Mennonite Church
78 Oak St E.

Leamington, ON
N8H 2C6

Call 519-326-2727, contact Jane Klassen

Also Patti Russell, email: russell5@cogeco.ca, phone 519-563-9901

There are other Mennonite churches, such as Faith Church on Sherk St, that are sponsoring a family.

St. John's Anglican Church, Leamington

Rev'd Andrew Wilson. Email: rev.andrew.wilson.mdiv@gmail.com

Debbie Wilson. Email: deborah.wilson-safa@sympatico.ca

Municipal Councilor in Essex: Sherry Bondy, is publicizing these activities at the municipal council level.

Email: sbondy@essex.ca, phone 519-566-3105

Windsor Contact: Syrian Canadian Council – email: refsyria@gmail.com. The following material is from the Council:

Please note the following updates in regards to how you can help:

- Individual volunteering services (translation/transportation, etc) As the refugees arrive, you will be contacted on a need-basis, referencing the responses you provided upon filling out the volunteer form.
- Many people have been asking where to donate housing items. Please click [here](#) - one of our partners is co-ordinating this effort specifically. It is not a public drop off location, they will come and inspect the item before transporting it. (Please note they are not accepting clothing or mattresses. They are asking for: Microwaves, ovens, fridges, dining tables, couches, computers, printers, laptops, cribs, strollers, lamps, etc...)
- Social events will be planned soon, so keep an eye out for another email shortly, asking for volunteers as well as attendees. If you have an idea please do not hesitate to pitch it, either by email or on our [Facebook group](#).

We are excited to continue this journey with our fellow Windsorites, and thank you again for joining us as we move forward together. Your help is essential. The Syrian Canadian Council will be hosting a welcome evening for our newest Windsorites sometime during the first week of January. The goal is to introduce over 20 families to the city.

Important Dates

Jan. 6 7 pm

Book Club: *History's People* by Margaret MacMillan

Jan. 10

Annual Reports due to Mireya Campbell

Jan. 10 9:45 am

Sunday Services Committee Meeting

Jan. 13 7 pm

Board Meeting

Jan. 14 7 pm

Choir Rehearsal

Jan. 24 Noon

Social Responsibility Committee Meeting

Jan. 28 7 pm

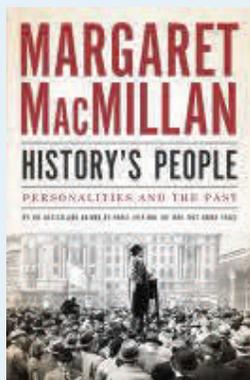
Choir Rehearsal

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.*



January 2016

Title: "History's People"

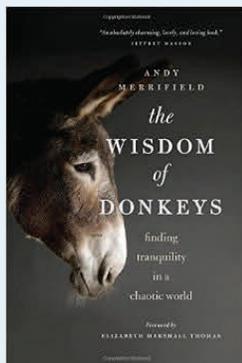
Author: Margaret MacMillan

Summary: In this year's highly anticipated Massey Lectures, internationally acclaimed historian Margaret MacMillan gives her own personal selection of the great figures of the past, women and men, who have changed the course of history and even directed the currents of their times--and sometimes with huge consequences, as in the cases of Hitler, Stalin, and Thatcher.

Location of Meeting: UU Church of Olinda

Leader: Gypsy Carol

Date: Wed., 06 January, 2016; 7 pm



February 2016

Title: *Wisdom of the Donkey. Finding Tranquility in a chaotic world.*

Author: Andy Merrifield

Summary: **Location of Meeting:** Crowder Residence

Leader: TBD

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



Caring Committee

I have just received the news that Howard Pawley passed away on Dec. 30th. The congregation extends their sympathy to Adele and family. He was a kind and outgoing man who was always able to connect with all. The congregation always looked forward to his talks at church and he never failed to deliver. He will be missed. Visitation will be at [Families First](#) next Friday, Jan 8th, afternoon and evening, probably at their normal 3:00 to 5:00 and 7:00 to 9:00 times. The obit will probably be in the paper on Saturday, so people can check the times. A Celebration of Life will be held, probably at the University of Windsor, at 11:30, on Saturday 9th. Updated information will be posted on our website uuolin-da.org, once it becomes available.

We want to keep Romell and Jim Reid in our thoughts as Romell continues her battle with cancer. If you would like to take them a dish Jim would like it to be something that will freeze and please call before delivering.

Finance Committee

Many thanks to all who attended the Congregational Meeting on the Budget on Dec. 6. The 2016 budget passed unanimously in what may have been even shorter than last year's, which I thought was shortest Budget meeting on record! It is always a comfort going into the New Year with a legally approved budget!

Telephone Numbers for Additional Windsor Support for Syrian Refugees

MONETARY DONATIONS

Multi-Cultural Center 519 255 1127

- Interpretation and translation services
- Transportation support
- Positive and welcoming activities

Red Cross 519 944 4144

CLOTHING

Goodwill 519 300 232
St. Vincent De Paul 519 253 74739

FURNITURE

St. Vincent De Paul 519 253 7473
Windsor Islamic Association 519 948 5400

VOLUNTEERS

United Way 519 258 0000 ext. 1178

Committee Members

Eunice Goyette
June Blacker
John Upcott
Sharon van Abbema